

Hartford City

Van Buren County, Michigan



Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan

2015 - 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| INTRODUCTION..... | 4 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 4 |
| COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION | 5 |
| Location and Size of Area..... | 5 |
| Demographics | 7 |
| Industry and Employment | 17 |
| COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE | 20 |
| City Parks Operation and Maintenance | 20 |
| Park Policies | 21 |
| Parks and Recreation Programming..... | 21 |
| Volunteers, Organizations, and Supporting Agencies | 21 |
| PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS | 22 |
| Land Use Patterns | 22 |
| Zoning | 24 |
| Topography..... | 26 |
| Topography..... | 26 |
| Water, Fish, and Wildlife Resources | 27 |
| Natural Features..... | 29 |
| Vegetation and Climate | 31 |
| Transportation Systems..... | 32 |
| RECREATION INVENTORY | 35 |
| City Owned | 35 |
| School District Owned | 35 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| State Owned..... | 35 |
| Other Resources | 35 |
| Other recreational facilities/amenities in the area include: | 36 |
| Status Report on Grant Assisted Facilities | 38 |
| Barrier-Free Compliance Status and Unmet Needs | 38 |
| Needs Assessment | 38 |
| Summary | 39 |
| THE PLANNING PROCESS | 43 |
| Plan Development Process..... | 43 |
| Public Input | 43 |
| GOALS AND OBJECTIVES..... | 47 |
| ACTION PROGRAM | 50 |
| APPENDIX..... | 53 |
| Ely Park Rules | 54 |
| List of Endangered and Threatened Species | 56 |
| Meeting Agendas | 58 |
| Letter to County Planning Department | 63 |
| Letter to Regional Planning Agency..... | 64 |
| Public Hearing Notice | 65 |
| Meeting Minutes..... | 66 |
| Resolution of Adoption | 68 |
| Post Completion Self-Certification Form for Ely Park | 69 |
| Plan Certification Checklist | 75 |

INTRODUCTION

The gently undulating countryside of Hartford was originally inhabited by three major Indian nations; the Potawatomi, the Ottawa, and the Chippewa. Through the years, as the country became more populated and settlers began moving west, traders and trappers traversed the area trading furs and supplies with these tribes. In 1829 the State of Michigan was divided into counties and the area was opened for settlement. The town of Hartford began organizing in 1852 but was slow to develop until 1870 when the Chicago-West Michigan Railroad was built. Over the next few years the town developed quickly and was officially incorporated as a village in 1877.

Sawmills were one of the first major industries in the area and business prospered. Later, as the lumber supply became scarce, sawmills closed and the township became more agricultural and the town became the focus of commercial and small manufacturing activity. In 1910, the population in Hartford Township was 2,597 with 1,268 residing in the village. By 1963 the population in the village had reached 2,305 and officially became the City of Hartford.¹

Parks, recreation and open spaces are the key to a quality place to live, work and visit. The City of Hartford produced this plan to define and maximize recreational opportunities and open spaces for the residents and visitors. The City wants to ensure that the planning and development of parks, recreation and open space projects is a priority for the community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Residents of the City can be thankful to those who are willing to work selflessly on behalf of all to achieve mutual goals designed for the satisfaction of all. The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission coordinated and authored this plan. The following individuals are among those who have contributed time and effort to the development of the Hartford City Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

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¹ *Hartford Joint Community Master Plan, 1999 and Hartford Website*

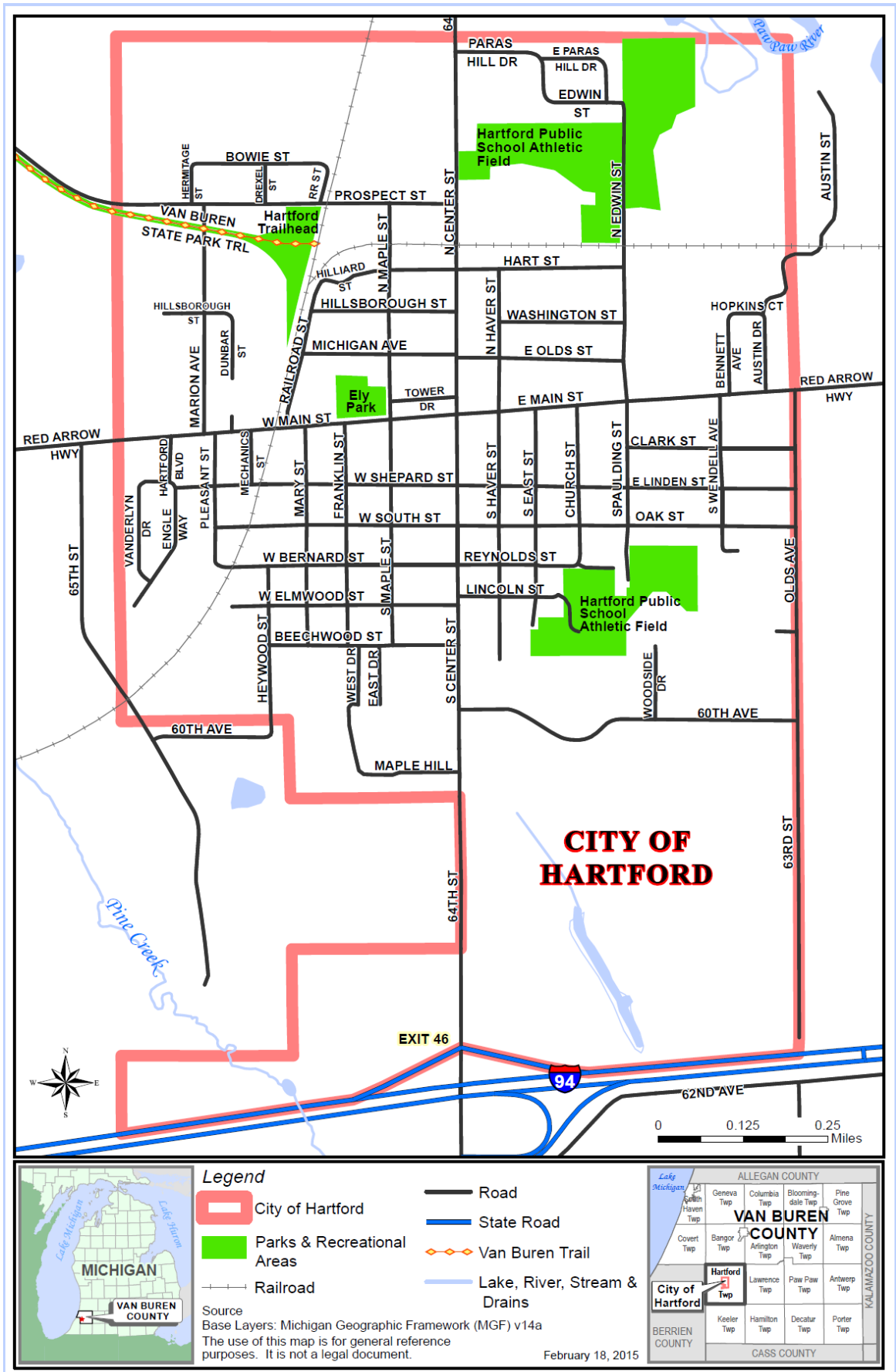
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location and Size of Area

The City of Hartford is located in southwestern Van Buren County in the southwestern portion of the State of Michigan. The City provides recreational opportunities to residents of Hartford City and Township. Hartford Township is comprised of 33.84 square miles of land area and contains the City of Hartford (1.37 square miles) entirely within its boundaries.²

The Hartford Community is largely a scenic and rural community connected with nearby urban centers via I-94 and the more leisurely Red Arrow Highway. The Community is within a few short drives to a variety of opportunities such as; employment, shopping, health care, education, cultural, leisure and family friendly activities. Benton Harbor is fifteen miles to the southwest, South Haven is nineteen miles to the northwest, Kalamazoo is thirty-five miles to the east, Grand Rapids is 63 miles to the north, and South Bend, Indiana is fifty-two miles to the south. Hartford is within two hours of two major metropolitan areas; Detroit and Chicago. With a range of urban population centers in close proximity, it is important to note that a significant array of resources lie within that radius including fifty-three colleges, universities, and technical training institutes, over a half-million jobs, and \$9.2 Million in retail sales.

² U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000, Area Measurements and Density*



Legend

- City of Hartford
- Parks & Recreational Areas
- Road
- State Road
- Railroad
- Van Buren Trail
- Lake, River, Stream & Drains

Source
 Base Layers: Michigan Geographic Framework (MGF) v14a
 The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| ALLEGAN COUNTY | | | |
| Geneva Twp | Columbia Twp | Bloomington Twp | Pine Grove Twp |
| VAN BUREN COUNTY | | | |
| Covert Twp | Bangor Twp | Arlington Twp | Waverly Twp |
| City of Hartford | | | |
| Lawrence Twp | Paw Paw Twp | Antwerp Twp | |
| BERRIEN COUNTY | | | |
| Keeler Twp | Hamilton Twp | Decatur Twp | Porter Twp |
| CASS COUNTY | | | |

February 18, 2015

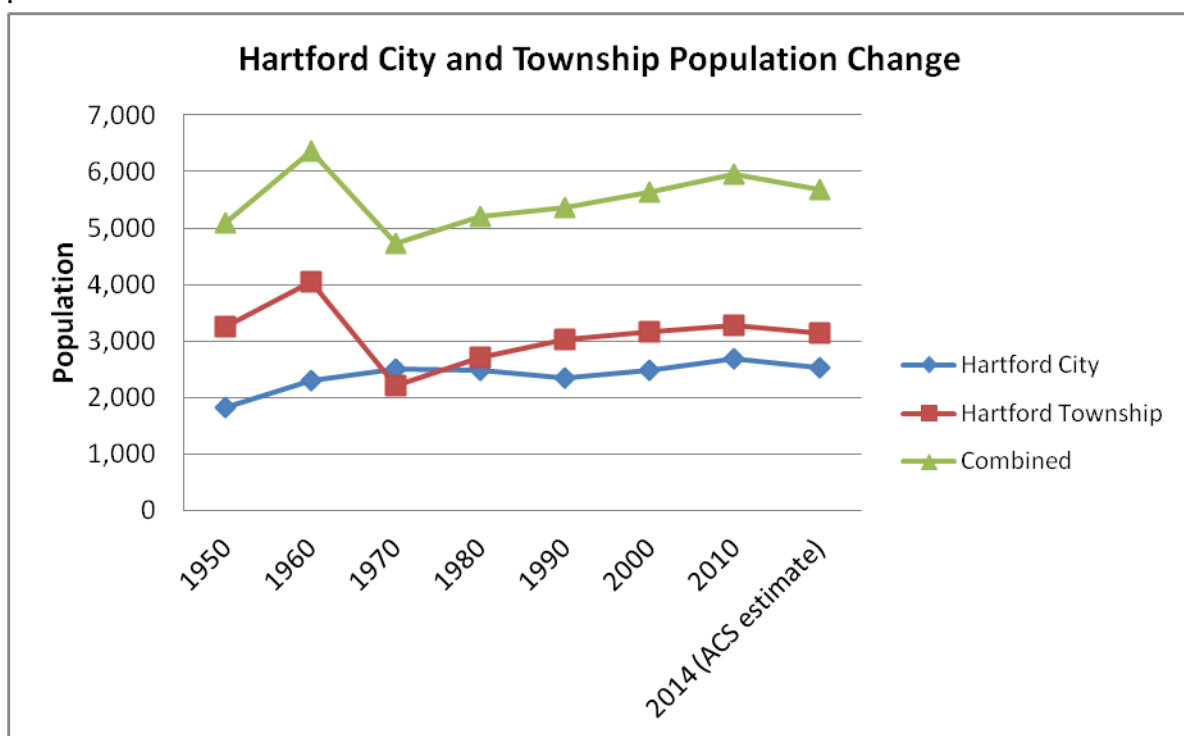
Demographics

Population in the Hartford area has experienced generally low levels of growth from 1950 through 2010, with the exception of a sharp rise and fall of population in the Township between 1950 and 1970. The City, however, has maintained relatively stable population counts in the decades since the 1950s and as of the 2010 Census, reporting its highest population since its incorporation with a total of 2,688 people.

Population estimates provided by ESRI, which extrapolate data from the recent Census' American Community Survey (ACS), indicates a slight drop in population into 2014; down 148 people. However, it should be noted that survey data of a sample population size as small as the City of Hartford comes with an increased margin of error, therefore any future policy decisions regarding population growth or decline should rely on official decennial Census counts and not these estimates

Population, Hartford City and Township, Census 2010

| | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2014 (estimate) |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Hartford City | 1,838 | 2,305 | 2,508 | 2,493 | 2,341 | 2,476 | 2,688 | 2,540 |
| Hartford Township | 3,256 | 4,051 | 2,211 | 2,707 | 3,032 | 3,159 | 3,274 | 3,139 |
| Combined | 5,094 | 6,356 | 4,719 | 5,200 | 5,373 | 5,635 | 5,962 | 5,679 |



Population Density

Population and housing densities are measured by dividing the total population (or in the case of housing, total units) by the land area encompassed within a jurisdiction. The following expressions were produced using data from the 2010 Census for the City of Hartford, Hartford Township, and Van Buren County.

The City of Hartford has an average of 2,021 persons and 753 housing units per square mile. Hartford Township has an average of 97 persons and 40 housing units per square mile. Van Buren County has an average of 125 persons and 60 housing units per square mile. (Source: Census 2010)

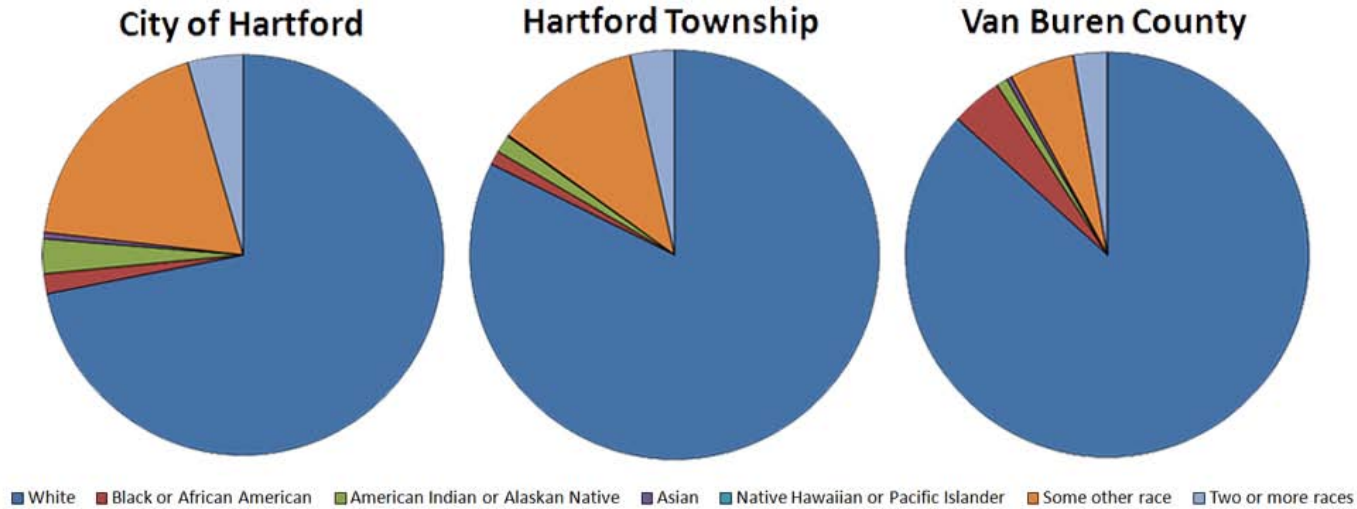
According to the plan from 2006, the City of Hartford had a density of 1,806 persons and 746 housing units per square mile, or an increase of 215 residents per square mile. This indicates that, while there has not been significant growth in new housing units built, the size of households in the City has grown. This assumption is corroborated by ACS estimates on average household size which indicate a growth from 2.99 in 2009, to 3.12 in 2013.

The City of Hartford has a relatively high level of racial and ethnic diversity compared to Van Buren County. According to 2010 Census data, the City has a slightly larger share of residents identifying as Black or African American, American Indian of Alaskan Native, Asian, and “Two or more races” than either the Hartford Township or the County. The City also has a lower share of residents identifying as White compared to the Township (10.4% less) and County (14.8% less).

The City has a significant concentration of people identifying as “Some other race”, with nearly one fifth of the population identifying as such. The Township also encompasses a large share of residents identifying as “Some other race” with just over 10%.

Race, Hartford City and Township, and Van Buren County, Census 2010

| Race | City of Hartford | Hartford Township | Van Buren County |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| White | 71.9% | 82.3% | 86.7% |
| Black or African American | 1.6% | 1.1% | 4.1% |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 2.8% | 1.4% | 0.9% |
| Asian | 0.5% | 0.1% | 0.4% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Some other race | 18.7% | 11.6% | 5.2% |
| Two or more races | 4.5% | 3.5% | 2.7% |



According to a 2014 report from the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately one third of individuals identifying as “Hispanic” in ethnicity select the “Some other race” option. The most common write-in responses among self-identifying Hispanics for this option are “Mexican”, “Hispanic”, and “Latin American”.³

Ethnicity data from the 2010 Census for the community appears to be somewhat consistent with this trend. The City of Hartford has a significant population of persons identifying as “Hispanic”, with just under 30% of the total population; nearly three times the concentration of Hispanic residents in Van Buren County overall.

Language Spoken at Home

| | City of Hartford | Hartford Township | Van Buren County |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Speak English “Very well” | 89.7% | 95.1% | 97.1% |
| Speak English less than “Very well” | 10.3% | 4.9% | 2.9% |
| Speak language other than English* | 26.7% | 10.4% | 9.9% |
| Spanish | 26.2% | 9% | 8.6% |
| Other European languages | 0% | 0.5% | 0.9% |
| Asian or Pacific Languages | 0% | 0.9% | 0.3% |

* “Speak language other than English” only indicates an individual’s ability to speak a language other than English and does not necessarily mean a lack of English proficiency.

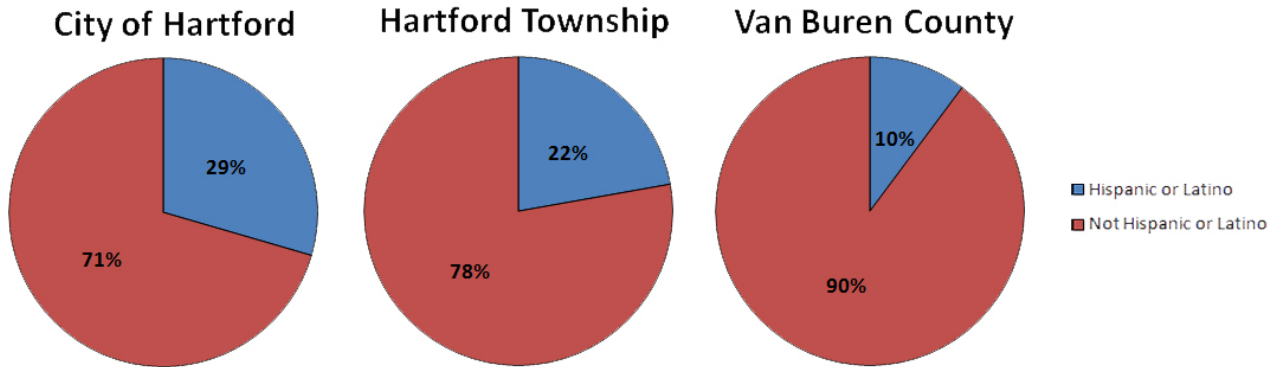
In the City of Hartford, 26.2%, or more than a quarter of residents indicated having proficiency in Spanish. There appears to be a correlation between Hispanic or Latino

³ <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/04/04/mexican-hispanic-and-latin-american-top-list-of-race-write-ins-on-the-2010-census/>

ethnicity and proficiency in Spanish in both the City of Hartford and Van Buren County as a whole, indicating a strong cultural tie between these qualities.

Ethnicity

| | City of Hartford | Hartford Township | Van Buren County |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Hispanic or Latino | 29.5% | 22.2% | 10.2% |
| Not Hispanic or Latino | 70.5% | 77.8% | 89.8% |



Similar to other communities in the region, the City of Hartford is nearly evenly split between males and females, with females ahead by a 1.6-point margin. In the Township, the margin is slightly wider at 3 points, with males making up the majority.

Sex, 2010

| | City of Hartford | Hartford Township | Van Buren County |
|--------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Male | 49.2% | 51.5% | 49.6% |
| Female | 50.8% | 48.5% | 50.4% |

The following table and graphic presents changes to the age-group composition of the City and Township between the years of 2000 and 2010. This data is important to consider, mainly because significant changes to any of these categories will likely have a considerable impact within the community. Understanding the forces that are driving change in each of these age groups will help the City better prepare for the future.

Change in Age Distribution 2000-2010

| Age Range | Hartford City (2000) | Hartford City (2010) | Hartford Township (2000) | Hartford Township (2010) |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Under 5 years | 7.8% (194) | 9.8% (263) | 7.2% (229) | 7.5% (246) |
| 5-24 years | 31.2% (774) | 31.4% (843) | 29.9% (944) | 29.4% (962) |
| 25-44 years | 29.6% (732) | 26.4% (710) | 28.5% (901) | 24.9% (815) |
| 45-64 years | 20.2% (500) | 22.5% (604) | 24.1% (706) | 26.8% (877) |
| 65-84 years | 10.3% (255) | 9% (242) | 9.6% (302) | 10.5% (345) |
| Over 85 years | 0.9% (22) | 1% (26) | 0.7% (23) | 0.9% (29) |
| Total | 100% (2,476) | 100% (2,688) | 100% (3,159) | 100% (3,274) |

Five and Under

The youngest age group, which encompasses Kindergarten-aged children and younger is on the rise in the City of Hartford, its share rising 2 points.

School-Aged Children and Young Adults (Millennials and Generation Z)

Primary school-aged children and early young adults have grown in number in both communities over the decade; however, their share among the total population remains relatively unchanged in the Hartford community from 2000-2010. At the time of the 2010 Census, most Millennials fell into this age range, explaining their plurality among all age ranges. Millennials, typically the children of Baby Boomers, are generally considered to be the most populous generation in U.S. history, although there is no officially agreed upon definition for these terms from which to measure.

Emerging Adults and Family-Building Age (Millennials and Generation X)

Of 24-44 year olds, or the group considered to be “family building” aged, both the City and Township have experienced noticeable decreases in these populations; down 3.2 and 3.6 points, respectively. People of these generations are generally considered to be more willing to relocate for education, job opportunities, and quality of life than previous generation cohorts, which might explain their declining populations as they approach this age.

Older Working-Aged Adults (Baby Boomers)

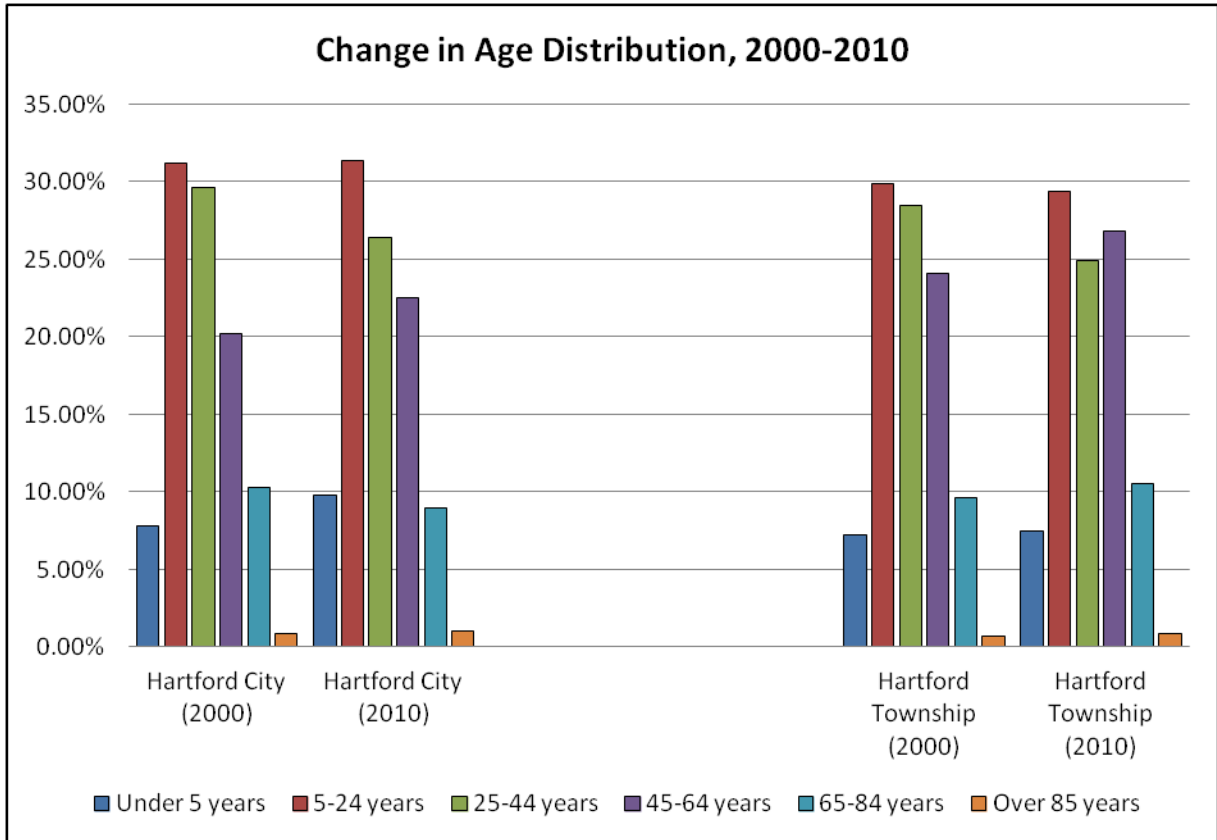
For both the City and Township, the group that saw the largest increase in their shares was among older working-aged adults, or the 45-64 age group; growing 2.3 points in the City and 2.7 in the Township. At the time the of the 2010 Census, the Baby Boomer generation fit squarely into this age range, and so it is no surprise that their full arrival into this block appears as a significant increase.

Seniors (Silent Generation)

Many individuals within this age range are either approaching retirement or are already retired. From 2000 through 2010, the cohort of 65-84 year olds decreased slightly in the City of Hartford (-1.3%), while growing by a similar factor in the Township (+0.9%). These marginal changes indicate that there has not been significant external forces driving migrations among these individuals. In fact, individuals identifying with this age group are more likely than other age cohorts to be long-time homeowners who anticipate “aging in place”.

Most Senior Cohort (Greatest Generation)

The last age group is comprised of those individuals 85 and above. They account for approximately 1% of the total community, yet despite being few, their numbers are growing slightly. It is likely that, as life expectancies grow across the country that we will continue to see growth in this category. However, individuals in this age cohort have additional needs that must be accommodated, such as health care and housing. The ability for very senior individuals to “age in place” in this community often depends on the types of services and support structures available locally.



According to 2013 estimates from the American Community Survey, there are approximately 900 individuals living with some form of disability. Among those with disabilities, approximately half experience ambulatory (or mobility) difficulty. Additionally, one third of persons with disabilities experience a hearing difficulty and one tenth live with a vision difficulty. The prevalence of individuals with such challenges should be taken into account while designing accessible public facilities.

Disability Characteristics, 2009-2013 ACS 5-Year Estimates

| Disability Status | City of Hartford | Hartford Township | City and Township Combined |
|--|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Hearing Difficulty | 75 | 209 | 284 |
| Vision Difficulty | 37 | 60 | 97 |
| Cognitive (mental) Difficulty | 104 | 234 | 338 |
| Ambulatory (mobility) Difficulty | 162 | 276 | 438 |
| Self-Care Difficulty | 21 | 133 | 154 |
| Independent Living Difficulty | 64 | 225 | 289 |
| Total Population with Disability Status* | 312 | 589 | 901 |

* The sum of disability sub-categories is not intended to add up to the “Total Population with Disability Status” due to some individuals having two or more disabilities.

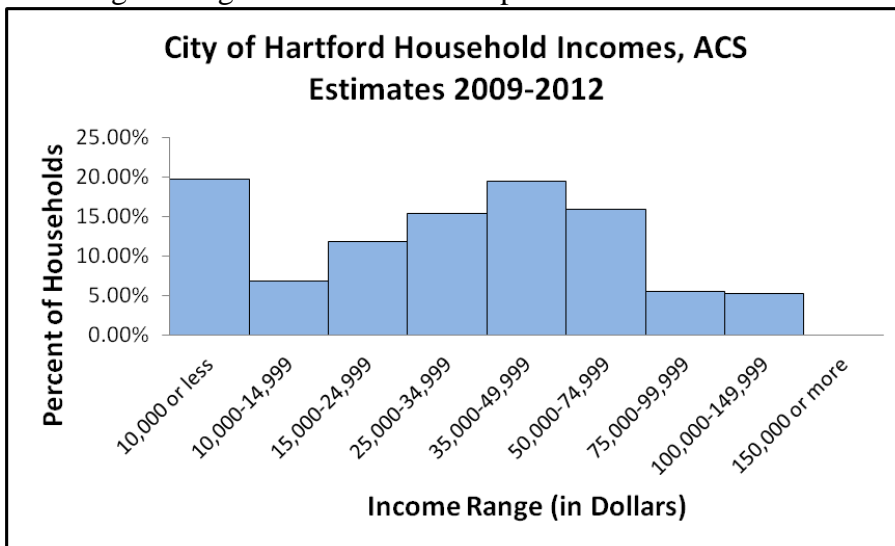
2013 ACS estimates suggest that incomes in the City of Hartford range from \$0 to \$149,000. As of January 2015, Michigan’s minimum wage was \$7.25 hourly, which translates to a full-time annual salary of \$15,080. Applying this number to household income data, it could be expressed that approximately 26.7% of households in the City of Hartford live on an income of minimum wage or less at full time.

A “family” is defined as two or more related individuals living together. This means, while a family is always a household, the opposite is not always true. A household may, and often does consist of a single person, which explains why household incomes are typically lower than family incomes. For household and family incomes, the “median” is a halfway point between all incomes among earners in the range; this means 50% of earners will make below the median and 50% will earn above. The median income is expressed as a dollar amount that shows where the center is on the range of incomes within a community, which can then be used to determine such things such as the affordability of housing.

City of Hartford Household Incomes, 2009-2013 ACS 5-Year Estimates

| Income Range (in dollars) | Percent of Households |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 10,000 or less | 19.8% |
| 10,000-14,999 | 6.9% |
| 15,000-24,999 | 11.8% |
| 25,000-34,999 | 15.4% |
| 35,000-49,999 | 19.5% |
| 50,000-74,999 | 15.9% |
| 75,000-99,999 | 5.5% |
| 100,000-149,999 | 5.3% |
| 150,000 or more | 0% |

The following graphic presents estimated Annual Household Incomes for the City of Hartford. The Census Bureau defines this as “a household consists of all people who occupy a housing unit regardless of relationship.”

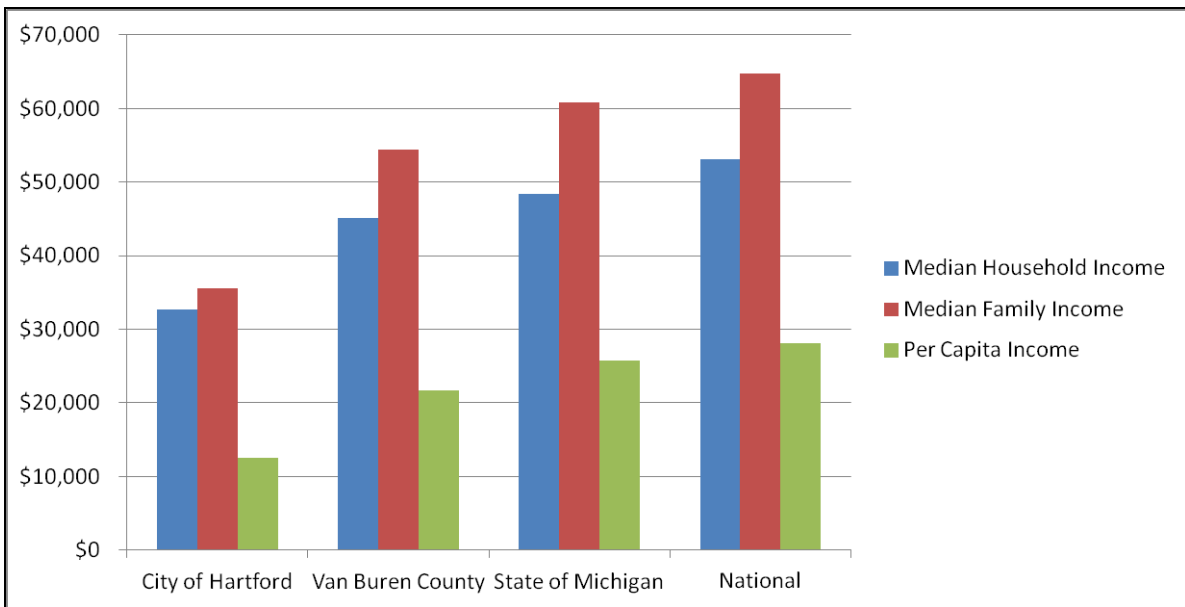


Per capita income, on the other hand is the mean (average) annual money income computed for every man, woman, and child above age of 15, regardless of if they are earning an income or not. The following data and graphics compare Household, Family, and Per Capita Incomes of the City of Hartford, Van Buren County, State of Michigan, and the United States.

Median Household, Family, and Per Capita Incomes, 2009-2013 ACS 5-Year Estimates

| Geography | Median Household Income | Median Family Income | Per Capita Income |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| City of Hartford | \$32,674 | \$35,526 | \$12,479 |
| Van Buren County | \$45,129 | \$54,472 | \$21,732 |
| State of Michigan | \$48,411 | \$60,793 | \$25,681 |
| National | \$53,046 | \$64,719 | \$28,155 |

Comparing income data among City, County, State, and Nation, it is apparent that all measures of income descend as we move from the national picture down to the local. The City of Hartford suffers from significant economic distress in terms of income; a comparison of local and nation income factors show that Hartford’s median household income is 62% of that of the national, median family income is 55%, and per capita income is 44%.

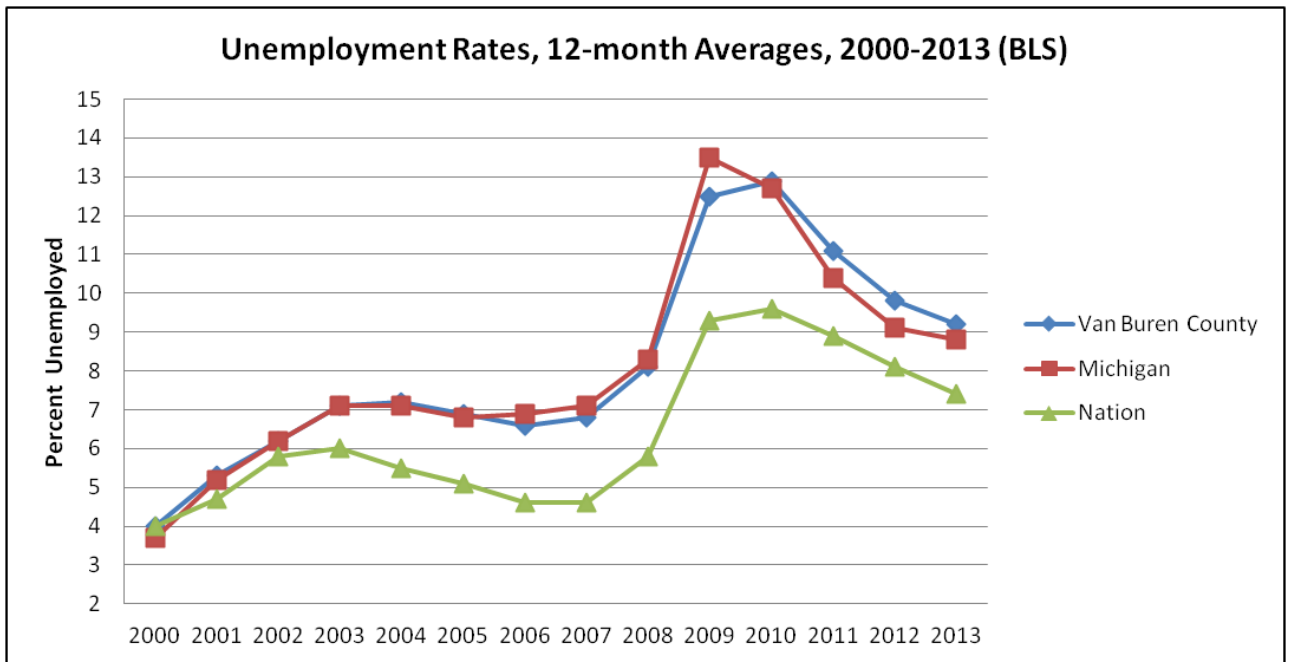


Unemployment rates have been declining at a steady rate since the Great Recession, which saw a peak in jobless numbers in late 2009. Michigan was exceptionally hard hit during this recession, primarily due to a lack of economic diversification which leaned heavily on a shrinking manufacturing sector. As a result, Michigan was the national leader unemployment rates throughout 2009, but was overtaken by Nevada in 2010. Likewise, Michigan communities whose primary industries were related to manufacturing and the auto industry were hard hit by the recession. As the impact of the recession fades, the 2014 12-month unemployment averages for Michigan and the Nation are nearly the same as those of 2008, or

pre-recession levels. Projections indicate that Van Buren County will likely follow this same trend; however, the release of the Bureau of Labor Statistic’s county-level 12-month unemployment averages for 2014 is pending.

Unemployment Rates, 12-month Averages (BLS)

| Geography | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Van Buren County | 4.0 | 5.3 | 6.2 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 6.8 | 8.1 | 12.5 | 12.9 | 11.1 | 9.8 | 9.2 | N/A |
| Michigan | 3.7 | 5.2 | 6.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 8.3 | 13.5 | 12.7 | 10.4 | 9.1 | 8.8 | 7.3 |
| Nation | 4.0 | 4.7 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 5.8 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 8.9 | 8.1 | 7.4 | 6.2 |



Another measure of economic distress is an estimation of the number of persons living in poverty. The American Community Survey uses a table of income thresholds⁴ relative to family size to make the determination if an individual or family is living in poverty. Those earning under the income threshold for their corresponding family size are determined to be living in poverty.

According to the ACS’s most recent five-year estimates, approximately 27% of City of Hartford residents are living in poverty. Looking at children under 18, 32% or nearly a third are living in poverty. The situation worsens in the outlying Township where 51% of all children, over half, are in poverty. This extreme variation in childhood poverty, but not in

⁴ <https://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html>

family poverty may indicate that poverty is concentrated in large families with children in the Township, much more so than the City.

Persons Living in Poverty, 2009-2013 ACS 5-Year Estimates

| | City of Hartford | Hartford Township |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
| All Families | 21.8% | 24.2% |
| Under 18 | 32.1% | 51.4% |
| All People | 26.5% | 30% |

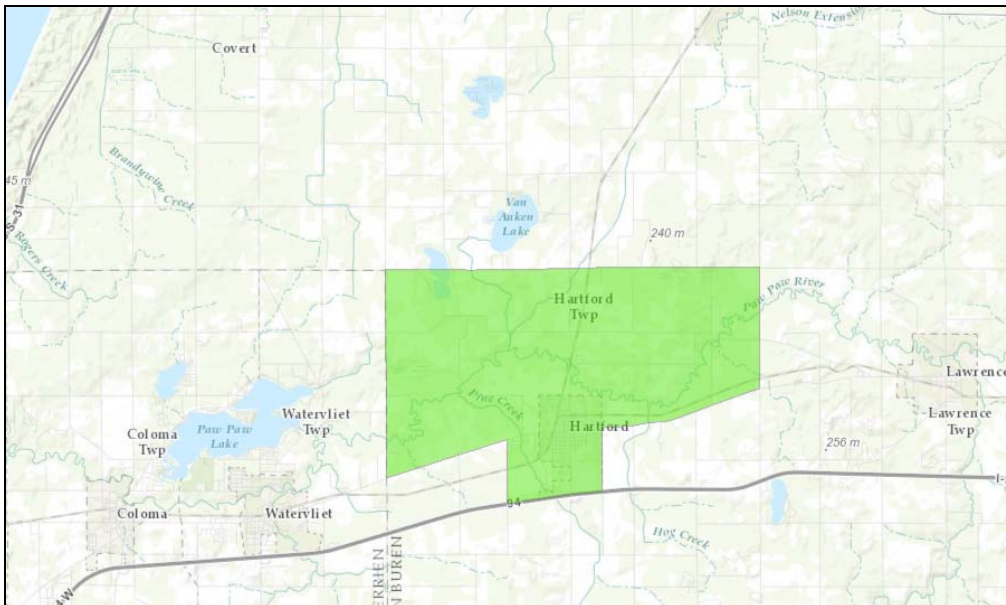
Food Access Issues

The Census tract encompassing the City of Hartford is a USDA-identified “food desert”, meaning the area is a low-income census tract where a significant number or share of residents are more than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket. Two grocery stores have been identified within this census tract and both are within the City of Hartford.

Harding’s Friendly Market - full service grocery store located at 10 North Center Street in downtown Hartford.

El Supermercado – Mexican specialty grocery store located at 525 East Main Street in the eastern edge of the City of Hartford.

For residents lacking personal transportation, the issue of living among a food desert can pose significant challenges to health and personal wellbeing. Residents who do not have access to a grocery store with fresh food options may find themselves eating more frequently from convenience stores, gas stations, and other similar retailers who tend to promote high calorie, low-nutrition foods that contribute to issues like obesity, heart disease, and diabetes.



Source: USDA Food Access Research Atlas, 2014

Industry and Employment

Understanding industry and employment clusters is important to economic and workforce development activities, as a strong concentration of establishments and employees within these clusters creates an environment that is conducive to industry growth and regional competitiveness. Regions with a high concentration of establishments in a given industry will be much more likely to see the rise of startups and innovative advancements within that cluster than those with lower concentrations.

The Hartford downtown supports business such as; restaurants, banks, gas stations, several services orientated business, insurance agencies, a hardware store, variety stores and a locally family owned full service grocery store. The Accommodation and Food Service sector has become a strong sector of the Hartford community economy with the opening of the Four Winds Hartford Casino in 2011. The 52,000 square foot facility created approximately 400 new jobs.

The following data on the top industry clusters in Van Buren County is organized by the number of establishments as well as their concentration in the County relative to the national average for counties, also known as the “Location Quotient”, or LQ.

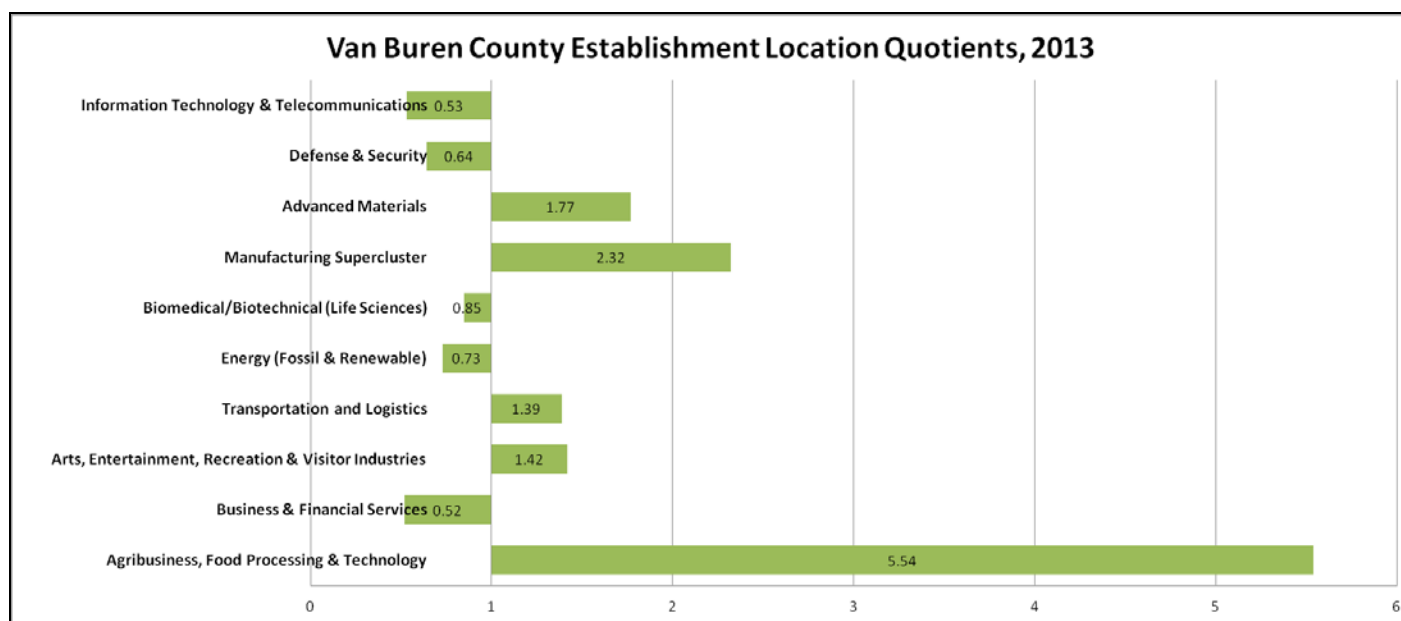
Agribusiness, Food Processing and Technology tops the list in terms of number of establishments, as well as its location quotient. A LQ of 5.54 indicates that the county has a concentration of five and a half times as many Agribusiness and Food Processing establishments compared to the average county in the United States.

Van Buren County Industry Clusters, 2012 (BLS)

| Industry | Number of Establishments | Establishment Location Quotient |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Agribusiness, Food Processing & Technology | 120 | 5.54 |
| Business & Financial Services | 120 | 0.52 |
| Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Visitor Industries | 59 | 1.42 |
| Transportation and Logistics | 48 | 1.39 |
| Energy (Fossil & Renewable) | 46 | 0.73 |
| Biomedical/Biotechnical (Life Sciences) | 45 | 0.85 |
| Manufacturing Supercluster | 41 | 2.32 |
| Advanced Materials | 36 | 1.77 |
| Defense & Security | 35 | 0.64 |
| Information Technology & Telecommunications | 30 | 0.53 |

Although the Business and Financial Services cluster ranks highly in terms of number of establishments in the County, their concentrations are approximately half that of the average county. While Business and Financial Services may be a good industry for well-paying jobs in Van Buren County, the cluster itself is not considered to be as competitive as those in other regions with LQs above the average.

Other clusters with high establishment LQs in Van Buren County include: the Manufacturing Supercluster; Advanced Materials Manufacturing; Transportation and Logistics; and Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Visitor Industries. These clusters are considered a point of strength in Van Buren County and building a supportive environment for these industries is a good strategy for improving employment opportunities and GDP growth overall in the community.



Van Buren County Cluster Employment and Wages, 2012 (BLS)

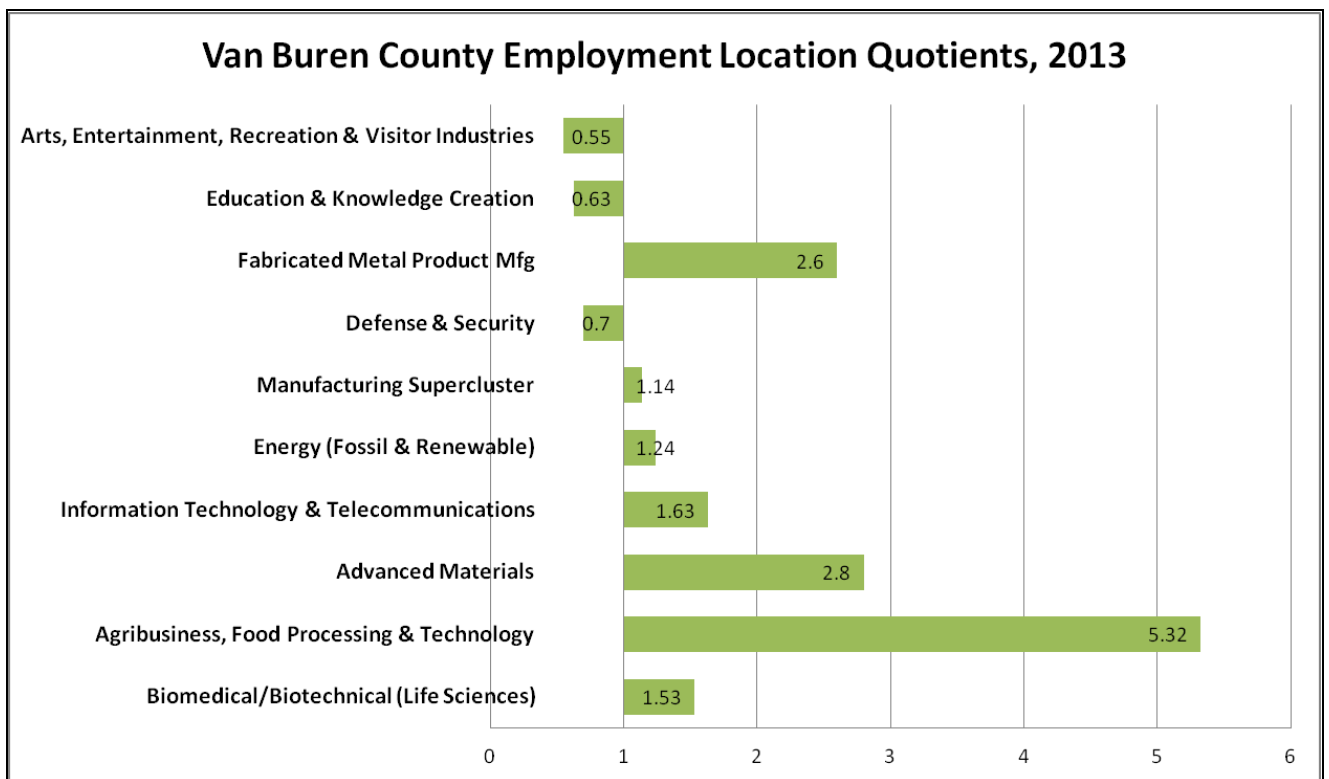
| Industry | Cluster Employment | Employment LQ | Cluster Wages | Wages LQ |
|--|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| Biomedical/Biotechnical (Life Sciences) | 3,469 | 1.53 | 198,509,993 | 2.32 |
| Agribusiness, Food Processing & Technology | 2,525 | 5.32 | 75,302,035 | 5.38 |
| Advanced Materials | 1,882 | 2.80 | 137,827,492 | 3.61 |
| Information Technology & Telecommunications | 1,301 | 1.63 | 103,342,843 | 1.74 |
| Energy (Fossil & Renewable) | 1,165 | 1.24 | 108,449,940 | 1.95 |
| Manufacturing Supercluster | 884 | 1.14 | 45,634,321 | 1.11 |
| Defense & Security | 795 | 0.70 | 64,244,597 | 1.00 |
| Fabricated Metal Product Mfg | 514 | 2.60 | 23,097,607 | 3.02 |
| Education & Knowledge Creation | 498 | 0.63 | 17,919,252 | 0.58 |
| Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Visitor Industries | 452 | 0.55 | 8,013,639 | 0.35 |

Similarly, employment and wage clusters look at the concentration of employees and their total wages relative to the average county in the U.S. This is an important factor to consider,

as the environment for a thriving regional industry cluster is heavily dependent upon the prevalence of talented workers in the area. Additionally, competitive wages are an indication the high value of workers in these industry sectors and job growth in these fields will likely yield higher than average incomes for the typical worker. This is valuable information, as it supports the efforts of education and workforce development professionals as they attempt to teach and train more individuals for these high-value, in demand jobs.

Although Agribusiness, Food Processing and Technology tops the list in terms of number of establishments (see previous graphic), the Biomedical/Biotechnical (Life Sciences) is the clear leader in terms of number of employees and total wages. This is primarily due to the existence of large employers, such as hospitals and outpatient medical facilities that employ many times more individuals under a single establishment than the typical agribusiness establishment. The Life Sciences sector also encompasses a wide range of professional occupations, such as physicians and nurses which typically draw higher personal incomes than the average agribusiness and food processing worker.

The industry clusters with a high level of regional competitiveness relative to number employees and their wages in Van Buren County are: Life Sciences, Agribusiness and Food Processing, Advanced Materials, IT and Telecommunications, Energy, the Manufacturing Supercluster, and Fabricated Metal Manufacturing. The region’s higher education, vocational schools, and workforce development organizations acknowledge that careers in these fields are the some of the most important to fill in the future if these sectors are to grow, thrive, and remain competitive.



COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

City Parks Operation and Maintenance

The City of Hartford operates under the Home Rule City Act as amended and updated on August 13, 1990. To manage the overall business and administration of the City, there is a City Commission and Planning Commission. The City has a manager, clerk, and treasurer who oversee day-to-day activities and administrative responsibilities. The City also has a Department of Public Works which operates and maintains the roads, water and sewer systems, snow removal, equipment maintenance along with the city park maintenance. The Public Works superintendent also supervises part-time employees and individuals doing community service. The City utilizes the Public Works department to maintain Ely Park but does not currently have specific budget line items for recreation purposes or park maintenance. The City of Hartford's Downtown Development Authority is considered a source of some funding for recreational activities.

City of Hartford Staff Description and Organizational Chart

City Commission

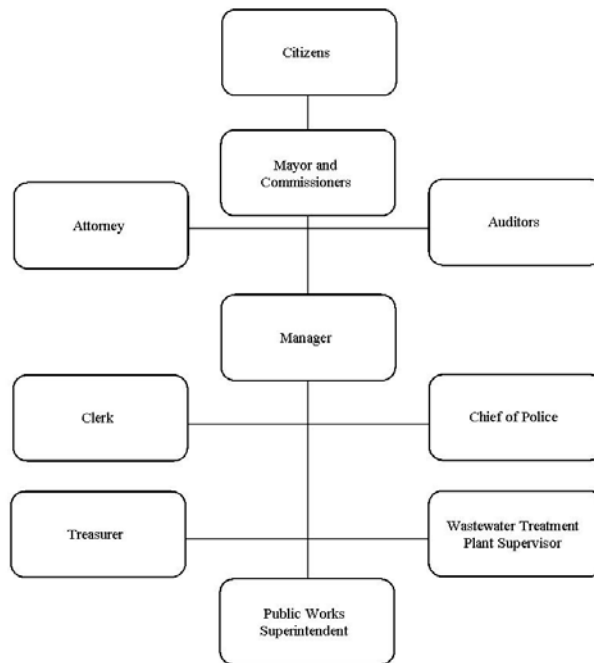
Theodore Johnson, Mayor
 Rick Hall, Mayor Pro-Tem
 John Miller
 Dennis Goss
 Frank Dockter
 Terry Tibbs
 Ron Burlison

Planning Commission

Tim Kling, Chair
 Jenine Kling, Vice Chair/Secretary
 Jeff Fuller
 Donna Langston
 Matt Sanborn
 Frank Emery
 Rebecca Dill

City Manager – Yemi Akinwale
City Treasurer – Linda Gray
Chief of Police – Ramon Beltran

City Clerk – RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht
DPW Superintendent – Daniel Staunton
Waster Water Treatment Plant Operator. - Tom Strand



Park Policies

The City of Hartford has established procedures and rules for the use of Ely Park. These include requiring the submission of an application by any group or assembly that expects to attract or involve more than 20 persons and the user is required to clean up the area after the event is over.⁵

Parks and Recreation Programming

The Community of Hartford benefits from the Recreation Council, which is comprised of residents from the City and the Township. This Council functions as a committee of volunteers whose primary purpose is to organize and run the summer sports programs. The summer sports programs are done cooperatively with the Hartford school district through the use of the school ballparks. The City Commission and the Township Board have representatives on the Recreation Council and reflect on the decision making.

Volunteers, Organizations, and Supporting Agencies

The Hartford Community benefits from several active volunteer organizations and community agencies in a variety of different ways. The City's Public Works Director is responsible for most of the routine maintenance of parks, but there are other key organizations that help deliver parks and recreation activities in the community.

- The Hartford Chamber of Commerce organizes the Strawberry Festival and Parade in the summer.
- The Boy Scouts assist the Hartford Chamber of Commerce with cleaning Ely Park after the Strawberry Festival.
- The American Legion helps with Memorial Day celebrations by providing flags and flowers for the cemetery and working to help clean Ely Park.
- The Hartford Community Recreation Council, comprised of residents of both the City and the Township organizes the summer sports programs.
- The City and the DDA plant flowers and help keep Ely Park clean.
- The Hartford Lion's Club is responsible for the Strawberry 5K Run (part of the Strawberry Festival), organizes the Hartford Winter Parade (also called Christmas in the Park and Lighted Parade), provides volunteers (mostly Boy Scouts) to clean up after the Strawberry Festival.
- The Ely Park pavilion was built by the City in honor of the Chappell family.
- The Historical Society maintains the Historical Museum and the 4H club maintains the County Fairgrounds.
- The Hartford Police Department reserve officers offer their services during football games, concerts in the park, parades, Halloween activities, and the Strawberry Festival.
- The Van Buren County Road Commission maintains the MDNR owned Van Buren Trail and trailhead including pumping the waste from the bathroom.



⁵ See Appendix for complete park rules

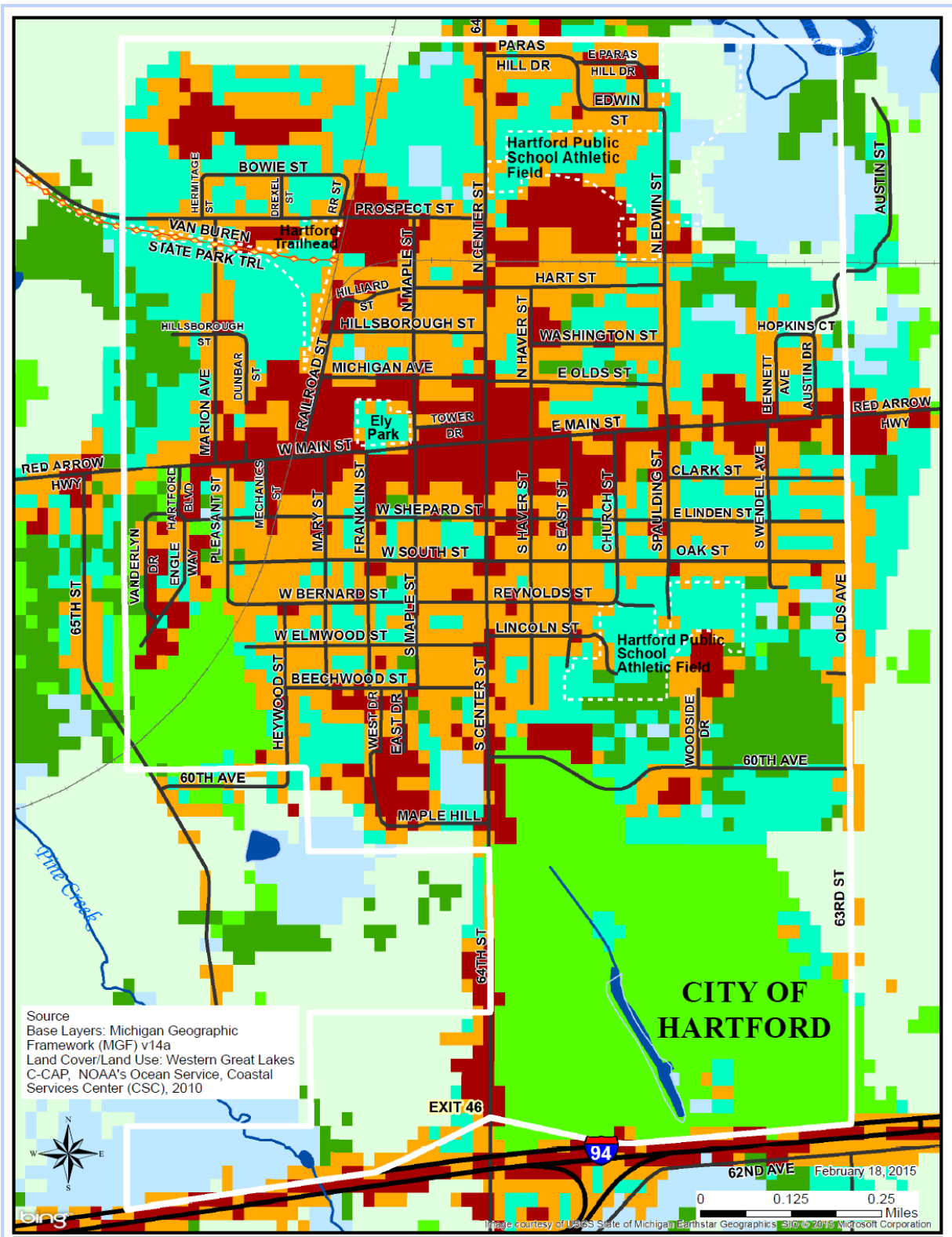
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Land Use Patterns

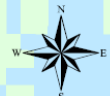
The City is mostly developed (43%); however the City is surrounded with open space and natural areas (57%). There are 53 acres of wetlands mostly in the northeast corner of the city along the Paw Paw River. There are significant wetlands west of S. Center Street and north of Maple Hill and also a very large complex along I-94 surrounding Pine Creek. These wetlands are very important to maintain the quality of the designated coldwater fishery of Pine Creek. There is a large forested area north of 60th Avenue and east of Woodside Drive. A large parcel in the southeast corner of the City (north of I-94) is in agriculture.

City of Hartford, Land Use/Cover 2010

| Land Use/Land Cover (2010 CCAP – NOAA) | ACRES | PERCENT |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Developed, High & Medium Density | 124.32 | 14.1% |
| Low Density Developed | 254.64 | 28.8% |
| Developed Open Space | 192.15 | 21.7% |
| Cultivated Crops/Pasture/Hay | 206.60 | 23.4% |
| Forest/Shrub/Grassland | 52.48 | 5.9% |
| Wetland | 53.82 | 6.1% |
| | | |
| TOTAL | 884.02 | 100.0% |



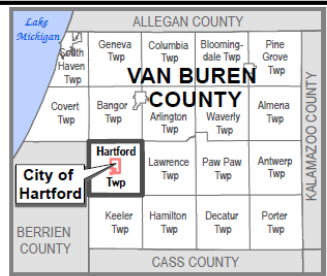
Source
 Base Layers: Michigan Geographic Framework (MGF) v14a
 Land Cover/Land Use: Western Great Lakes C-CAP, NOAA's Ocean Service, Coastal Services Center (CSC), 2010



CITY OF HARTFORD

| LAND COVER/LAND USE | | BASE LAYERS | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | High Intensity Developed | | Road |
| | Low Intensity Developed | | State Road |
| | Developed Open Space | | Railroad |
| | Cultivated | | Van Buren Trail |
| | Pasture/Hay/Grassland | | |
| | Forest | | |
| | Wetland | | |
| | Water | | |

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February 18, 2015



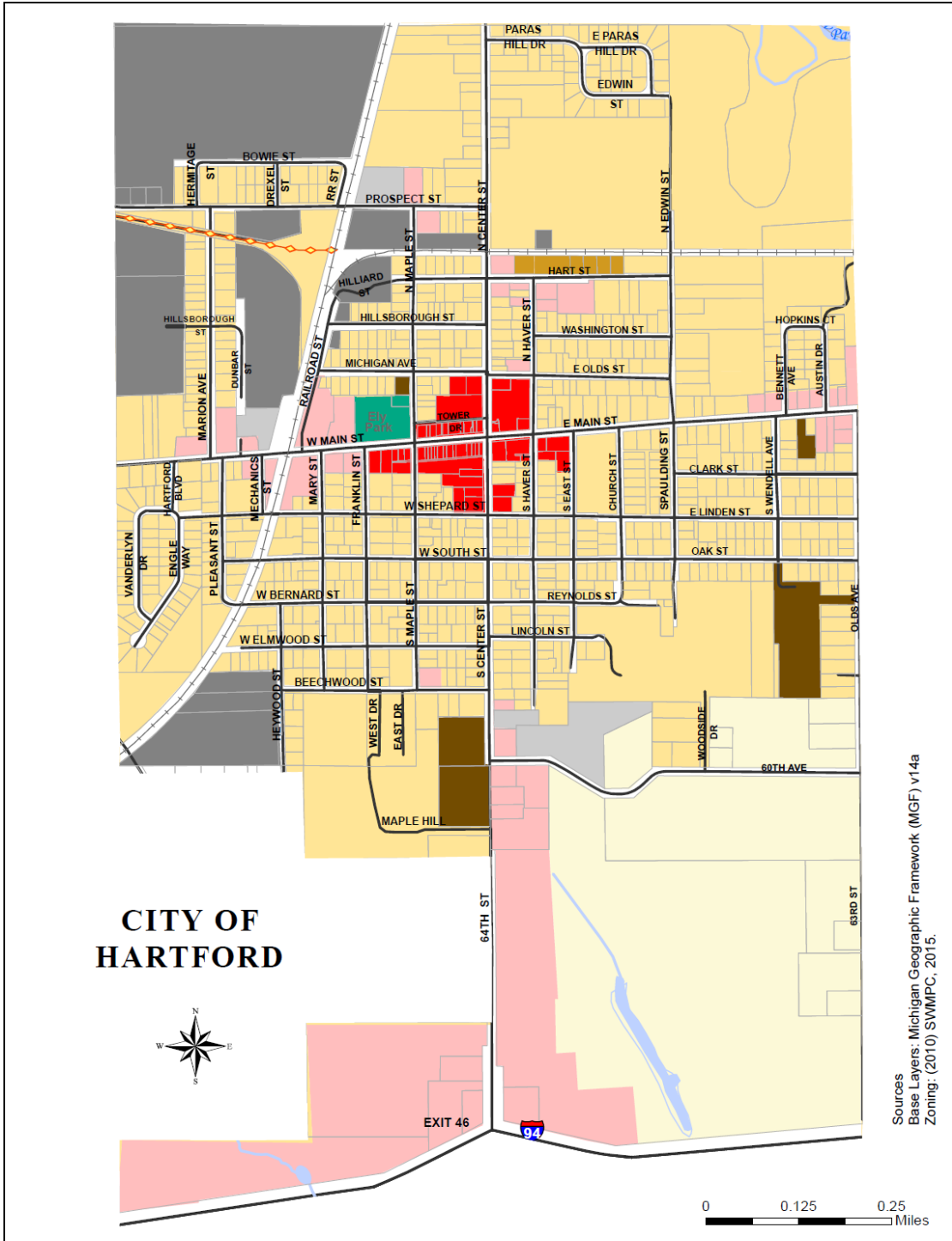
Image courtesy of 2015 State of Michigan Earthstar Geographics, © 2015 Microsoft Corporation

Zoning

The City's zoning ordinance address the issues of each particular type of zoning district in terms of building and lot sizes, setbacks and other such details. The following tables show the different zoning districts in the City as well as the area and percentage of total area for each district. Most of the land in the City is zoned for single family residential use (53%), followed by Rural Residential (18%), General Business (12%) and Industrial (12%). The large wetland complex along I-94 is zoned as general business and is identified by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory as a significant potential conservation area. Most of the natural lands within the City limits are zoned for future growth and development which could limit the amount of open space and natural areas within the City limits and impact the water quality of Pine Creek and the Paw Paw River.

City of Hartford Zoning, 2010

| ZONING | ACRES | % of TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Central Business District | 13.3 | 1.76% |
| General Business | 89.5 | 11.86% |
| Industrial District | 87.4 | 11.59% |
| Light Industrial | 10.4 | 1.38% |
| Multiple Family Residential | 14.0 | 1.85% |
| Park | 2.9 | 0.38% |
| Rural Residential | 136.4 | 18.09% |
| Single Family Residential | 398.1 | 52.77% |
| Two Family Residential | 2.3 | 0.31% |



Sources
 Base Layers: Michigan Geographic Framework (MGF) V14a
 Zoning: (2010) SWMPC, 2015.

CITY OF HARTFORD



Legend

- Road
- +—+— Railroad
- ◇—◇— Van Buren Trail
- Stream & Drain

CITY OF HARTFORD ZONING, 2010

- Rural Residential
- Single Family Residential
- Two Family Residential
- Multiple Family Residential
- Park
- General Business
- Central Business District
- Light Industrial
- Industrial District

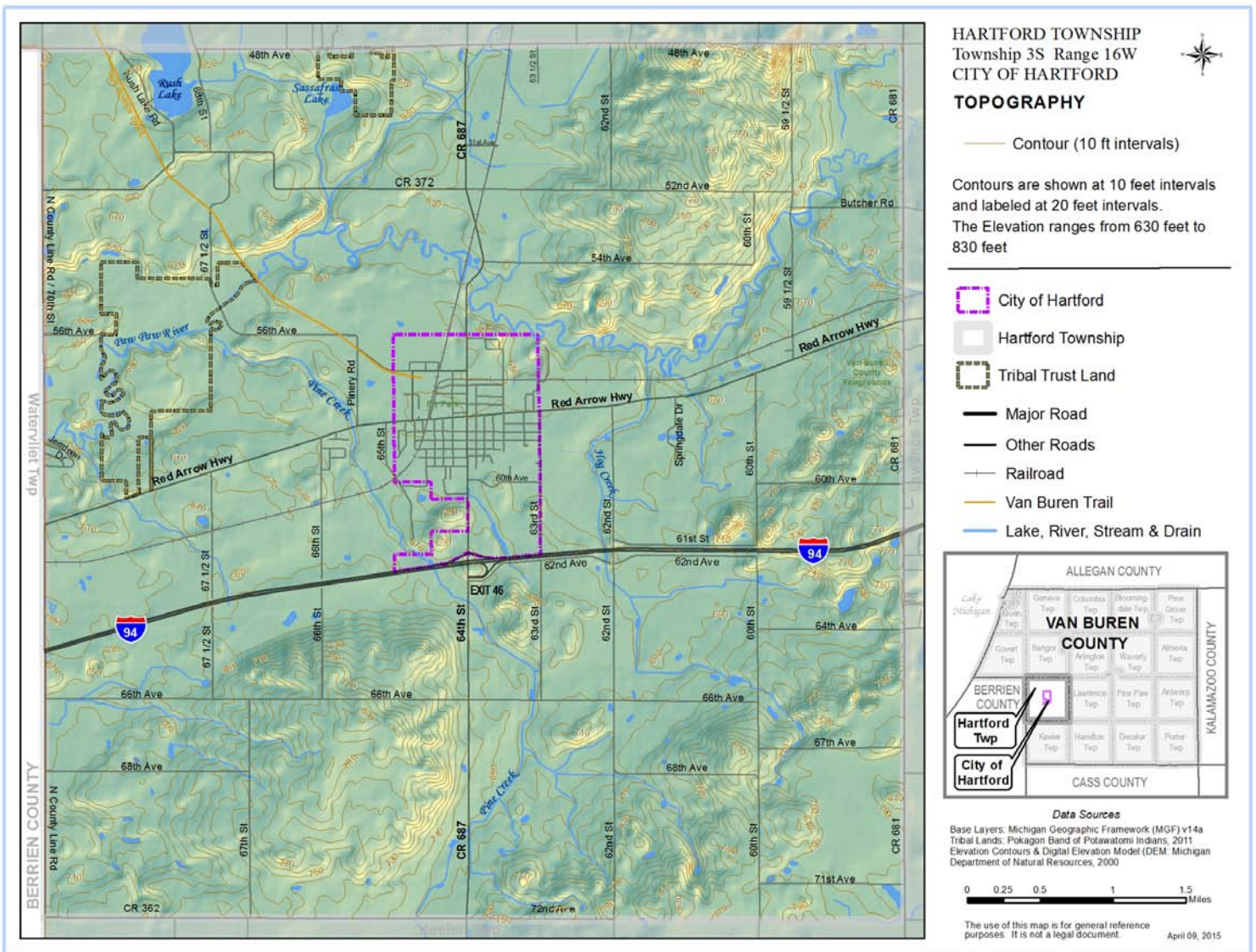
The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document.

May 07, 2015

Topography

The topography of the Hartford area was formed through glacial action, particularly the Lake Michigan Lobe of the Wisconsin glacial sheet, which resulted in five dominant features: moraines, till plains, outwash plains, lake plains and drainageways, and areas where muck and silt were deposited by ponded water on till plains.⁶

Topographical elevations range from a low of 633 feet along the Paw Paw River to a high of 820 feet just south and west of Interstate 94 at the junction with County Road 687. The Township is characterized by gentle slopes and flat bottomland on the outwash and river flood plains. (See map on the following page.)



⁶ U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Van Buren County; 1986

Water, Fish, and Wildlife Resources

Hartford lies in close proximity to significant water resources. It is a short ten miles from the eastern shore of Lake Michigan and the Paw Paw River flows from east to west just north of the City of Hartford. The Paw

Paw River has been identified by the State of Michigan and the Nature Conservancy as one of the highest quality freshwater systems in the entire Great Lakes Basin.

The Paw Paw River is formed by the confluence of the north and south branches in northeast Van Buren County. The river flows approximately 89 miles through Van Buren County and Berrien County until joining the St. Joseph River in Benton Harbor near Lake Michigan. Among the many



tributaries joining the river are Pine Creek which flows between Hartford and Watervliet, Mud Lake Drain between Hartford and Watervliet, and Hog Creek near Hartford. The Paw Paw River provides excellent habitat for a variety of waterfowl and is considered a cool water fishery which supports a very diverse fishery. During the spring and fall migrations the marshes are filled with northern pintail, northern shoveler, blue and green-winged teal, tundra swans, great blue heron, and the occasional Sandhill crane. The river area also supports American kestrel, northern harrier, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, great horned owl, barred owl, and long-eared owl.⁷

The Paw Paw River Watershed covers about 445 square miles, primarily in Van Buren County, as well as a small portion of Kalamazoo County. The watershed includes rare Great Lakes marshes and floodplain forests, which serve as habitats for migratory birds such as the Prothonotary Warbler (commonly known as the Golden Swamp Warbler), as well as the endangered Mitchell Satyr butterfly. Other rare species include the Massasauga rattlesnake and the spotted turtle. The Paw Paw River has 39 species of fish including walleye, bass, bluegill, black crappie, and northern pike⁸

⁷ <http://www.sarrett.com>

⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paw_Paw_River

HARTFORD TOWNSHIP
 Township 3S Range 16W
 CITY OF HARTFORD



WATER RESOURCES

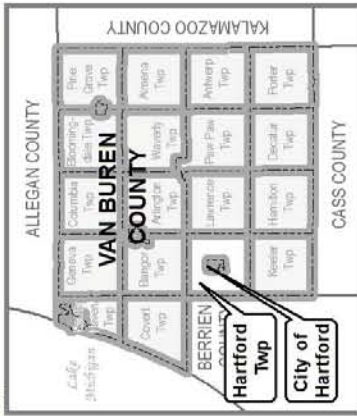
- Lake, River, Stream & Drain
- Wetland
- Sewer & Water Service Area

Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs)

Wellhead Protection Area Delineation were identified via a ground water study conducted in and around the well or well field. These WHPAs were delineated using field verified information.

Type 1 Provisional Wellhead Protection Area are "community" public water supplies whose WHPAs have been identified using the Michigan Groundwater Management Tool (MGMT) and existing databases.

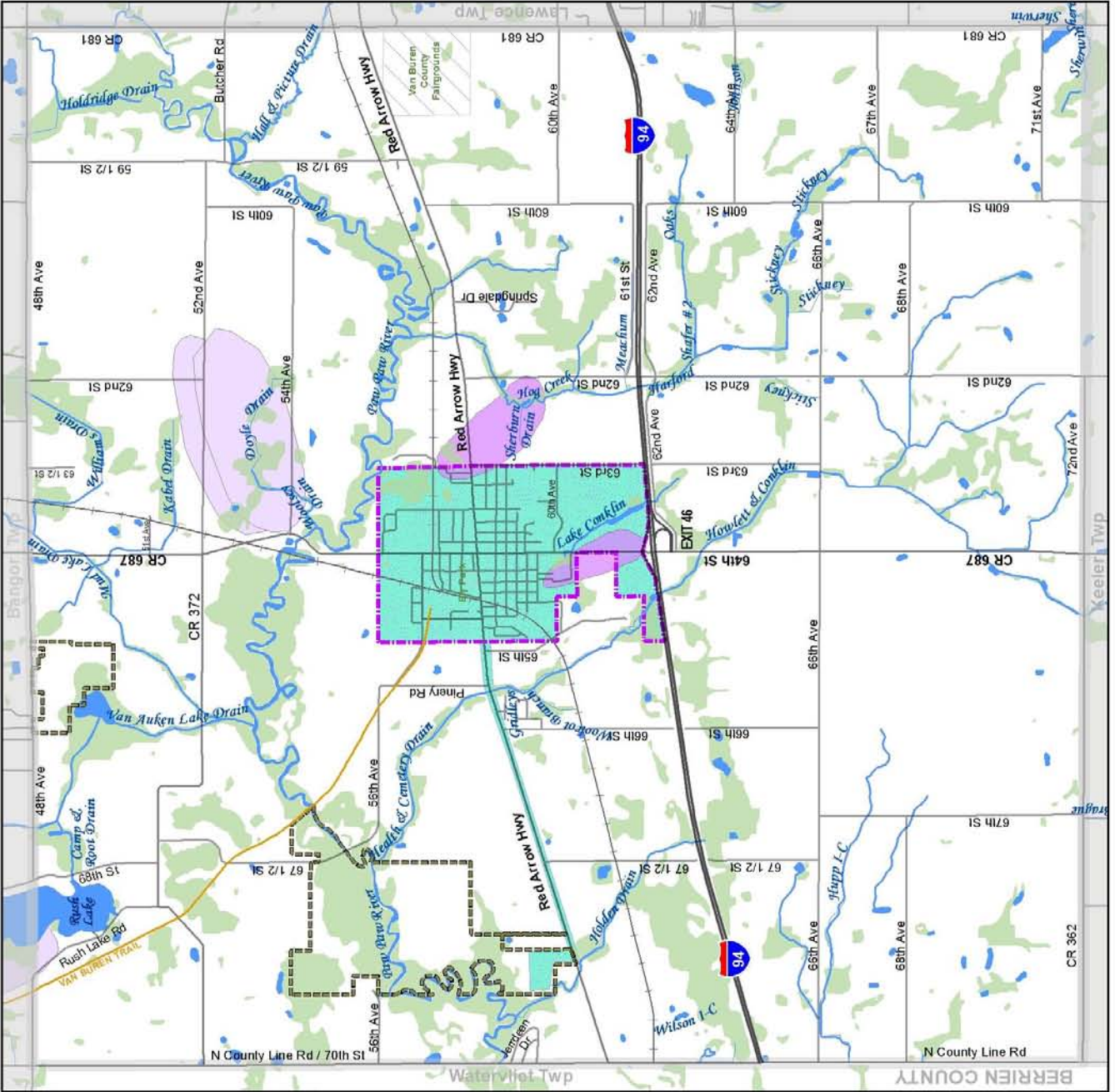
- City of Hartford
- Hartford Township
- Tribal Trust Land
- Major Road
- Other Roads
- Railroad
- Van Buren Trail



Data Sources
 Base Layers: Michigan Geographic Framework (MGRF) v14a
 Tribal Lands: Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, 2011
 Wellhead Protection Areas & Wetlands: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, 2014

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April 09, 2015



Natural Features

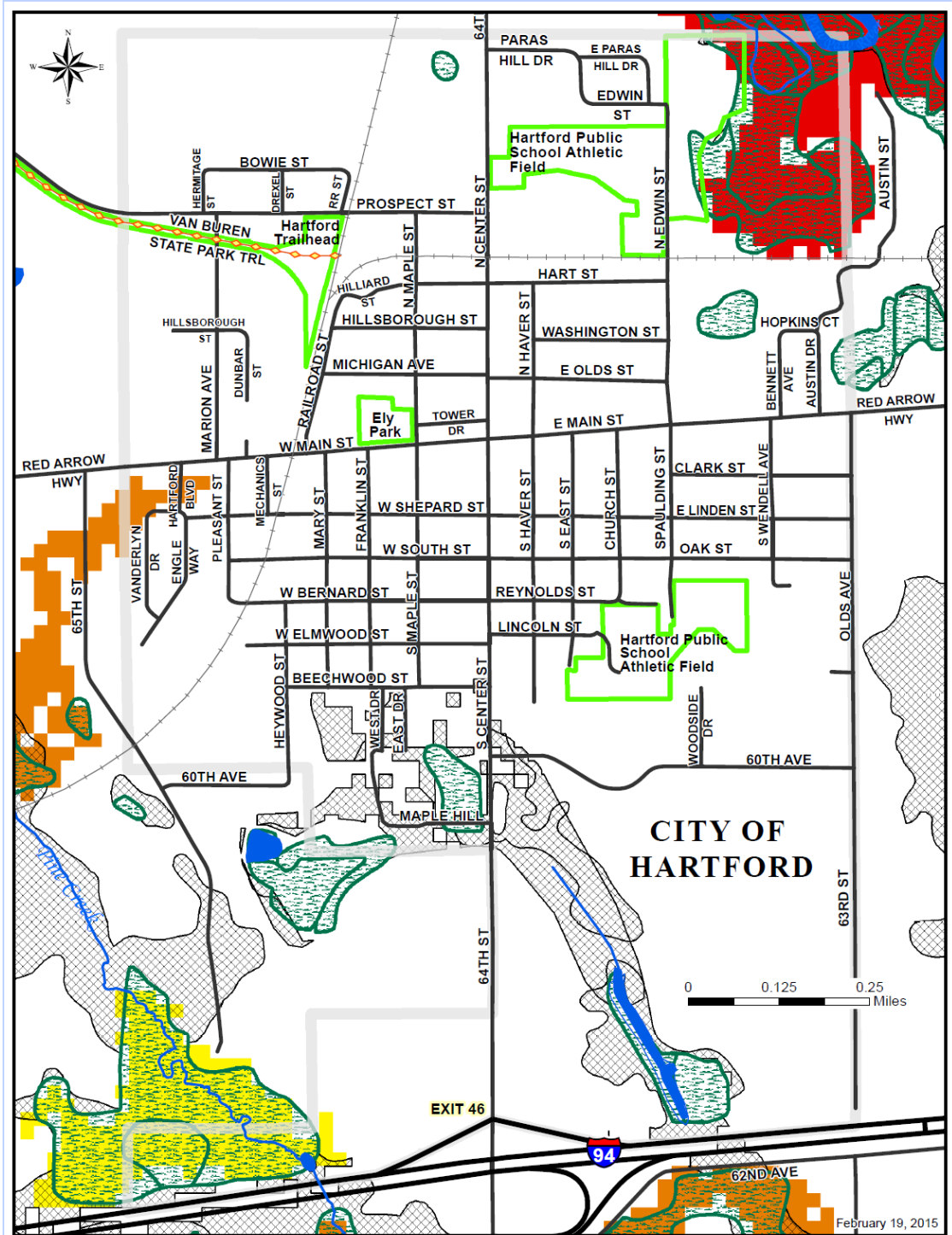
The City of Hartford (1.4 square miles) is completely within the boundaries of Hartford Township. One of the most notable natural features in the community is the Paw Paw River. Regions bordering the Paw Paw River are primarily wetlands in the form of marshes and swamps. The river's elevations average between 630 and 640 feet with the wetland areas stopping at approximately the 650 foot elevation line.⁹ There is a major wetland complex in the northeast portion of the City. This area is extremely important for wildlife and protecting the Paw Paw River. Any recreation development should be sensitive to the wetlands. There used to be a large wetland complex in the southern part of the City from I-94, crossing S. Center Street and along Maple Hill Road. There are just small remnants of this wetland complex left intact as much of it has been drained or filled for agriculture and development. Southeast of the city in the Township there were also extensive wetlands along Pine Creek, a cold water tributary to the Paw Paw River. If these wetlands could be protected and restored, Pine Creek and the Paw Paw River would benefit greatly.

| Wetlands in Hartford City | |
|---|------------|
| Existing Wetlands | 56.0 acres |
| Drained or Filled Wetlands (potential restoration areas) | 42.0 acres |

There are other small lakes and creeks in Hartford Township, most notably Rush Lake, as well as Pine and Hog Creeks which flow northward from the southern edge of the Township and empty into the Paw Paw River. The map on the following page shows detail of the wetlands and potential conservation areas in the City.

A complete list of endangered and threatened species for Van Buren County is available in the Appendix.

⁹ *Hartford Community Master Plan, 1999*



*Potential Conservation Areas (PCA) are defined as places on the landscape dominated by native vegetation that have various levels of potential for harboring high quality natural areas and unique natural features. Scoring criteria used to prioritize sites included: total size, size of core area, length of stream corridor, landscape connectivity, restorability of surrounding land, vegetation quality, and biological rarity score.

Sources
 Base Layers: MCGI Framework (MGF) v14a
 Potential Conservation Areas: MNFI, 2007
 Potential Restoration Wetlands: MDEQ, 2014
 Existing Wetlands: MDEQ, 2007

PCA Score*

RANK

- Highest
- High
- Medium

- Existing Wetland
- Potential Restoration Area
- Park & Recreation Area
- City of Hartford
- Road
- State Road
- Railroad
- Van Buren Trail

The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document.

Vegetation and Climate

Much of the Paw Paw River is surrounded by forests. These forested floodplains protect water quality, control flooding and provide a non-fragmented corridor for wildlife. Van Buren County and the Hartford area are part of the rich Michigan Fruit Belt. The soils and microclimate along Lake Michigan's east coast make for exceptional agricultural growing conditions for non-citrus fruit and berries. Van Buren County has been identified by the State as an important fruit growing area most significantly for grapes, apples, pears, peaches, plums, blueberries and sour and sweet cherries.

Planning for recreational facilities and activities almost always includes planning around, or planning for, the weather. The average weather statistics for Hartford are shown below with highs and lows emphasized. Overall, Hartford enjoys four distinct seasons with relatively few extremes.

| Average Weather ¹⁰ | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|-----------|------------|------|------|-----------|
| Average temp. (°F) | 24.3 | 27.5 | 36.9 | 47.5 | 58.6 | 67.8 | 72.2 | 70.5 | 63.4 | 52.4 | 40.6 | 29.5 |
| High temperature (°F) | 31.3 | 35.1 | 45.5 | 57.3 | 69.1 | 78.1 | 82.0 | 80.1 | 73.2 | 61.7 | 47.9 | 35.9 |
| Low temperature (°F) | 17.2 | 19.8 | 28.2 | 37.7 | 48.2 | 57.5 | 62.3 | 60.9 | 53.4 | 43.0 | 33.2 | 23.0 |
| Precipitation (in) | 2.2 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 2.9 |
| Days with precipitation | 16 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 13 | 15 |
| Wind speed (mph) | 11.8 | 11.1 | 11.7 | 11.5 | 10.1 | 9.1 | 8.2 | 7.8 | 8.5 | 9.6 | 11.0 | 11.2 |
| Morning humidity (%) | 82 | 81 | 80 | 78 | 79 | 81 | 84 | 89 | 89 | 84 | 83 | 83 |
| Afternoon humidity (%) | 73 | 68 | 62 | 56 | 54 | 55 | 57 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 69 | 75 |
| Sunshine (%) | 32 | 41 | 47 | 51 | 57 | 63 | 65 | 62 | 56 | 47 | 30 | 27 |
| Days clear of clouds | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| Partly cloudy days | 6 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| Cloudy days | 23 | 19 | 19 | 17 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 21 | 23 |
| Snowfall (inches) | 20.4 | 14.4 | 9.4 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 7.8 | 18.4 |

¹⁰ <http://www.capitaldecking.com/decking-decks/city/Hartford-Michigan.html>

Transportation Systems

The overall transportation system of Van Buren County includes the modes listed below. These modes may be potential links and/or factors to be considered when planning for recreational space and activities. The Hartford Community area is accessible to visitors and tourists by many of these modes and residents of the community are in turn able to use these transportation systems to access recreational opportunities in surrounding areas.

The table below gives the approximate distances (time and mileage) between Hartford and selected cities in the region.

| Place | Population ¹¹ | Distance from Hartford | Travel Time (Approximate) |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chicago, IL | 2,895,444 | 104 miles | 2 hours |
| Kalamazoo, MI | 77,145 | 32 miles | 45 minutes |
| Grand Rapids, MI | 197,800 | 81 miles | 1.25 hour |
| Detroit, MI | 951,270 | 166 miles | 2.5 hours |
| South Bend, IN | 107,789 | 45 miles | 45 minutes |

Highways and Roadways - The major highway transportation routes traversing Van Buren County and connecting its cities, villages, and townships are the east-west highways of Interstate 94, M-43, and Red Arrow Highway; the major north-south highways are Interstate 196, M-140, and M-40.

The most significant highway with easy access to Hartford is Interstate 94 (I-94), a major east-west thoroughfare. I-94 is one of the most heavily traveled commercial corridors in the Midwest. To the east of Hartford, I-94 terminates in Detroit at the U.S./Canadian border and to the west, I-94 travels through the Midwest's largest city – Chicago, Illinois and eventually terminates in Billings, Montana. In addition to providing access to these major cities, I-94 also serves as the connector to convenient routes serving other nearby cities. The population of these cities can be considered when planning for tourism-related recreational activities. (See Table 12)

Red Arrow Highway is an all-weather route with a significant amount of commercial and industrial land adjacent to it. Red Arrow Highway is currently being considered by an economic development focus group as a means of promoting tourism in the areas surrounding the highway.

Private services – Private transportation in Van Buren County is typically provided by taxi services.

Public Transit Systems – In addition to public transit services provided by Van Buren Public Transit, the counties adjacent to Van Buren County also have public transit systems available. These systems may be potential resources to connect the Hartford Community and its recreational venues with residents in neighboring counties and to make available a wider scope of regional recreational services to be used by residents of the Hartford Community.

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Railroads - Passenger railway transportation can be accessed at the newly renovated train depot in the City of Bangor - 10 miles from the City of Hartford, which provides service for Amtrak's Pere Marquette line offering daily trips from Grand Rapids to Chicago.

Commercial Bus Station - Commercial bus transportation includes Greyhound with stations in South Haven and Paw Paw, and Indian Trails with a stop in Paw Paw.

Airports - Airports certified for carrier operations include the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids, and the South Bend Regional Airport. The South Haven Regional Airport and the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport (located in Benton Harbor) provide charter and services to private aircraft owners (individual or corporate).

Marinas - Marinas are available in South Haven, approximately 20 miles from Hartford, for private boat owners and fishing charters. Ports with passenger ferry services are located north of Van Buren County in Muskegon and Ludington.

Non-motorized – Numerous roadways in Van Buren County have paved shoulders and are suitable for bicycle riding and walking. Van Buren County is also home to the 14-mile Van Buren Trail and the 33.5-mile Kal-Haven Trail. The Kal-Haven trail is a linear multi-use trail that links Kalamazoo to South Haven and the Van Buren Trail is a park trail linking South Haven with Hartford. Both of these trails are suitable for hiking, biking, and horseback riding and both are open in the winter for cross-country skiing; snowmobiling is allowed when there is a four-inch base. There are plans to connect the Van Buren Trail in Hartford to Paw Paw along an abandoned rail corridor. This trail is being called the Fruit Belt trail.

To improve non-motorized transportation options, planning and site designs can often be structured to: 1) promote development that mixes land uses, 2) enhance pedestrian facilities, 3) promote infill and redevelopment, and 4) increase density.

Water Trails - The Bangor/South Haven Heritage Water Trail is a canoe and kayak trail encompassing 20 miles of the South Branch of the Black River between the cities of Bangor and South Haven.¹² There are plans to develop a Paw Paw River Trail from Paw Paw to Lake Michigan. Both the Paw Paw and Black River Water Trails connect to the Lake Michigan Water Trail. For more information, visit www.michiganwatertrails.org.

¹² "Van Buren County Community Center," <http://www.vbco.org/natfeat0010.asp>

RECREATION INVENTORY

Members of the steering committee assisted with the compilation of the recreation inventory. Site visits were performed and previous plans and community descriptions were reviewed and updated in accordance with established standards. The City of Hartford has not received any MDNR Trust Fund or Land and Water Conservation Funds, so there is no status report or post completion self inspection reports.

City Owned

Ely Park is the only park within the boundaries of the City. This 2.5 acre *neighborhood park* has a covered pavilion used for a variety of activities, most notably a popular outdoor concert series. New accessible restrooms and other accessibility improvements were made in 2014 and 2015.

School District Owned

The Hartford School District allows the use of its athletic field as a *school park* for summer sports programs and other events as needed.

School Properties include:

- Hartford High School
- Hartford Middle School
- Woodside Elementary School
- Red Arrow Elementary School

State Owned

The Van Buren Trail is a 14-mile dirt and gravel *park trail* connecting South Haven and the City of Hartford. The Van Buren Trail trailhead is located on Prospect Street in the City and offers free parking for trail users. The City provides parking for the trailhead but does not maintain or exercise any control over the trail. The trail is maintained and operated by the Van Buren County Road Commission. The City and the Road Commission are interested in connecting the Van Buren Trail to other communities to the east (Paw Paw), west (Watervliet/Coloma) and to the south (Sister Lakes area).

Other Resources

The Paw Paw River is a *water resource* accessible for activities such as canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. The portion of the river in Hartford Township is not well-suited for motorized boating; however, a water trail for non-motorized boats is being developed. The public accesses the Paw Paw River near County Road 681 and 687 and near 59 ½ Street between Hartford and Lawrence; however, the land is privately owned. There is interest to improve public access to the Paw Paw River in the Hartford area either at the water plant, Silo House, behind the soccer fields or at County Line Road and 70th Street.

In 2002, the City of Hartford participated in a community assessment conducted by the Anderson Economic Group. The assessment was done for the communities along the Red Arrow Highway to help develop strategies for enhancing the region’s economy. As part of the “Amenity Inventory” the following recreational facilities were identified as being “Resident and Visitor Highlights”.

- The Race Track – The Hartford Speedway draws in thousands of people every weekend during the summer months. Attendees at the events come from throughout Southwest Michigan, and beyond to watch drivers race this high banked, 1/2-mile oval race track.
- Proximity to the lakeshore – The short drive from Hartford to Benton Harbor, Saint Joseph, and other lakeshore commercial centers provide residents with easy access to major retail and employers.
- Recreational Facilities – Hartford’s school district provides recreational facilities for community youth for school sports programs and community usage.¹³

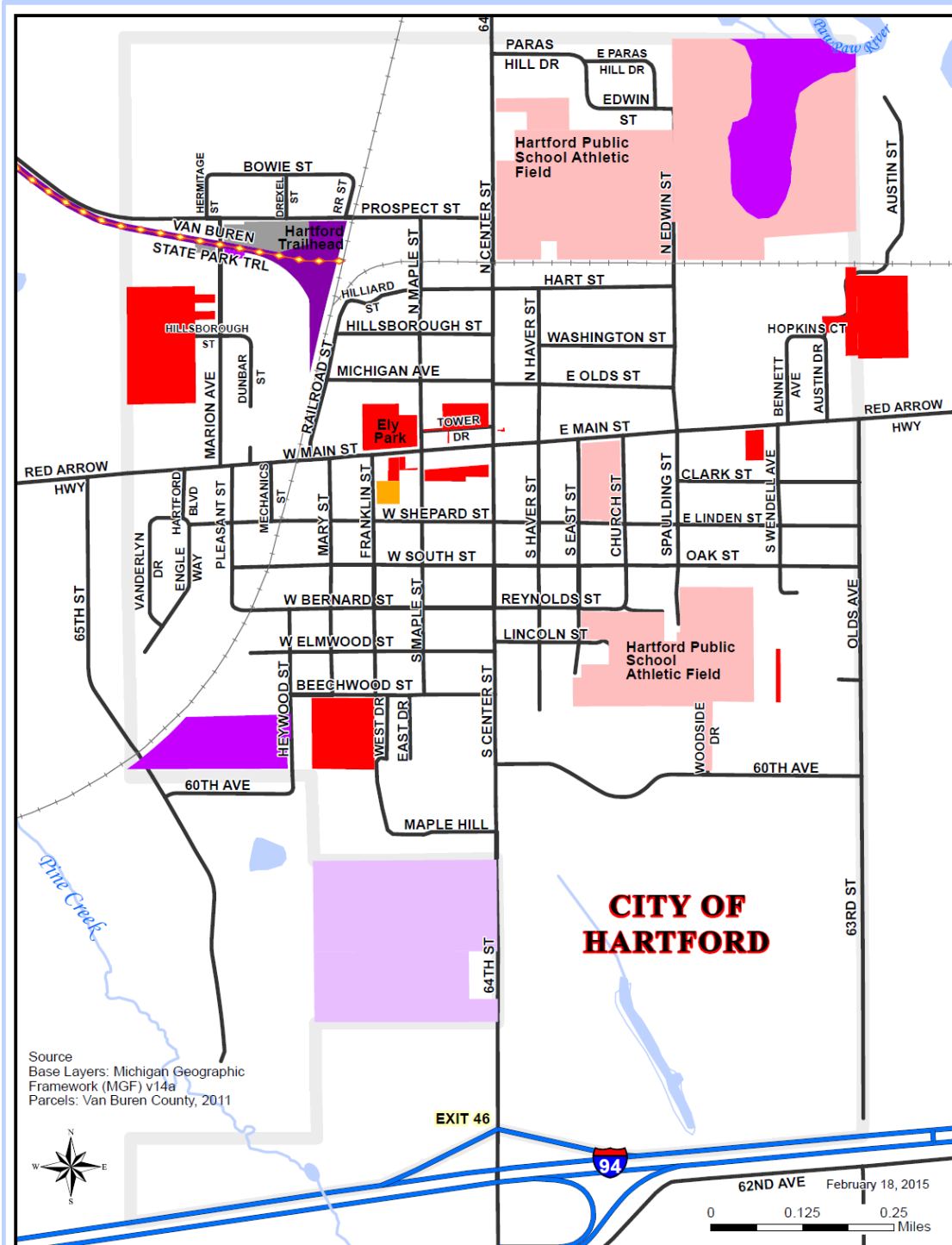
Other recreational facilities/amenities in the area include:

- Van Buren County Fairgrounds*
- Van Buren Historical Museum*
- Kal-Haven Trail Sesquicentennial Park
- Van Buren State Park
- Lake Michigan Shoreline
- Van Buren County lakes (36 with either public access and/or public fishing sites)
- Algird Banicks Dunes Nature Sanctuary
- Ross Nature Preserve
- Keeler State Game Area

**The fairgrounds and museum are physically located within Hartford Township; however, control of the properties is maintained by Van Buren County.*



¹³ Anderson Economic Group – Preliminary Release. City of Hartford Community Assessment. Oct. 2002

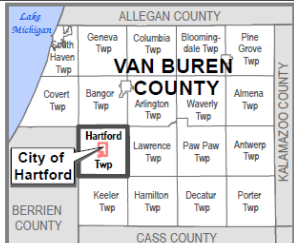


Source
 Base Layers: Michigan Geographic Framework (MGF) v14a
 Parcels: Van Buren County, 2011

OWNERSHIP

- CITY OF HARTFORD
- HARTFORD LIBRARY
- HARTFORD SCHOOL
- HARTFORD TOWNSHIP
- VAN BUREN CNTY
- MI DEPT OF TREASURY
- AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER
- City Limits

- Road
- State Road
- Railroad
- Van Buren Trail
- Lake, River, Stream & Drains



The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document.

Status Report on Grant Assisted Facilities

The City of Hartford received a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for Ely Park in 2010. The grant activities included expanding the existing pavilion and adding a sidewalk. This work was completed and a post completion self-certification form is included in the appendix.

Barrier-Free Compliance Status and Unmet Needs

The City of Hartford is committed to meeting the needs of all residents and visitors. This is evident in the attention given to projects that will enable easier and safer access to all recreational venues. The Community has also expressed a commitment to ensuring a more enjoyable experience for all those participating in recreational pursuits. To achieve this goal of barrier-free compliance and maximum enjoyment, the City has established sidewalks and comfort stations (restrooms/drinking fountains) as a top priority for Ely Park. The MDNR Guidelines require that a barrier free ranking be given to each facility for assessing its accessibility to persons with disabilities. The assessment considers the accessibility of both the facilities themselves as well as the access routes to them. The following system, provided by the MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans (1/27/2006) was used:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Ely Park was ranked “2” with some of its facilities meeting accessibility guidelines; however with the improvements made in 2014 and 2015, it is now ranked as a 3. The only deficiency is accessibility to the stage.

The remaining recreational facilities in the area are not under the jurisdiction of the City of Hartford.

Needs Assessment

Following the public visioning session, meetings conducted with the steering committee, and a thorough analysis of all data collected previously and currently, the following needs were established for Hartford.

Acquisition Needs

- Property for Paw Paw River access (possibilities include at 59½ Street northwest of town, at CR 687, water plant, Silo House, behind the soccer fields or at County Line Road and 70th Street.)
- Property for community center
- Property for neighborhood parks and playgrounds
- Property adjacent to Ely Park for a playground
- Property for a dog park

- Property that contributes to open space areas. Properties that connect parks and open space, contain high quality natural features or contribute to the development of non-motorized facilities are of particular interest.

Facility Needs

- Ely Park Amenities: enhanced pedestrian safety, playground, handrail for steps to stage and ramp to the stage for increased accessibility
- Signage promoting use and location of: Van Buren Trail trailhead at Prospect Street, Paw Paw River Access Points, Ely Park, and Hartford Speedway
- Woodside School: outdoor ice rink
- Additional Soccer fields
- Community Center (focusing on youth and seniors)
- Paw Paw River Water Trail: Canoe/kayak launches, signage, restroom facilities, drinking fountains, parking, fish cleaning stations, dumpsters, camping
- Sidewalk/non-motorized use: Continuation from Beechwood Street to I-94 with lighting and a retention wall; other connections to the local and regional systems as needed.
- Neighborhood park/playground: To be developed in southwest corner of City on 2 acres that the City owns
- Skate Park on 2 acres of City owned property in southwest corner of town
- Dog Park
- Enhance Van Buren Trailhead – shelter, restroom, concession

Promotional Needs

Website (potentially partner with Recreation Council to place information on their website)
Printed Materials

Summary

In response to the demographic change of increasing numbers of senior citizens as related to recreational planning, the AARP conducted a nationwide study in August 2005 to better understand how baby boomers (ages 41-59) spend their travel and leisure time. Following are the top ten travel planning factors as compiled in this study. This information can be useful when planning for recreational facilities and activities that may be more tourism related.

Top Ten Travel Planning Factors

1. Beautiful scenic place
2. Very relaxing
3. Good weather/climate
4. No schedules to meet
5. Can see and do new things/have different experiences/meet new people
6. Good place for family/children
7. Environment is clean and unspoiled
8. Convenient to get to
9. Ability to gain knowledge of history or other cultures
10. Outdoor adventure

Regardless of the destination when preparing to *travel*, baby-boomers are looking for beautiful scenery, relaxation, good weather, and no pressure of schedules to meet. The study further reveals that baby-boomers typically partake in a number of *leisure activities* which may be either adventurous or experiential. Following are two top ten lists of activities that boomers have participated in over the past 12 months categorized into "adventurous" activities and "experiential" activities.¹⁴

Top 10 Experiential Activities

1. Shopping
2. Fine dining
3. Touring scenic byways
4. Casino/riverboat gambling
5. Zoo
6. Gardens
7. Theater/drama
8. National parks touring
9. Festivals, nightclub/stage shows, major sports events
10. Health club/exercise facilities

Top 10 Adventure Activities

1. Fresh or saltwater fishing
2. Escorted or guided tour
3. Biking
4. Hiking/backpacking/rock and mountain climbing
5. Camping (tent)
6. RV camping
7. Motorcycling
8. Horseback riding
9. Snorkeling
10. Whitewater rafting/kayaking

The following data was produced using Esri's Community Analyst software, by using a combination of lifestyle data on residents in the Hartford area and national surveys related to recreational activities. For this particular report, the software determined the top lifestyle categories of residents in the area using factors such as demographics, spending habits, and regional trends. The report then extrapolates data from national surveys to determine the propensity that members of these lifestyle categories would be most likely to participate in. While this information is not a direct survey of residents in the Hartford area, it provides an "educated guess" where no data currently exists. Understanding this, the information below should be regarded as a starting point for future survey work to verify.

¹⁴ http://www.aarp.org/research/family/travel/boomer_travel.html

City and Township of Hartford, Top Outdoor Recreational Activities

| Outdoor Activity (participated in the last 12 months) | Number of Adults (18+) | Percent |
|---|------------------------|---------|
| Walking for exercise | 923 | 22.6% |
| Freshwater fishing | 566 | 13.9% |
| Swimming | 521 | 12.8% |
| Camping | 516 | 12.6% |
| Bicycling (road or mountain) | 403 | 10% |
| Hunting (rifle or shotgun) | 465 | 8.8% |
| Basketball | 337 | 8.3% |
| Jogging/Running | 301 | 7.4% |
| Hiking | 304 | 7.4% |
| Golf | 283 | 6.9% |
| Bird watching | 209 | 5.1% |
| Canoeing/Kayaking | 201 | 4.9% |
| Football | 193 | 4.7% |
| Target shooting | 189 | 4.6% |
| Baseball | 168 | 4.1% |
| Frisbee | 143 | 3.5% |
| Soccer | 134 | 3.3% |
| Softball | 125 | 3.1% |
| Horseback riding | 99 | 2.4% |

Source: Esri's Community Analyst. Data collected by GfK MRI in a nationally representative survey of U.S. households.

City and Township of Hartford, Top Indoor Recreational Activities

| Indoor Activity (participated in the last 12 months) | Number of Adults (18+) | Percent |
|--|------------------------|---------|
| Watch sports on TV | 2,360 | 57.8% |
| Read a book | 1,255 | 30.7% |
| Playing cards | 649 | 15.9% |
| Video games (console) | 473 | 11.6% |
| Indoor gardening/plant care | 352 | 8.6% |
| Bowling | 314 | 7.7% |
| Billiards/Pool | 265 | 6.5% |
| Aerobics | 267 | 6.5% |
| Weight lifting | 265 | 6.5% |
| Bingo | 217 | 5.3% |
| Woodworking | 205 | 5.0% |
| Yoga | 199 | 4.9% |
| Trivia games | 185 | 4.5% |

Source: Esri's Community Analyst. Data collected by GfK MRI in a nationally representative survey of U.S. households.

Of the Top 10 Adventure Activities listed above, the Hartford Community is able to provide parking and other amenities/supplies for users of the Van Buren Trail for biking, hiking, and horseback riding. There are also freshwater fishing opportunities along the Paw Paw River. The Hartford Community is committed to providing a variety of positive recreational experiences. The community is also committed to understanding and meeting the needs of

its changing population. Among those needs are more opportunities for recreational and leisure activities. While these opportunities are important to all age groups, the increasing number of senior citizens encourages the community to look ahead and begin the development of projects that will enhance the accessibility, availability, and quality of recreation and leisure experiences.

Recognizing the area's beautiful natural resources and with a renewed interest in developing tourism the Hartford Community is looking to recreational facilities and experiences as one of many active steps taken to enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Plan Development Process

The residents and municipal leaders of the City of Hartford recognize the benefits of planning to develop a shared vision, identify needs and desires of residents, increase efficiency when providing recreational services and link the parks, recreation, and open space plan with the master plan, capital improvement schedule, and other common goals of the City. The steering committee was comprised of a diverse mix of interests to ensure that the recreational needs and desires of all community residents were addressed. Attention was also given to developing recreational facilities and venues that would attract visitors to the Hartford area.

A systems approach was used to develop this parks, recreation, and open space plan. Previous community surveys and community assessments were studied and compared with results from a public input session. The community steering committee participated in discussions related to this information and was instrumental in its analysis. The demographic characteristics of the community were also studied and played an integral part in the needs assessment portion of the plan. The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission participated in the development of the plan through research and analysis, preparation of maps, and in the conducting of the steering committee meetings and public input sessions.

After a thorough assessment of community needs and desires, the steering committee worked with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission to establish the community recreation goals, objectives, and action program.

Public Input

Recognizing the importance of developing a parks, recreation, and open space plan endorsed by the members of the community, the City of Hartford invited public participation in a number of ways.

Steering Committee

The steering committee included representative members of the community, business leaders, planning commissioners, and the school. The steering committee held, and attended, meetings at the City Hall and the Township Hall on the following dates.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| January 14, 2015 | Hartford City Hall |
| February 25, 2015 | Hartford City Hall |
| April 15, 2015 | Hartford City Hall |
| May 20, 2015 | Hartford City Hall |

Public Workshop and Survey

Members of the general public were invited to a public visioning workshop held March 19, 2015 at Hartford City Hall¹⁵. The public input session was promoted through flyers around town and a news article and legal notice in the local paper.

Residents attending the visioning session were given a survey designed to assist the steering committee with prioritizing a variety of potential recreational activities and facilities. This survey was also distributed to residents by committee members and offered on-line through the City's website through April 2015. The survey instrument is in the appendix. The survey results are summarized on the following pages.

According to the survey results, the respondents were most satisfied with baseball/softball fields, basketball courts and outdoor music in the Hartford Community. The respondents indicated highest priority for improvement and/or development of the following:

- Playground at Ely Park
- Picnic Facilities
- Van Buren Trail
- Bike Lakes/Trails/Sidewalks
- Website with Recreation Information
- Elderly and Disabled Accessibility

Other recreational items receiving substantial support included:

- Playground/Neighborhood Parks
- Soccer Fields
- Organized Sports/Access to Sport Facilities
- Skate Park
- Community Center
- Kayak/Canoe Launch
- Dog Park
- Hiking/Walking Paths
- Snowmobile Trails
- Indoor Music
- Birding/Wildlife Viewing/Nature Walks
- Nature Centers/Outdoor Education

The following activities/facilities received some support:

- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Horseback Riding
- Outdoor Ice Rink
- Public Swimming
- Outdoor Music
- Fishing
- Winter Sports/Cross Country Skiing

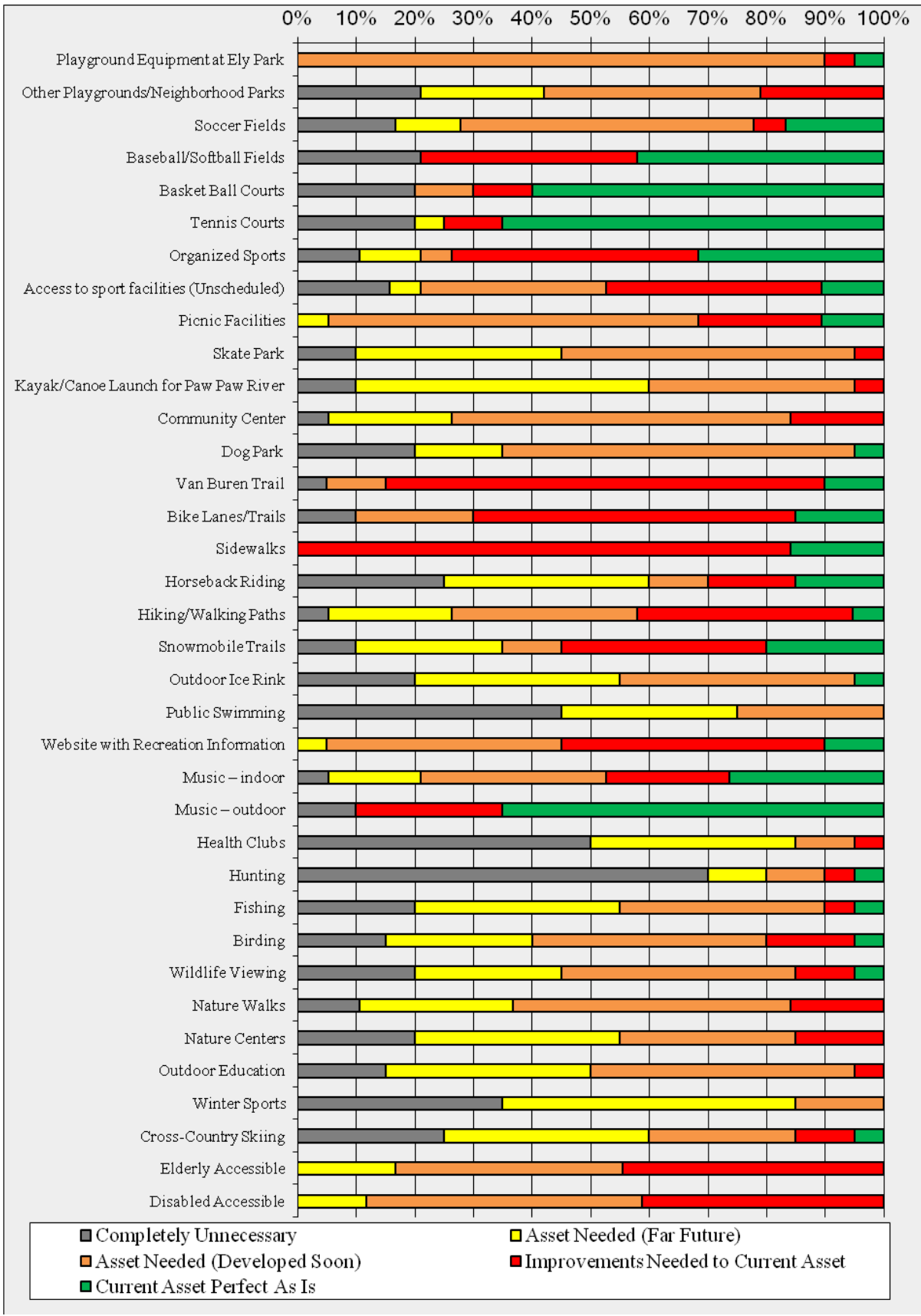
¹⁵ See Appendix for announcement

Survey Results

Hartford Community Recreation Facility/Program Assessment

Please select the column that most closely represents your opinion for each answer choice.

| Answer Options | Current Asset Perfect As Is | Improvement Needed to Current Asset | Asset Needed (Developed Soon) | Asset Needed (Far Future) | Completely Unnecessary | Response Count |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Playground Equipment at Ely Park | 1 | 1 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Other | | | | | | |
| Playgrounds/Neighborhood Parks | 0 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 19 |
| Soccer Fields | 3 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 18 |
| Baseball/Softball Fields | 8 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 19 |
| Basket Ball Courts | 12 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 20 |
| Tennis Courts | 13 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 20 |
| Organized Sports | 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 19 |
| Access to sport facilities (Unscheduled) | 2 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 19 |
| Picnic Facilities | 2 | 4 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 19 |
| Skate Park | 0 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 20 |
| Kayak/Canoe Launch for Paw Paw River | 0 | 1 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 20 |
| Community Center | 0 | 3 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 19 |
| Dog Park | 1 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 20 |
| Van Buren Trail | 2 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| Bike Lanes/Trails | 3 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 20 |
| Sidewalks | 3 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| Horseback Riding | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 20 |
| Hiking/Walking Paths | 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 19 |
| Snowmobile Trails | 4 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 20 |
| Outdoor Ice Rink | 1 | 0 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 20 |
| Public Swimming | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 20 |
| Website with Recreation Information | 2 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| Music - indoor | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 19 |
| Music - outdoor | 13 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 20 |
| Health Clubs | 0 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 20 |
| Hunting | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 20 |
| Fishing | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 20 |
| Birding | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 20 |
| Wildlife Viewing | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 20 |
| Nature Walks | 0 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 19 |
| Nature Centers | 0 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 20 |
| Outdoor Education | 0 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 20 |
| Winter Sports | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 20 |
| Cross-Country Skiing | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 20 |
| Elderly Accessible | 0 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 18 |
| Disabled Accessible | 0 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 17 |
| <i>answered question</i> | | | | | | 20 |



Plan Review and Public Hearing

Members of the general public were invited through an advertisement in the local newspaper to review and comment on the draft plan at several locations including Hartford City Hall, Hartford Public Library, and the school libraries. Students at the High School and the Middle School were invited to review the plan through announcements and notices posted on bulletin boards. The plan was available for review from July 24 to August 24 at City Hall and the Hartford Public Library.

To encourage regional planning cooperation and scope, copies of the draft plan were distributed for review to Van Buren County and Southwest Michigan Planning Commission as the regional planning agency. An announcement was placed in the local newspaper inviting the public to a public hearing on August 24, 2015 for the purpose of receiving public comments and suggestions regarding the parks, recreation, and open space plan.¹⁶ No comments were received at that meeting nor throughout the 30-day comment period.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

After carefully considering the community's demographic and physical characteristics as well as all other information received through the planning and public input process, the following goals and objectives reflect the vision of the Hartford Community's future recreational facilities and programs.

- Continue to improve Ely Park as the central park in Hartford.
 - Provide a playground.
 - Ensure barrier-free compliance with the stage.
 - Promote further use of art and cultural programs such as the outdoor concerts.

- Encourage preservation of valuable water and land resources while promoting responsible recreational use.
 - Support the efforts of groups like the Van Buren Conservation District and Two Rivers Coalition.
 - Identify open space areas for protection and support efforts to protect high quality natural areas, such as the large wetland complex surrounding Pine Creek and along I-94 in the southwest corner of the City.
 - Offer areas for wildlife viewing, bird watching, nature walks, nature center and outdoor education.
 - With constructing facilities, utilize low impact development techniques to preserve natural features and encourage infiltration of stormwater runoff (rain gardens, swales, native plants, porous pavement, etc.).

- Preserve and protect sites and properties that have natural, historic and cultural value and promote rehabilitation and enhancement where needed.
 - Work cooperatively with the local historic society's efforts.
 - Further encourage cooperative efforts with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians.

¹⁶ See Appendix for announcement

- Establish stable and secure funding for community recreation projects.
 - Develop City budgets with recreation line items.
 - Determine fundraising strategies and designate research group/committee to explore funding opportunities and conduct preliminary engineering cost estimates.

- Enhance the quality and availability of recreational opportunities for all age groups and abilities.
 - Increase availability of intergenerational activities/facilities, especially picnic areas in existing and future parks.
 - Continue and expand cooperation with the school district and Recreation Council to improve athletic facilities; specifically improve baseball/softball fields and associated facilities and increase the number of soccer fields to meet increased demand.
 - Continue to develop sport programs for all age groups.
 - Ensure all new construction accommodates people of differing abilities.

- Promote recreational tourism by providing consistent signage (and other media methods) to encourage use of recreational facilities.
 - Place signs along Interstate I-94, Red Arrow Highway, and other major routes.
 - Promote facilities such as the Paw Paw River, Van Buren Trail, Ely Park, and Hartford Speedway through the use of website(s) (such as the Recreation Council website) and printed materials.

- Build a community center as a means to provide year round recreation facilities and a place for a farmer's market to provide social interaction for all age groups as well as to provide revenue opportunities through the usage for private and/or public events.
 - Investigate location options and determine acquisition costs.
 - Work to develop site and building plans.
 - Determine budget and host fundraising events.

- Develop non-motorized pathways, improve sidewalks and add bike lanes to connect residential areas, downtown, Pokagon Band property and existing and future proposed trails (such as the Van Buren, Fruit Belt and Paw Paw River Water Trails).
 - Add non-motorized option along CR 687 from the downtown area to I-94 to provide safe, recreational access to downtown area parks and programs.
 - Improve Prospect Street with non-motorized facility to connect Van Buren Trail to downtown.
 - Provide access to Van Buren Trail through use of a non-motorized path through downtown Hartford and connect to other trails such as the Paw Paw River Water Trail and Fruit Belt Trail.
 - Continue existing sidewalk space from Beechwood south to I-94.

- Work with the MDNR and Van Buren County Road Commission to improve the MDNR trailhead and Van Buren Trail.

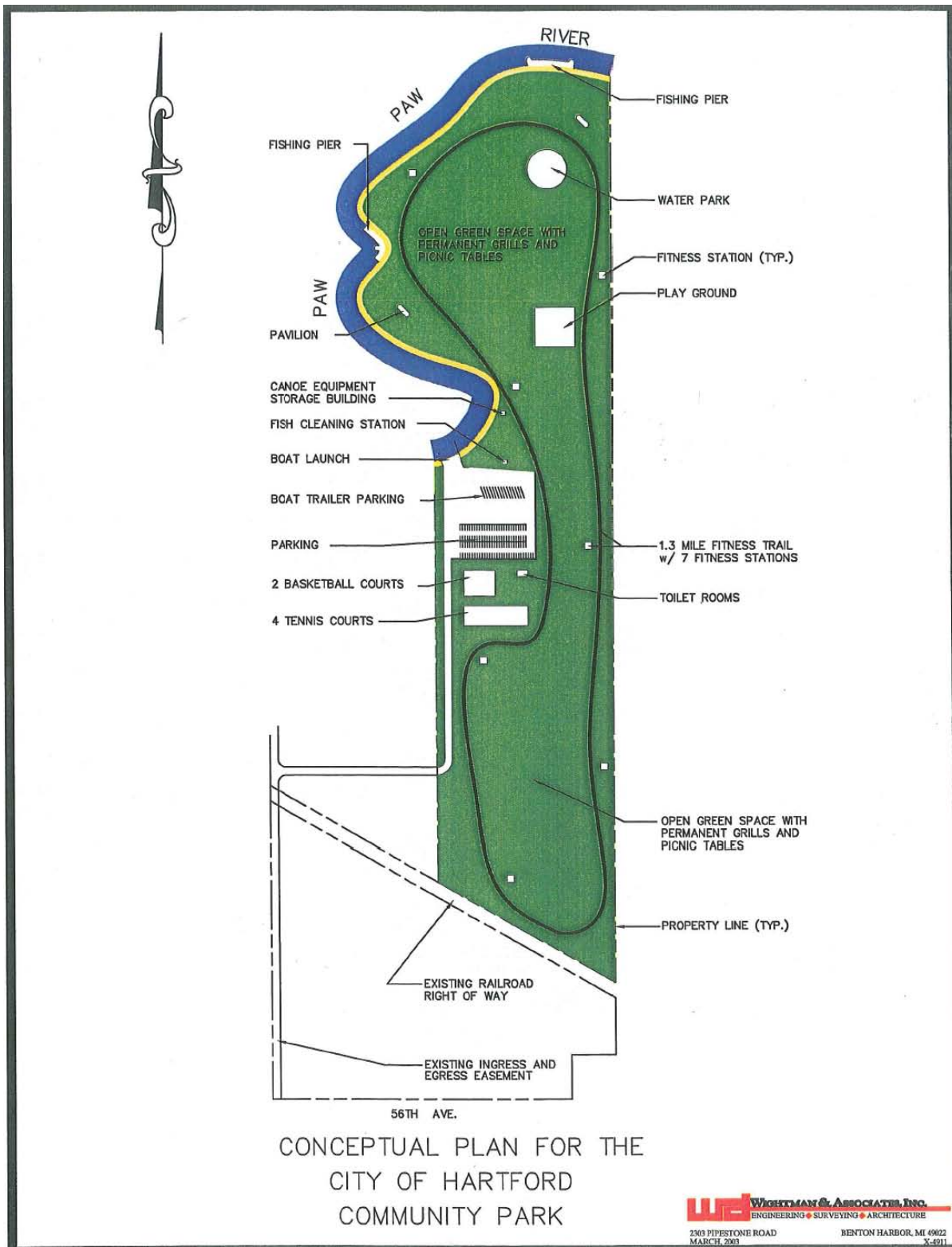
- Add restrooms and investigate hooking up to City sewer and water. An agreement would be needed between the City, Road Commission and the MDNR that the City would be responsible for the sewer and water maintenance.)
 - Improve parking lot (accommodate horse and snowmobile trailers).
 - Add a weather proof sign board for posting information (contact, activities, etc).
 - Add a place to tie up horses and provide water.
 - Add concessions, picnic facilities and drinking fountain.
 - Pave the Van Buren Trail to the river with a separate trail for horses.
- Promote a positive relationship with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians for the protection and enhancement of natural resources and recreational areas.
 - Meet at least annually with representatives of the Pokagon Band to discuss how the City and Tribe could work together to provide facilities/opportunities for City and Tribal residents in the area.
- Provide additional playground and picnic opportunities
 - Develop a neighborhood park with playground in the southwest corner of the city.
 - Develop park plan with picnic area and playground equipment.
 - Plan and hold fundraising events.
 - Coordinate with the School District to investigate opportunities for a playground or other recreational facilities at Wood School.
 - Upgrade/add picnic facilities and playgrounds to existing and new recreation areas.
- Increase public access to the Paw Paw River to support the development of the Paw Paw River Water Trail.
 - Investigate feasibility of using Van Buren County Road Commission property as an canoe/kayak access site (at CR 687 and Paw Paw River).
 - Investigate property acquisition options.
 - Investigate feasibility of using the Hartford City Wastewater Treatment Plant site for a trailhead for the Paw Paw River and Van Buren Trail.
- Consider adding additional recreational opportunities to meet the desires of the community.
 - Build a skate park.
 - Finalize design with input from high school students.
 - Develop cost estimates. Investigate funding sources and host fundraising events.
 - Find a location to accommodate a dog park.
 - Increase opportunities for winter sports, including cross-country skiing.
 - Investigate feasibility of an outdoor ice rink.
 - Increase fishing opportunities.

ACTION PROGRAM

The table below outlines the Community Action Plan identifying the highest and high priority projects to meet the goals and objectives of this plan.

| PROJECT | POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES |
|--|---|
| HIGHEST PRIORITY | |
| Develop Promotional Materials | City and Township |
| Website | |
| Printed Materials | |
| Wayfinding Signs | |
| Ely Park | MDNR and City |
| ADA Accessibility (ramp) for the stage | |
| Playground | |
| Non-Motorized Paths | MDNR, MDOT, City, Township |
| Improve existing sidewalks | |
| Prospect Street (from trailhead to CR 687) | |
| CR 687 (Prospect St to I-94 and on to Sister Lakes) | |
| Connect Van Buren Trail to proposed Fruitbelt Trail | |
| Continue existing sidewalk from Beechwood to I-94 | |
| Connect Van Buren Trail to Paw Paw River Trail | |
| SW Neighborhood Park | MDNR, City, fundraising |
| Property Acquisition/ Easement | |
| Playground Equipment and Picnic Area | |
| Van Buren Trail and Trailhead Improvement | MDNR, City, Road Commission, fundraising |
| Trailhead- new signs (including a weather proof sign for posting information), restrooms connected to sanitary sewer and city water, picnic facilities, improve parking, horse facilities/horse trailer parking, | |
| Trail – improve (hard surface) from MDNR trailhead east to Paw Paw River | |
| Preserve/Acquire Open Space/Natural Areas/Wetlands/Additional Playground & Picnic Areas (such as Wood School) | MDNR, City, Township, Pokagon Band, fundraising,, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy |

| PROJECT | POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES |
|--|--|
| HIGH PRIORITY | |
| Paw Paw River Water Trail Access (see conceptual plan following table) | MDNR and City |
| Property Acquisition/Easement | |
| Restrooms | |
| Parking for trailers/campsites | |
| Picnic Area with Drinking Fountain | |
| Fish Cleaning Station | |
| Signage | |
| Community Center/Farmer's Market | MDNR, City, Twp, fundraising, MEDC and Rural Development grants for Farmer's Markets |
| Property Acquisition | |
| Pavilion /Building | |
| Skate Park | City, fundraising |
| Property Acquisition and Construction | |
| School Athletic Fields | Recreation Council, City, Schools, fundraising |
| Soccer Fields, Baseball and Softball Fields; Concession Stand; Restrooms | |
| Additional Facilities | City, Recreation Council, fundraising, MDNR |
| Dog Park | |
| Outdoor Ice Rink | |
| Winter Activities – Cross Country Skiing | |
| Fishing Opportunities | |



APPENDIX

Ely Park Rules

CITY OF HARTFORD

19 W. Main St
Hartford, MI 49057
Phone: 269-621-2477
Fax: 269-621-2054
cityclerk@cityofhartfordmi.org



ELY PARK RULES

PARK CLOSED HOURS – 10:00 P.M. – 6:00 A.M.

No person shall use or enter a park during hours when park is posted as being closed.

ASSEMBLIES – Clubs, organizations, associations or any specific groups

Any person, assembly or group expecting to attract more than 20 persons, desiring use of a park, shall make application with the City Manager.

All approvals shall require the user to clean up the area occupied after the event is over, and all applications for use must give the name, address and phone number of person responsible for the cleanup.

Approval for use of the parks shall be granted by the City Manager if all the following conditions are satisfied:

- a. The City Manager finds that the park is large enough for the anticipated crowd;
- b. The purpose and proposed activity of the applicant will not disturb the peace of the persons in the area surrounding the park; and
- c. Reasonable provisions have been made for cleanup after the gathering.

EXCLUSIVE USE PROHIBITED -

Under no circumstances shall any group be granted exclusive use of the park and no permit-fee shall exclude the public from using the park. The granting of a permit does give priority to the group in the use of the shelter and electric at Ely Park.

WILLFULLY ABUSING EQUIPMENT -

No person shall mark, deface, disfigure, injure, displace or remove any table, bench, fireplace, railing, pavement, or other public utility, appurtenance, structure or City property in the park.

Ely Park Rules (Continued)

JOSTLING OR CROWDING –

No person shall jostle or crowd another in any public park, nor shall any person throw any ball or other object in such manner as to unreasonably annoy or endanger other persons in or on such park, nor shall any person engage in any rough or violent play therein.

GARBAGE AND RUBBISH RECEPTACLES –

No person shall throw, place, deposit or leave any garbage, rubbish, glass, cans, containers, papers or other waste in any public park or playground, except in containers provided by the City for that purpose. Excess waste from a specific event needs to be removed by the persons responsible for the event. Waste material, other than those resulting from use of the park, may not be deposited in park receptacles. Large amounts of waste from the event must be removed and disposed of by those responsible for holding the event.

RESTROOM CLEANING & UPKEEP -

Any applicant using the Park for a Special Event or Function will be responsible for maintaining the restrooms in a clean and sanitary condition during and after the event. Should the applicant fail to clean and maintain the sanitary integrity of the restroom to the satisfaction of the City the same shall be cleaned by the City and the applicant shall be charged a minimum of \$300.00. The City reserves the right to take necessary legal action for cost recovery.

WATER POLLUTION –

No person shall throw, discharge, or otherwise place in the water of any fountain, stream storm sewer or other body of water in or adjacent to any park; any substance, liquid or solid, which may result in water pollution or a creation of hazard to the health and safety of other persons.

VEHICLES –

No person may drive, operate or park a vehicle within a park except upon a street, path, drive or parking area which is marked and designated for the use of vehicles. An exception is permitted for a single vehicle traveling at a slow rate of speed into the park for the purpose of unloading only items for use by a group that is using the park in accordance with the terms of this Ordinance.

List of Endangered and Threatened Species

State Status: E = endangered, T = threatened, SC = special concern.

Federal Status: LE = listed endangered, LT = listed threatened, LELT = partly listed endangered and partly listed threatened, PDL = proposed delist, E(S/A) = endangered based on similarities/appearance, PS = partial status (federally listed in only part of its range), C = species being considered for federal status

Michigan Natural Features Inventory Van Buren County

Current as of 12/12/2005

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Federal Status | State Status |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> | Cooper's Hawk | | SC |
| <i>Acris crepitans blanchardi</i> | Blanchard's Cricket Frog | | SC |
| <i>Adlumia fungosa</i> | Climbing Fumitory | | SC |
| <i>Agrimonia rostellata</i> | Beaked Agrimony | | SC |
| <i>Ambystoma opacum</i> | Marbled Salamander | | T |
| <i>Amorpha canescens</i> | Leadplant | | SC |
| <i>Aristida tuberculosa</i> | Beach Three-awned Grass | | T |
| <i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i> | Virginia Snakeroot | | T |
| <i>Asclepias purpurascens</i> | Purple Milkweed | | SC |
| <i>Baptisia lactea</i> | White or Prairie False Indigo | | SC |
| <i>Bartonia paniculata</i> | Panicled Screw-stem | | T |
| <i>Berula erecta</i> | Cut-leaved Water-parsnip | | T |
| <i>Besseyia bullii</i> | Kitten-tails | | T |
| Bog | | | |
| <i>Cacalia plantaginea</i> | Prairie Indian-plantain | | SC |
| <i>Carex lupuliformis</i> | False Hop Sedge | | T |
| <i>Carex platyphylla</i> | Broad-leaved Sedge | | T |
| <i>Carex seorsa</i> | Sedge | | T |
| <i>Cirsium hillii</i> | Hill's Thistle | | SC |
| <i>Cirsium pitcheri</i> | Pitcher's Thistle | LT | T |
| <i>Clemmys guttata</i> | Spotted Turtle | | T |
| <i>Clonophis kirtlandii</i> | Kirtland's Snake | | E |
| <i>Coastal plain marsh</i> | Infertile Pond/marsh, Great Lakes Type | | |
| <i>Coreopsis palmata</i> | Prairie Coreopsis | | T |
| <i>Cyperus flavescens</i> | Yellow Nut-grass | | SC |
| <i>Cypripedium candidum</i> | White Lady-slipper | | T |
| <i>Dalea purpurea</i> | Purple Prairie-clover | | X |
| <i>Dendroica cerulea</i> | Cerulean Warbler | | SC |
| <i>Dendroica discolor</i> | Prairie Warbler | | E |
| <i>Dryopteris celsa</i> | Log Fern | | T |
| <i>Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta</i> | Black Rat Snake | | SC |
| <i>Eleocharis equisetoides</i> | Horsetail Spike-rush | | SC |
| <i>Eleocharis melanocarpa</i> | Black-fruited Spike-rush | | SC |
| <i>Emys blandingii</i> | Blanding's Turtle | | SC |
| <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> | Rattlesnake-master | | T |
| <i>Filipendula rubra</i> | Queen-of-the-prairie | | T |
| <i>Fuirena squarrosa</i> | Umbrella-grass | | T |
| <i>Galearis spectabilis</i> | Showy Orchis | | T |
| <i>Great Blue Heron Rookery</i> | Great Blue Heron Rookery | | |
| <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> | Kentucky Coffee-tree | | SC |
| <i>Hemicarpha micrantha</i> | Dwarf-bulrush | | SC |
| <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> | Swamp Rose-mallow | | SC |
| <i>Hydrastis canadensis</i> | Goldenseal | | T |
| <i>Hypericum gentianoides</i> | Gentian-leaved St. John's-wort | | SC |
| <i>Isotria verticillata</i> | Whorled Pogonia | | T |
| <i>Juncus scirpoides</i> | Scirpus-like Rush | | T |

| | | | |
|---|---|----|----|
| <i>Kuhnia eupatorioides</i> | False Boneset | | SC |
| <i>Lemna valdiviana</i> | Pale Duckweed | | X |
| <i>Lepisosteus oculatus</i> | Spotted Gar | | SC |
| <i>Lepyronia angulifera</i> | Angular Spittlebug | | SC |
| <i>Lepyronia gibbosa</i> | Great Plains Spittlebug | | T |
| <i>Linum virginianum</i> | Virginia Flax | | T |
| <i>Liparis liliifolia</i> | Purple Twayblade | | SC |
| <i>Ludwigia alternifolia</i> | Seedbox | | SC |
| <i>Ludwigia sphaerocarpa</i> | Globe-fruited Seedbox | | T |
| <i>Lycopodium appressum</i> | Northern Prostrate Clubmoss | | SC |
| <i>Lysimachia hybrida</i> | Swamp Candles | | SC |
| mesic sand prairie | Moist Sand Prairie, Midwest Type | | |
| Mesic southern forest | Rich Forest, Central Midwest Type | | |
| <i>Microtus ochrogaster</i> | Prairie Vole | | E |
| <i>Neonympha mitchellii mitchellii</i> | Mitchell's Satyr | LE | E |
| <i>Notropis anogenus</i> | Pugnose Shiner | | SC |
| Oak barrens | Barrens, Central Midwest Type | | |
| <i>Panax quinquefolius</i> | Ginseng | | T |
| <i>Panicum leibergii</i> | Leiberg's Panic-grass | | T |
| <i>Panicum verrucosum</i> | Warty Panic-grass | | T |
| <i>Platanthera ciliaris</i> | Orange or Yellow Fringed Orchid | | T |
| <i>Polemonium reptans</i> | Jacob's Ladder or Greek-valerian | | T |
| <i>Polygala cruciata</i> | Cross-leaved Milkwort | | SC |
| <i>Polygonum careyi</i> | Carey's Smartweed | | T |
| <i>Pomatiopsis cincinnatiensis</i> | Brown Walker | | SC |
| <i>Populus heterophylla</i> | Swamp or Black Cottonwood | | E |
| <i>Potamogeton bicupulatus</i> | Waterthread Pondweed | | T |
| Prairie fen | Alkaline Shrub/herb Fen, Midwest Type | | |
| <i>Protonotaria citrea</i> | Prothonotary Warbler | | SC |
| <i>Psilocarya scirpoides</i> | Bald-rush | | T |
| <i>Pycnanthemum verticillatum</i> | Whorled Mountain-mint | | SC |
| <i>Rallus elegans</i> | King Rail | | E |
| <i>Rhexia virginica</i> | Meadow-beauty | | SC |
| <i>Rhynchospora macrostachya</i> | Tall Beak-rush | | SC |
| <i>Rotala ramosior</i> | Tooth-cup | | SC |
| <i>Sabatia angularis</i> | Rose-pink | | T |
| <i>Scleria pauciflora</i> | Few-flowered Nut-rush | | E |
| <i>Scleria reticularis</i> | Netted Nut-rush | | T |
| <i>Silphium integrifolium</i> | Rosinweed | | T |
| <i>Sistrurus catenatus catenatus</i> | Eastern Massasauga | C | SC |
| Southern floodplain forest | | | |
| <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> | Prairie Dropseed | | SC |
| <i>Stellaria crassifolia</i> | Fleshy Stitchwort | | T |
| <i>Strophostyles helvula</i> | Trailing Wild Bean | | SC |
| <i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i> | Eastern Box Turtle | | SC |
| <i>Trichostema dichotomum</i> | Bastard Pennyroyal | | T |
| <i>Trillium sessile</i> | Toadshade | | T |
| <i>Triphora trianthophora</i> | Three-birds Orchid | | T |
| <i>Triplasis purpurea</i> | Sand Grass | | SC |
| <i>Valeriana edulis</i> var. <i>ciliata</i> | Edible Valerian | | T |
| <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> | Black Haw | | SC |
| Wet-mesic prairie | Tallgrass Prairie, Central Midwest Type | | |
| <i>Wilsonia citrina</i> | Hooded Warbler | | SC |
| <i>Woodwardia areolata</i> | Netted Chain-fern | | X |

Meeting Agendas

Agenda City of Hartford Recreation Plan Steering Committee Meeting #1 January 14, 2015

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Recreation Plan Overview**
 - Importance of the Plan
 - MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Park/Rec/Open Space/Greenway Plans
- 3. Review Process**
 - Update Community Description (demographics, city administrative structure, land use, natural features, maps)
 - Update Recreation Inventory (barrier free status)
 - Assess Needs – Set Date for Committee Meeting
 - Host Community Input Workshop - Set Date
 - Review and Revise Goals and Objectives & Develop Action Program – Set Date for Committee Meeting
 - Write and Distribute Draft to Steering Committee, Make Changes – Set Date for Committee Meeting
 - Review by City Council, Make Changes
 - Steering Committee & City Council approve for Public Review
 - Host Public Review and Comment
 - Host Public Hearing
 - Finalize Plan
 - Adopt by Resolution
- 4. Relevant Background Documents**
 - 2006 Recreation Plan, Master Plan, 2009 Growing Greener Survey, Paw Paw River Watershed Plan, Van Buren County Recreation Plan, State of Michigan SCORP, Southwest Michigan Non-Motorized Plan, OTHERS?
- 5. Review Demographic Information**
- 6. Review Recreation Inventory and Needs**
- 7. Review Volunteer Involvement**
- 8. Next Steps & Next Meeting**
 - Send comments to Marcy at colcloughm@swmpc.org on demographics, inventory, volunteers, etc.
 - Select a volunteer to take pictures and send to Marcy
 - Send updated document for committee review (Feb 15)

Agenda
City of Hartford Recreation Plan
Steering Committee Meeting #2
February 25, 2015

1. Review maps of parks, natural features, public owned land, trails
2. Review acquisition, development and promotional needs
3. Prepare for Public Input Workshop set for March 19 at 6:30pm
I NEED YOUR HELP to get people to this meeting. If you each bring 3-5 people, we will have a packed house! After the public input meeting, we will be revising the goals, objectives and action plan. I have included the ones from the old plan for your review.
4. Please mark your calendar. The schedule for future steering committee meetings is as follows: **April 15, 2015 at 5:00pm** **May 20, 2015 at 5:00pm**

Agenda
City of Hartford Recreation Plan
Steering Committee Meeting #3
April 15, 2015

1. Discuss survey and public meeting results
2. Refine Needs Assessment and Goals and Objectives
3. Update Action Plan

Agenda
City of Hartford Recreation Plan
Steering Committee Meeting #3
May 20, 2015

1. Discuss additional survey results
2. Review Draft Plan
3. Begin Adoption process – recommend public comment period and set public hearing date

AGENDA

Public Input Workshop
March 19, 2015 6:30 p.m.
Hartford City Hall


1. Welcome
2. Recreation Plan Overview (benefits, process)
3. Exercise – What do you like? What improvements are needed? What do you want to see in the future?
4. Review Next Steps

Flyer – Public Input Session


What is Your Vision for the City of Hartford Parks and Recreation Areas?

WE WANT YOU TO GET INVOLVED!

Please share your ideas at the public meeting. Your input will help guide the future of Hartford parks. The city hopes you participate in this opportunity. Your input is critical in guiding the future vision of the City.



For more information call
City Hall at
(269) 621-2477



Public Input Meeting

Thursday, March 19th 2015 6:30pm-7:30pm

Location: Hartford City Hall, 19 West Main Street
Hartford MI 49057

Newspaper Announcement – Public Input Session

**City of Hartford
will host a public
meeting on Parks
and Recreation
Plan
March 19**

The City of Hartford is updating its Parks and Recreation Plan. A steering committee of local representatives, appointed by the City Council, is guiding the planning process.

As part of the plan update, the steering committee will be soliciting public input from city residents by offering opportunities throughout the planning process.

The City hopes city residents take opportunity to participate. Their input is critical in guiding the future vision of the City.

The first of these opportunities will be offered this spring. The City will be hosting a public input meeting on Thursday March 19 at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Hartford City Hall located at 19 West Main Street Hartford, MI 49057.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Hartford City Hall at (269) 621-2477.

HARTFORD COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITY/PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Please put a checkmark in the column that most closely represents your opinion.

Please feel free to add your own ideas on the back of this form.

| Activity/Facility | Current Asset Perfect As Is | Improvements Needed to Current Asset | Asset Needed (Developed Soon) | Asset Needed (Far Future) | Completely Unnecessary |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Playground Equipment at Ely Park | | | | | |
| Other Playgrounds/Neighborhood Parks | | | | | |
| Soccer Fields | | | | | |
| Baseball/Softball Fields | | | | | |
| Basket Ball Courts | | | | | |
| Tennis Courts | | | | | |
| Organized Sports | | | | | |
| Access to sport facilities (Unscheduled) | | | | | |
| Picnic Facilities | | | | | |
| Skate Park | | | | | |
| Kayak/Canoe Launch for Paw Paw River | | | | | |
| Community Center | | | | | |
| Dog Park | | | | | |
| Van Buren Trail | | | | | |
| Bike Lanes/Trails | | | | | |
| Sidewalks | | | | | |
| Horseback Riding | | | | | |
| Hiking/Walking Paths | | | | | |
| Snowmobile Trails | | | | | |
| Outdoor Ice Rink | | | | | |
| Public Swimming | | | | | |
| Website with Recreation Information | | | | | |
| Music – indoor | | | | | |
| Music – outdoor | | | | | |
| Health Clubs | | | | | |
| Hunting | | | | | |
| Fishing | | | | | |
| Birding | | | | | |
| Wildlife Viewing | | | | | |
| Nature Walks | | | | | |
| Nature Centers | | | | | |
| Outdoor Education | | | | | |
| Winter Sports | | | | | |
| Cross-Country Skiing | | | | | |
| Elderly Accessible | | | | | |
| Disabled Accessible | | | | | |
| Other? _____ | | | | | |
| Other? _____ | | | | | |
| Other? _____ | | | | | |
| Other? _____ | | | | | |
| Other? _____ | | | | | |

Letter to County Planning Department



Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

August 28, 2015

Van Buren County
Land Services Department
Ed VanderVries, Director
Administration & Land Services Building, 3rd Floor
219 Paw Paw Street, Suite 302
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Dear Mr. VanderVries:

Enclosed please find a copy of the adopted City of Hartford: Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan: 2015-2020 for your records. This five-year plan reflects the City's commitment to comprehensive recreational planning that includes measures to protect natural resources through responsible use and provides opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to participate in healthful living.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marcy Colclough' is displayed within a white rectangular box.

Marcy Colclough

Senior Planner

376 West Main Street, Suite 130 • Benton Harbor, MI 49022-3651

[P 269.925.1137](tel:269.925.1137) • [F 269.925.0288](tel:269.925.0288) • [W www.swmpc.org](http://www.swmpc.org) • [E swmpc@swmpc.org](mailto:swmpc@swmpc.org)

Letter to Regional Planning Agency



Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

August 28, 2015

Mr. K. John Egelhaaf, Director
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
376 W. Main Street, Ste 130
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Dear Mr. Egelhaaf:

Enclosed please find a copy of the adopted City of Hartford: Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan: 2015-2020 for your records. This five-year plan reflects the City's commitment to comprehensive recreational planning that includes measures to protect natural resources through responsible use and provides opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to participate in healthful living.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marcy Colclough'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is placed on a white rectangular background.

Marcy Colclough

Senior Planner

376 West Main Street, Suite 130 • Benton Harbor, MI 49022-3651

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Meeting Minutes

CITY OF HARTFORD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 24, 2015

Mayor Ted Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members present: Ron Burleson; Frank Dockter; Dennis Goss; Rick Hall; John Miller; Terry Tibbs and Ted Johnson;

Members absent:

Staff present: Akinwale; Rodney-Isbrecht

Motion by Dockter, supported by Miller, to approve the agenda as amended to include Resolution 2015 - 010.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Public Hearing:

Motion by Burleson, supported by Hall, to recess the Business Council Meeting to hold a public hearing on the City Park's Recreation Plan, Open Space and Greenway Plan.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Marcy Colclough, SWMI Planning Commission presented the plan and was available for questions. This public hearing is part of the process to complete the plan, a 30 day open public comment period was conducted and plans were available at City Hall, on line and at the Library. The public expressed interest in non-motorized pathways, improve the trail heads along the Van Buren Trail, improve the water trail along the Paw Paw River and continue to improve and develop Parks within the City. It was recommended including a line item in the budget specific to recreation as this reflects the City is committed to recreation. DNR grant cycle is April 1st.

Motion by Tibbs, supported by Miller to resume the Business Council Meeting.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Guests:

- Chris Cowgill, Wightman & Associates – North Center Street Project – will be paving and top coat next week, finishing up concrete drives.

Public Comment:

Judy Loomis, Fifty Two Sixty Designs would like to add additional Holiday decorations and replace a few items and recommended increasing the budget accordingly to \$1,200.00; the Commission did not have any objection with the proposal.

Communications were:

- Pokagon Band's Hartford Housing Development Ground Breaking will be August 26 at Noon.
- Hartford Public Schools New Staff Luncheon August 27 11:00am – 1:00pm at Central Office.
- Indiana Michigan Power Company Notice of Hearing on September 9 & September 10

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Dockter, supported by Tibbs, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2015 business meeting of the Hartford City Commission as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

CITY OF HARTFORD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 24, 2015

Motion by Tibbs, supported by Miller, to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2015 Workshop meeting of the Hartford City Commission as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Dockter, supported by Miller, to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2015 Special meeting of the Hartford City Commission, Hartford Township and Fire Board as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Goals/Objectives:

- Cameras for Ely Park restrooms were installed.
- Sidewalk assessment is complete and replacement will begin next week
- Tree assessment is complete trimming and removal will begin in two weeks.

Approval of Reports:

Motion by Hall, supported by Tibbs, to approve the July 2015 departmental reports as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Old Business:

- Council had a complaint about the amount of brush that is being put out at the road before it is time for pick-up and would like to see better enforcement.

New Business:

Motion by Tibbs, supported by Hall, to approve the July 2015 list of bills submitted by Wightmans & Associates for the WWTP Improvement Project in the amount of \$223,861.48

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Miller Abstained)

Motion by Hall, supported by Miller, to approve WWTP Improvement Project Change Order A3 Increasing the Contract by \$4,025.00

Motion carried 7 – 0

Resolutions/Proclamation's:

Motion by Tibbs, supported by Miller, to adopt Resolution 2015 – 010 adopting HARTFORD CITY PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & GREENWAY PLAN 2015-2020

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Burlison, supported by Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,



RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk

Resolution of Adoption

CITY OF HARTFORD
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
STATE OF MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION 2015 - 010



HARTFORD CITY PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & GREENWAY PLAN 2015-2020

At a Regular meeting of the City of Hartford Commission, called to order by Mayor Theodore Johnson on August 24, 2015 at 7:30p.m.

The following resolution was offered:

Moved by Commissioner Tibbs and supported by Commissioner Miller.

WHEREAS, a plan which addresses the future and development of parks recreation areas, open spaces and greenways has been developed for the City of Hartford with the assistance of a steering committee consisting of various stakeholders and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the planning process included several public input and opportunities such as a steering committee meetings, a public workshop and survey; and

WHEREAS, the plan has been developed to meet the recreational needs (based on data and public input) of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City held a public 30 day public comment period and a public hearing to take comments of the plan; and

WHEREAS, the steering committee has recommended the plan to the City Commission for adoption.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission of the City of Hartford adopts the Hartford City Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan 2015-2020.

YEAS: Ron Bureson; Frank Dockter; Rick Hall; Dennis Goss; John Miller; Terry Tibbs and Ted Johnson
NAYS: None ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

DATE: August 24, 2015


RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk

I RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, Clerk for the City of Hartford, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the City Commission of the City of Hartford during a meeting held on August 24, 2015.


RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk
City of Hartford
19 West Main Street
Hartford MI 49057

Post Completion Self-Certification Form for Ely Park



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
 (Please select one) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND RECREATION PASSPORT BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of Hartford

PROJECT NUMBER: TF10-024

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Ely Park Improvement

PROJECT SCOPE: insall sidewalks, expand existing pavilion and add MNRTF sign

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

| | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| Name of Agency (Grantee) <u>City of Hartford</u> | Contact Person <u>Yemi Akinwale</u> | Title <u>City Manager</u> |
| Address <u>19 West Main Street</u> | Telephone <u>269-621-2477</u> | |
| City, State, ZIP <u>Hartford MI 49057</u> | Email <u>citymanager@cityofhartfordmi.org</u> | |

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). Yes No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) Yes No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. Yes No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. Yes No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. Yes No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. Yes No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
mowing as needed, trash emptied daily in summer

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
6:00am - 10:00pm all year

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

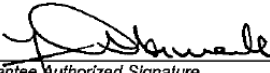
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Yemi Akinwale

Please print


Grantee Authorized Signature

10/19/2015

Date

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht

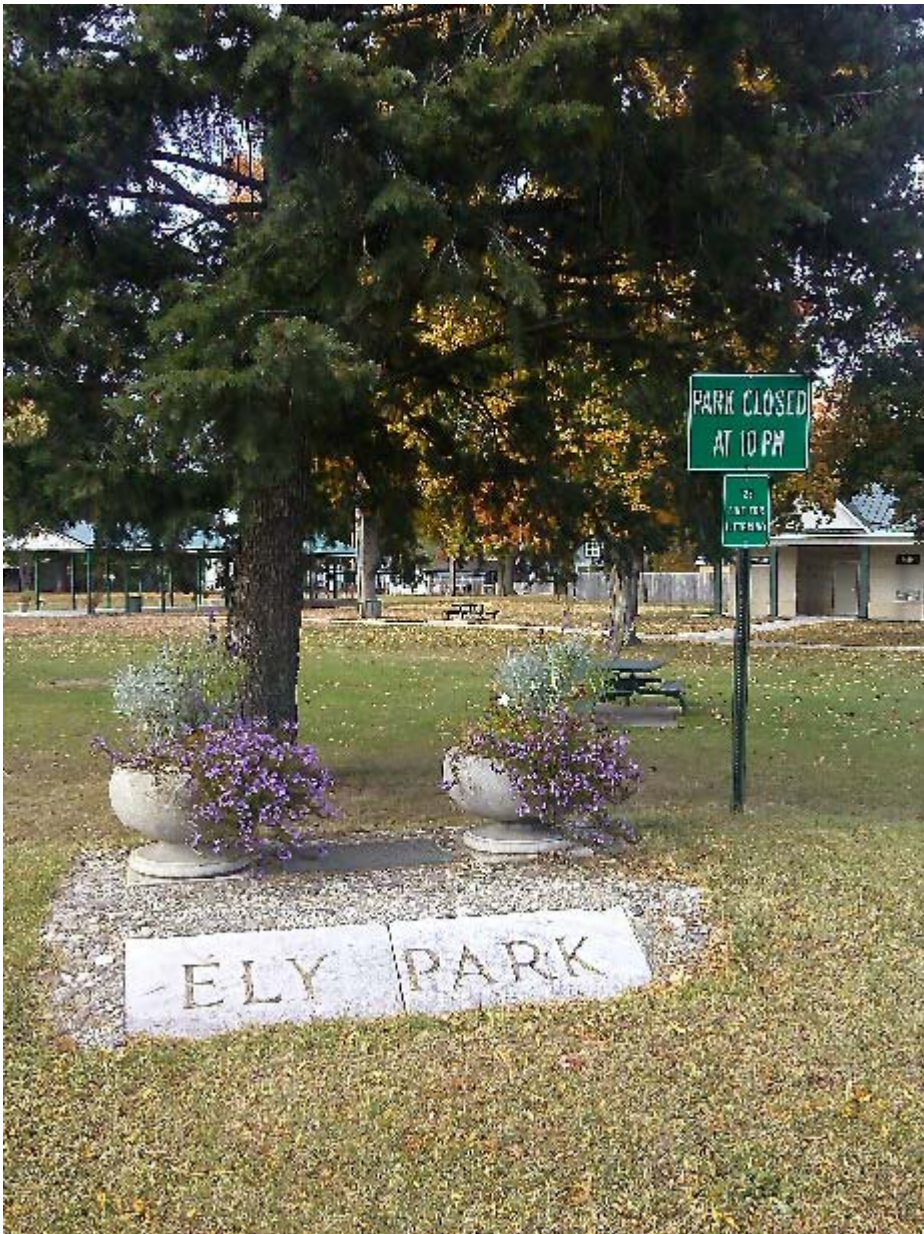
Please print


Witness Signature

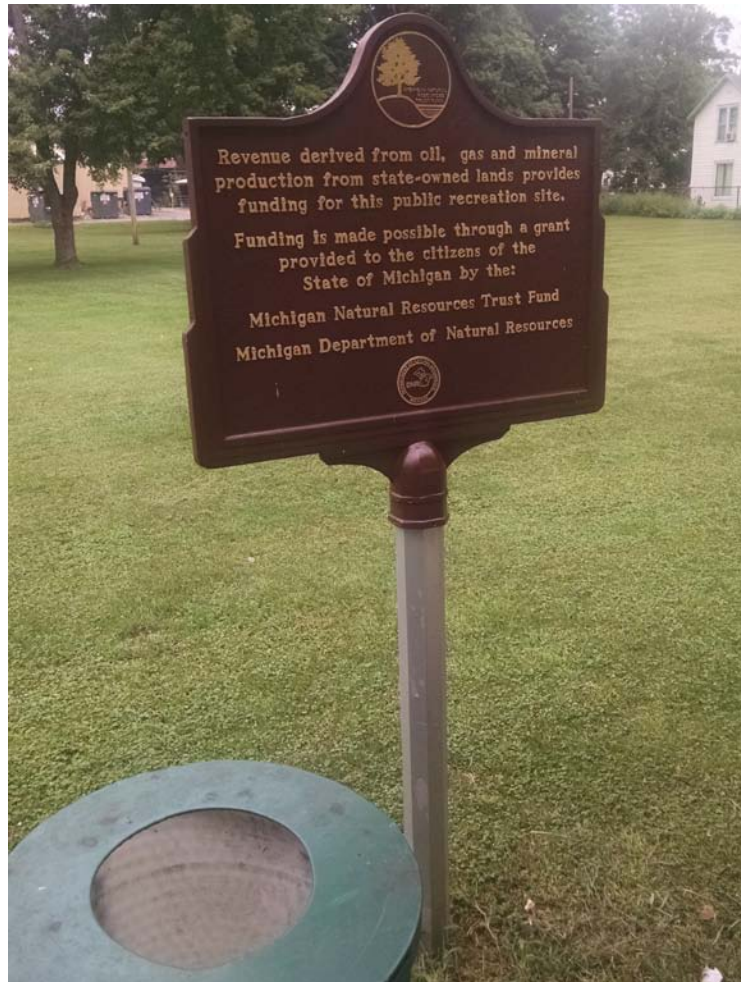
10/19/15

Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**







Plan Certification Checklist



Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Grants Management

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

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

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

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

| PLAN INFORMATION | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| Name of Plan: <i>Hartford City Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan 2015-2020</i> | | |
| List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan | County | Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body |
| <i>Hartford City</i> | <i>Van Buren</i> | <i>August 2015</i> |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

| PLAN CONTENT |
|---|
| <p>INSTRUCTIONS: Please check <u>each</u> box to certify that the listed information is included in the <u>final</u> plan.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations <p>Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. RECREATION INVENTORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS</p> |

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice July 23, 2015

Type of Notice Newspaper

Plan Location City Hall and Library

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 32 days

Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice July 23, 2015


Name of Newspaper Tri-City Record

Date of Meeting Aug. 24, 2015

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-INSPECTION REPORT 

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

Plans must be adopted by the highest level *governing body* (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should also include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are required and must be included in the plan.

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: Aug. 24, 2015

2. Official resolution of the _____ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: _____

3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: Aug. 28, 2015

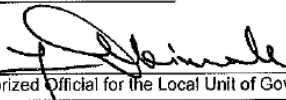
4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: Aug. 28, 2015

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for Hartford City includes the required content, as indicated above and as set forth by the DNR.

(Local Unit of Government)

 9/3/2015
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES
PO BOX 30426
LANSING, MI 48909-7925**

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through _____

By: _____ Date _____

Grants Management Date _____