

**CITY OF AU GRES FIVE YEAR PARKS AND  
RECREATION PLAN  
2024 - 2028**



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### City Officials

Dale Wiltse, City Manager/Zoning Administrator  
LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk/Treasurer  
Brandon Murphey (Sunrise Assessing), City Assessor  
Heath Christie, WWTP Superintendent/DPW  
Chris Ireland, Park Manager  
Linda Kauffman, Librarian  
Matthew Klosowski-Lorenz, Police Chief  
Kurt Humerickhouse, Fire Chief

### City Council

Jon Sanford, Mayor  
Dan Heinrich, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Jane Barbour  
Joe Warr  
John Popovich

### Planning Commission

Tom Nixon - Chairman  
Dale Dittenber – Co-Chairman  
Virginia Hasty  
John Popovich  
Jon Sanford

### Parks & Recreation Board

Chad Anthony, Chairman  
Dan Heinrich  
Sheree Wiltse  
Margaret Warr  
Barb Osborne  
Janice Gore  
Terry Heinrich





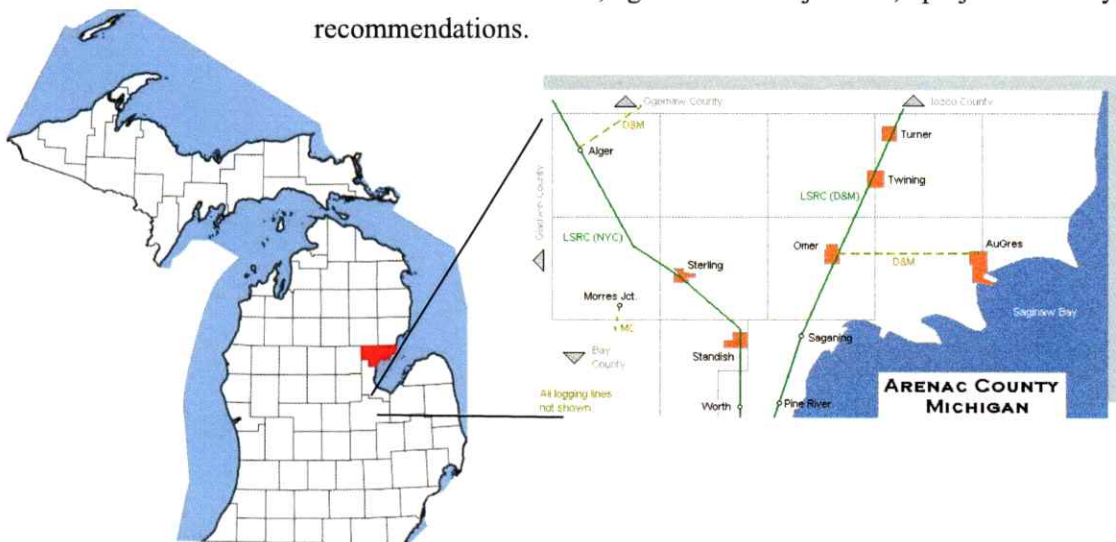
### Background

This Five-Year Recreation Plan was prepared by the City of Au Gres, with assistance from Rick A. Freeman, P.E., to direct the evaluation and decisions for future park improvements, development, land acquisition or other issues regarding recreation opportunities.

The plan is an update of the 2019 plan and is in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requirements as stated in the “Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans”. This document will allow for the pursuit of MDNR grants, as well as a basis for other funding opportunities. This plan is valid for five years from the date of the resolution of adoption by the city.

The goals for the recreation plan are to develop a strategy to further enhance the health and recreational opportunities within the city and to provide a common direction for future development and enhancements to parks, additional trails and routes. The intent of this plan is to develop parks, recreational opportunities and trail systems (non-motorized) to provide safer facilities and more choices for healthier lifestyles. In addition to the introduction, the recreation plan will include:

- **Community Description** – An overview of the City’s current and projected social, physical and economic characteristics.
- **Administrative Structure** – Identifies the planning process, including the public involvement process used in development of the Plan. Reviews the entities responsible for administration of the parks and recreation facilities, as well as budget information.
- **Parks and Recreation Inventory** – Describes the specific parks, facilities and programs provided in and around the city.
- **Parks and Recreation Analysis** – Analyze the programs and facilities to identify needed improvements.
- **Action Plan** – Identifies the Plan’s vision, goals and objectives, project and system recommendations.





### Community Description

The City of Au Gres is in Arenac County, 2 miles west of the Lake Huron shoreline and is 2.23 square miles in size. The city is approximately 49 miles north of the City of Bay City and 41 miles south of West Branch. Other communities in the region include Standish, Sterling, Omer, Turner, and Twining. The population, as reported in the 2020 U.S. Census was 945 people, an increase of 6.3% from 2010. Table One: Population gives the population trend from the past 3 US Census.

Table 1: Population 1990 – 2016 (est.)	
Year	Population
1990	838
2000	1026
2010	889
2020	945

According to the 2010 Census, the median age in the city was 49.8 years; with 20.3% of the population under the age of 19. Most of the city’s population is from 65 years and older (25.6%). The gender makeup of the city is 52.1% male and 47.9% female. The age breakdown is displayed on Table Two: Age Distribution

Table 2: Age Distribution	
Age Group	%
Under 5	1.6% - 15
5 to 9 Years	3.8% - 35
10 to 14 Years	7.7% - 72
15 to 19 Years	3.2% - 30
20 to 24 Years	4.7% - 44
25 to 34 Years	4.8% - 45
35 to 44 Years	8.6% - 81
45 to 54 Years	15.9% - 150
55 to 64 Years	17.7% - 167
65 and Older	32.4% - 306

A sizable percentage of residents drive their own car within the region. Transportation routes include US-23 (east-west), and M-65 (which connects to US-23, 2 miles east of the city limits). US-23 connects to I-75 19 miles west of the city limits. A very important aspect is the fact that this area has over 47 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, with all the scenic beauty and recreational advantages that this location implies. The river connection into the downtown provides access for water sport opportunities as well as passive recreation. Saginaw Bay provides extensive birding and fishery resources as a benefit to residents and tourism.

Currently there is limited public transportation options that are available for the residents to use. Arenac Transit Authority provides transportation needs for people in the city.

A relatively small portion of the city is developed. Residential development is concentrated along the Au Gres River and along Michigan Avenue. Agricultural development exists throughout the rest of the city. **Map One** in the appendix depicts the current zoning districts for the city.

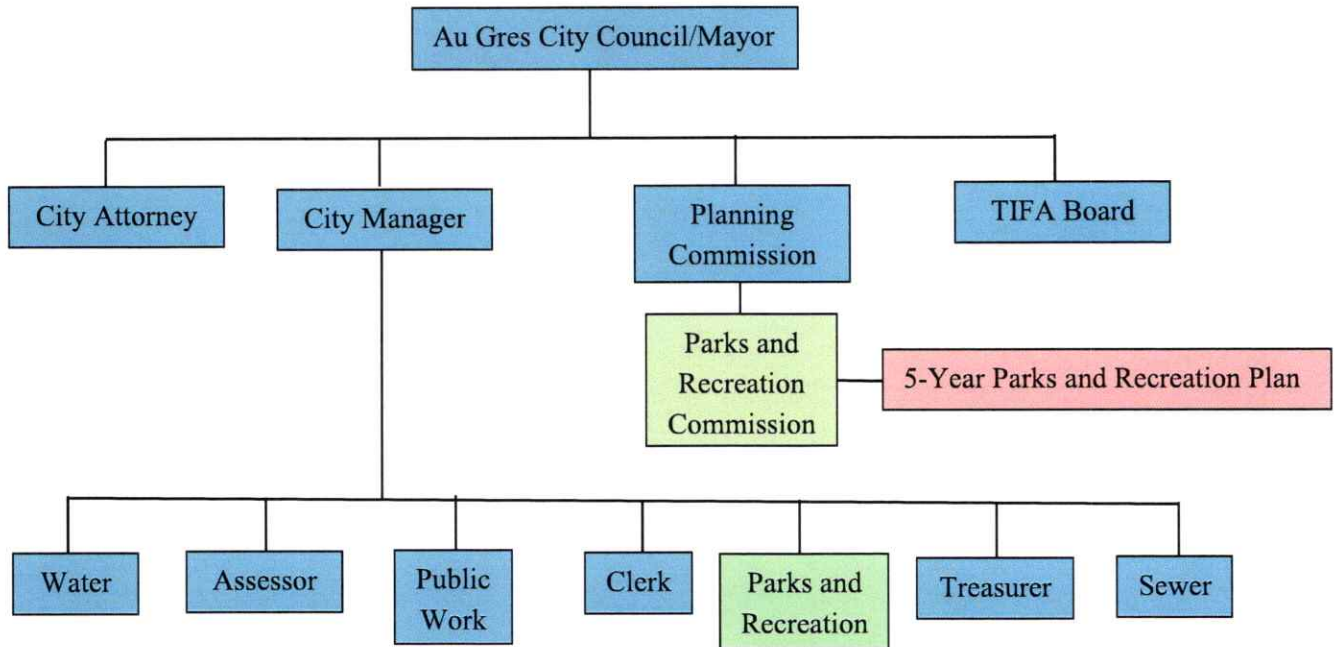
The area is predominately flat to gently rolling. Current land uses include commercial, single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, residential agriculture and civic/institutional. The Au Gres River runs through the city, along the Au Gres Campground and Riverside Park on its way to Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron. It supports game fish including walleye, perch, trout, and salmon. The natural resources for the city are included on a **Map Two** in the appendix.

Additional inventory and community information is included in the Sustainable Harbor documents in the appendix.



### Administrative Structure

The responsibility for decision-making and general management of operations and maintenance rest with the City Council. Residents of Au Gres elect the City Council annually. However, normal operations and activities of the community are coordinated through the City Manager which is selected by the City Council. The Manager has oversight of all departments, including the parks and recreation department. Below you will see the organization/administrative structure for the city.



The Parks and Recreation Department consist of two full-time / seasonal employees that work from April until October. The staff currently runs the various programs at Riverfront Park and Au Gres Campground and the other park facilities within the city. The city will also employ part time staff to operate Harbor Park.

The Planning Commission works with the Parks and Recreation committee to make suggestion and oversee recreation, planning and development within the city. The Planning Commission also handles all rezoning inquiries and concerns. The Parks and Recreation Commission works along with the City Manager as an advisory board to the City Council for the recreational programming and activities associated with the city. The commission also assist in the planning and implementation of the recreation events and park developments for the residents.

There are other organizations and groups that work with the parks and recreation commission and the city manager in the beautification, maintenance, and programming for the parks system.

The DPW maintains all the city streets, buildings, and grounds in the city. DPW workers also provide maintenance and grounds management at the city parks.



Projected Budget

The current budget of revenues for the 2022-2023 fiscal year is for \$260,650. This revenue source includes fees and charges for admission and pavilion rentals. The city's previous revenue and expenses are enclosed below as the balance for each fund, the amended budget and the final funds allocated.

2022-2023 Final Budget:

11/13/2023 12:30 PM
User: lpritchard
DB: City Of Au Gres

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR CITY OF AU GRES
PERIOD ENDING 06/30/2023

Page: 1/1

Table with columns: GL NUMBER, DESCRIPTION, PERIOD BALANCE DR (CR), 2022-23 AMENDED BUDGET, AVAILABLE BALANCE NORMAL (ABNORMAL). Rows include Fund 508 - PARK/ RECREATION FUND, Revenues (TOTAL REVENUES), and Expenditures (TOTAL EXPENDITURES).



2022 - 2023 Proposed Budget

3/20/23 12:30 PM  
User: lpritchard  
DB: City Of Au Gres

BUDGET REPORT FOR CITY OF AU GRES  
Fund: 508 PARK/ RECREATION FUND

Page: 1

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2023-24 ORIGINAL BUDGET
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		
00-541.000	STATE GRANTS	0.00
00-581.101	CONTRIBUTION FROM GENERAL FUND	0.00
00-581.241	CONTRIBUTION FROM TIFA	0.00
100-651.000	CHARGE FOR ADMISSION FEES	0,000.00
100-651.100	CHARGE FOR PAVILION RENTAL	1,500.00
100-653.000	ELECTRICAL CHARGE	7,000.00
100-665.000	INTEREST EARNINGS	500.00
100-670.000	OTHER REVENUE	10,000.00
100-673.000	LOSS/GAIN SALE OF ASSETS	0.00
100-699.100	APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	5,950.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>244,950.00</b>
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>		<b>244,950.00</b>

11/13/2023 12:30 PM  
User: lpritchard  
DB: City Of Au Gres

BUDGET REPORT FOR CITY OF AU GRES  
Fund: 508 PARK/ RECREATION FUND

Page: 2

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2023-24 ORIGINAL BUDGET
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		
08-756-702.000	WAGES - ACCOUNTING	8,000.00
508-756-703.000	WAGES- PARK CARETAKER	25,000.00
508-756-704.000	WAGES-DPW/PARTTIME EMPLOYEES	30,000.00
08-756-709.000	SOCIAL SECURITY	0.00
08-756-718.000	B/C B/S MEDICAL INSURANCE	0.00
508-756-725.000	FRINGE BENEFITS	1,000.00
08-756-727.000	OPERATING & MAINTENANCE SUPPLY	10,000.00
08-756-752.000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	10,000.00
08-756-759.000	GAS & OIL SUPPLIES	2,000.00
08-756-801.000	CONTRACTUAL/PROFESSIONAL	14,000.00
08-756-850.000	TELEPHONE/BASIC CABLE TV	2,500.00
08-756-860.000	VEHICLE LEASE	0.00
08-756-861.000	TRANSPORTATION	100.00
08-756-920.000	PUBLIC UTILITIES	3,000.00
08-756-930.000	REPAIR & MAINT/BLDG & GROUNDS	8,000.00
08-756-931.000	EQUIPMENT REPAIR	1,000.00
08-756-933.000	COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	50.00
08-756-940.000	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	15,000.00
08-756-941.000	CONTINGENCY	0.00
08-756-968.000	DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	10,000.00
08-756-969.000	AMORTIZATION PENSION	12,500.00
08-900-970.000	CAPITAL OUTLAY	20,000.00
08-965-995.594	CONTRIBUTION TO HARBOR	17,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>148,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>		<b>148,000.00</b>
<b>NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 508</b>		<b>0.00</b>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		302,511.18
ENDING FUND BALANCE		302,511.18





### ***Programming***

Currently, the city does not operate their own recreational programming. The school district provides recreational activities for the residents to utilize. The Chamber of Commerce also works with the City of Au Gres to offer special programs and coordinate festivals for community members. The following is a list of activities that the Chamber of Commerce and other citizen groups sponsor annually.

- Christmas in the City Parade
- Old Fashioned Christmas in the Park
- Halloween in the Park
- Holiday Auction
- Annual Au Gres Cruisers – Rock-n-Roll Weekend
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Fireworks Show
- City of Au Gres Riverside Park Legacy/Memorial Bench Donation Program

### ***Current Funding History***

Current funding for the City of Au Gres Parks and Recreation Department is made available through the general fund yearly and TIFA campground fees. Additional grants and financial resources are made available through private organizations and entities.

### ***Role of Volunteers***

Volunteers in the City of Au Gres have proved to be vital in the continuous success of the city. Members of the community often get together during festivals and community clean-up days to beautify their neighborhoods and engage other residents to become involved with the progression of the city. Au Gres continues to define roles of volunteer groups and city employees to become more effective with parks in the community.

### ***Relationships with School District(s), Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations***

The Au Gres School District currently operates two school buildings within the City of Au Gres; and the school district provides basic arts and athletic programming for areas students. Additional auxiliaries within the school district (booster clubs) also assist with activities throughout the year.

Other organizations that exist in the recreational programming and implementation of activities include the Au Gres Area Athletics Program, 4H, Knights of Columbus. The fraternal organizations routinely offer special programming and events during holidays along the year (i.e. Memorial Day Parade). The Au Gres Area Athletics offers a variety of recreational sports programming such as soccer, little league baseball, boys' and girls' basketball and adult basketball and softball. This group uses the city fields at the campgrounds and soccer fields near the school facilities for the programming. These leagues through the Au Gres Area Athletics program are available to all residents of Au Gres and Sims, Whitney, Au Gres and Turner Townships. Other specialized groups that provide recreational programming and activities include the Au Gres Cruisers, the Women for Au Gres Club, the Arenac County Walleye Club and the Northeast Michigan Arts Council and Arenac County Historical Society.



Religious organizations also support and help promote recreational programming in the city. Some of these churches include Full Gospel Lighthouse, St John Lutheran Church, St Mark Catholic Church, St Paul Lutheran Church, and United Methodist Church assist by providing youth groups, senior activities and special events for people in the community.

The City of Au Gres is represented within the Arenac Heritage Route Authority. As part of the 200-mile Huron Shores Heritage Route, the communities along Route 23 from Arenac County to Cheboygan County promote tourism related to the significant recreational, ecological, historical and cultural sites along the “Sunrise Coast” corridor.

**Recreation and Resource Inventory**

	Acreage (approximate)	Ball Fields	Bike Racks	Basketball Courts	Football/Soccer	Tennis Courts	Picnic Area	Playground Equipment	Playfield (open)	Nature Trails	Pathways	Waterfront Property	Shelter	Boat Launch	Restrooms	Classifications	Comments
<b>Municipal Facilities</b>																	
River Access Site 1	0.25															CP	
River Access Site 2	0.25															CP	Add an additional access site
Saginaw Street Park	0.2															CP	
Kinder Platz Park	1.0																
Au Gres Area Soccer Fields	5.0																3 Soccer Fields
Au Gres Industrial Park	91.3																Disc Golf
Riverside Park (Harbor of Refuge)	4.5																ADA Fishing Pier ADA Kayak Launch Fish Cleaning Pavilions Boating Splash Pad
Riverfront Park & Campground	22.5																1 Tennis Courts 2 Pickleball Courts 1 Volleyball Court 1 Basketball Court 2 Baseball/Softball Fields Campsites Fishing Area Horseshoe Pit
<b>Schools</b>																	
Au Gres-Sims Schools	35.0																
<b>Local Public Facilities</b>																	
Arenac County Historical Museum	0.3																Parking Meeting Space
Au Gres Public Library	2.0																Bike Racks
Au Gres River Boat (MDNR)	25.0																Fishing Area Boating



	Acreage (approximate)	Ball Fields	Bike Racks	Basketball Courts	Football/Soccer	Tennis Courts	Picnic Area	Playground Equipment	Playfield (open)	Nature Trails	Pathways	Waterfront Property	Shelter	Boat Launch	Restrooms	Classifications	Comments
Regional Recreation																	
Arenac County Park	12															RP	Boating Campsites Fishing Area

The Recreation and Resource Inventory was conducted during site visits to the City of Au Gres through November. Information was collected, and assessments were made on the current facilities that are used by the residents. The following chart is a summary of the local and regional park and recreation facilities available. They have been categorized by jurisdiction, as well as classification based on size and type of facility.

*Numbers denotes location on parks recreation inventory map.*  
*CP = City Park, RP = Regional Park*

**Miscellaneous Recreation Facilities**

- Standish Historic Depot & Welcome Center
- Arenac County Historical Museum and Genealogical Society
- Saganing Eagles Landing Casino
- Five Acres Park - Omer
- State Road Park - Omer
- Charity Island National Wildlife Refuge
- Maple Ridge Historic School House
- Omer City Park - Omer
- MDNR Public Access Site – Omer
- Au Gres Township Boardwalk
- Pressprich Nature Preserve
- Golf – Knoll Hill and Huron Breeze

There are many regional recreation opportunities that the City of Au Gres can draw from for tourism and benefit to residents. The development of a water-based trail system along Saginaw Bay Blueway and Iron Belle Trail route provide Au Gres as a great staging area and base point for lodging or camping. The facilities connect to large state-wide trail systems and draw visitors from across the state and beyond. Maps of the Iron Belle Route and Water trail have been included in the Appendix along with **Map Three** which locates the specific parks in the city and other private recreational facilities.

(Refer to the US 23 Heritage Route brochure with additional recreation opportunities detailed within the Appendix)



**Barrier Free/Accessibility Assessment**

The following summaries address the accessibility of city parks and recreation facilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). In general, all construction since 1991 was required to comply with these guidelines.

A general ranking for each park was determined through site visits as follows:

- 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

**Comment on Existing Conditions of City Parks**

The City of Au Gres has over 100 acres of recreational lands within or abutting its boundaries provided by various agencies. There are groups and existing recreational locations throughout the community that promote and encourage high quality recreational opportunities in the area.

**Riverside Park:**

Located on the Au Gres River; is now owned and operated by the City of Au Gres. The facility has 35 boat slips, fuel dock, restroom facilities, picnic areas, grills, and other boating amenities. Restroom facilities and showers need additional renovations to provide accessibility. Improvement to the existing paved parking is also needed.



Size: 4.5 Acres; 35 boat slips

Age Groups Served: All ages.

General Purpose/Facilities: Restroom facilities, picnic area, water access

Accessibility/ADA: (Accessibility Ranging - 2) - Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

Site Development Plan: (Refer to Capital Improvement Plan)

Right-Sizing: The features for the park will be consolidated to one location in the park to allow for more open space.



**Marketing/Events/Partnerships:** Au Gres Riverside Park was formerly a Harbor of Refuge owned by the State of Michigan available for boats to tie up to in case of emergency, but facilities were closed. Ownership was transferred to the City of Au Gres in August of 2018. The city will pursue cross marketing promotions with downtown business as well as packages in conjunction with campers at the adjacent city campgrounds.



**Dredging:** Dredging is proposed at the site as a short-term goal; with a cost and potential funding sources in the Action Plan and Capital Improvement Plan.

**Infrastructure Replacement Schedule:** The city will re-energize electrical service to help maintain the battery charging for the MDNR vessel and encourage future slip rentals in the 2024 season. Investigations on re-opening the bathrooms and shower facilities will be completed to determine the improvements needed for this facility since it has been closed for some time. Various site improvements are being considered, identified in the action plan section.



**Annual Maintenance Schedule:** There has been no maintenance recently as the MDNR had closed the facility. A preliminary budget is being prepared by the City of Au Gres. Restrooms are open.

**Large Scale Maintenance and Replacement Schedule:** The city will continue to determine improvements required to re-open the showers and restroom facilities on-site.

**Au Gres Public Library:**

The Au Gres Public Library is part of the Iosco-Arenac District and is in downtown Au Gres on N. Mackinaw Street across from Riverfront Park.

Size: 2.0 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: Restroom facilities, meeting areas

Accessibility: (Accessibility Ranging - 2) - Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

**Riverfront Park and Campground:**

Known simply as Au Gres City Park, is located on the eastern bank of the Au Gres River (north of US-23). The facility has 109 campsites (with full hookups), 2 mini-cabins, a picnic area, playground equipment, ball diamonds, a boat ramp, courts for basketball ball, tennis, volleyball, and other amenities. The pavilion is available for rental. There is a pedestrian bridge and a paved Riverwalk that connects the park to downtown and the library.



Size: 22.5 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: Ballfields, basketball courts, boating, camping, fishing, horseshoes, parking, pathway/sidewalk, picnicking, playground equipment, restrooms, tennis courts, pickleball courts, volleyball courts

Accessibility: (Accessibility Ranging - 3) - Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines



**Au Gres Industrial Park:**

The property is part of the 140-acre site on N. Court Street (US-23) that was previously the Au Gres Airport. The facility includes a 20-hole disc golf course. 3 additional holes within the city campground provides the ability to host tournaments. Property is mainly undeveloped with natural trails. Future plans should include incorporating ADA-accessible routes through the park and connections to paved parking.



Size: 91.3 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: 16-hole Disc Golf

Accessibility: (Accessibility Ranging – 1) - None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

**Au Gres Area Soccer Fields:**

Soccer fields located in Au Gres; designed to meet the demand for additional soccer fields in the city. Includes a restroom building, waiting for water and sanitary infrastructure connections.



Size: 5.0 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: Soccer Fields

Accessibility: (Accessibility Ranging – 1) - None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

**Saginaw Street Park:**

Located at the intersection of US-23 (N. Court Street) and E. Saginaw Street. Park is considered a pocket park and contains benches, flagpoles, and a kiosk for upcoming community events.

Size: 0.2 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages

Facilities: Pathway/Sidewalks

Accessibility: (Accessibility Ranging – 1) - None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines





**Kinder Platz Park:**

Park is considered a children’s playground area with picnic shelter, grills and a relocated chapel that is available for rent for weddings and other functions.

Size: 1.0 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: Pathways/Sidewalks, Picnic areas, playground

Accessibility: (Accessibility Ranging – 3) - Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

**Au Gres River Access Site:**

Size: 0.25 Acres

Au Gres provides 2 public access locations in the city; one is located at the southern end of Main Street and the other is located at the intersection of S. Detroit Street and Au Gres River Road. The Main Street Access Site has stairs that lead to the river while the Detroit Street Access Site has limited parking and an unpaved route to the river, located within 2 recreational lots (not ideal for promoting public access).

**River Access #1 (Main Street)**

Size: 0.25 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: Wooden deck with benches, bike racks, access to the river

Accessibility: (**Accessibility Ranging** – 2) - Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

**River Access #2 (Detroit Street)**

Size: 0.25 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: Wooden deck with benches, bike racks, limited parking

Accessibility: (**Accessibility Ranging** – 2) - Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

**Public Facilities:**

**Au Gres-Sims School:**

The district comprises a complete campus for the communities elementary, middle (junior high) and high school students. While the facilities are open to the students during school hours; many outdoor facilities are open to the community. Amenities include football and soccer fields, ball diamonds, basketball courts, playground equipment, running track and gym. Parking is available around the building and accessible routes are provided from the parking lot to entrances to the building and athletic fields.



Size: 35.0 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: Ball fields, basketball court, soccer field/football field, playground equipment, bike racks, restroom facilities

**Au Gres River/Lake Huron Boat Launch and Break Wall:**

The MDNR owns and operates the parking lot and launch while the EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) owns and operates the break wall. There are approximately 300 parking spaces for vehicles and trailers and four boat docks and eight ramps. Restroom facilities are also available along with a walking trail. Fees are charged for entry into the facility. The facility is in Sims Township.

Size: 25.0 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: Boat Launch, restroom facilities

**Arenac Historical Museum:**

Located in downtown Au Gres; and is operated by the Arenac County Historical Society. The museum host educational programming for the community along with community meeting space. Access to the building needs to be adjusted to provide for ADA accessible and restroom facilities.

Size: 0.3 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: Meeting spaces, restroom facilities

***Private Recreation:***

There are private recreation facilities that are located within the City of Au Gres that provide additional recreational activities for residents. These facilities are privately operated and, in some cases, require a user fee for admittance. They are included in the recreation analysis because they meet a specific need in the community. These private facilities include:

- **Fitness Clubs:** Power Gym – Standish, The Gym-Au Gres, Powerhouse Gym-Tawas
- **Golf Course:** Huron Breeze Golf and Country Club, Knollview Golf Course, Pine River Golf Course, Singing Bridge Golf Course
- **Miscellaneous Facilities:** Northport Marina, Point Au Gres Marina, Big Bend Campground, Au Gres Yacht Club

***County Recreation Facilities:***

Inside of Arenac County, the county parks and recreation department have 2 parks that are located near Au Gres. These parks provide additional recreational programming and activities for county residents. Admission is required at both sites. These parks are:





**Au Gres County Park:**

Size: 6.9 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: Swimming, pavilions, campsites, playground equipment, horseshoe pits, beach volleyball, picnic area, barrier-free boardwalk, fishing

Au Gres County Park offers 1,030 feet of frontage on Lake Huron, at Saginaw Bay while also providing 16 primitive campsites, 5 cabins and pavilions for community use.

**Oasis Lake Park:**

Size: 207 Acres

Age Groups Served: All ages.

Facilities: swimming, fishing, picnic areas, playground, beach volleyball, pavilions and horseshoe pits.

Oasis Lake Park is in Alger and has a 22-acre lake with the park having 25 primitive camping sites, cabins, and kayak rental. There are also a mix of recreational amenities such as playground equipment, beach volleyball and picnic area.

***Status Report of All Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities:***

To date, the City of Au Gres has only received one grant from the MDNR for park developments and improvements. The following chart displays the recreation grant history for the City of Au Gres.

City of Au Gres - Recreation Grant History				
Year	Project Name	Description	Amount	Status
1992	<b>Riverfront Park Development</b> Project No. BF92-214	Riverwalk and Recreation Park improvements, consisting of boardwalk, shoreline protection along riverfront, handicapped fishing piers, tennis and basketball courts and landscaped picnic and playground area.	<b>\$201,300</b>	Closed

Other grants recently approved for the city include:

- USDA \$95,000 Farmers Market at Harbor Park
- MEDC \$100,000 Harbor Park Improvements
- WIN \$30,000 Universally Accessible Kayak Launch
- BACF \$2,500 Local match for Pavilion at Disc Golf Course



### Public Input and Planning Process

The planning process for the recreation plan is an on-going priority for the Parks & Recreation Committee along with all departments at the City of Au Gres. This particular process for the current update to the Parks & Recreation Plan began in the Fall of 2023 including review of previous planning documents and discussion of methods to generate public input for the recreation plan. The previous recreation plan, developed in 2018, was reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Commission on November 8, 2023, to gather historical input, establish accomplishments and identify potential goals. Site visits were also conducted by Rick A. Freeman, P.E., to evaluate existing conditions of park system.

The Parks & Recreation Committee has prioritized Safety, Universal Design Principals, and Sustainable Design Elements as components in all projects moving forward.

The draft recreation plan document was provided to the Committee for review and comment and posted for a 30-day public review from December 14, 2023, to January 12, 2024. A copy of the advertisement is included in the Appendix. Public comment was included in the plan as directed by the Committee.

The draft plan was presented in a public hearing on January 16,

Highlighted Projects:  
Riverfront Campground  
Riverside Park  
Baseball Fields  
Wayfinding Signage

2024, and recommended for adoption by the Committee following the hearing. The plan was approved by the City Council on January 16, 2024, at a special meeting after the public hearing. Copies of the public hearing notice, meeting minutes and resolution have been included in the Appendix.

A final copy of the plan was provided to MDNR with a transmittal letter noting that a copy has been sent to the local and planning agency for acceptance.

### Goals and Objectives

An overall guide for the recreation goals for the City of Au Gres will be to focus efforts on developing a clear action plan for short and long-term improvements required at recreational sites and leveraging development and maintenance efforts by pursuing partnerships, grant funding and volunteer efforts when appropriate. Of the goals and objectives listed, the top priorities ranked in order include:

- Safety at all City of Au Gres Parks and Recreation Facilities.
- Improve and expand Riverfront Campground.
- Improve the newly acquired marina (Riverside Park) as a recreation and economic hub for the city.



- Develop facilities (trailheads) that support the local connections as well as regional trail connections.
- Improve river access sites.
- Improve City Park and expand baseball and soccer fields, plan for future active sports complex.

The following goals support this (not listed in any order of priority):

***Goal 1: Follow a sustainable improvement plan for the City of Au Gres Harbor that will establish it as a key recreational and economic asset for the community.***

The marina has many opportunities for improvement. Developing a master plan for this site will assist with identifying priorities and logical implementation of improvements as well as the ability to seek funding to leverage local dollars for improvements. Objectives include:

- Development of a site master plan for improvements
- Some improvement may include but not be limited to
  - Improvements to the marina to support popular fishing access along the river
  - Confirm the best location for the fish cleaning station
  - Identify improvement to core infrastructure needs within the harbor park (electric, water, accessible restrooms and showers, accessible parking and circulation)
  - Identify short term improvements that will add to the park atmosphere and draw to the harbor for multi-season use (splash pad, sand area, play equipment, pavilion, kayak launch, ice rink, dog park)
  - Identify long term improvements that will expand on harbor rejuvenation (welcome center, gateway tower, residential development)
- Identify programming, policies and other cross promotion features that can leverage use of the marina by City campground users.
- Identify staffing, maintenance and budget for daily operation and long-term capital needs.

***Goal 2: Pursue grants and develop partnerships and advocates to serve park's needs.***

Continue to seek partnerships with other recreational providers and agencies and with neighboring communities to share ideas and provide non-competing programs and facilities. Examples include but are not limited to civic groups, community groups, School District, etc. Cooperation can provide opportunities for stretching resources and continuing to provide a high value service at reduced cost.

- Coordination with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.
- Volunteer help and promotion by various organizations
- Improved coordination with sports leagues (baseball, soccer, disc golf).
- Pursue a stronger collaboration with Au Gres, Sims and Whitney Township for maintenance and operation of recreation facilities.
- Explore use of Michigan Works program for seasonal staffing assistance.
- Coordinate historic / educational programs with Arenac County Museum



***Goal 3: Increase access to the water resources.***

The Au Gres River is a critical asset as well as proximity to Saginaw Bay. As noted in The River Blog, “There are few natural features as important as rivers and streams in defining cities in shaping sense of places, and in connecting us with nature.” Promoting greater access to these resources will increase recreational opportunities and improve tourism as well as residents’ quality of life.

- Improve and develop accessible public access site and strong connections to downtown.
- Create and promote a water trail route identifying a series of water access sites.
- Coordinate with MDNR/Corps of Engineers to improve public access sites at their facilities.
- Develop support facilities and promote ecotourism activities such as bird watching, ‘glamping’- high end camping, etc.

***Goal 4: Improve Park facilities to a level of comparison with surrounding communities.***

Au Gres is a hub for recreation in the area and needs to improve the facilities at City Park and Soccer Fields to sustain the regional sport attraction as well as local park needs for residents.

- Identify roles of volunteer vs City roles for maintenance, etc. (establish and maintain communication methods)
- Improve ability to support concessions and fund raising by volunteer clubs.
- Support disc golf course facilities to host regional events (pavilion, benches, tables)
- Relocate and upgrade City Park ballfields.
- Provide plan to support larger tournaments.
- Evaluate seasonal and full-time staffing needs for facilities.
- Evaluate need for distinct budget tracking for recreation / facilities.
- Explore future recreation features (community garden, indoor recreation/ community building)

***Goal 5. Promote non-motorized and recreational vehicle connections within existing facilities and between existing and proposed facilities.***

The City of Au Gres understands the importance in using non-motorized links within existing facilities permit greater utilization of the parks and local business. Connections between existing and proposed parks and other facilities, as well as integrating the city sidewalk system into the trails, is important to providing better access to the recreational opportunities for the population groups such as the young, elderly, and mobility impaired which do not have access to a vehicle.

Regionally, the Iron Belle Trail route is a State-wide non-motorized route that is promoted nationally and incorporated in the Huron Shores Heritage Route along US-23. Providing connection to this regional trail and promotion is key in relation to surrounding communities. Objectives include:

- Develop bike lanes and sidewalks to connect key destinations in the city.
- Develop internal walking routes in park(s).
- Improve connection from Riverfront Campground to Riverside Park.
- Acquire easements/property as needed to construct trails.
- Work with MDOT to provide safe crossings on US-23.



- Provide connection point /trailhead to the Iron Belle Trail /Huron Shores Heritage Route when this trail develops in the Au Gres area.

## **Action Plan**

### **Riverside Park**

Complete a site master plan that includes a phase cost plan for improvements including but not limited to

- Welcome center / gateway feature.
- Develop specific features in green space between entrance and restroom facilities (local music events with seating, more playscape equipment, etc.)
- Dog run. (One has been added at the campground)
- Identify infrastructure needs and handicap accessibility improvements to existing restrooms and showers.
- Improve pedestrian crossing / connection to the campground. (Working with MDOT)

The recreation committee and/or city manager will identify programming, policies and other cross promotion features that can leverage use of the harbor by city campground users.

The recreation committee and/or city manager will identify staffing, maintenance and budget for daily operation and long-term capital needs such as dredging and invasive species management.

### **Riverfront Park and Campground**

- Expand campground sites (20-30) for current day overnight vehicles.
- Relocate ballfields with updated concession stand, new dugouts, fence, and bleachers)
- Identify maintenance responsibilities between volunteers and city (on-going).
- Volleyball field and outdoor pavilion
- Monitor demand for yurts and log cabins.
- Upgrade small boat launch.
- Cross promotes harbor / boat slip and camping package deals.

### **Waterfront Access**

- Continue to add additional water access at Riverside Park (improved boat slips, etc.), campground and the end of South Main Street to establish an internal water trail route that expands on the Saginaw Bay Blueway. Prepare a map and post this on-line as well as at campground, harbor, and local venues.
- Encourage U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and MDNR to add a kayak location and/or beach improvement at their facility.
- Provide wayfinding signage to launch sites from US-23.
- Improve parking for visitors.



### Soccer Fields

- Determine how to provide electrical, water and sanitary service to existing restroom building.
- Create a plan for future relocation of ballfields and additional soccer fields to create an athletic complex and allow for expansion of campground.

### Disc Golf

- Improve wayfinding signage to park.
- Accessible routes throughout the site to promote universal access.

### Non-Motorized Facilities

There are several reasons for promoting and improving non-motorized connections within the City of Au Gres, including but not limited to:

- **Improve safety.** US-23 bisects the community with an average daily traffic count of over 600 vehicles, many of which include commercial trucks. Various key crossing points can be improved to provide safer crossing of the 4-lane highway, while at the same time acting as traffic-calming measure to help enforce reduced speeds through the city limits by design as well as enforcement. Traffic calming measures should be explored with MDOT, including methods for safer crossings.
- **Encouraging active living.** Health studies continue to show the impact of an active lifestyle improving quality of life for all ages and abilities. By providing walking trails throughout the community will encourage the residents to get out and walk or bike to other destination to benefit the business and other community members. Business should be able to promote proximity to campground and marina to encourage walkable connections.
- **Improve / add sidewalks to side streets.** To provide safe, handicap accessible connections to local parks and future regional trail, adding sidewalks that connect residential areas will be helpful. Where paved streets are in place, consider adding 'sharrow' pavement marking for bikes to share the road with vehicles or signed bike routes that feed into US-23.
- **Support the Iron Belle (Au Gres to Omer) statewide trail.** The trailhead development at the Campground will be critical to capitalize on this regional trail as wayfinding signage to area parks, etc. Bike racks and other infrastructure will also be helpful at parks as well as local businesses.

### General

The design and implementation of park signage should be a local effort. Key stakeholders should gather on this, which could also include businesses that might support costs for fabrication and/or installation. The sign design can be used to reflect and strengthen the character of the community and to encourage regional tourism. Improve maintenance of parks such as Kinderplaz Park used primarily by residents.



### Economic Development

Recreation goes hand in hand with quality-of-life improvements that also require infrastructure and a vibrant tourism and business environment. By encouraging economic development this will help sustain park improvements and vice versa. Some action items to accomplish this include:

- **Cross-promote.** Connect with State Parks, Heritage Route water trail, develop Au Gres as a hub for birding, road bike touring, kayaking. Develop programs with EMCOG, Arenac County Museum, Area Disability Network and other local and regional community groups.
- **Redevelopment Ready.** Work with MEDC programs to support policies and ordinance that will help with business attraction and retention. Enhance the visual appeal of the community such as murals on unattractive building facades along US-23 and other aesthetic enhancement along the corridor.
- **Hazard Mitigation.** Utilize the county Hazard Mitigation Plan to protect residents, visitors and property. Identify projects from the plan that can be initiated and seek funding with cooperation from Arenac County Emergency Management, EMCOG, FEMA and the State of Michigan.

### Funding

#### **General Fund and Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA)**

Continue to allow for re-investment in facilities to avoid future increased maintenance costs and ensure revenue streams when possible. There is an existing TIFA district that includes some of the recreation properties in the city that can utilize tax capture revenue for development projects, including the Riverside Park site and campground.

#### **Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants**

The **Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** Grant provides funding assistance for state and local outdoor recreation needs, including land acquisition and development of recreation facilities. This assistance is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. These are grants between \$15,000 and \$500,000 with a required minimum local match of a minimum of 25 percent. Final engineering and construction services are covered at a maximum of 15%.

#### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

Provides grants to local units of government to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation. At least 50 percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local government applicants. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS), which grants final approval.

#### **Michigan Recreation Passport Grant**

This program is funded by sales of 'passport' opt in participation for those wishing to access or support Michigan parks as part of their license renewal. Eligible projects are targeted for renovation and improvement to existing parks. Grants range up to \$150,000 with a minimum 25% local match, with the



anticipation that the maximum grant amount will increase as revenue from sales of the Recreation Passport also increases.

### ***Michigan Invasive Species Grant***

This program is funding that deals with the issues of prevention, detection, eradication, and control for both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in Michigan. The scope of the grant must prevent new invasive species from being introduced, strengthen state-wide invasive species early detection and response network, limit the dispersal of recently confirmed invasive species and manage and control widespread, long-established invasive species. These grants are between \$25,000, with a maximum grant amount between \$60,000 and \$400,000.

### ***Clean Vessel Act***

Boat Pumpout Grants are available for funding upgrades to marine sewage disposal facilities or new pumpouts and dump stations. These grants are available to public and private facilities; pending that they are open to the public. Funding that is made available for this grant are approximately \$200,000.

### ***Waterways Program Grant***

This grant is available for communities to provide both financial and technical assistance for design and construction of public recreational boating facilities (including state-sponsored harbors and mooring facilities). Information that is collected deals with traffic for the harbor and the last three financial summaries for the harbor. The amount depends on the base amount for the project; the grant normally provides 50% of the estimated project cost.

### ***Boating Infrastructure Grant***

This grant is also offered from the MDNR providing federal assistance for the design and construction of public recreational harbor facilities. Grant funds are used to cover 75% of the total approved project costs for construction of infrastructure improvements.

### ***State Water Trail Designation Program***

This is a new program that is under the direction of the MDNR that will classify certain water trails in communities as state water trails. Partnering groups and organizations would be vital in supporting the community in pursuing the grant. Funding sources are still being reviewed and analyzed; but funding is expected to be finalized in 2019.

Other DNR grants include specialized opportunities such as the Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program, funded through the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry program and the Water

Trail Designation Program. Local units of government, nonprofit organizations and schools are eligible to apply. Projects include street and park tree management and planning activities; urban forestry training and education events; tree plantings; and Arbor Day celebrations.





### ***Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) Grants***

Grants are accepted from the Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) that deals with land use, water resources, wildlife stewardship, communication/regional marketing, agriculture and pollution prevention. The basis is to integrate economic goals with environmental and social goals based on the premise of meeting humans needs for residents.

### ***Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Grants:***

Funding sources in the MDEQ are available through the **Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI)** program. Funding is used to secure and provide protection for water and coastline areas to prevent contamination and erosion control. Some of the grants available include the **Waterfront Redevelopment Grant**, which deals with increasing public access to the waterfront and supporting economic development in areas. Another grant through the MDEQ are **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)** Grant which deals with coastal areas, protecting rare and threatened species and natural communities. Maximum grants are capped at \$1,500,000 with no minimum grant requirement. The **Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Grant** is available to those communities with direct Great Lakes access. The total grant funds available are not to exceed \$100,000; with an equal match from the community.

### ***Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) TAP Grants***

MDOT funding opportunities for non-motorized pathways.

### ***Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)***

Projects eligible for CDBG funding must be in a low-moderate income service area and/or provide access to the disabled to qualify. Investments using CDBG funds must provide a documented benefit to low-moderate income households. Projects eligible for funding include public infrastructure improvements and those that provide ADA accessibility.

### ***Michigan Community Revitalization Program (MCRP)-MEDC***

MCRP is a program available from the MSF, in cooperation with MEDC, designed to promote community revitalization that will accelerate private investment in areas of historical disinvestment, contribute to Michigan's reinvention as a vital, job-generating state, foster redevelopment of functionally obsolete or historic properties, reduce blight; and protect the natural resources of the state.

### ***United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA)***

This direct loan and grant program provides funding for essential community facilities in rural areas.

### ***Michigan Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (MDARD)***

The State of Michigan Department of Agriculture – Rural Development provides opportunities that support infrastructure that benefits rural communities.



### ***Donations***

Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

### ***Michigan Natural Resources Tree Planting Grants***

Through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, there are three tree planting, grant programs that will assist in funding landscape enhancements at the park and reforestation projects. Applicants must provide at least 50% of the total project cost.

### ***Consumers Energy Planet and Prosperity Grants***

Consumers Energy affords several grant opportunities in Michigan's Lower Peninsula where Consumers Energy has a business presence, and the projects reflect improving the residents and visitors quality of life.

### ***Foundations and other sources***

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity established as a mechanism through which land, cash and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan.

These grant funding opportunities can be accessed through the *Michigan Foundation Directory*.

The city has been successful demonstrating leveraging local funds as match against other grant sources and demonstrating the ability to build capacity for long term economic stability.

***Saginaw Chippewa Indians Tribe*** also provides funding for communities within Isabella and Arenac County for the purposes of supporting projects. The 2% grant funds are available from the profit sharing available through the tribe. Deadlines are March 31<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Arenac Community Fund (within the Bay Area Community Foundation)***

Twice a year, Arenac Area Community Fund awards grants to organizations within the county through an online application process. It provides funding for projects related to: arts & culture, education & youth, environment, health & wellness, human services, recreation and community initiatives.

### ***User Fee***

Continue to charge reasonable fees to participants of recreation programs and key facilities. Evaluate the fees annually to ensure they are providing the appropriate amount of funding to allow the programs to continue.



**Bonds**

Several bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid for with property tax revenues. Revenue bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project.

**Capital Improvement Plan (C.I.P)**

The following Capital Improvement Project lists identifies approximate budgets, funding sources and timelines for key projects. Projects in the 1-5-year time period are identified as short-term. Long term projects would be beyond the 5-year period for completion, although planning would continue in the short-term period.

City of Au Gres Capital Improvement Plan (C.I.P.)			
Project	Budget	Priority	Funding (Primary Source)
<b>Riverside Park – On-going</b>			
Additional Fishing Access	\$25,000	Short Term	WIN/CZM / Community Foundation
Ice Rink	\$45,000	Short Term	WIN/ Community Foundation/Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Play Equipment	\$65,000	Short Term	MDNR Passport Grant/MNRTF / Community Foundation
Improve Pedestrian Crossing and Connections to the campground	\$15,000	Short Term	WIN/ Community Foundation/Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Infrastructure Needs and Accessibility Improvements to Existing Restrooms and Showers, parking, etc	\$110,000	Short Term	Boating and Waterways Grant, MDEQ, CZM Grant/WIN
Dredging /Invasive Species Management	\$10,000	Short Term	Boating and Waterways Grant, MDEQ, CZM Grant/WIN
Welcome Center/Gateway Feature	T.B.D.	Long Term	WIN, Community Foundation
Riverside docks/slips need water/elect	T.B.D.	Short Term	MDNR, CBDG, MNRTF
<b>Riverfront Park and Campground</b>			
Relocate ballfields update (replace concession doors, new dugouts, fence and bleachers)	\$20,000	Short Term	MDNR Passport Grant/MNRTF/Community Foundation/ Major League Baseball Foundation
Resurface tennis and basketball court; replace tennis court nets	\$15,000	Short Term	MDNR Passport Grant/ Community Foundation



Repair/upgrade playground equipment	\$25,000	Short Term	MDNR Passport Grant/MNRTF
Identify maintenance responsibilities between volunteers and city		Short Term	N/A
Volleyball field and outdoor pavilion	\$5,000	Short Term	MDNR Passport Grant/MNRTF
Monitor demand for yurts and log cabin		On-Going	N/A
Upgrade small boat launch for kayak use	\$10,000	Short Term	MNRTF, CZM/WIN
Cross-promote harbor/boat slip and camping package deals		Short Term	General Fund
Improve connection to local area sidewalks, trails, etc.	\$35,000	Long Term	MNRTF, MDNR-Passport, MDOT TAP Grant
<b>Waterfront Access</b>			
Wayfinding signage to launch sites	\$15,000	Short Term	CZM/WIN
Improve parking at access sites	\$10,000	Short Term	CZM/WIN
<b>Soccer Fields</b>			
Electrical, Water and Sanitary service to existing restroom building	\$25,000	Short Term	Community Foundation / Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Plan for future relocation of ballfields and additional soccer fields for athletic complex	\$5,000	Short Term	General Fund
Complete improvements and relocation of ballfields	\$150,000	Short Term	MNRTF, MDNR Passport Grant
<b>Disc Golf</b>			
Wayfinding signage to park	\$2,000	Short Term	Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, General Fund



## **APPENDIX**

**AD FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MDNR CHECKLIST**

**RESOLUTION**

**LAKE HURON FOREVER COMMUNITY**

**UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

**SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION PRINCIPLES**

**MAPS**

# City of Au Gres

## PUBLIC NOTICE

To the residents of the City of Au Gres, Arenac County:

Please be notified that the City of Au Gres is currently working on the proposed **2024 – 2028 Parks and Recreation Plan**. The City of Au Gres will open the required 30-day public comment period on the proposed plan. **The comment period will be open between December 14, 2023, to January 12, 2024.**

The draft plan is available for review and download on the home page of the City of Au Gres website at [www.cityofaugresmi.com](http://www.cityofaugresmi.com) or may be viewed at 124 W. Huron, Au Gres, MI 48703. Please direct email comments to LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk/Treasurer, at [cityofaugres@cityofaugresmi.com](mailto:cityofaugres@cityofaugresmi.com).

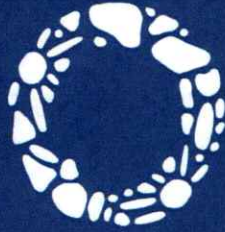
**The City of Au Gres will hold a public hearing on the draft plan at the Parks & Recreation meeting on January 16, 2024, at 5:00 pm at City Hall. Please check the City website for meeting updates.**

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Parks & Recreation Committee will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting or public hearing upon five-days' notice to the Parks & Recreation Chairman.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Parks & Recreation Chairman or the City Clerk/Treasurer by writing or calling the following:

**Parks & Recreation Committee/City Clerk/Treasurer  
City of Au Gres  
124 W. Huron  
Au Gres, MI 48703  
(989) 876-8811  
[cityofaugres@cityofaugresmi.com](mailto:cityofaugres@cityofaugresmi.com)**

**LAKE  
HURON  
FOREVER**



**Pledge Announcement Guide**



## Lake Huron Forever Pledge Announcement Guide

This pdf guide contains an overview of everything you'll need to announce that you've become a Lake Huron Forever community by taking the Lake Huron Forever Pledge.

### Table of Contents

- Lake Huron Forever Overview
- Talking Points
- Announcing the Pledge
- Appendix

## Lake Huron Forever Pledge Announcement Kit

Along with this guide, you also received a zipped folder with Microsoft Word versions of all of the assets described in this guide:

- Press release
- Social media copy, accounts to tag and follow, social media graphics
- Talking points (the full version)
- The Pledge (the full version)



# OVERVIEW

## Campaign Name

Lake Huron Forever

**Lake Huron Forever initiative** (also acceptable terminology)

*Lake Huron Forever is the only part that should be capitalized.*

## Tagline

**Engage communities and activate local solutions  
to sustain a healthy Lake Huron Forever.**



# OVERVIEW

## Background

The Lake Huron Forever initiative was developed in 2019 by shoreline community foundations and conservation partners from the United States and Canada to advance water quality protection and healthy, sustainable communities on both sides of the lake. The Lake Huron Forever initiative aims to support community conversation and collaboration in the design and implementation of on-the-ground work to strengthen the health and well-being of residents, as well as natural resources.

Protecting water quality, ensuring the diversity of plant and animal life and supporting communities across the region means committing to the long-term protection of Lake Huron. In the coming years, we strive to **engage** communities and **activate** collaboration and partnerships to **sustain** a healthy Lake Huron through the Lake Huron Forever initiative.

Now is the time to take action. Forever starts today.

*More details about the Lake Huron Forever initiative can be found in the Appendix.*



# TALKING POINTS

## What is the Lake Huron Forever Pledge?

The Lake Huron Forever Pledge represents a community's commitment to the protection of Lake Huron and a call to action to plan and implement projects that ensure clean water, robust local economies and vibrant communities. The pledge includes a framework of broad steps and goals that can be shared across communities as well as action items specific to each community.

As more and more Michigan and Ontario municipalities sign onto the Lake Huron Forever Pledge, we have an opportunity to showcase their commitments, ensure the sustained health of our shared water and elevate visibility for Lake Huron across the Great Lakes basin.

## Why did the city sign the Lake Huron Forever Pledge?

The City of Au Gres has a long history of not only addressing current environmental concerns but also taking proactive actions to protect natural resources for future generations. Lake Huron is a part of the local culture and identity. This pledge solidifies the City's dedication to this important asset.



# TALKING POINTS

## What is Au Gres pledging to do?

The Lake Huron Forever Pledge outlines a commitment to the following actions:

- We hereby pledge to create, implement and update a Lake Huron Forever Community Road Map.
- We promise to serve as an example of how to proactively protect Lake Huron by sharing our work with other Lake Huron communities.
- We will allocate resources (time, money, people) to understanding emerging needs and opportunities in order to protect Lake Huron forever.
- We will commit to and encourage all community organizations and residents to take their own actions to protect Lake Huron forever.
- We will give back to Lake Huron by examining management practices across municipal departments to identify ways to improve efforts to protect land and water resources.
- We will share our pledge with neighboring community leaders as well as state, provincial and federal representatives to generate more conversation and positive action for Lake Huron and Lake Huron communities.

In addition to the actions outlined above, Au Gres utilizes partnership programs and collaborative relationships to improve the health of Lake Huron. The City has also prioritized integrating environmentally designs into its projects and planning.



# TALKING POINTS

## What are some examples of projects around the community that have helped improve Lake Huron's water quality?

- Au Gres-Sims school rain garden – students designed and installed a rain garden on school property to help absorb stormwater runoff
- Au Gres-Sims and City of Au Gres bioswale at Riverside Park – a bioswale was built and planted with help from students and community volunteers to capture polluted stormwater before it enters the nearby Au Gres River
- Several curbside bioswales – in 2022 the City of Au Gres and Huron Pines are working together with engineers to design and install new bioswales along Michigan Avenue
- Implemented several projects outlined in the 2015 Sustainable Small Harbors charrette process led by Michigan Sea Grant

*For answers to other common questions, please refer to the full Talking Points sheet included in your announcement kit.*



# ANNOUNCING THE PLEDGE

## Press Release

A full editable version of the press release is in your Lake Huron Forever Pledge Announcement Kit along with a few photos of local projects. Please share the press release with any local media contacts, post it on your website and share it via email with partners. It will also be posted on the Huron Pines website and shared with our regional media contacts.



PRESS RELEASE

Engage communities and activate local solutions to sustain a healthy Lake Huron Forever.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan 4, 2022

CONTACT: Dale Wittse, Au Gres City Manager, 989-876-8811, [citymanager@cityofaugresmi.com](mailto:citymanager@cityofaugresmi.com)

### Au Gres Pledges to Support Lake Huron Forever

*City joins international effort to protect Lake Huron by implementing stormwater solutions, encouraging community action.*

**Au Gres, MI** — The City of Au Gres has taken the Lake Huron Forever Pledge, committing to the protection of the water quality of Lake Huron by improving the ways it manages stormwater runoff, invasive species and chemical hazards while also inspiring community members to action.



# ANNOUNCING THE PLEDGE

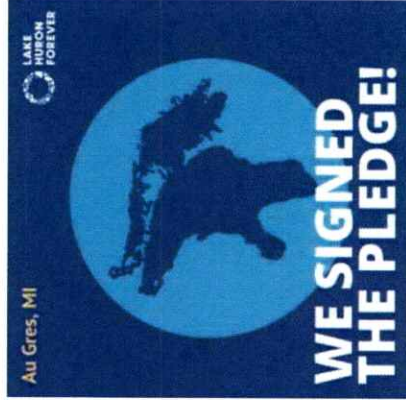
## Social Media Text and Graphics

You will find graphics and social media post copy in your Lake Huron Forever Pledge Announcement Kit. Share them from your own social media accounts.

We have also provided a graphic and text you can share with any community partners encouraging them to celebrate the pledge.

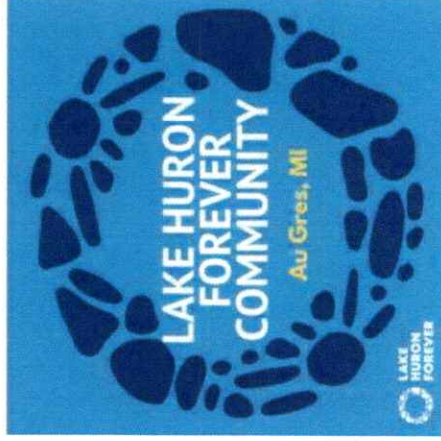
We took the pledge! The City of Au Gres is proud to announce that we have signed the Lake Huron Forever Pledge. This pledge signifies our commitment to take action to protect the health of our community and its surrounding natural resources now and forever.

Read more here: [huronpines.org/2022/01/03/au-gres-pledge/](https://huronpines.org/2022/01/03/au-gres-pledge/)  
#LakeHuronForever



Like Comment Share

We're proud to be a Lake Huron Forever community. We're excited to continue to partner with Au Gres, Michigan Huron Pines to take action to ensure a vibrant community and a healthy Lake Huron, forever.  
#LakeHuronForever



Like Comment Share



# ANNOUNCING THE PLEDGE

## Social Media Accounts to Follow or Tag

In your Lake Huron Forever Pledge Announcement Kit you will find a full list of social media accounts and links for Lake Huron Forever partners so that you can easily tag them in your posts and follow them.



Engage, communicate and activate local residents to sustain a healthy Lake Huron Forever.

### Social Media Accounts to Follow or Tag

Lake Huron Forever partner accounts are listed here so that you can easily tag, follow and share posts.

#### Bay Area Community Foundation

- Facebook: @BayAreaCommunityFoundation
- YouTube: Bay Area Community Foundation
- LinkedIn: Bay Area Community Foundation

#### Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan

- Facebook: @CommunityFoundationforNortheastMichigan
- Twitter: @CFNEM
- Instagram: @communityfoundationmi

#### Huron Pines

- Facebook: @huronpines1
- Twitter: @HuronPines
- Instagram: @huronpines
- YouTube: huronpines
- LinkedIn: Huron Pines







## Additional Resources

Background on Lake Huron Forever  
The Pledge Overview

## Contact information

For any Lake Huron Forever questions please contact Samantha Nellis at [samantha@huronpines.org](mailto:samantha@huronpines.org).

# BACKGROUND ON LAKE HURON FOREVER

## Lake Huron Forever Ecological Overview

### *Great Lakes*

The Great Lakes are vital to the ecological, economic and social well-being of the people, places and wildlife that make up the Great Lakes region. Combined, the Great Lakes contain one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water by volume. They are a non-renewable resource with over 3,000 miles of shoreline that is home to varied and unique vistas, rare landforms, recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat. The Great Lakes region includes eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces, generating 1.3 million jobs as well as \$82 billion in wages annually. With an abundance of natural resources, visitors and residents find a deep connection to place along the shorelines, in the forests and on the many flowing rivers and streams that define the Great Lakes region. (Sources: EGLE CMP Program, Michigan Sea Grant Great Lakes and the Economy)

### *Lake Huron*

With the longest shoreline of the Great Lakes, Lake Huron supports unique and imperiled ecosystems with an abundance of rare plant and animal species that exist nowhere else on Earth. With forested woodlands, dune and swale formations, karst geology and more islands than all the other Great Lakes combined (30,000+), the Lake Huron Basin creates the perfect backdrop for biodiversity.



# BACKGROUND ON LAKE HURON FOREVER

## Ecological Overview Continued

### *Michigan*

The Lake Huron shoreline is home to the endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly and Michigan's rare state wildflower, the dwarf lake iris. The northern shores of Lake Huron are among the most important migratory bird pathways in North America. Rich with food sources, Lake Huron's coastal wetlands provide ideal stopover sites for migrating birds in need of sustenance. The dense white cedar swamps provide ideal cover for songbirds while the marshes and swales provide shelter for shorebirds and waterfowl.

### *Ontario*

Ontario's Lake Huron shoreline is dotted with scenic sunset beaches, cottage towns and picturesque dune and swale systems providing important scenic and natural habitat values. This area is also home to several First Nations who are the traditional keepers of the territory and stewards of its associated waters. Unique landforms define the shoreline with Georgian Bay boasting over 30,000 islands and amazing kayaking and hiking opportunities along the dramatic rocky cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment - a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. The Bruce Peninsula, the largest remaining intact natural habitat in southern Ontario, features dramatic cliff ecosystems and is an important stopover for migratory birds. It also provides a safe haven for globally rare alvar ecosystems (thin, nutrient-poor soils that overlay limestone gravel and bedrock that as a result, support sparse, sensitive and sometimes rare grasses and plants), over 40 species of orchids as well as lush and varied fern species.



# BACKGROUND ON LAKE HURON FOREVER

## Lake Huron Forever Example Areas of Focus

### *Land Protection*

Protect wild places to keep natural habitats intact, support natural filtration systems and limit coastal development. More natural landscapes can reduce flooding and pollution in Lakes and streams that drain into Lake Huron.

### *Water Quality*

Protecting water quality for people and wildlife ensures that it's safe for drinking and recreation. Assess and manage pollution and flooding caused by excess stormwater runoff. Understand existing stormwater management and water quality protection programs and partners and assess current municipal green and grey infrastructure best management practices.

### *Public Health*

Focus on the intersection between communities and the environment, or people and place. Projects that protect Lake Huron also focus on improving and protecting human and public health. We sustain a healthy Lake Huron so our people can be healthy by working with communities to balance access to natural spaces, recreation opportunities and quality of life benefits with long-term stewardship and protection planning.



# BACKGROUND ON LAKE HURON FOREVER

## Example Areas of Focus Continued

### *Education*

Peer-to-peer learning can be used to raise awareness for the challenges and values Lake Huron communities face. Communities can improve and adapt programs and management strategies based on shared learning from their peers.



# BACKGROUND ON LAKE HURON FOREVER

## **Engage. Activate. Sustain.**

*Engage: Initiate dialogues in communities about the resources each community needs to take action.* By taking inventory of existing programs and partners and assessing current municipal conservation practices, Lake Huron communities will have the initial information they need to start taking steps toward Great Lakes protection. The goal of this stage is to facilitate increased access to knowledge, resources and technical experts to help communities establish a plan of action with prioritized solutions.

*Activate: Connect communities to resources and deepen understanding through learning opportunities.* By supporting the activation of tailored learning opportunities that can be delivered to community leaders, Lake Huron communities will share expertise and access to water quality, land protection and stewardship resources that will, in turn, allow for prioritizing and implementing solutions. Through broad outreach and customized solutions, each community can be activated to protect the health of Lake Huron with solutions to meet their unique needs.

## *Sustain: Ensure long-term protection of the Great Lakes through sustained action.*

Increasing the readiness of Lake Huron communities to collaborate on and implement land protection and clean water action is one step toward sustainable water quality for Lake Huron. To further ensure long-term protections of the Great Lakes and to support increased community readiness, local, state, provincial, federal and basin-wide funders will need to prioritize Lake Huron's communities and water quality in their funding decisions.





# THE PLEDGE OVERVIEW



## Lake Huron Forever Pledge

The City of Au Gres knows that a healthy Lake Huron means a healthy, strong and vibrant future for our community. As a result, we are committed to keeping the protection of Lake Huron at the forefront of our planning, decision making and resource allocation.

Our community well-being and economic prosperity are tied to Lake Huron. We understand that access to healthy natural resources like fresh air, clean water and public land improve the health and wellness of our entire community.

We must work together to protect the forests, wetlands and waterways to address threats of pollution and flooding caused by stormwater, proactively plan for the impacts of a changing climate, support native plant restoration and provide corridors for wildlife.

We are committed to understanding the unique connections our residents and visitors have to Au Gres and to incorporating their priorities and concerns into our decision making as we continue to lead natural resources protection efforts in our region. We pledge to protect Lake Huron forever.

*The full Pledge can be found in the accompanying Lake Huron Forever Pledge Announcement Kit.*

# FUNDING SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP LAKE HURON FOREVER

*This project has been funded wholly or in part through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Nonpoint Source Program using Watershed Council Support funds. The contents of the document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.*



**Michigan's  
Nonpoint Source  
Program**



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY







## THE PLEDGE

Engage communities and activate local solutions to sustain a healthy Lake Huron Forever.

### Lake Huron Forever Pledge

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#### Our Lake Huron Forever Pledge

- We hereby pledge to create, implement and update a Lake Huron Forever Community Road Map.
- We promise to serve as an example of how to proactively protect Lake Huron by sharing our work with other Lake Huron communities.
- We will allocate resources (time, money, people) to understanding emerging needs and opportunities in order to protect Lake Huron forever.
- We will commit to and encourage all community organizations and residents to take their own actions to protect Lake Huron, forever.
- We will give back to Lake Huron by examining management practices across municipal departments to identify ways to improve efforts to protect land and water resources.
- We will share our pledge with neighboring community leaders, as well as state, provincial and federal representatives to generate more conversation and positive action for Lake Huron and Lake Huron communities.



Engage communities and activate local solutions to sustain a healthy Lake Huron Forever.

### **Our Lake Huron Forever Community Road Map**

The City of Au Gres has identified several specific issues that are direct threats to the health of the Au Gres River and Lake Huron. With the support of the Lake Huron Forever network of partners, the City will work to address these issues with the following goals and action steps.

#### Issues and Goals

- **Stormwater:** In order to improve and protect water quality the City has prioritized reducing and improving the quality of stormwater runoff from within the city limits. The City aims to retrofit existing infrastructure to add nature-based solutions that reduce the strain on the existing storm sewer system and filter out common pollutants such as road salt, nutrients and sediment. The City also aims to incorporate nature-based solutions, when feasible, into future planning and construction projects.
- **Invasive Species:** Invasive plant species are gaining a foothold within and along local waterways that pose a threat to the integrity of those ecosystems and the local economy through reduced property values and damage to local tourism opportunities. Through actions on city properties and by supporting planning and treatment efforts by residents and neighboring townships, the City aims to prioritize this issue in the coming years.
- **Chemical Hazards:** Chemicals used in the maintenance of city properties can make their way into local waterways. The City aims to reduce the use of toxic or otherwise harmful chemicals throughout City departments including fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners and disinfectants. By transitioning to greener alternatives and training City staff on the proper use, application and disposal of necessary chemicals, the City aims to lead by example for others in the community.
- **Public Education and Engagement:** Increasing environmental education efforts targeted at the general public. Sharing information and stories with the Au Gres community is an essential aspect of this work.

#### Action Steps

1. The City of Au Gres, in partnership with Huron Pines and the Au Gres-Sims School District, will install rain gardens/bioswales along East Michigan Avenue in order to capture and treat stormwater before it enters the Au Gres River.
2. The City will support outreach efforts to local residents to inform them of the benefits of the bioswales including posting informative signage along Michigan Avenue, highlighting the project on the City's social media pages and having city representatives at in-person events.
3. The City and partners will develop and finalize maintenance plans for installed green infrastructure (e.g. rain gardens and bioswales). All relevant staff will receive an overview and training on these plans in order to maintain the aesthetics and functionality of the green infrastructure in the long term.



**LAKE  
HURON  
FOREVER**

**THE PLEDGE**

Engage communities and activate local solutions to sustain a healthy Lake Huron Forever.

4. The City will work with Huron Pines to finalize and tailor a messaging and communications guidance toolkit specific to Au Gres. The toolkit will include press release templates, social media posts, Lake Huron Forever messaging and logos and guidance for incorporating Lake Huron Forever messaging into public events. Appointed and elected officials will participate in a workshop for toolkit overview and understanding led by Huron Pines.
5. With assistance from Lake Huron Forever partners, the City will install visual representation(s) highlighting the pledge to become a Lake Huron Forever community. This could include a sign as you enter the City, storm drain stamps and/or business window decals.
6. The City will consider and discuss opportunities to raise or allocate funding for Lake Huron Forever programming and projects including considering these goals for grant fund applications and as line items during budgeting for the Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA), Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and/or other appropriate entities or programs.
7. The elected and appointed city leaders will explore opportunities to incorporate the Lake Huron Forever Pledge and nature-based solutions into future development opportunities and City plans (i.e. Master Plan or Parks and Recreation Plan).
8. The Au Gres City Council will review the Lake Huron Forever Road Map on a quarterly basis. The Road Map will be revised and added to on an annual basis.

*Signature*

*Date*

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## **UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

**Principle 1: Equitable Use – The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.**

- a. Provide the same means of use for all users (identical whenever possible; equivalent when not)
- b. Avoid segregating or stigmatizing users
- c. Provisions for privacy, security, and safety should be equally available to all users
- d. Make the design appealing to all users

**Principle 2: Flexibility in Use – The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.**

- a. Provide choice in methods of use
- b. Accommodate right-or-left handed access and use
- c. Facilitate the user's accuracy and precision
- d. Provide adaptability to the user's pace

**Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use – Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.**

- a. Eliminate unnecessary complexity
- b. Be consistent with user expectations
- c. Accommodate a wide range of literacy and language skills
- d. Arrange information consistent with its importance
- e. Provide effective prompting and feedback during and after task completion

**Principle 4: Perceptible Information – The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.**

- a. Use different modes (pictorial, verbal, tactile) for redundant presentation of essential information
- b. Provide adequate contrast between essential information and its surroundings
- c. Maximize "legibility" of essential information
- d. Differentiate elements in ways that can be described (i.e., make it easy to give instructions or directions)
- e. Provide compatibility with a variety of techniques or devices used by people with sensory limitations

**Principle 5: Tolerance for Error – The design minimizes hazards and adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.**

- a. Arrange elements to minimize hazards and errors: most accessible; hazardous elements eliminated, isolated, or shielded
- b. Provide warnings of hazards and errors
- c. Provide fail safe features
- d. Discourage unconscious action in tasks that required vigilance

**Principle 6: Low Physical Effort – The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.**

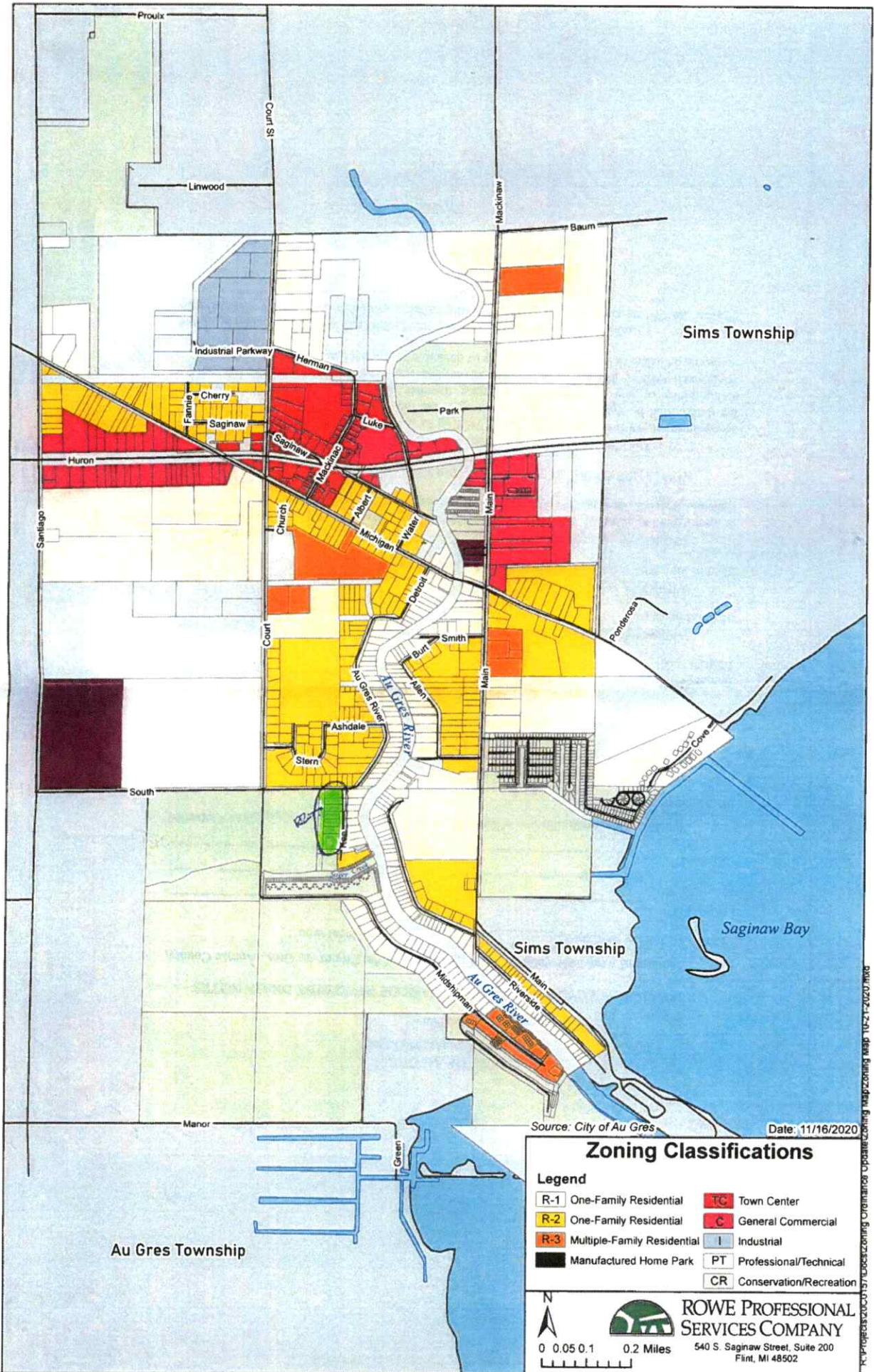
- a. Allow user to maintain a neutral body position
- b. Use reasonable operating forces
- c. Minimize repetitive actions
- d. Minimize sustained physical effort

**Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use – Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.**

- a. Provide a clear line of sight to important elements for any seated or standing user
- b. Make reach to all components comfortable for any seated or standing user
- c. Accommodate variations in hand and grip size
- d. Provide adequate space for the use of assistive devices or personal assistance

## **SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION**

- **Sustainable Design**
- **Durability**
- **Energy Efficiency**
- **Waste Reduction**
- **Indoor Air Quality**
- **Water Conservation**
- **Sustainable Building Materials**



Sims Township

Sims Township

Au Gres Township

Saginaw Bay

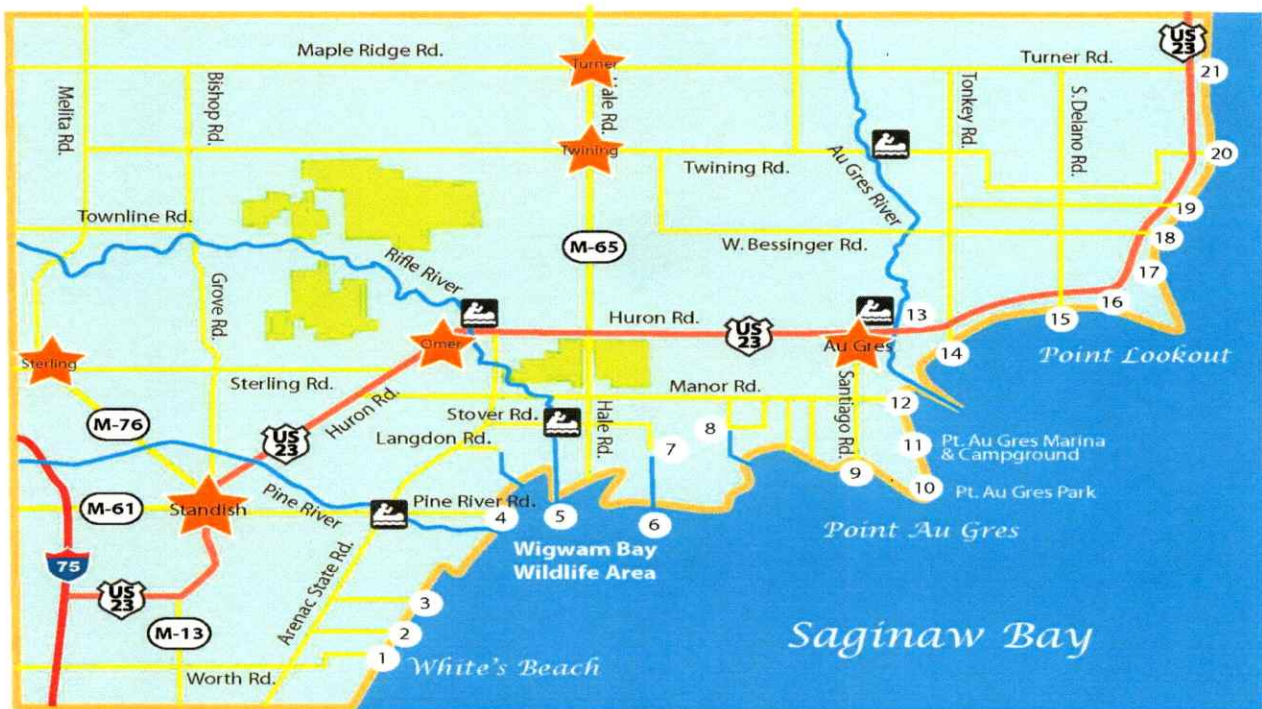
**Zoning Classifications**

Legend	
R-1	One-Family Residential
R-2	One-Family Residential
R-3	Multiple-Family Residential
(Black Box)	Manufactured Home Park
TC	Town Center
C	General Commercial
(Blue Box)	Industrial
PT	Professional/Technical
CR	Conservation/Recreation

**ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY**  
 540 S. Saginaw Street, Suite 200  
 Flint, MI 48502

K:\Projects\2020\2020\_Zoning\_Ordinance\_Update\zoning\_map\zoning\_map\_10-21-2020.mxd

Map Five: Saginaw Bay Water Trail



**Arenac County  
Saginaw Bay  
Water Trail Map**

- |  |                                 |                                     |                           |  |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. End of Worth Rd. & White's Beach Rd.          | 4. Wigwam Bay Pine River Access | 9. End of Santiago Rd.              | 13. Au Gres City Park     | 18. End of W. Bessinger Rd.                  |
| 2. End of Bordeau Rd. & Standish Nature Preserve | 5. Riffe River Mouth            | 10. Pt. Au Gres Park                | 14. End of S. Tonkey Rd.  | 19. End of Hammel Beach Rd.                  |
| 3. End of Sagatoo Rd. & Eagle Bay Marina         | 6. End of Stover Rd.            | 11. Pt. Au Gres Marina & Campground | 15. End of S. Delano Rd.  | 20. End of Twining Rd.                       |
|  | 7. End of Big Creek Rd.         | 12. DNR Public Access               | 16. End of Foster Rd.     | 21. End of Turner Rd. & "The Singing Bridge" |
|  | 8. End of Dreyer Rd.            |                                     | 17. Sims-Whitney Cemetery |  |



**Map Six: Heritage Route 23 Map**

**1 Standish Historic Depot & Welcome Center**



Located at the gateway to the US 23 Huron Shores Heritage Route, this newly restored MI Central R.R. Depot, built in 1889, is also the newest State "Welcome Center." Inside displays contain railroad artifacts and depot memorabilia. Special displays change monthly. Outside are two vintage British rail coaches open for viewing. Begin your Huron Shores trip by stopping in at the Standish Depot! Located at the corner of US 23 and M-61 in Standish. Open daily. [www.standishdepot.org](http://www.standishdepot.org)

**2 Rifle River**



Numerous rapids make this stream one of the Lower Peninsula's fastest and one of the state's most popular trout fishing and canoeing destinations. Perfect for birders and wildlife viewing enthusiasts. An MDNR public access site is located on the south edge of Omer, just off US 23. Several private canoe liveries are also located along the Rifle River.

**3 Old Courthouse & Masonic Hall: Omer**



Currently on the National Register of Historic Places, the building was built in 1890 and served as the county's first courthouse. When the county seat was moved to Standish, it became the local Masonic Lodge. Visitors can see Arenac's first jail as well as an 1890's era barber shop. Old Masonic, city, and township records make it an excellent source of genealogical information. Location: US 23 in City of Omer.

**4 Arenac County Historical Museum & Genealogical Society**



Inside this 1883 church are recreations of a rural school room, bedroom and parlor, apothecary shop, a country store and vintage apparel. The 2-story museum also features railroading and commercial fishing exhibits and is the genealogy center for the area. The museum also houses information on Historic Charity Island. Location: 304 E. Michigan Avenue, Au Gres. Open weekends 1:00 to 4:00 from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.

**5 Soganing Eagles Landing Casino**



Michigan's newest place to play! With over 800 exciting slots and a variety of electronic table games, there are plenty of ways to hit it big close to home. At 32,000 square feet, this comfortable and convenient casino is the natural choice for fun and games. Location: 2690 Worth Road, off M-13, just south of Standish. [www.soganingeagleslanding.com](http://www.soganingeagleslanding.com)

**6 Au Gres River/Lake Huron Boat Launch & Breakwall**



There's plenty of parking (300 spaces for vehicles and trailers) at the Au Gres DNR boat launch located just in from the mouth of the Au Gres River. With 4 concrete ramps and loading docks, it doesn't take long to get on and off Saginaw Bay. The facility ends on a point jutting out into Lake Huron. It offers a scenic view of the Lake Huron coastline, especially for those using the long pier. A terrific year-round location for both hiking and bird watching. Location: just east of the City of Au Gres.

**7 Au Gres Riverfront Park & Campground**



This shaded 23-acre city-owned park and campground is just a short distance from the DNR Au Gres River boat launch and Lake Huron breakwall. A paved walkway and wooden bridge connect it to downtown Au Gres. The campground has 119 sites with full hook-ups. Location: just north of US 23 on the northern edge of Au Gres. A 2.5 mile bike path runs from the park to the Lake Huron Breakwall. Reservations: [cityofaugres@centurytel.net](mailto:cityofaugres@centurytel.net). (989) 876-8811

**8 Charity Island National Wildlife Refuge**



222-acre Charity Island, the largest island in Saginaw Bay, is part of the "Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge". Its isolated beaches and unique hardwood forest provide excellent habitat for rare and protected plants, animals and songbirds. There is also an historic lighthouse on the island that is under private ownership. The island is located approximately 10 miles off-shore and easily accessible from the Au Gres Boat Launch or a privately run ferry service. *Photo courtesy of Brandon Schroeder of Michigan Sea Grant* [www.mseagrant.umich.edu](http://www.mseagrant.umich.edu)

**9 Maple Ridge Historic Schoolhouse**



The interior of this fully restored 1904 one-room schoolhouse takes you back in time to ink wells and slate chalk boards. Artifacts include period wall maps, wall alphabets, text books and more. Stop in and browse an interesting collection of period class photos. Directions: From US 23, take M-65 to Maple Ridge Road and turn left.

For Charter Boats on Saginaw Bay... go to [www.heritage23.com](http://www.heritage23.com).

**10 Arenac County Parks**



Daily pass needed for Pte Au Gres Park and Oasis Lake Park. Pass available at parks or at the Arenac County Courthouse (989) 846-6188. Location: southeast of Au Gres on Rumsey Road

**Pte Au Gres Park**

Located on Lake Huron. A great sandy beach, picnic and play areas. Three pavilions, volleyball, horseshoe pits, and barrier-free boardwalk available. 17 rustic campsites and 5 rustic cabins each with sleeping accommodations for four adults. Reservations (989) 846-6188. Location: southeast of Au Gres on Rumsey Road

**Oasis Lake Park**

A 207-acre site with a 22 acre lake. The park offers swimming, fishing, picnic areas, children's playground, beach volleyball, and horseshoe pits. 25 rustic campsites available. Location: M-76 between Sterling and Alger

**Youngman Park**

This lovely 46-acre wooded area is made up of fully mature trees and is adjacent to a softball field. There are numerous opportunities for hiking and appreciating the natural habitat. Location: from the corner of US 23 and M-61, east 3.5 miles to Arenac State Road, then north 2 miles. Watch for signs.

**Tourism Information**

Your Pathway to the Sunrise Coast [www.heritage23.com](http://www.heritage23.com)  
Check out the unique attractions on this award-winning heritage23.com!



PURE MICHIGAN  
Your trip begins at michigan.org

**Standish Historic Depot & Welcome Center**  
107 N. Main St (US 23) [www.standishdepot.org](http://www.standishdepot.org)  
Standish, MI (989) 718-8021

**Standish Area Chamber of Commerce**  
[www.standishchamber.com](http://www.standishchamber.com)  
(989) 846-STOP (7867)

**Au Gres Chamber of Commerce**  
[www.augreschamber.org](http://www.augreschamber.org) [www.cityofau-gres-mi.org](http://www.cityofau-gres-mi.org)  
(989) 876-6688 (989) 876-8811

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources**  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

Funding for this brochure was made possible through Michigan Department of Transportation. Technical assistance and brochure design provided by Northern Michigan Council of Governments [www.nmcog.org](http://www.nmcog.org)

Cover photo courtesy of MSDOT. BROCHURE COMMITTEE COOR: 803.8.0749

**Au Gres - Standish Michigan**

**HERITAGE ROUTE 23**

**Heritage Route 23**

**Huron Shores Heritage Route**  
Pathway to the Sunrise Coast

**PURE MICHIGAN**

[www.heritage23.com](http://www.heritage23.com)



## Au Gres - Standish Area

1-10 Featured attractions described on reverse

- 1 **White's Canoe Livery** 400 S Melita Rd. 989.654.2654  
www.whitescanoe.com
- 2 **River View Campground & Canoe Livery** 5755 Townline Rd 989.654.2447  
www.riverviewcampground.com
- 3 **Brown's Landing RV Park** 1187 Dyer Rd. 989.362.3737 brownslanding.tripod.com
- 4 **Crystal Creek Campground & Canoe Livery** 133 N. Grove Rd. 989.653.2644  
www.whisperpines.com
- 5 **Whispering Pines Campground & Canoe Livery** 538 S. M-65 989.653.3321  
www.whisperpines.com
- 6 **Rippling Waters Campground & Canoe Rental** 864 Main St. Omer 989.653.2200  
www.ripplingwaterscamping.com
- 6 **Riverbend Campground & Canoe Rental** 864 Main St. Omer 989.653.2576  
www.riverbendomer.com
- 7 **Russell Canoes & Campground** 146 Carrington, Omer 989.653.2264  
www.russellcanoe.com
- 8 **Big Bend Family Campground** 513 Conrad Rd, Standish 989.653.2267  
www.bigbendcamp.com
- 9 **Northport Marina** 3676 E Huron Rd. Au Gres 989.879.8931
- 10 **Presspitch Nature Preserve** Located on Tonkey Rd north of Au Gres.
- 11 **Old Airport Disc Golf Course** Located in Au Gres. North on Court Street, left on industrial Parkway.
- 12 **Au Gres Kinderplatz/Chapel Park** Public wedding chapel. 989.876.8811
- 13 **Point AuGres Marina & Campground** 2325 Green Dr. Au Gres 989.876.7314
- 14 **Modern Craft Winery** 2760 E Booth Rd. Au Gres 989.876.0270  
www.moderncraftwinery.com
- 15 **Rifle River Campground & Canoe Livery** 5825 Townline Rd. Sterling 989.654.2556  
www.riflivercampground.com
- 16 **Eagle Bay Marina** 1893 Sagaroo Rd. Standish 989.846.6065  
www.eaglebaymarina.com
- 17 **Soganing Nature Preserve** Located at the end of Worth Rd.
- 18 **Wah Sash Kah Moqua Nature Preserve** Located on Bay Arenac Line Rd.
- 19 **Charity Island Dinner Cruise/Bed & Breakfast** Departs from the East Tawas State Dock. 989.254.7710  
www.charityisland.net





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: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ PROJECT TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT SCOPE: \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email

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

**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?

**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.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please print

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Grantee Authorized Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please print

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Witness Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please be sure to upload the completed Post Completion Report and plaque photographs to the 5-Year Recreation Plan in MiGrants.**