



Armada Township Recreation Plan Adopted January 14, 2026

Prepared by: Armada Township Planning Commission
Adopted by: Armada Township Board

**Prepared by Armada Township
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Adopted by Armada Township Board of Trustees

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Armada Township Recreation Plan



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1 Community Description

Armada Township prepared this Recreation Plan to:

- Create an inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities in and around the Township.
- Gain community input on parks and recreation strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop goals and actions that will lead to future improvements.

This plan addresses park and recreation facilities located within and under the jurisdiction of Armada Township. As part of the 2026 parks and recreation update, base information was updated, adding of the Township pocket park, hosting a community meeting and public hearing, updating goals and objectives, and action plan.

Community Profile

Armada Township is located in northern Macomb County and is largely agricultural. Access to the Township is provided by M-53 and local mile roads.

The Township is bordered by Bruce Township and Romeo to the west, Almont Township to the northwest, Berlin Township to the north, Riley Township to the northeast, Richmond Township to

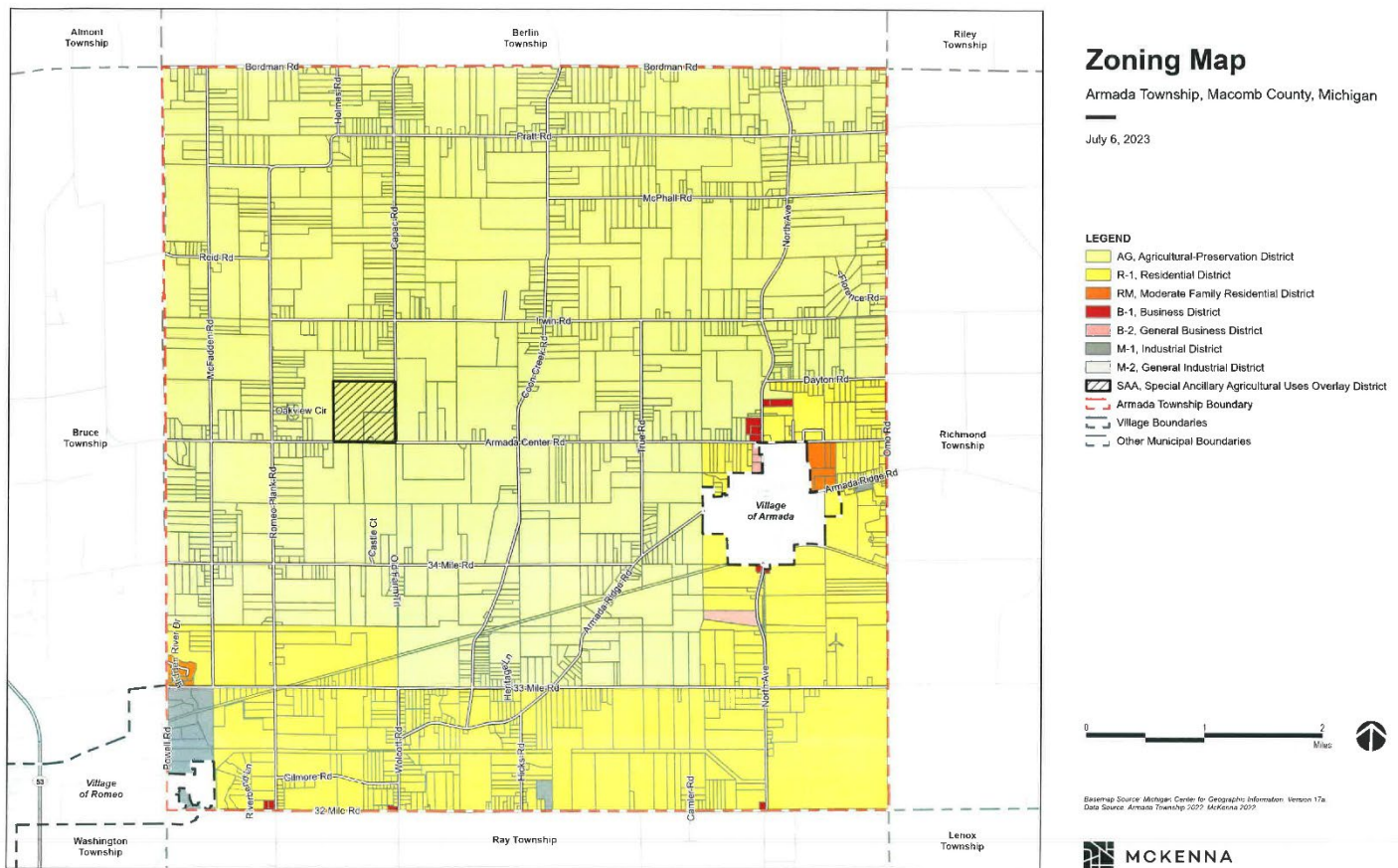
the east, Lenox Township to the southeast, and Ray Township to the south. The Village of Armada is located wholly within the Township. Armada Township is approximately 36 square miles, including the Village.

Population

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Armada Township's population, excluding the Village, was 3,634, a marginal decrease from 3,649 in 2010. From 1970 thru 2000, the Township had experienced modest but steady population increases. Since that time, its population has plateaued; an increasingly common development amongst rural communities throughout the State. One contributing factor may be the nationwide decline in average household size. Indeed, the number of households in the Township increased modestly from 1,287 in 2010 to 1,339 in 2020. In 2020, 47% of households had children under the age of 18 living there.

Absent significant changes, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) projects the Township's population to remain essentially the same by 2040. This projection considers current trends; the extension of sewer service to parts of the Township with residential zoning, which is anticipated in the Armada Township Master Plan, could possibly change that projection.

Map 1: Armada Township Zoning Map



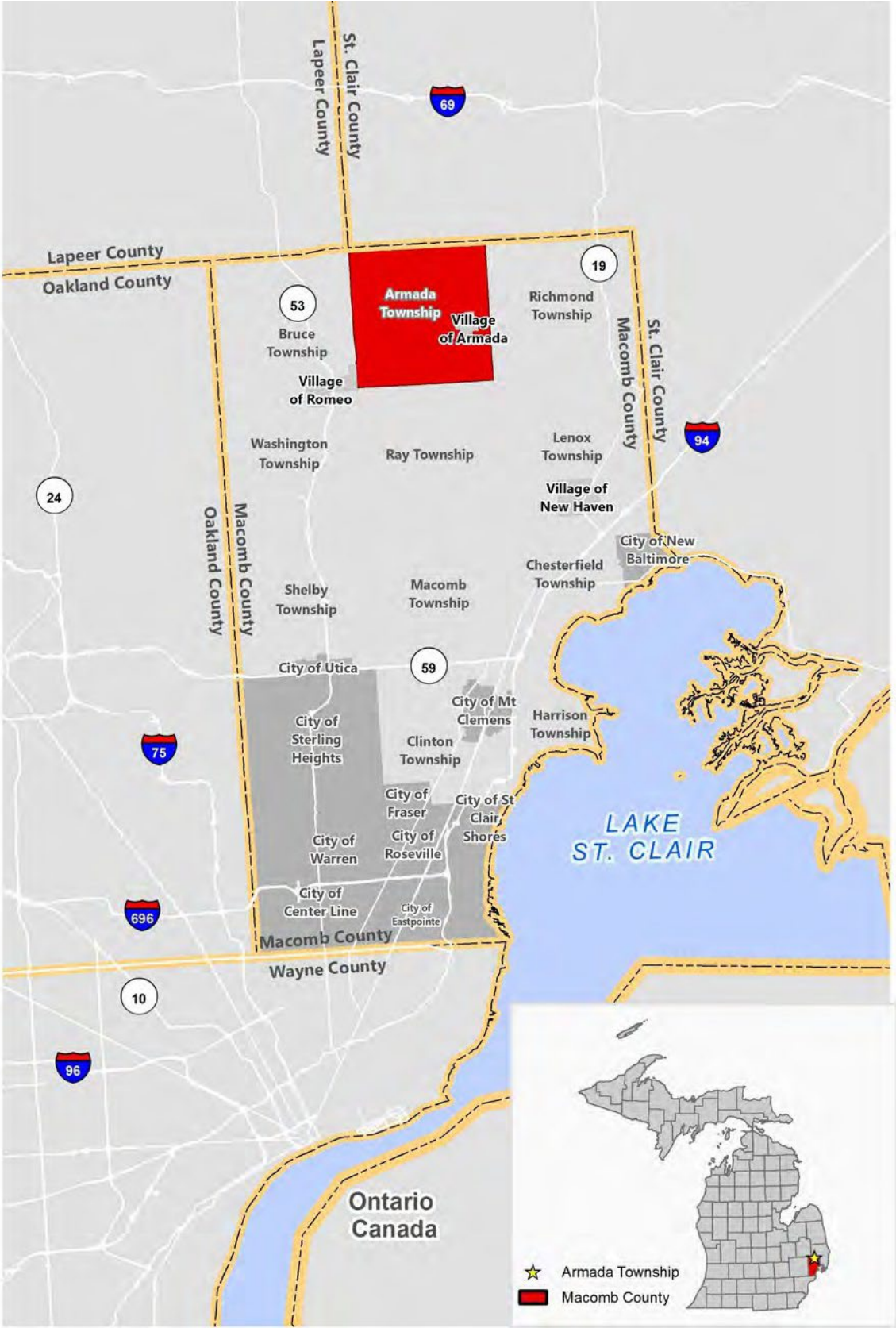
While the Township’s population has decreased, there has been a large increase in one segment of the population: adults aged 55 and over. From 2010 to 2020, the Census reports that the median age increased from 42.5 to 46.0 years, and the share of the population over 55 increased from 17.9% to 38.9%. SEMCOG projects that this trend will continue—in Armada Township as well as in the region and the country.

In Macomb County, 25.6% of the population was over 55 in 2010, this rose to 32.3% in 2020. SEMCOG projects this population segment to nearly double by 2040. This increase in both the senior population and its share of the overall population is not only due to the aging “Baby Boomer” generation, but it is also a reflection of longer life spans and families having fewer children. This growing segment of the Township’s population will play a central role in the planning of recreation needs now and in the future.

Land Use & Zoning

Armada Township’s population outside of the Village is spread evenly. Industrial development lies primarily in the southwest corner of the Township, near Romeo, while commercial development is mostly clustered near the Village and along 32 Mile Road. The vast majority of the Township is large-lot residential development, agriculture, and undeveloped land. The character of the community is fundamentally rural.

Map 2: Armada Township Location Map





Senior Center

2 Administrative Structure

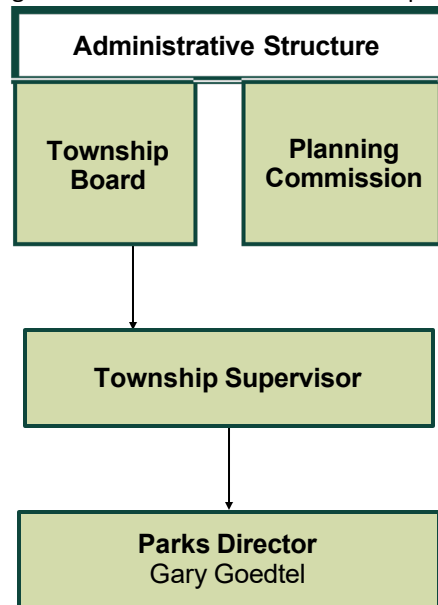
Armada Township has one Parks Department staff member, the Parks Director. The Recreation Plan is developed by the seven-member Planning Commission, which advises the Township Board on the recreation needs of the Township. The purpose of the plan is to identify the Township’s near- and long- term recreation needs and develop a program to address these needs.

Parks and Recreation Budget

The total Township budget for Parks & Recreation for fiscal 2023/24 was \$325,764. The budget for fiscal year 2024/25 was \$164,602. The 2025/26 budget is \$139,827.76. Recreation funding is derived from allocations in the Township general budget.

Table 1. Armada Township Parks and Recreation Budget

	FY: 2024/25	FY: 2025/26
Maintenance	\$14,000	\$14,000
Macomb Orchard Trail	\$7,000	\$7,000
Improvements	\$135,000	\$110,025.76
Utilities	\$600	\$800
Maintenance Director	\$7,200	\$7,200
Memberships/Mileage	\$250	\$250
Employer’s FICA	\$447	\$447
Employer’s Medicare	\$105	\$105
Total	\$164,602	\$139,827.76



MDNR Recreation Grants History

Armada Township has not applied for or obtained any recreation grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the past.

Role of Volunteers

In addition to its recreation director, the Township's Parks Department has one volunteer, while other organizations, contribute time and resources as well. The Township has ongoing relationships with the local school districts or other local organizations for recreation activities or facilities. Armada Township is home to the Armada fairgrounds, which straddles the Village boundary.

Relationships with School Districts, Other Public Agencies, or Private Organizations

School Districts

Residents of Armada Township are either zoned to the Armada Area School District, or the Romeo Community School District. Most residents are zoned to Armada, while those in the southwestern corner of the Township are zoned to Romeo. Armada Township and the school districts are continually intertwined in programming and activities through the students that attend the school systems. Students are provided with recreation and programming options that promote healthy lifestyle choices and physical fitness. The schools also house a variety of athletic fields further detailed in the parks and recreation inventory. The Township will continue to partner with the local school districts as opportunities arise

Armada Township Senior Center

Located at 75400 North Avenue, on the same property as the Armada Township Park, the Armada Township Senior Center offers a litany of activities and crafts for local seniors. Activities include, but are not limited to, crafts, exercise classes, bingo, potlucks, trivia, euchre, and special events. In addition, the Senior Center partners with Senior Living Help to provide living assistance to senior citizens.

Macomb Orchard Trail Commission

As stated on the Macomb County website, the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission was formed in July 2002. It is "charged with acquiring and converting the abandoned railroad into a 24-mile equestrian, bicycling and walking trail [now known as the Macomb Orchard Trail]. The Commission is composed of Macomb County, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, and the communities along the trail. Each organization has a representative on the Commission who is actively involved in the development and maintenance of the trail. The Commission, along with the support of the Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail and Michigan Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, research, plan, and direct further development of the trail."

Village of Armada

The Village of Armada is geographically surrounded by Armada Township. The Village has two parks noted in the Regional Facilities subsection. The Armada Fairgrounds are located between the Township/Village dividing line. When in use, the grounds provide a variety of events and seasonal recreational opportunities. Also located within the Village is the Armada Free Public Library. As opportunities arise, the Township and Village may continue to coordinate recreational activities, programs, and/or amenities.

Other Private Organizations

Other potential partnerships for Armada Township include the local chapter of the Cub Scouts, Macomb County 4-H, the American Youth Soccer Organization, the Armada Baseball Association, and Amvets Post 93. Pursuing these types of partnerships helps with funding and development of recreation opportunities while strengthening the Township's relationship with members of its community.



3 Parks & Recreation Inventory

Armada Township residents have access to a variety of recreation opportunities. Within the Township, directly behind the Armada Senior Center, is the Armada Township Park. This park offers three ball fields, a skate park, playscape, picnic pavilion with bathrooms, a bat garden, and flexible spaces used for various purposes. Athletic facilities are available at Armada High School and Armada Middle School, and the Township’s baseball fields are complemented by another field across the street from the Township Park at Amvets Post 93. Soccer fields are maintained at the former Knights of Columbus hall on North Avenue, south of the Village; this arrangement has remained in place even as the property has changed hands and become a private veterinary clinic. The Macomb Orchard Trail also runs through the Township.

Beyond the Township’s limits, neighboring communities, Macomb County, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and the State of Michigan offer recreation opportunities within driving distance, though Township residents have a distance to travel to reach certain kinds of recreation facilities. These other facilities offer many activities not available within the Township, including swimming, horseback riding, game areas, fishing, boating, hiking, camping, wildlife study, splash pads, museums, butterfly gardens, sports courts, ice arenas, and dog parks. Private recreation

opportunities in nearby Townships include golf courses and gun clubs.

Various methods were employed to assess local recreational facilities, including a review of aerials and existing maps, site visits, and discussions with recreational providers. The primary methods used to assess the usability of Armada Township Park were walking tours and input from actual park users. The following provides a detailed look at the amenities available at the Township park, as well as the local schools, and an overview of golf courses, private recreation areas, and regional parks in the area.

Local Recreational Programming

Several local recreation programs are available to people in the Armada Area:

- Armada Baseball Association
- Armada Softball
- Armada Junior Football
- Hometown Cheer: Junior Tigers
- Church recreation leagues
- Armada Community Enrichment Program T-Ball
- Region 8028 AYSO Soccer
- Armada Township Senior Center programs and events

ARMADA TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES

Armada Township Park

This park is located just north of the Village of Armada and shares a 23.6-acre parcel with the Township Fire Department and the Armada Township Senior Center; 18.9 acres of the parcel are devoted to the park.

Type	Community Park
Size	18.9 acres
Accessibility Rating	2

Since the last recreation plan was completed, the Township has repaved the parking lot, added playscape features, extended the ADA compliant sidewalk, added picnic tables, and installed automatic locks on the restrooms.

Amenities

1 pavilion with tables and bathrooms

2 baseball fields

1 softball field

1 playscape (toddler/child)

1 additional swing set

Skate park

Bat garden

Senior center

Parking lot

War memorials

Vacant Land Owned by Armada Township

The Township currently owns a large parcel of land on the south side of Armada Ridge Road, east of True Road, and approximately 0.3 miles west of the Village of Armada. The address is 22050 Armada Ridge Road. The Macomb Orchard Trail runs directly through the southern portion of the parcel. At present, the northern portion of the property is used as farmland; the southernmost portion, south of the Macomb Orchard Trail, is woodland.

Type	Undeveloped Land
Size	28.11 acres
Accessibility Rating	n/a

This land is dedicated to be used for a new hall/park in the future. A map of the undeveloped Township property is included in this chapter.

Additionally, the Township owns two other undeveloped parcels of land that may be used for future recreation development. One of which is a 1.6 acre parcel located at 71650 Romeo Plank Rd; it is intended to be the location of a second fire station. The other is a 6 acre lot on 21327 Armada Ridge Rd that is utilized as a transfer site for the Township.

Armada Township Pocket Park

The Township has a pocket park next to the Township Hall located within the Village of Armada on East Main Street. The pocket park has a pathway, archway, benches, and picnic tables with various mature trees. From time to time, this space features public art.

Type	Pocket Park
Size	4,600 sq ft
Accessibility Rating	5

Map 3: Armada Township Park and Senior Center



 Armada Township Park



giffels
webster

0 200 400
Feet

Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Macomb County GIS
Created December 6, 2018

**Armada Township
Park**
Armada Township
Macomb County, Michigan

Map 4: Township-Pocket Park



0 0.01 0.01 Miles



Source: Macomb County GIS

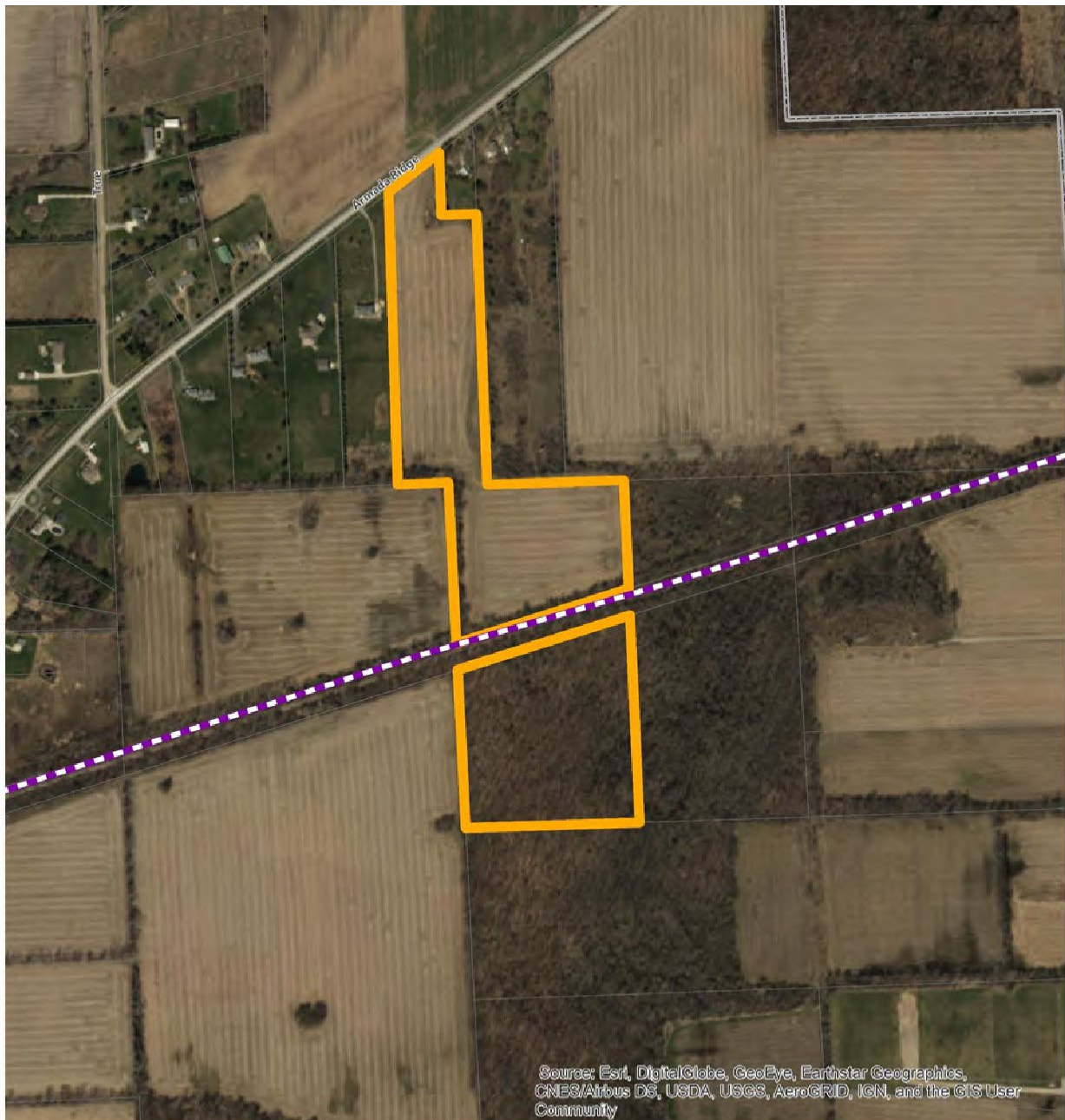
 Armada Township Pocket Park

Armada Township Pocket Park

Macomb County, Michigan

UNDEVELOPED TOWNSHIP PROPERTY

Map 5: Undeveloped Township-22050 Armada Ridge Road




giffels
webster

0 500 1,000
Feet

Source: Michigan Geographic Data Library,
Macomb County GIS
Created October 30, 2018

 Undeveloped Park Parcel

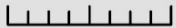
 Macomb Orchard Trail

**Armada Township
Park Land
Armada Township
Macomb County, Michigan**

Map 6: Undeveloped Township-71650 Romeo Plank Road



0 0.01 0.01 Miles



Source: Macomb County GIS



Undeveloped Property

Armada Township

Vacant Township Property

Macomb County, Michigan

Map 7: Undeveloped Township-21327 Armada Ridge Road



0 0.001 0.01 Miles



Source: Macomb County GIS

 Undeveloped Property

Armada Township
Vacant Township Property

Macomb County, Michigan

Barrier-Free Analysis

A critical component in planning for recreation facilities is providing barrier-free access to accommodate the needs of both physically and mentally challenged visitors. Barrier-free access includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that adequate barrier-free parking spaces, sidewalks, trails, picnic tables, and playground equipment are provided for renovated or new recreational facilities. Standards from The Accessibility Checklist, a guidebook founded upon the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) and the codes and standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), were used to verify barrier-free compliance.

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 (01/27/06)*, was used to assess each park:

Ranking 1: None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.

Ranking 2: Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.

Ranking 3: Most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.

Ranking 4: The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.

Ranking 5: The entire park was developed using the principals of universal design.

Accessibility

The U.S. Access Board is designated by the ADA as the agency responsible for developing minimum accessibility guidelines to ensure that new construction and alteration of facilities covered by ADA are accessible and useable by people with disabilities. The Access Board has published the following guidelines that should be used by Access to Recreation applicants to determine the criteria they must exceed to achieve universal accessibility:

- Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) 2002:

www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm

- Recommendations for Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas:

www.access-board.gov/outdoor/outdoor-rec-rpt.htm

The National Center on Accessibility is a collaborative program of Indiana University and the National Park Service and also provides information on access for people with disabilities in recreation.

www.ncaonline.org

Barrier-Free Analysis: Armada Township Park

Park Name: Armada Township Park

Overall Park Rating: 2

Parking

- 4 Accessible parking spaces are provided and marked with International Symbol of Accessibility.
- 4 Accessible parking is as near to the park entrance as possible.

Play Areas

- 1 There is an accessible route (60 inches wide) to the entrance of the play area with a slope no steeper than 1:16.
 - For playground equipment, at least one turning space is provided on the same level as play components.
- 1 Play area surface is firm and stable (mulch/woodchips, sand and gravel are not accessible surfaces).
- 1 Where multiple swings in a swing bay are provided, one swing is located on an accessible route.
 - For court sports, at least one accessible route connects both sides of the court.

Park Amenities

- 2 Picnic tables provide at least one wheelchair space for each 24 linear feet of usable table surface perimeter. The aisles between chairs and tables are 3 feet wide.
 - Drinking fountain spout outlets are a maximum of 36 inches above the finish floor or ground.
- 3 Safety is promoted by good street lighting.
 - Ramps are non-slip.
- 3 If public restroom facility present, there is at least one fully accessible restroom.

Trails and Sidewalks

- 3 There is a path of travel that does not require the use of stairs.
 - Bike paths are separate from pedestrian walkways.
 - Sidewalks are free of obstruction, wide enough for wheelchairs, solid (not made of dirt), and have curb cuts.
 - All stairways feature a railing and stair tips that are painted to distinguish each step.
- 3 Handrails are provided on both sides of a ramp.
- 1 Accessible routes connect all park amenities and coincide with general circulation paths.

Park Name: Armada Township Pocket Park

Overall Park Rating: 4

Parking

- 5 Accessible parking spaces are provided and marked with International Symbol of Accessibility.
- 5 Accessible parking is as near to the park entrance as possible.

Play Areas

- N/A There is an accessible route (60 inches wide) to the entrance of the play area with a slope no steeper than 1:16.
- N/A For playground equipment, at least one turning space is provided on the same level as play components.
- N/A Play area surface is firm and stable (mulch/woodchips, sand and gravel are not accessible surfaces).
- N/A Where multiple swings in a swing bay are provided, one swing is located on an accessible route.
- N/A For court sports, at least one accessible route connects both sides of the court.

Park Amenities

- 3 Picnic tables provide at least one wheelchair space for each 24 linear feet of usable table surface perimeter. The aisles between chairs and tables are 3 feet wide.
- N/A Drinking fountain spout outlets are a maximum of 36 inches above the finish floor or ground.
- 2 Safety is promoted by good street lighting.
- N/A Ramps are non-slip.
- N/A If public restroom facility present, there is at least one fully accessible restroom.

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- 5 There is a path of travel that does not require the use of stairs.
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- N/A All stairways feature a railing and stair tips that are painted to distinguish each step.
- N/A Handrails are provided on both sides of a ramp.
- 5 Accessible routes connect all park amenities and coincide with general circulation paths.

Barrier Free Analysis: Accessibility

Armada Township Park

Overall Accessibility Ranking: 2

Improvements to Target

In the Armada Township Park, there are general improvements that could be made to improve accessibility:

- Develop paved or stabilized pathways for all amenities and seating areas within the park; make all paths of sufficient width for two people to walk side-by-side or pass.
- Concrete pads adjacent to picnic tables to allow users in wheelchairs the ability to be seated with their party.
- Trash receptacles adjacent to the paved walkways or seating areas.
- When making playground improvements, provide ramps and transfers, and use “poured-in-place” or rubber tiles under equipment, rather than loose fill material such as woodchips; as playground equipment requires replacement, provide ramps and transfers to all play components. More benches, installed near pathways and with concrete pads for wheelchair or stroller users.

Armada Township Pocket Park

Overall Accessibility Ranking: 4

Improvements to Target

- Consider adding seating arrangements for wheelchair person or disabled persons.
- Consider adding exterior lighting within the pocket park rather than just the street lighting along the sidewalk.
- The Township will have to continue to maintain the existing paved areas of the pathways and maintaining landscaping located in the park area.
- As the Township considers passive improvements to the pocket park ADA compliance and access will also have to be considered.

School, Village, and Other Recreation Facilities

Schools

Most of Armada Township is in the Armada Area Schools district, while the southwestern corner is in the Romeo Community Schools district. The Township has no formal recreation partnerships with either of the school districts.

Armada Area High School

- Football field
- Ballfields—practice and full-size
- Running track/track & field facilities
- Tennis courts

Armada Middle School & Krause Elementary School

- Three playgrounds
- Walking path
- Baseball diamond
- Soccer/football field

Romeo High School

- Football stadium
- Six tennis courts

Romeo Middle School

- Skate Park
- Baseball diamond
- Football field
- Indoor pool
- Gymnasium

Amanda Moore Elementary School

- Play structures
- Climbers
- Swing sets
- Slides
- Basketball court
- Baseball diamond
- Soccer field
- Two tennis courts
- Pedestrian walking paths

Village of Armada

Memorial Park

- Pavilion
- Playground
- Basketball court
- Picnic Tables

Other Facilities

Amvets Post 93

- Baseball diamond

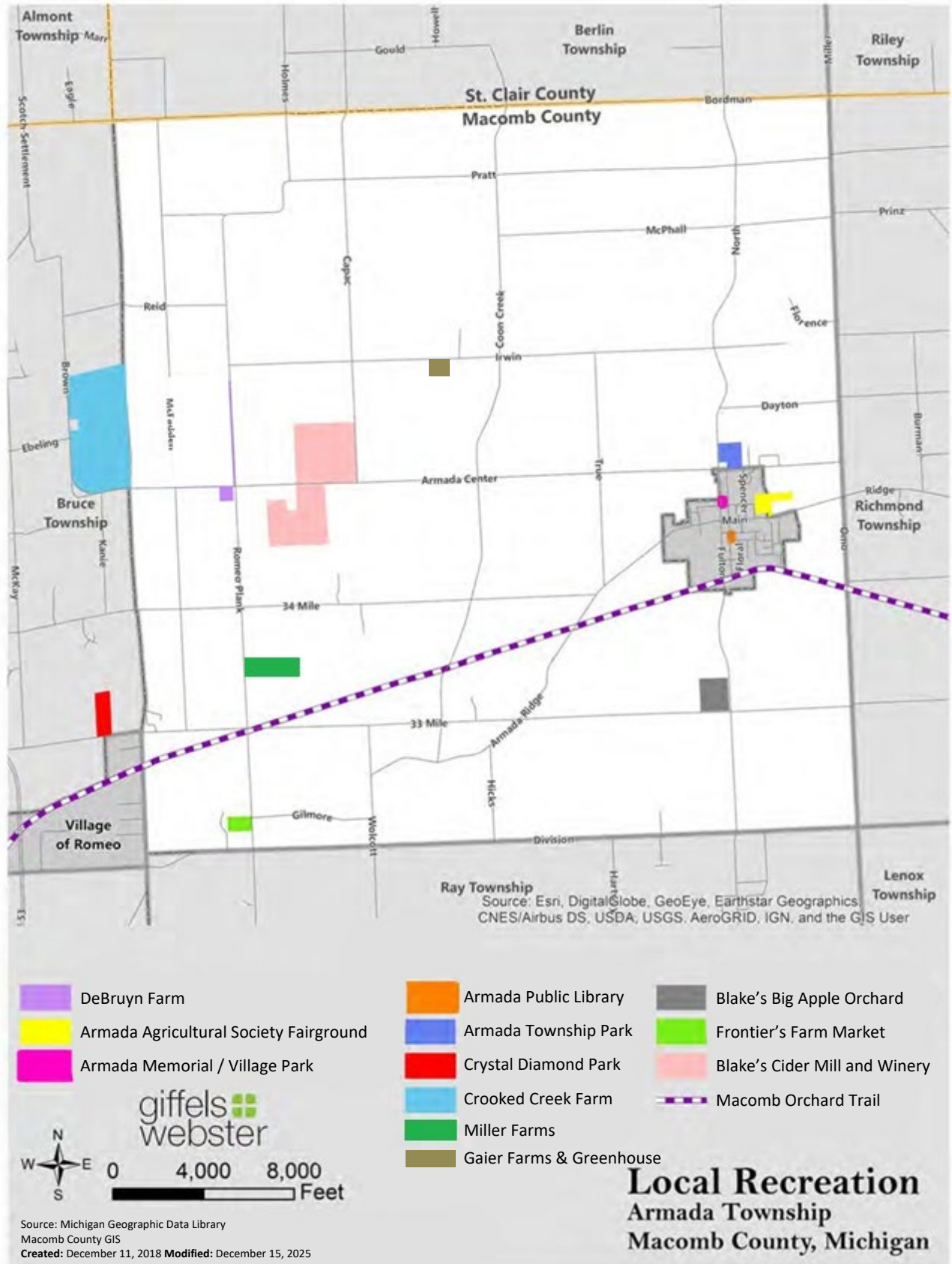
Krause Veterinary Clinic

- Soccer fields

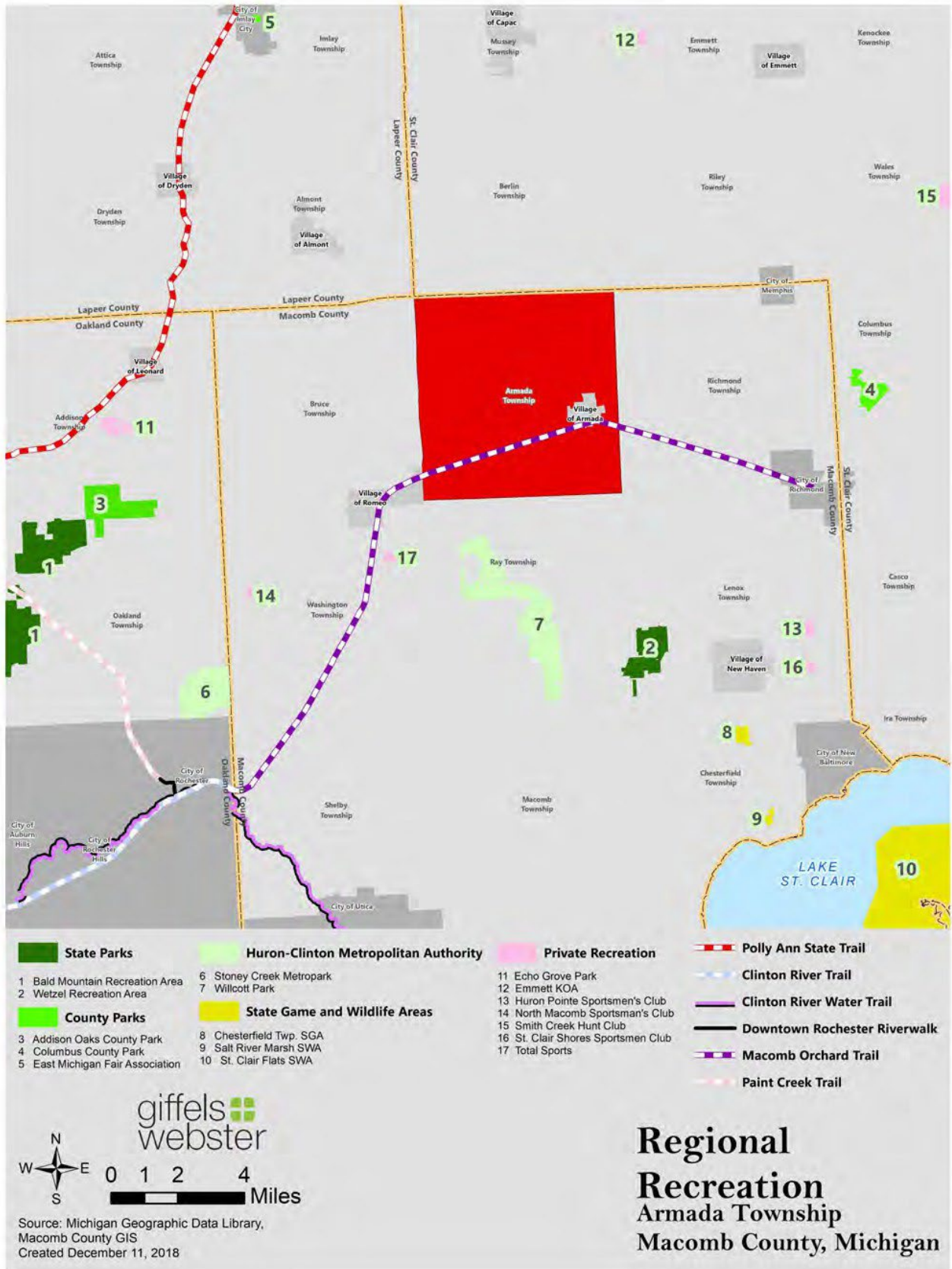
Macomb Orchard Trail

- Trail pathway, running through Armada Township and Village
- April Millsap Memorial Garden

Map 5: Facilities within and adjacent to Armada Township



Map 6: Nearby Regional Park and Recreation Facilities



Regional Recreation Facilities

Local and regional recreation facilities within the Armada Township service area offer unique natural features that provide outdoor activities such as wildlife habitats, boating, hiking and trails. Many of these amenities are readily available to the residents of Armada Township through the County, State, and Region.

Village of Armada

Armada Village Park is just under one acre. It includes a small pavilion, picnic tables, a playground, and basketball court. The Village also has a small trailhead for the Macomb-Orchard Trail. Armada Township's Township Hall is also located in the Village; the Township owns approximately one tenth of an acre adjacent to the Township Hall and has developed this space as a pocket park, with shaded places to sit and gather.

Romeo-Washington-Bruce Parks & Rec

Serving the Village of Romeo and the Townships of Washington and Bruce, RWBPR operates several parks. Facilities are varied and include walking paths, picnic areas, tennis, baseball, soccer, running tracks, playscapes, disc golf, fitness equipment, sledding hill, and basketball. Washington Community Center and Romeo Community Center each offer indoor event space. No one Park includes all these facilities, and the parks are spread over a 72-square-mile area. Several golf courses and a racquet club are also found in these communities.

Berlin Township

Berlin Township operates one small neighborhood park.

Richmond Township

Richmond Township does not operate any parks, though the City of Richmond's Beebe Street Park offers numerous sports and play facilities, including a swimming pool, as well as a hiking trail.

Ray Township

Ray Township is home to Wolcott Mills Metropark, has several golf facilities, and the Ray Township Community Park with picnic pavilions, softball fields, tennis courts, playground area, and walking path.

Lenox Township

A Township Park is available to the residents of Lenox and New Haven. It contains sports fields, courts, rinks, picnic amenities, and playscapes.

Wetzel State Recreation Area

Located in Lenox Township, Wetzel State Recreation Area is an undeveloped park providing areas for hiking, hunting, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority operates 13 parks across Southeast Michigan, including three in Macomb County, all of which are a short drive from Armada Township.

Stony Creek Metropark, Shelby and Washington Townships

Established around Stony Creek Lake, this park includes a nature center, hiking and mountain biking trails, campgrounds, boat rental and launch, bike rental, golf course, and disc golf course.

Lake St. Clair Metropark, Harrison Township

Located on the Lake St. Clair shore, this park offers a splash pad, swimming pool, and beach, tennis, par-3 golf, a sledding hill, nature center, trails, windsurfing launch, and boat launch, among other amenities.

Wolcott Mill Metropark, Ray Township

Wolcott Mill Metropark is a largely natural park featuring trails, a farm center, campgrounds, a golf course, and a model airplane field

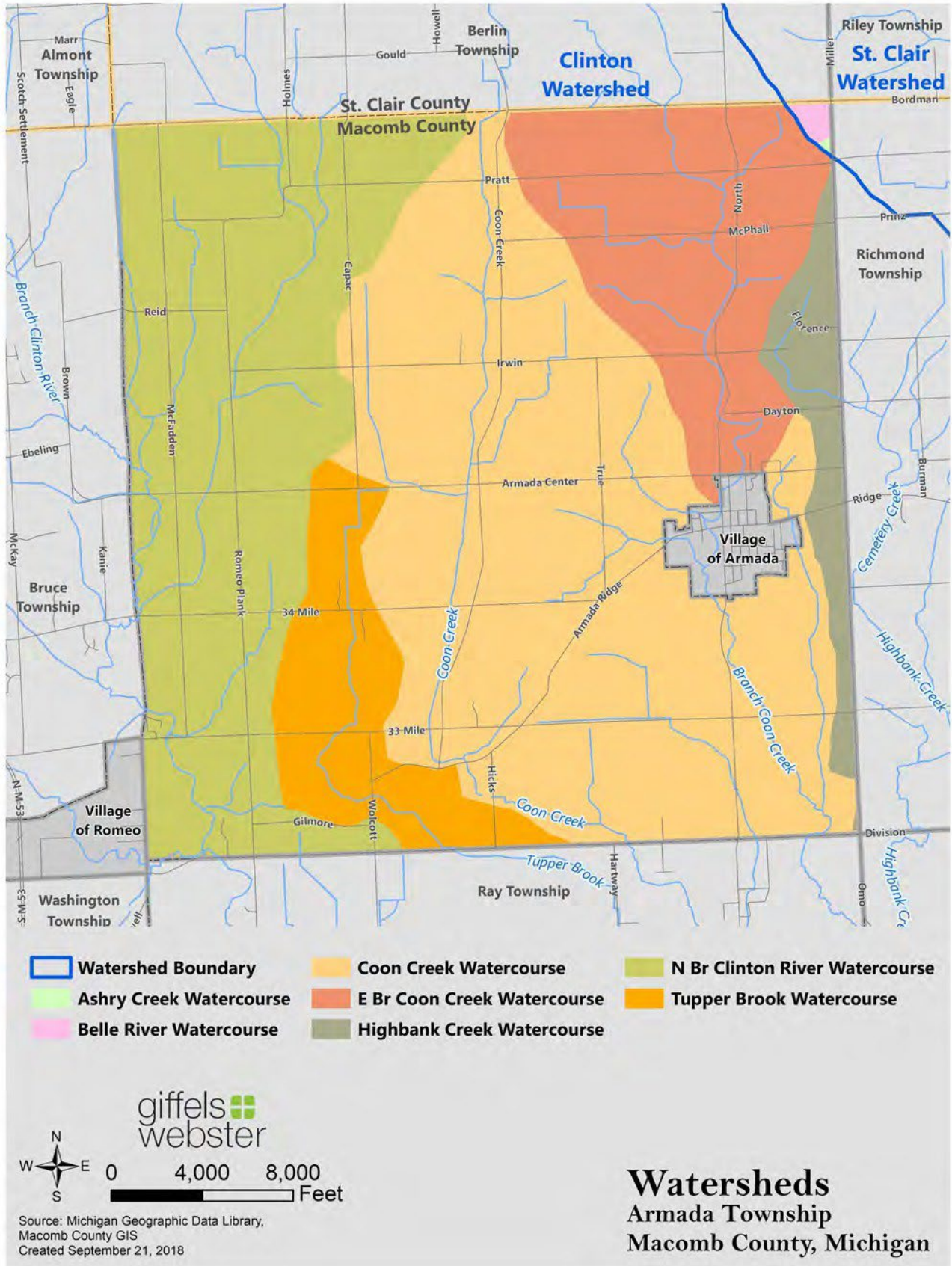


4 Resource Inventory

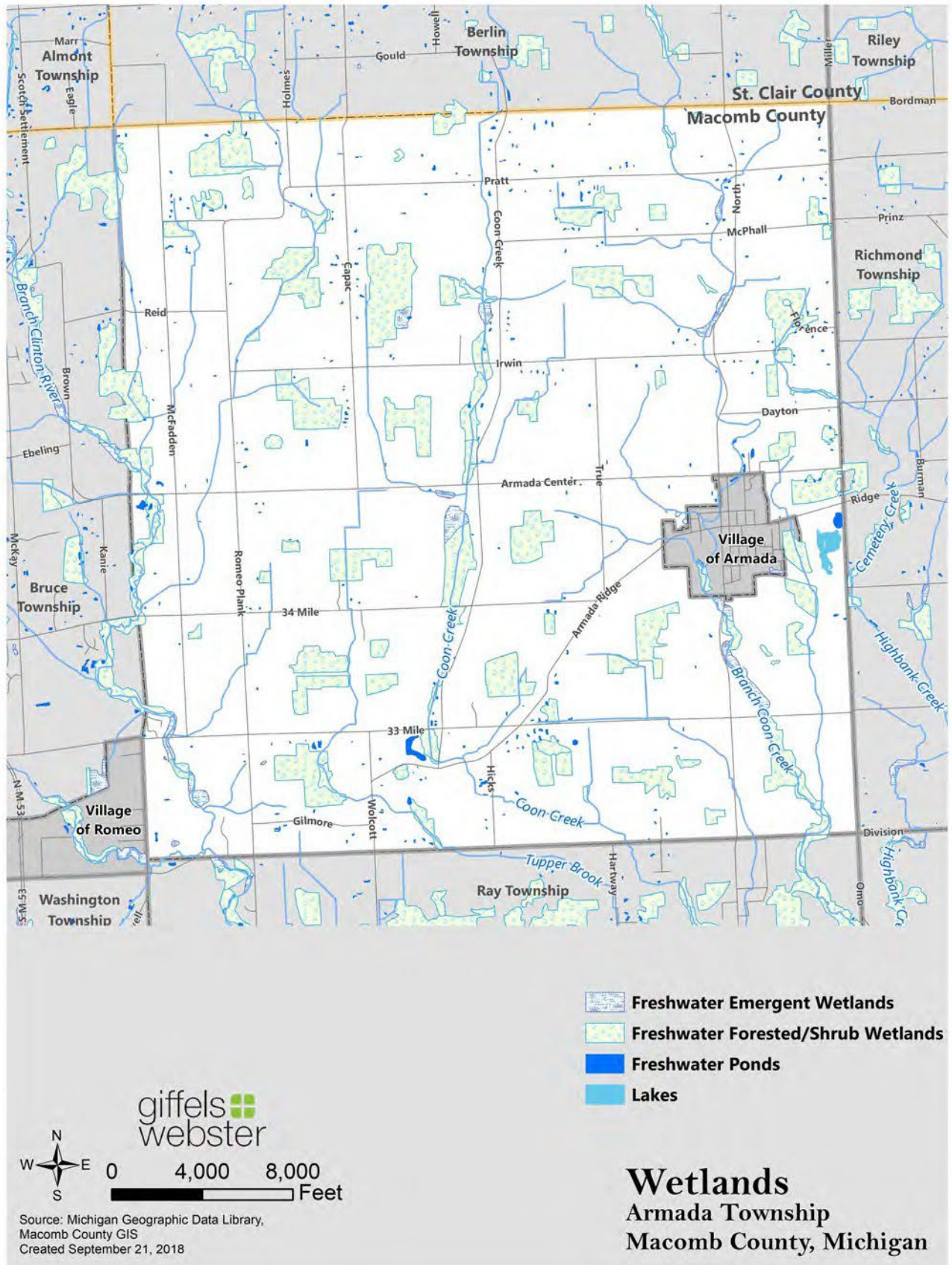
In a community like Armada Township, where recreation is heavily intertwined with the natural environment, an inventory of natural resources is a helpful tool for understanding where potential opportunities may be available. These maps can also inform planning for open space preservation not related to recreation.

The following pages map watershed and waterways, wetlands, and woodlands.

Map 7: Sub-Watersheds within the Township



Map 8: Wetlands





5 Recreation Needs Analysis

An essential task in recreation planning

process is to determine the needs of the community. Needs serve as a basis for development of the Action Plan. This task is accomplished using a compilation of several methods, including comparing the Township to established national recreation standards and input received from the public, Township staff, community leaders and local officials.

Method of Analysis

A combination of sources was used in this section. All requirements and quartile ranges used to measure the Township's Park and trail inventory were from the NRPA's 2024 Agency Performance Review. The U.S. Census was used to determine Armada Township's demographic data. National statistics on youth program participation are from the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and the Aspen Institute Project Play's The State of Play report from 2024. This information helps understand how Armada Township is serving their residents' recreation needs at present and may be used to identify potential areas of focus or improvement.

Number of Parks

The following guidelines are provided by the NRPA's 2024 Agency Performance Review. The Agency provides a range containing lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values for residents per park within a jurisdiction. For jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000, the range is 659 residents (lower quartile), 1,172 residents (median), and 1,944 residents (upper quartile). According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Armada Township's population (excluding the Village of Armada) is 3,634. Presently, Armada Township has one Township Park: Armada Township Park. Since Armada Township only has one park, their sum is equal to 3,634 per park. As a result, Armada Township is far above the upper quartile range as stated by the NRPA, meaning residents are underserved.

Total Parkland

The following guidelines are provided by the NRPA's 2024 Agency Performance Review. The Agency provides a range containing lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values for acres of parkland per 1,000 residents within a jurisdiction. For jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000, the range is 6.0 acres (lower quartile), 12.6 acres (median), and 20.9 acres (upper quartile). According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Armada Township's population was 3,634.

Based on its population, Armada Township should have a range between 21.80 acres (lower quartile), 45.79 acres (median), and 75.95 acres (upper quartile) of total parkland. This range was determined by multiplying the NRPA's quartile ranges per 1,000 residents by the Township's population. Therefore, each quartile range was multiplied by 3.634. The Township's total combined parkland equals 18.9 acres. As a result, Armada Township is below the lower quartile range set by the NRPA. Based on these metrics, the residents of Armada Township are under-served.

Park Facilities

The following guidelines are provided by the NRPA's 2024 Agency Performance Review. The Agency provides recommendations for the number of indoor/outdoor recreation facilities needed within a jurisdiction based on population. Armada Township's parkland and recreation inventory was compared to the guidelines set by the NRPA. **Table 5-1** takes these guidelines and applies them to Armada Township and the recreational facilities located within the Township, adjacent to the Township (predominately at adjacent school facilities), and within a reasonable travel distance. The values found in the "NRPA Guidelines" column of the table are for jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000.

Caution must be taken when interpreting recommendations based on these guidelines because they may not represent current popular activities and trends. Population-to-facility ratios tend to oversimplify the purpose of recreation planning, which is to address the specific needs of the community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences/demands so that the plan best suits the community's desires for recreation.

Trail Facilities

The following guidelines are provided by the NRPA's 2024 Agency Performance Review. The Agency provides a range containing a lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values for trail miles within a jurisdiction. For jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000, the range is 2.0 miles (lower quartile), 4.5 miles (median), and 9.2 miles (upper quartile). Presently, Armada Township does not own or maintain any designated non-motorized trails. Thus, based on national guidelines Armada Township is severely under-served in this category.

National Recreation Trends

Recreation trends occurring nationally may provide insight into activities that have shown the greatest growth in popularity. Organizations such as the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and the Aspen Institute's Project Play conduct national surveys that measure sports participation across the country.

According to the NSGA, based on a 2022 study, the following sports segments experienced growth rates over the past year (ranked by rate of growth):

1. Soccer (Outdoor) (18.6% growth)
2. Flag Football (15.8%)
3. Baseball (9.5%)
4. Cheerleading (9.5%)
5. Gymnastics (7.0%)

Conversely, the sports that saw the greatest decline in youth participation were:

1. Wrestling (-6.4% decline)
2. Track and Field (-6.0%)
3. Golf (-5.6%)
4. Lacrosse (-4.1%)
5. Swimming (Team) (-3.6%)

Table 5-1: Analysis of Armada Township Recreational Facilities

Park Facility	NRPA Guidelines (pop. per Facility)	Recommended (based on Twp population)	Existing (owned & operated by Township)	Surplus or Deficiency	*Existing (other public & private)
Playgrounds or play structures	1,990	2	1	-1	5
Diamond fields: total	1,833	2	3	1	8
Basketball courts, standalone	4,366	1	0	-1	3
Rectangular fields: total	2,493	1	0	-1	4
Dog park	10,327	0	0	0	0
Community gardens	8,800	0	0	0	1
Pickleball	3,390	1	0	-1	0
Multiuse courts - basketball, volleyball	5,248	1	0	-1	1
Multiuse courts - tennis, pickleball	4,634	1	0	-1	0
18-hole golf courses	9,626	0	0	0	2
Driving range stations	2,122	2	0	-2	2
Playgrounds (aged 5-12)	2,417	2	1	-1	3
Inclusive playgrounds	9,644	0	0	0	0
Fitness zones/exercise stations	8,233	0	0	0	0
Disc golf courses	11,079	0	0	0	1
Ice rink	8,015	0	0	0	0
9-hole golf courses	17,750	0	0	0	1
Overlay field	10,584	0	0	0	0
Racquetball/handball/squash courts	13,350	0	0	0	0
Recreation centers (& gyms)	9,685	0	0	0	2
Community centers	8,908	0	0	0	0
Performance amphitheater	12,769	0	0	0	0
Senior centers	14,286	0	1	1	0
Nature centers	9,430	0	0	0	1
Aquatics centers	12,618	0	0	0	1
Outdoor restrooms	2,579	1	1	0	3
Stadiums	10,633	0	0	0	1
Public restrooms within a facility	5,642	1	1	0	2
Indoor ice rink	8,004	0	0	0	0
Teen centers	14,797	0	0	0	0
Arena	7,057	1	0	-1	0

*Facilities include those owned and operated by other jurisdictions, schools, and private entities within Armada Township or in close proximity to Armada Township.

Much of the report centers around the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth sports. Low-contact outdoor team sports saw notable growth, while high-contact sports experienced some of the biggest declines (wrestling and lacrosse). According to the NSGA, fitness activities, open water sports, outdoor activities, and wheel sports segments have experienced increases over the last five years, while the individual sports and team sports segments have remained relatively flat.

The State of Play report from 2024, published by the Aspen Institute's Project Play, provides insights into youth sports (ages 6-12) participation trends between 2013 and 2023 for the United States. According to the report, the most popular sports in 2023, in terms of total youth participation, were:

1. Basketball (3.9 million participants)
2. Baseball (3.3 million)
3. Soccer (Outdoor) (2.2 million)
4. Tennis (1.8 million)
5. Golf (1.7 million)



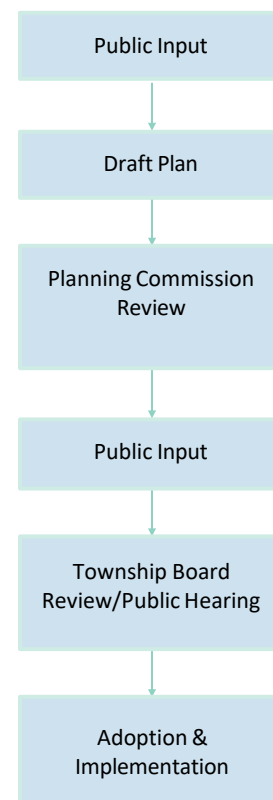
6 The Planning Process

The recreation planning process followed the State guidelines and was highly participatory. It resulted in a plan that reflects the needs and ideas of those who make use of the area's parks and recreation facilities. The planning process began with an update to the administrative structure and park inventory chapters of the plan. Data was collected from various sources including Armada Township, Macomb County, the previous Township Parks and Recreation Plan, field observations, and internet research.

The next step in the planning process was to conduct an analysis of recreational programming and facility needs based on national trends, parks and recreation planning standards, an analysis of demographic trends, and public input received. Two forms of public engagement were used in the development of this plan. The results of this analysis provided the rationale for the Action Plan, which outlines goals, actions, and recommended capital improvements over the next five years.

A complete draft plan was made available for public review on October 29, 2025, well in advance of the public hearing. The availability of the draft plan and the upcoming public hearing was officially noticed and published in the *The Record* (local newspaper) on Wednesday October 29, 2025.

A public hearing on the draft Parks and Recreation Plan was held in front of the Planning Commission on December 3, 2025, and the Armada Township Board adopted the Parks and Recreation Plan by resolution at its January 14, 2025 meeting.



Public Input and Planning Process

Opportunities to provide input on the parks and recreation system in the Township included a community meeting and public hearing. Below is a summary of the input provided specific to the parks and recreation system.

Community Meeting

Armada Township on September 17, 2025, invited members of the community to join them in a discussion about the parks. They invited various stakeholders such as members of the local school district, village, township board, parks and recreation board members, and general public. Over seven people attended the meeting.

The community meeting first went through a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). Strengths are current positive attributes of the park system. Weaknesses are current negative attributes of the park system. Opportunities are potential or real future positive impacts or ideas. Threats are potential or real future negative impacts or ideas.

Strengths

- Baseball fields & amenities
- Rail to trail access (Macomb Orchard Trail)
- Maintaining natural areas of existing parks
- The Coon Creek runs next to Armada Township Park
- School allows public use of recreation equipment
- Partnership with local baseball group for cost and maintenance management

Weaknesses

- No paved or improved walking surface track or trail area
- No pickleball courts locally
- No basketball court in the Township
- Lack of toddler playground equipment (outside of school playground)
- Lack of access to use Coon Creek
- Lack of recreational water feature

- Lack of unique recreational equipment or group gathering area to do recreation, for example exercise equipment
- Minimum teen recreation opportunities like mountain biking trails

Opportunities

- There is an undeveloped Township Park that provides room for unique equipment or facilities
- There is open space next to the existing Township Park
- A community mindset to continue to progress with improvements

Threats

- Lack of connections to youth groups, scouts, 4-H programs, and other organizations
- Loss of opportunities to expand park space near existing Township owned property and new properties
- Lack of long-term vision of assets that are needed or desired in the community

The second part of the meeting asked the public to list desired amenities in each of the three Township Parks and assets that the community in general would like to see near them. Below is a summary of those findings:

Armada Township Park

- Designated walking trails along Coon Creek
- Clear access to enter Coon Creek or bridges to cross Coon Creek
- Expansion of playground equipment
- Add community garden area
- Maintain pavilion, bathrooms, baseball fields, and parking lot area
- If there was more property obtained more natural trails, water features, pickleball court

Armada Township Pocket Park

- Art in Space
- Passive recreation like painted checkerboards, additional seating areas
- Coordinate volunteers to maintain new garden areas

Armada Township Pocket Park (Continued)

- More community garden areas
- Add a swing set
- Consider adding public wifi

Armada Township Undeveloped Park (Armada Ridge)

- Additional natural walking trails
- Additional connections to Macomb Orchard Trail
- Development of multi-surface fields
- Development of disc-golf
- Development of interactive gathering space for educational opportunities
- Add Pavillion with restrooms and drinking fountain
- Development of community garden space

In the Community

- Add a local Dog Park
- Add a local public fireplace
- Add miniature golf area
- Additional programming for various age groups like flag football, art classes, meals on wheels, etc.

Public Hearing

On December 3, 2025 the Planning Commission/Parks and Recreation held a public hearing on the update to the parks and recreation plan. There were no comments from the public, but the Planning Commission discussed the following:

- Removal of reference to the Friends of Armada, which is no longer an active group.
- Updates to the Local Recreation Map.
- Updating Ray Township has a community park.
- Minor clerical changes and modifications to formatting.

The commission recommended adoption of the plan by the Township Board. The Township Board met on January 14, 2025 to adopt the proposed parks and recreation plan.

Armada Township

RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Community Meeting

Please join us for the Armada Township Parks & Recreation Community Meeting, where you will have an opportunity to **share your thoughts about the future of recreation in Armada Township!**

LOCATION: Armada Township Hall
23121 E. Main Street, Armada, MI 48005

Topics for discussion will include, but are not limited to, the **current and future recreation needs, funding, and recreational development!**

DATE: Wednesday, Sept 17, 2025

TIME: 6pm to 7pm

Please feel free to ask questions and verbally share your comments with members of the project team and local officials. There is no formal presentation. We look forward to hearing from you!

Questions? Contact Armada Township at (586) 784-5200



7 Goals & Actions

An overall guide for the recreation goals for Armada Township will be to leverage development, programming and maintenance of park facilities by pursuing partnerships, grant funding, and volunteer efforts when appropriate. Goals are policy statements of what the community would like to be, while Actions are specific steps towards accomplish the goals.

Goal

Promote recreational opportunities within and outside of the Township for all age groups, income levels, and abilities.

Actions

1. Explore ways to increase awareness of Township Park amenities and use of recreational amenities in nearby communities (Macomb Orchard Trail, Armada Fairgrounds, etc.) through-signage, website presence, etc.
2. Explore expansions and maintain of equipment, programing, and safety measures that catered to toddlers such as playground equipment, fencing around play areas, mom meet ups, etc.
3. Explore expansion and maintain equipment, program, and safety measures that cater to elementary age children such as playground equipment, fencing in play areas, zipline, sand table, etc.
4. Explore expansions and maintain equipment and programing catered to teenagers and young adults such as nature walking trails, mountain biking areas, free public wifi, multi-use grass fields(soccer), multi-use paved courts (basketball), ninja warrior/obstacle courses, disc golf, etc.
5. Explore expansions and maintain equipment and programing catered to seniors such as exercise equipment, improved surface walking trails, sponsored group trips, horseshoes pit, pickleball, meals on wheels, etc.
6. Explore installation of a water feature(s) for recreational uses such as clear entrance to enter into Coon Creek, toddler creek, etc.
7. Explore having ADA and other disabled person friendly playground equipment such as wheelchair capable merry-go-round, seesaws, swings, musical instruments, ADA seating area, etc.
8. Continue to maintain and explore improvements for public gathering spaces such as expansions of paved surfaces to pavilions, additional picnic tables, benches, additional pavilions.
9. Continue to maintain and look to expand amenities for the



Concept ADA Accessible Merry-go-round.

baseball fields in the Armada Township Park such as bleachers, shaded areas, concrete dugouts, announcer's booth, etc.

10. Explore ways to enhance the natural beauty of the parks such as increased natural walking trails, additional tree plantings within parks, community garden plots, wildflower gardens, educational boards, etc.
11. Explore improvements to the parks that help increase safety such as cameras, fencing, exterior lighting, landscaping maintenance, repairing of walkways, installing ADA compliance sidewalks from parking lot to each field, etc.
12. Continue to evaluate unmet recreation needs for the region that could be met by the Township.

Goal

Support land acquisition and/or conservation easements for future active and passive recreation opportunities.

Actions

1. Continue to identify and evaluate potential properties which would be most suitable for future recreational uses.
2. Acquire easements/property, as needed, to develop/expand recreation facilities to support the diverse needs and interests of all Armada Township residents.
3. Support connections to the Macomb Orchard Trail and non-motorized improvements along the major corridors.
4. Explore the development of new trails within utility corridors and safety paths along strategic road segments to provide safe connections between neighborhoods, schools, parks facilities, and other key destinations.
5. The Township Board should develop a list of attributes of property they would be interested in associated with increasing recreation within the Township such as, but not limited to areas adjacent to the Township Park, properties with access to the Macomb Orchard Trail, unique natural features, unique topography, etc.



Goal

Continue to develop and maintain relationships with community organizations, nonprofits, Armada Area Schools, and other partners to improve the quality and diversity of recreational opportunities within the Township.

Actions

1. Coordinate with the Village of Armada to identify partnerships and determine available funding.
2. Pursue local organizations to coordinate park programs (Macomb County 4-H, Cub Scouts, Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail, etc.).
3. Develop a list of minor improvements to the parks that would be ideal Cub Scout projects or school projects such as miniature bridges, signs, horseshoe pits, art installations, garden areas, crafting picnic tables or other furniture, painted games on tables or ground (checkboard on tables, hopscotch) etc.
4. Coordinate with various art related organizations like the DIA, Armada Area School District, local artists etc. to install art throughout the parks either through memorial, sculptures, rotating Instagram photo mural, murals, outdoor friendly art displays, etc.
5. Coordinate with the Clinton River Watershed Council to increase watershed health thru programing, informational signage, clean-up activities, monitoring creek health, and beautification.

6. Explore options for coordination with the local School Districts and the Village of Armada in order to leverage funding sources and develop sites that would be mutually beneficial.
7. Continue to seek partnerships with other recreation agencies and neighboring communities to share ideas and provide non-competing programs and facilities (civic groups, community groups, schools, etc.).

Goal

Continue to manage and improve the Township Park assets in a fiscally responsible way that continues to provide recreational opportunities to residents and greater Armada Township community.

Actions

1. At project outset, identify revenue sources for year-round maintenance and long-term operations of existing and future recreation facilities and programs.
2. Update the Township's Recreation Plan every five years in order to maintain eligibility for acquisition and development grants through the State and other funding sources.
3. Explore methods to encourage or require consideration of parks and recreation needs during the development review process with requirements in the zoning ordinance.
4. Explore methods to encourage connections to the Macomb Orchard Trail during development review based on requirements in the zoning ordinance.
5. Continue to provide regular maintenance of existing park features to ensure useability and prolonged life of equipment/facilities. As needed, ensure outdated or broken park features are replaced or upgraded.
6. Consider partnerships with outside organizations to provide programming to Armada residents, including nature education/interpretive programming.
7. Explore grant and alternative funding opportunities for improvement projects through MDNR, SEMCOG, etc.
8. Explore the development of a joint Armada Area Parks and Recreation Plan with the Village of Armada Township and Armada Area Community Schools.
9. Continue to evaluate park improvements that provide unique recreational opportunities that private property owners would not have on their property.



8 Action Plan

Action Strategies outline Armada Township’s approach to implementing the goals and actions identified in the previous chapter. These strategies are intended to provide guidance for planning and budgeting purposes for the next five years. They suggest general priorities but are not intended to be set in stone or limit additional creative approaches. Generally, parks and recreation action strategies should consider the following when outlining a strategy to implement goals and actions:

1. Are there immediate health and safety concerns that need to be addressed?
2. What are opportunities that exist to partner with other groups towards a common goal?
3. Is there a person or group who can champion specific goals/objectives?
4. Are there multiple goals that can be achieved by implementing a project?
5. What projects affect the greatest number of people in the community and/or address the greatest need?
6. How can projects be broken down into phases for a multi-year approach?
7. What funding opportunities exist for implementation of certain goals?

Planning Actions reflect strategies aimed at identifying an approach to achieving certain goals and actions. These are activities that can be undertaken at a variety of levels, including the Parks & Recreation Commission/Planning Commission and the Township Board.

Maintenance Actions address those issues identified in the plan as needing upgrades or attention to repair, safety or appearance. These activities will likely be addressed by the parks & recreation director but may also include assistance by various community groups.

Administrative Actions will pursue strategies that keep an inventory of recreation facilities, programs and events for the Township. Strategies developed through planning actions will be implemented and/or coordinated through administrative efforts.

Funding Actions will actively pursue local, cooperative and grant funding approaches to implementing the goals and actions of the plan.

Armada Township Parks & Recreation 5-Year Action Plan			
Park	Action	Priority	Projected Cost(s)
Armada Township Park North Avenue	New play structure	Medium	\$60,000 - \$400,000
	Re-gravel and scrape parking lot	Low	
	Improve, expand Coon Creek path	High	8 ft Woodchip Path - \$40 linear feet 8 ft Crushed Limestone Path - \$75 linear feet
	Develop perimeter path—1/2 mile paved	High	6 ft Asphalt Path - \$20 linear feet
	Basketball court	Medium	\$120,000 - \$150,000
	Installation of outdoor workout equipment	Medium	\$20,000 - \$40,000
	Baseball field improvements such as announcer’s booth, concrete dugouts, additional trees, and sidewalk to field	Medium	Cost Varies
	Extending pavilion concrete area and adding picnic tables	Low	
	Explore the placement of pickleball courts	Medium	\$40,000 - \$75,000
Armada Township Pocket Park	Maintain seating and picnic improvements	Medium	\$10,000
	Add public art within park space such as murals, posted sculptures, etc.	Medium	Cost Varies
	Maintain fence and archway within park	High	Cost Varies
	Explore adding other passive recreation appropriate for the pocket park such as education boards, story boards, little library, etc.	Medium	Cost Varies
	Explore adding exterior lighting that would not negatively impact the neighboring residential home.	Low	\$1,000
	Explore additional wheelchair bound seating arrangements	Low	\$1,000
	Explore improvements to the garden areas in park	High	\$1,000
Undeveloped Armada Ridge Property	Development of Concept Plan for Park	Medium	\$5,000
	Establish access point and driveway to property, with drainage culvert	Low	Cost Varies
	Develop initial parking lot	Low	Cost Varies
	Make connection to Macomb-Orchard Trail	Low	Cost Varies
	Explore the placement of pickleball courts	Low	\$40,000 - \$75,000



9 Appendix

1. Resolutions of Adoption

2. Public Notices

3. Meeting Minutes

4. Transmittal Letters