



**Port Sheldon Township
Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

2026-2030

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The purpose of this document, Port Sheldon Township Parks & Recreation five-year plan, is intended to serve as a guide for present and future recreational resource development within the township, including park land, park facilities, recreational programs, and public open spaces. It advocates land acquisition and park development based on a survey of township residents, population and housing trends, and a strategic analysis of recreation needs and opportunities.

To be effective as a guidance tool, it must be kept current, considering population shifts, development of new projects, and changing attitudes towards leisure activities.

Short-term goals, such as maintenance issues and small recreation facility improvements can be implemented quite easily with minimal costs. Long-term expansions/construction will require additional study and involvement of residents to work out the site-specific details. This plan is to serve as a guideline for the operation and maintenance of existing and future facilities and programs to meet the recreational needs of the Township citizen's and to protect important environmental features for future generations. The plan summarizes long-term recommendations intended to guide the development of recreation opportunities within the Township and describes an action and financial program to implement improvements during the next five years.

Meeting the goals in this plan or revisiting the priorities as conditions change and/or funding opportunities arise will help in grant solicitation from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

Community Description

Location:

Port Sheldon Township is located in Ottawa County within the central west part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The Township's Western boundary is formed by Lake Michigan, with Olive Township to the East, Grand Haven Township to the North, and Park Township to the South. The total land area of the township encompasses 24 square miles.

Transportation:

U.S. 31, a North-South highway cutting across the Northeast corner of Port Sheldon Township, connects the Township to the City of Holland and interstate I-196 to the South, and the cities of Grand Haven and Muskegon to the North. I-196 provides a link to the Greater Grand Rapids area and also links with I-94 to the South that eventually terminates at Chicago. Major East-West travel is by M-45, 2 miles North of Port Sheldon Township. Within the Township, Lake Shore Drive and Butternut Drive are designated as primary roads by the Ottawa County Road Commission and provide North-South travel along the Lakeshore. Primary East-West roads include Croswell Street and Port Sheldon Road.

Water Resources:

The Pigeon River runs through Port Sheldon and discharges into Pigeon Lake, which empties into Lake Michigan through a channel protected by two piers. Access to these waters is possible through a launch ramp on the north side of the lake provided by the MDNR. Additional boardwalk near the launch is owned and operated by Consumers Energy. Consumers JH Campbell power plant draws water from Pigeon Lake for cooling purposes and discharges it into Lake Michigan.

Land Cover:

The township consists primarily of forested, agricultural, commercial, and industrial land. Forested areas, mostly privately owned, are concentrated near the township's center. Agricultural land, also privately held, is largely situated along the outskirts. There is a limited amount of commercial development, mainly located along Butternut Drive, while private industrial land is scattered. The largest industrial use is currently the Consumers Energy site located along the north side of Pigeon Lake and along Pigeon Creek.

Wildlife Habitat:

There is a wide variety of wildlife species that inhabit the township. Numerous songbirds and other non-game wildlife are present along with whitetail deer, Eastern Wild Turkeys, small game animals and game birds. A diversity of habitats, combined with a clean environment, is critical to the wildlife in the township. The wildlife in the Township provides many recreational opportunities including fishing, bird watching, photography and nature study.

History:

In 1835, Eastern investors formed the Port Sheldon Land Company, buying 600 acres to build a city near Pigeon Creek, but the settlement collapsed despite early developments. By the 1930s, the area became known for growing strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries, and agriculture remains central to the township today. Social and economic life once revolved around the depot, post office, and general stores, with trains transporting goods and passengers. Port Sheldon officially became a township on April 7, 1924, after breaking away from Olive Township due to concerns about fair representation. In



Kouw Park



Community Park



Kouw Park

1964, the Fire Department was established and took full responsibility for township protection by 1966, continuing its service to this day.

Demographics:

When planning for recreational needs, one of the most important components is to understand the demographics and the social make-up of the community. The Township’s demographic data has been compared to Olive Township and Ottawa County to provide a broader picture of the social characteristics. The information below was gathered using the 2023 United States Census Bureau, and it should also be noted that the Census data does account for people visiting or residing in the Township during the summer months.

Population: The Township’s population has been steadily increasing over the past few decades. As the population increases, so will the need for recreational facilities for both residents and tourists.

Jurisdiction	2010	2020	2023
Port Sheldon Township	4,240	5,040	5,334
Olive Township	4,375	5,007	5,081
Ottawa County	263,801	296,200	303,372

Age: The Township has a good distribution of ages, with a decent amount of people in each category. Knowing the spread of age groups is important for creating recreational opportunities that can serve everyone.

Age	Port Sheldon Township	%	Olive Township	%	Ottawa County	%
Under 18 years	1,280	24.0%	1,169	23.0%	69,776	23.0%
18 to 64	2,987	56.0%	3,353	66.0%	182,023	60.0%
65 years and over	1,067	20.0%	508	10.0%	51,573	17.0%

Disabled Persons: If park and recreation facilities are not barrier free, many of these residents will be limited in participating in recreational activities.

Population	Port Sheldon Township	%	Olive Township	%	Ottawa County	%
Disabled Persons	293	5.5%	224	4.4%	20,023	6.6%

Administrative Structure

The Township Supervisor administers Port Sheldon Township’s Park and Recreation System. The Township Board determines policy, budgets and improvements with advice from the Recreation Committee. The Committee was enabled under the “Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917” and is currently comprised of seven Port Sheldon Township citizens who are appointed by the Township Board.

There is also a Bike Path Committee to oversee the management and development of the Township’s bike path/trail system. Ottawa County currently manages Kouw and Windsnest Park, any additional maintenance of park facilities is contracted out to private landscape and maintenance companies by the Township.

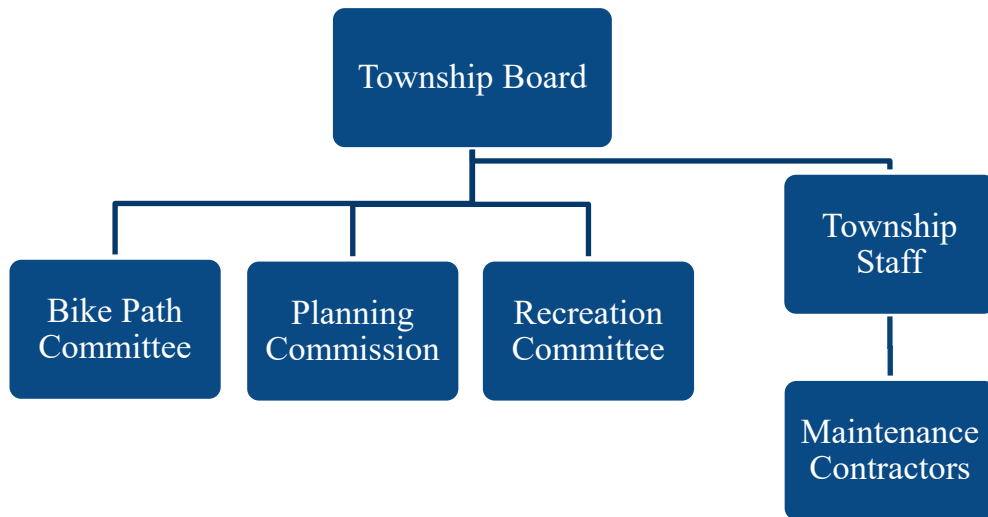
The following diagram illustrates the organizational structure of the Township and relationships between the staff, Township Board and Recreation Committee:



Windsnest Park



Community Park



Relationships

Relationships with Other Agencies

Ottawa County Parks manages the operation and maintenance of Kouw Park and Windsnest Park.

Volunteers

The Township is always looking for new volunteer partners to help in any capacity possible.

Parks Budget and Funding

Parks & Recreation Annual Budget

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2024-25 AMENDED BUDGET	2025-26 AMENDED BUDGET
Dept 751 - PARKS & RECREATION			
101-751-702.10	SALARY-KOUW PARK CUSTODIAN CONTRACT		
101-751-702.20	SALARY - WINDSNEST CUSTOD		
101-751-702.30	SALARY- TOWNSHIP HALL GROUNDS CUSTODIAN	1,125.00	3,000.00
101-751-702.40	SALARY - RECREATION COMM	1,000.00	
101-751-702.50	SALARY - WN GUARD		
101-751-702.60	ROAD END MAINT	1,000.00	
101-751-727.10	SUPPLIES KOUW		
101-751-727.20	SUPPLIES WN		
101-751-727.30	TOWNHALL SUPPLIES		
101-751-727.40	SUMMERFEST	14,000.00	10,000.00
101-751-801.00	CONTRACTED SERVICES		
101-751-801.20	CONSULTANTS		10,000.00
101-751-831.10	GROUNDS UPKEEP - KP		
101-751-831.30	GROUNDS UPKEEP - TH	15,000.00	15,000.00
101-751-831.70	GROUNDS UPKEEP		
101-751-851.10	DATA SERVICES - KOUW	3,050.00	1,500.00
101-751-851.20	DATA SERVICES - WN	2,100.00	2,100.00
101-751-852.00	LAKE RESOURCES-BUOY/SIGNAGE/ETC	500.00	500.00
101-751-861.00	EXPENSES & MILEAGE		
101-751-880.00	R.E.A.C.H	1,500.00	1,500.00
101-751-880.10	EVERGREEN COMMONS		
101-751-880.20	RED CROSS		
101-751-880.30	HOLLAND /PK/GR HAVEN REC	2,000.00	2,000.00
101-751-881.00	PARKING PERMIT DISCOUNT	5,000.00	5,000.00
101-751-921.10	UTILITIES KOUW	1,250.00	1,250.00
101-751-921.20	UTILITIES WN	1,250.00	1,600.00
101-751-921.30	UTILITIES VDB		
101-751-931.10	REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE KOUW	2,500.00	2,500.00
101-751-931.20	REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE WN	5,000.00	2,500.00
101-751-931.30	REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE TH	6,000.00	6,000.00
101-751-931.40	SHELDON LANDING PARK	1,000.00	1,000.00
101-751-942.00	PORT A JON	1,500.00	1,500.00
101-751-955.10	MISCELLANEOUS KOUW PARK		
101-751-955.20	MISCELLANEOUS WN PARK		
101-751-955.30	MISCELLANEOUS TH		
101-751-955.40	ROAD END MISC.		
101-751-960.70	MISCELLANEOUS	5,000.00	5,000.00
101-751-961.00	WEED CONTROL	60,000.00	60,000.00
101-751-970.30	CAPITAL OUTLAY RECREATION	150,000.00	20,000.00
Totals for dept 751 - PARKS & RECREATION		279,775.00	151,950.00

Resource Inventory

Recreation Inventory

Port Sheldon Township is concerned with providing recreational opportunities to all Township residents. Nearby entities such as Olive Township, Ottawa County, and the State of Michigan also provide recreational facilities and programs to residents in the surrounding area. Port Sheldon Township and their consultant, Prein & Newhof, conducted a tour of the parks to evaluate current conditions and talk through potential future improvements. The parks have also been evaluated for accessibility using the accessibility assessment criteria set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



Community Park



Windsnest Park

Community Recreation Planning

Recreation plays an increasingly important role in a family's decision to move to a community. Recreational facilities not only offer entertainment but also provide younger residents with opportunities for constructive leisure. The Township features eight park properties—four of which are developed with amenities, while the remaining four consist of undeveloped woodlands. Additionally, one public school in the area includes recreational facilities. The Township also hosts annual community events, such as Summerfest, which includes a car show and a picnic.



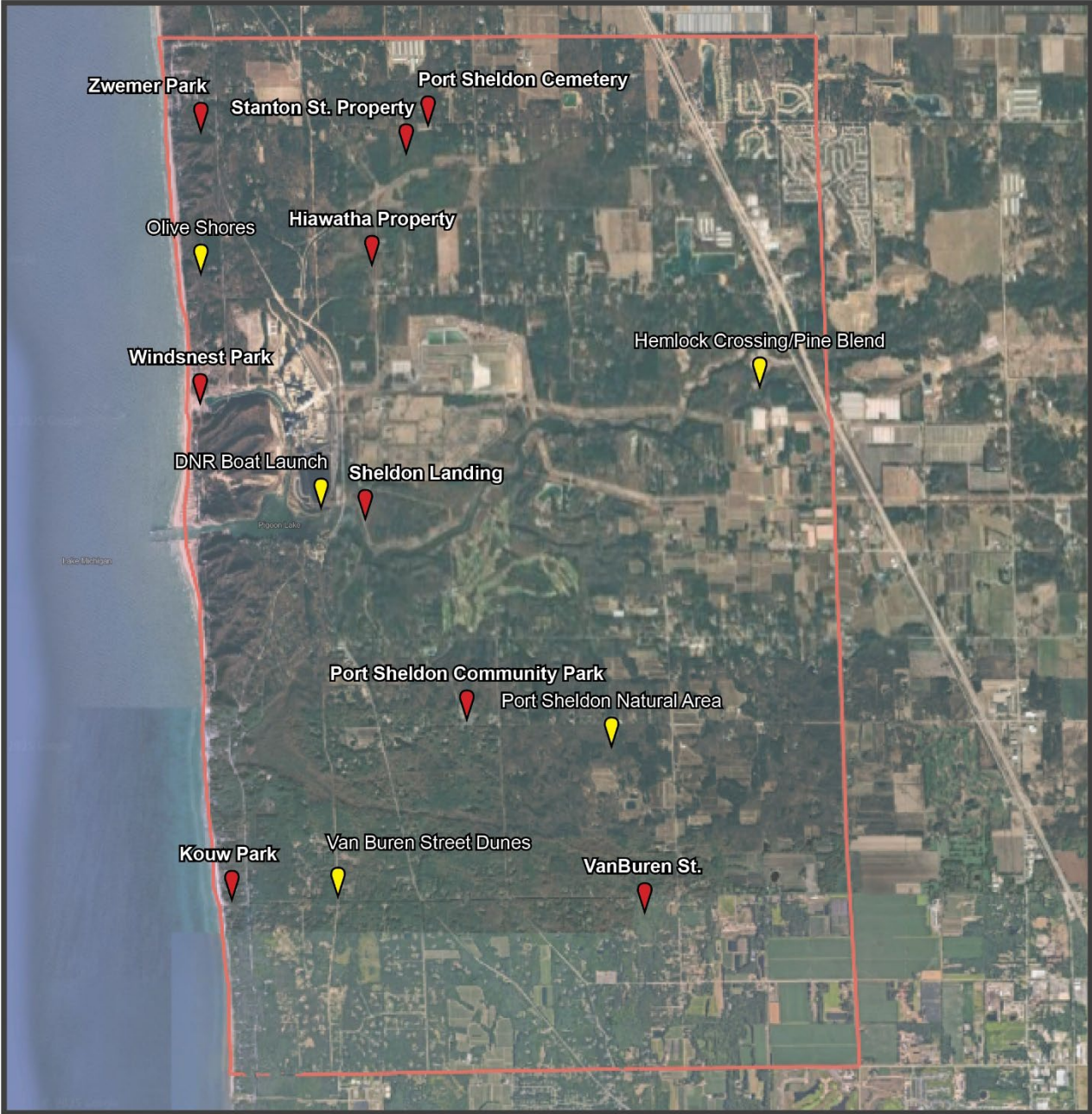
Community Park

Grant Inventory

Port Sheldon Township has been awarded just one DNR grant for the renovation of Windsnest Park back in 2016. Windsnest Park now serves as a trailhead for kayakers along the Grand River to Pigeon Lake section of the Lake Michigan Water Trail.

GRANT ASSISTED PARKS				
PROJECT #	PARK NAME	PROJECT YEAR	DESCRIPTION	GRANT STATUS
#TF16-0216	Windsnest Park	2016	Improvements include restrooms, parking, pavilion, playground, overlook, kayak storage racks, water trail map, charging stations and amenities.	Closed

Overall Township Parks & Recreation Inventory Map



Legend

-  Port Sheldon Township Park / Property
-  Regional Park / Property
-  Township Boundary

Kouw Park

Size: 3.72 acres

Location: 5591 Lakeshore Drive, Holland

Description: Kouw Park is located on two hundred feet of Lake Michigan beachfront at the end of Van Buren Street. The park features improved facilities including picnic shelter, play equipment, restrooms and parking.



Address: 5599 Lakeshore Ave, Holland, MI 49424

Windsnest Park

Size: 4.0 acres

Location: 7905 Margaret Avenue, West Olive

Description: This four acre park with almost 600' of frontage on the Lake Michigan shoreline underwent a complete renovation in 2019. Improvements include new play equipment, restrooms, picnic shelter and parking. The boardwalk and play structure feature beautifully designed handicap accessible features.



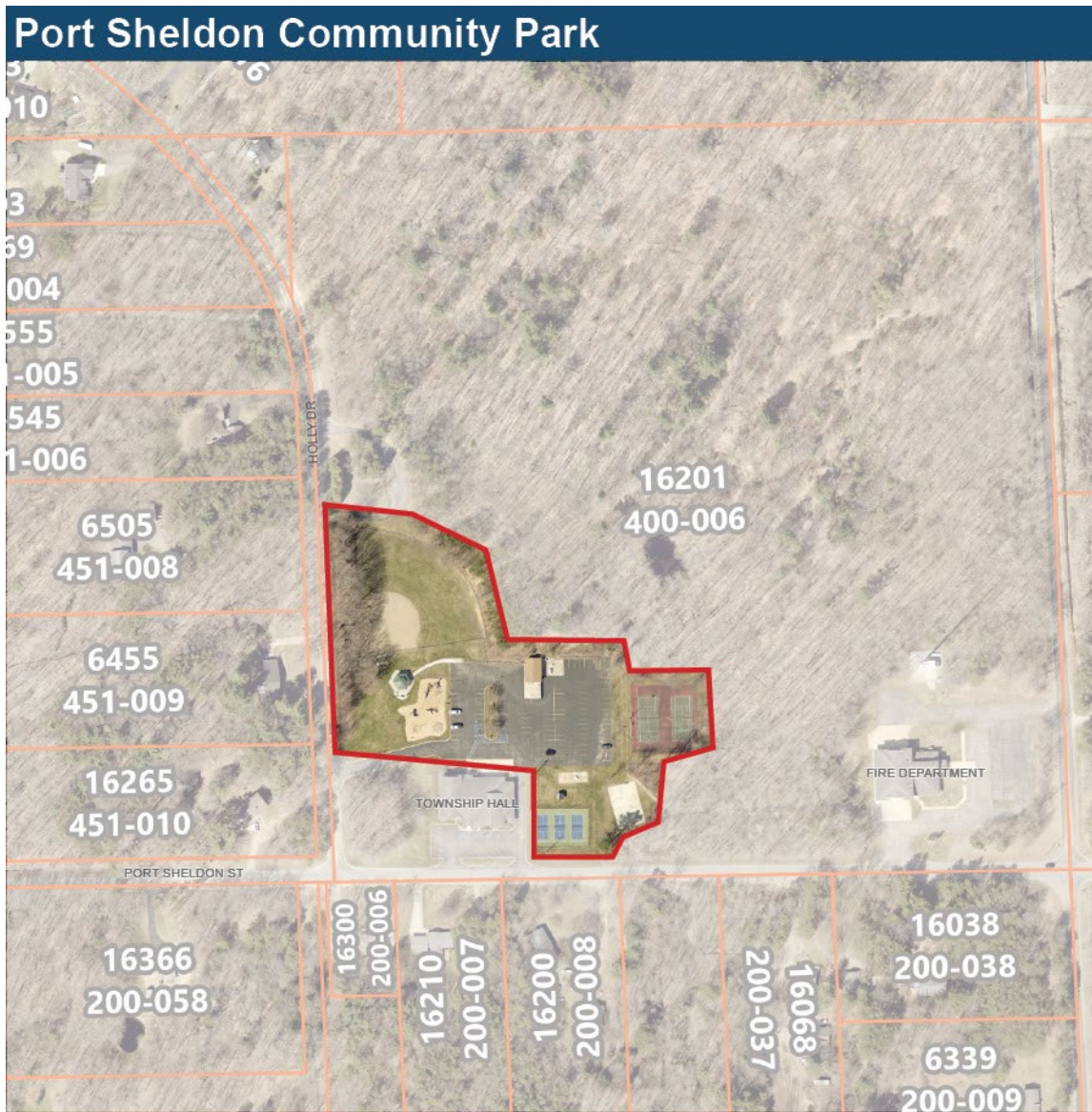
Address: 7905 Margaret Avenue, West Olive, MI 49460

Port Sheldon Community Park

Size: 3.7 acres

Location: Next to Port Sheldon Township Hall

Description: The park and township hall offer indoor and outdoor facilities. Indoor facilities include a gymnasium/multi-purpose room, a kitchen and public restroom. These indoor facilities are available on a rental basis only. Outdoor facilities include a softball diamond, tennis courts, basketball courts, pickle ball courts, picnic shelter and play equipment (updated spring 2024), seating areas and parking.



Address: 16201 Port Sheldon St, West Olive, MI 49460

Sheldon Landing

Size: 7 acres

Location: North side of the Pigeon River on Crab Drive, just east of Lake Shore Drive.

Description: Operated by the Township under an agreement with Consumers Energy. This area includes the street right-of-way in which the road has been unused, along with a strip of woods between the river and the right-of-way. The park has three land boat launches enabling sportsmen/sportswomen access to the Pigeon River.



Address: Crab Dr, West Olive, MI 49460

Township Owned Parks

Name	Type	Acres	Accessibility Rating	Amenities
Kouw Park*	Public Park	3.7	3	Paved parking, designated barrier free parking spaces, restrooms, playground, accessible walkway routes, barrier free picnic tables. No ADA beach access
Windsnest Park*	Public Park	4.0	4	Playground, grills and picnic tables, beach, restrooms, access pathways are ADA accessible, no ADA beach access
Port Sheldon Community Park	Community Park	3.7	2	Picnic shelter, restrooms, no ADA access pathways to pickleball courts, tennis courts, playground, and baseball field
Sheldon Landing	Public Park	7.0	1	Gravel road entrance and turn around, picnic table and bench, porta potty for restrooms

* = Contracted Ottawa County Parks Department to manage the park

Accessibility Scores:

- 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

Other Township Owned Properties

Name	Acres	Description
Vanburen Street	40.2	Undeveloped woodland
Hiawatha Property	39.9	Undeveloped. Utility easement through property
Port Sheldon Cemetery	2.8	Paved access, maintained grass
Stanton St. Property	38.3	Undeveloped woodland
Zwemer Park	3.52	Undeveloped woodland
Township Property May Street	1.88	Easement property for a lift station

Regional Facilities within Port Sheldon Township

Pigeon Lake Public Access – DNR: Approx. 2.7 Acres located West of Lakeshore Drive, opposite the Township's Sheldon Landing. This popular facility includes a hard-surface ramp, 63 parking spaces and a rustic bathroom. The parking frequently overflows onto the street on summer weekends.

Hemlock Crossings – Ottawa County: Offers 239 acres of woods and wetlands along the Pigeon River in Port Sheldon Township just West of US 31 on West Olive Road. A pedestrian bridge and numerous overlooks offer scenic views of the river corridor, wetlands, natural springs and woods. Facilities include two small picnic shelters, a kayak/canoe launch, over a mile of paved trail and over 6 miles of trails for hiking and cross-country skiing. Trails connect to Pine Bend County Park on the West end of the property.

Port Sheldon Natural Area – Ottawa County: Port Sheldon Natural Area is 440 acres including gently rolling terrain, woods, wildlife, ponds, and Ten Hagen Creek. The park is very rustic, with limited parking and no restroom facilities.

VanBuren Street Dunes – Ottawa County: 120 acres of low open dunes and pine plantations open for firearm and bow hunting.

Olive Shores – Ottawa County: This mostly wooded 20-acre site includes a mature beech-maple-hemlock forest, a steep dune formation, and 738' of Lake Michigan frontage. Improvements completed in 2012 include a paved parking area, modern restrooms, a barrier-free trail loop, and an extensive series of stairs and boardwalks traversing the dune and providing access to the sandy beach. Decks provide seating and views of Lake Michigan.

School Facilities within Port Sheldon Township

Sheldon Woods Elementary: Offers local recreation facilities and program opportunities. West Ottawa Middle School and High School complex are in neighboring Park Township

Private Recreation within Port Sheldon Township

Wuskowhan Players Club: Members only club with 18 holes

Regional Recreation Facilities in Neighboring Townships

Pigeon Creek Park – Ottawa County: Pigeon Creek Park is 282 acres with another 130 adjacent acres of County Open Space land. Over ten miles of ski trails wind through old pine plantations, mature deciduous forests and through bottomland forests along the Pigeon River (off-trail snowshoeing is allowed).

Kirk Park – Ottawa County: Stretching along Lake Michigan’s shoreline for over 1/3 mile, this park boasts 68 acres of sandy beach, high bluffs and wooded dunes. Nature trails with wooden stairways wind through the wooded dunes, offering spectacular views of Lake Michigan. A paved path leads to a deck overlooking the beach and Lake Michigan. This is a popular park for swimming, sunbathing, picnicking and cross-country skiing.

Tunnel Park – Ottawa County: Along the shoreline of Lake Michigan, this popular 22 acre park is a great place for swimming, sunbathing and picnicking. In addition to the unique tunnel through a dune, this park has a children’s playground complete with a dune climb and a stairway with scenic views of Lake Michigan.

Riley Trails – Ottawa County: 300 acres of rolling terrain, beech-maple forest, pine plantations, a small lake and an extensive trail system located in Park Township. The property is enjoyed by hikers, cross-country skiers, mountain bikers and other outdoor enthusiasts. Riley Trails includes 40 acres that was formerly the Southwest Ottawa County Landfill. The landfill cap is closed to the public to protect the cap from damage and because of potentially harmful methane gas venting through the pipes. Since the landfill has been closed and capped for several decades, the gas levels are significantly reduced. The landfill area remains closed to the public, however, until gas emissions are studied and determined to be at safe levels. In the future, the Parks hopes to open the hill to the public for trails, overlooks and sledding.

Rosy Mound Natural Area – Ottawa County: A classic Great Lakes dune system including high wooded dunes, foredunes, beach and a dune blowout. A 0.7 mile hiking trail from the parking area to the Lake Michigan shoreline includes 1,000 feet of stairs up and down the dunes and scenic views. A unique shade canopy, dune boardwalk trail and rustic toilets are located near the beach.

Holland State Park – Ottawa County: Known for sugar sand beaches, beautiful sunsets and views of the iconic "Big Red" lighthouse. The park is home to two large campgrounds, an accessible playground, opportunities for paddling and fishing, and connections to nonmotorized trails. The state park consists of separate Lake Macatawa and Lake Michigan units on the northern side of the channel connecting Lake Macatawa with Lake Michigan. A boating access site with a fish cleaning station is located 1 mile east of the park.

Private Recreation in Neighboring Townships

Geneva Camp and Retreat Center: Private church camp off Lake Shore Drive on Lake Michigan.

Camp Blodgett: Cabins, recreation center, hall, sleeping rooms on Lakeshore Drive, West Olive. Provides children’s camp programs and is available for groups for special events.

Dutch Treat Campgrounds & Recreation: RV and tent camping with swimming pool and other recreational facilities.

Oak Grove Campground & Resort: Family RV resort with 135 sites, rental cabins, swimming pool and playground.

Golf Courses in Neighboring Townships

West Ottawa Gold Course: 27 hole public golf course and practice range

American Dunes Gold Course: 18 hole public golf course near Lake Michigan

Pigeon Creek Golf Course: 18 hole public golf course and practice range

Macatawa Legends: 18 hole private golf club and practice range

Planning Process

Public Input

Port Sheldon Township values the opinions and views of its residents and helped develop the following process to gather the community's thoughts by:

- The consultant, Prein & Newhof, worked with the Parks and Recreation Committee along with township officials over the course of several months via phone, email, Zoom, and face to face meetings.
- Making digital and hard copies of the survey available to all residents that asks specific questions of the current parks and their goals for the future.
- Making the Draft Plan available to the public for 30 days to provide the community with a chance to review and offer comments. No public comments were received during this time,
- Sent the Draft Plan to Ottawa County Parks for review, positive feedback was received and incorporated into the plan.
- A public hearing will be held prior to adopting the park plan on 1/14/2026 during the township board meeting.

Survey Summary Results

There was a total of 58 responses to the survey. The survey results show that 91% of respondents support investing in improvements to the current parks and trails system while 74% support investing in new properties to expand the parks and trails system. 74% of respondents are in favor of a small millage to help support the parks system, commenters noted that they would support a millage for additional trails and park maintenance. 53% of respondents are in favor of establishing park fees to help fund the parks system, additional comments note that they might support fees for non-township residents or preferred annual "Pay to Use" passes.

(Q2) Top 5 most visited parks in the area

- Windsnest Park
- Hemlock Crossing
- Kouw Park
- Port Sheldon Community Park
- Olive Shores

(Q5) Top 3 most desired park properties to be improved or expanded:

- Windsnest Park
- Kouw Park
- Port Sheldon Community Park

(Q10) Respondents believe parks and recreation funding should be focused on, in order:

1. Maintaining Existing Park Facilities
2. Existing Park Improvements
3. Expanding The Local Trail Network
4. Land Acquisition for New Parks & Open Spaces

(Q11) When asked about what they liked about the existing recreation facilities, respondents noted:

- The trail system.
- Variety and quantity of nearby parks
- Overall park/trail cleanliness.

(Q12) When asked to provide concerns over the existing recreation facilities, respondents noted:

- The overcrowding of parks (Windsnest).
- The need for additional bike paths.
- Some bike paths are in need of maintenance/replacement.

(Q13) Top 3 organizations utilized for indoor/outdoor recreation:

- County Parks System
- Port Sheldon Parks and Recreation
- Michigan State Parks

(Q15) Top 5 reasons for visiting parks and trails:

- Natural Setting
- Quiet/ Peacefull
- Close to Home
- Health, Exercise, and Well-Being
- Safe

(Q16) Top 5 desired recreational opportunities respondents would participate in:

- Non-Motorized Multi-Purpose Trails.
- Paved Multi-Purpose Trails.
- Outdoor Water Recreation
- Playgrounds
- Picnic Areas

(Q17) Top 3 improvements respondents think are most needed:

- Additional Multi-Purpose Trails
- Additional Paved Parking Areas
- Additional Restrooms

(Q18) When asked to provide comments on future community programming, the top responses were:

- Music venue.
- Nature based educational sessions for children.
- Community park cleanup events.

(Q20) When asked for additional thoughts regarding the parks and recreation facilities, the top responses focused on:

- Improved trail network (specifically Stanton St. W of 31)
- Safety could be improved for the trails and beaches.
- Prioritize park and trail maintenance.

The survey results also show that:

- (Q1) A majority of respondents have lived within the Township for 0-5 years (28%)
- (Q19) The best way to reach people for parks and recreation updates is by email/ newsletter (43%)
- (Q21) Most of the respondents were between ages 55-74 (49%)
- (Q22) Only 40% have a child under the age of 18 in their household.

Goals/Objectives/Actions

The information received from the public survey was analyzed to identify the goals and objectives of the local community.

Goal 1: Continue to expand and improve existing park facilities and lands to optimize existing opportunities for the residents.

Objectives/Actions:

- Continue to improve and develop Windsnest Park.
- Improve and develop Zwemer Park as a Passive Park.
- In association with Ottawa County, develop a trail system from Hemlock Crossing along the Pigeon River to Sheldon Landing.
- Improve and renovate the aging facilities of Port Sheldon Community Park.
- Examine Kouw Park for parking lot improvements.

Goal 2: Provide a variety of facilities within each park to service all age groups and provide activities to fulfill diverse recreational needs for people of all abilities.

Objectives/Actions:

- Renovate and install new playgrounds in line with current safety standards, providing more diverse play opportunities.
- Enhance existing facilities to meet or exceed barrier free requirements.
- Provide a wider range of active and passive recreational facilities and strive to reduce known deficiencies.
- Acquiring new property to address geographical and specific facility deficiencies.

Goal 3: Provide a geographically balanced park system to ensure recreation facilities are in close proximity to all residents and to keep pace with the needs of the community.

Objectives/Actions:

- Target location specific acquisition of land to ensure a good geographical distribution of recreational facilities.
- Develop recreation facilities on existing park land owned by the Township.
- Acquire new land for future recreation opportunities.
- Provide connections between existing parks and natural/recreational facilities.

Goal 4: Provide year-round recreational facilities that will meet the present and future needs of the community.

Objectives/Actions:

- Expand opportunities for passive recreation and un-programmed activities such as picnic facilities, walking trails, fishing and wildlife viewing.
- Connecting Hemlock Crossing and Sheldon Landing.
- Allow Township Hall gymnasium to be used at specific times.

Goal 5: Utilize corridors, drainage easements, and service areas for open space, recreational and trail uses.

Objectives/Actions:

- Support Ottawa County's goals and objectives to create a walking trail along the Pigeon River connecting Hemlock crossing and Sheldon Landing.
- Continue to work with Ottawa County to connect park land.

Goal 6: Strive to connect recreational facilities to schools, residential areas, and to each other with non-motorized trail systems.

Objectives/Actions:

- Continue to develop the Township's trail system both on and off road.

Goal 7: Promote and maintain relationships with Ottawa County, neighboring townships and private entities to enhance recreational opportunities.

Objectives/Actions:

- Complement the recreational opportunities provided at the Ottawa County Parks.
- Maintain a strong relationship with Consumer’s Energy to ensure the long-term license and lease agreements at Windsnest Park and Sheldon Landing.
- Expand opportunities with Consumer’s Energy to provide high quality park and recreation facilities.
- Continue communication with neighboring Townships to collaborate on recreational opportunities.

Goal 8: Preserve important natural features such as streams, wetlands, wooded areas, and major wildlife habitat.

Objectives/Actions:

- Implement “Best Management Practices” on Township owned property adjacent to wetlands and watercourses to improve the water quality.
- Develop management/maintenance strategies for natural areas owned by the Township.
- Design parks to encourage appropriate use and minimum impact on important natural features.

Goal 9: Continue to maintain and enhance existing parks and facilities in the township.

Objectives/Actions:

- Upgrade existing facilities to exceed accessibility standards.
- Maintain current park amenities to ensure safety and security for the residents.

Goal 10: Acquire property as it becomes available to ensure that recreational opportunities keep pace with the needs of the community.

Objectives/Actions:

- Acquire and develop waterfront access sites.

APPENDICES

Appendix A
Supplemental DNR Attachments

Survey Results

Public Notices

Public Meeting Minutes

Formal Resolution to Adopt the Plan

**PORT SHELDON TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

Resolution No. 2026-01

A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO APPROVE MOTION ON THE TOWNSHIP OF PORT SHELDON 2026-2031 FIVE YEAR REC PLAN REVIEW, WHICH INCLUDES DEFINED AREAS OF THE TOWNSHIP, WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PROPOSED PORT SHELDON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

THIS RESOLUTION IS TO BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADOPTION.

Recorded in the minutes of a regular meeting of the Township Board, Port Sheldon Township, Ottawa County, Michigan held at 16201 Port Sheldon St, West Olive on the 14th day of January 2026 at 5:30 PM.

WHEREAS, Port Sheldon Township has undertaken a careful planning process to determine the recreation and related natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during the delineated five-year period; and

WHEREAS, the Port Sheldon Township Parks and Recreation Committee is made up of community representatives appointed by the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the Port Sheldon Township began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Port Sheldon Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 14, 2026, at the Port Sheldon Township Offices to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the 2026-2031 Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, Port Sheldon Township has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Port Sheldon

Township; and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, Port Sheldon Township Board voted to adopt said 2026-2031 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Port Sheldon Township Board, at the regularly scheduled Township Board Meeting on Wednesday January 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM granting the aforementioned authority.

YEAS: Bill Monhollon, Luke DeVries, Mike Sabatino, Meredith Hemmeke, and Rachel Frantom

NAYS: None

ABSENT/ABSTAIN: None


RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township of Port Sheldon Township Board of Trustees at the time, date, and place specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 14, 2026

By 
Meredith Hemmeke
Port Sheldon Township Clerk