

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



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Rick A. Freeman, P.E.

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**City Officials**

Dale Wiltse, City Manager/Zoning Administrator  
LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk/Treasurer  
Brandon Murphy (Sunrise Assessing), City Assessor  
Heath Christie, WWTP Superintendent/DPW  
Chris Ireland, Park Manager  
Linda Kauffman, Librarian  
Chuck Allen, 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  
Nicolas Onica

**Parks & Recreation Board**

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







### 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 2020 Census, the median age in the city was 55.7 years: with 13.3% of the population under the age of 18. Most of the city’s population is from 65 years and older (32.9%). The gender makeup of the city is 50.6% male and 49.3% 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	32.9% - 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.

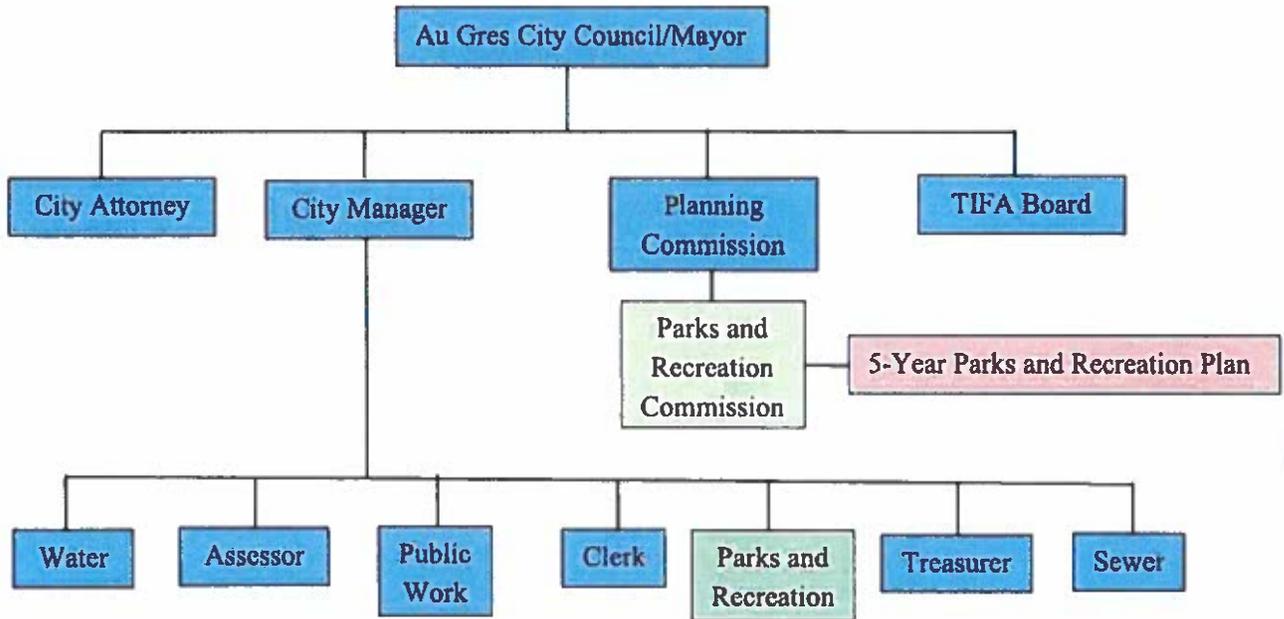
The area is predominately flat to gently rolling. Current land uses include commercial, single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, residential agriculture and civic/institutional. The Au Gres River runs through the city, along the Au Gres Riverfront Campground and Riverside Park on its way to Saginaw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

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:**

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR CITY OF AU GRES				
PERIOD ENDING 06/30/2023				
		PERIOD BALANCE	2022-23	AVAILABLE BALANCE
		DR (CR)	AMENDED BUDGET	NORMAL (ABNORMAL)
Fund 508 - PARK/ RECREATION FUND				
Revenues				
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>				
508-000-541.000	STATE GRANTS	0.00	0.00	0.00
508-000-501.101	CONTRIBUTION FROM GENERAL FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00
508-000-501.247	CONTRIBUTION FROM TIFA	0.00	0.00	0.00
508-000-651.000	CHARGE FOR ADMISSION FEES	(255,050.26)	221,350.00	(33,700.26)
508-000-651.100	CHARGE FOR PAVILION RENTAL	(2,605.00)	1,500.00	(1,105.00)
508-000-653.000	ELECTRICAL CHARGE	(6,864.78)	5,000.00	(1,864.78)
508-000-665.000	INTEREST EARNINGS	(3,482.78)	100.00	(3,382.78)
508-000-670.000	OTHER REVENUE	112,261.65	13,700.00	1,438.35
508-000-673.000	LOSS/GAIN SALE OF ASSETS	0.00	0.00	0.00
508-000-699.100	APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	0.00	19,000.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>(200,264.47)</b>	<b>260,650.00</b>	<b>(19,614.47)</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>				
		<b>(200,264.47)</b>	<b>260,650.00</b>	<b>(19,614.47)</b>
Expenditures				
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				
508-756-702.000	WAGES - ACCOUNTING	7,851.75	7,500.00	(351.75)
508-756-703.000	WAGES- PARK CARETAKER	22,700.00	22,700.00	0.00
508-756-704.000	WAGES-DPW/PARTTIME EMPLOYEES	30,912.33	30,000.00	(912.33)
508-756-709.000	SOCIAL SECURITY	0.00	0.00	0.00
508-756-718.000	D/C D/S MEDICAL INSURANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00
508-756-725.000	FRINGE BENEFITS	10,497.78	12,000.00	1,502.22
508-756-727.000	OPERATING & MAINTENANCE SUPPLY	10,273.13	10,000.00	(273.13)
508-756-752.000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	8,954.26	10,000.00	1,045.74
508-756-759.000	GAS & OIL SUPPLIES	1,571.14	2,000.00	428.86
508-756-801.000	CONTRACTUAL/PROFESSIONAL	12,603.92	12,000.00	(603.92)
508-756-850.000	TELEPHONE/BASIC CABLE TV	2,069.64	2,500.00	430.36
508-756-860.000	VEHICLE LEASE	0.00	0.00	0.00
508-756-861.000	TRANSPORTATION	0.00	100.00	100.00
508-756-920.000	PUBLIC UTILITIES	43,431.30	45,000.00	1,568.70
508-756-930.000	REPAIR & MTNCE/BLDG & GROUNDS	8,353.65	8,000.00	(353.65)
508-756-931.000	EQUIPMENT REPAIR	232.75	1,000.00	767.25
508-756-933.000	COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	363.00	350.00	(13.00)
508-756-940.000	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	17,072.83	15,000.00	(2,072.83)
508-756-941.000	CONTINGENCY	0.00	0.00	0.00
508-756-968.000	DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	18,174.00	5,000.00	(5,174.00)
508-756-969.000	AMORTIZATION PENSION	9,238.00	12,500.00	3,262.00
508-909-970.000	CAPITAL OUTLAY	7,324.47	47,500.00	40,175.53
508-965-995.594	CONTRIBUTION TO HARBOR	17,500.00	17,500.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>221,123.95</b>	<b>260,650.00</b>	<b>39,526.05</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				
		<b>221,123.95</b>	<b>260,650.00</b>	<b>39,526.05</b>
Fund 508 - PARK/ RECREATION FUND:				
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>				
		<b>200,264.47</b>	<b>260,650.00</b>	<b>(19,614.47)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				
		<b>221,123.95</b>	<b>260,650.00</b>	<b>39,526.05</b>
<b>NET OF REVENUES &amp; EXPENDITURES</b>				
		<b>59,140.52</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(59,140.52)</b>



2022 - 2023 Proposed Budget

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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>		
100-541.000	STATE GRANTS	0.00
100-501.101	CONTRIBUTION FROM GENERAL FUND	0.00
100-501.247	CONTRIBUTION FROM TIFA	0.00
100-651.000	CHARGE FOR ADMISSION FEES	10,000.00
100-651.100	CHARGE FOR PAVILION RENTAL	1,500.00
100-651.000	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
100-695.100	APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	5,950.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>244,950.00</b>
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>		<b>244,950.00</b>

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

Page: 2

CL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2023-24 ORIGINAL BUDGET
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		
100-756-702.000	WAGES - ACCOUNTING	0,000.00
100-756-703.000	WAGES- PARK CARETAKER	25,000.00
100-756-704.000	WAGES-DEP/PARTTIME EMPLOYEES	10,000.00
100-756-709.000	SOCIAL SECURITY	0.00
100-756-718.000	R/C B/S MEDICAL INSURANCE	0.00
100-756-725.000	FRINGE BENEFITS	1,000.00
100-756-727.000	OPERATING & MAINTENANCE SUPPLY	10,000.00
100-756-752.000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	10,000.00
100-756-759.000	GAS & OIL SUPPLIES	2,000.00
100-756-801.000	CONTRACTUAL/PROFESSIONAL	14,000.00
100-756-850.000	TELEPHONE/BASIC CABLE TV	2,500.00
100-756-860.000	VEHICLE LEASE	0.00
100-756-861.000	TRANSPORTATION	100.00
100-756-920.000	PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,000.00
100-756-930.000	REPAIR & MNTNCE/BLDG & GROUNDS	8,000.00
100-756-931.000	EQUIPMENT REPAIR	1,000.00
100-756-937.000	COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	250.00
100-756-940.000	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	15,000.00
100-756-941.000	CONTINGENCY	0.00
100-756-968.000	DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	10,000.00
100-756-969.000	AMORTIZATION PENSION	12,500.00
100-900-970.000	CAPITAL OUTLAY	20,000.00
100-965-995.594	CONTRIBUTION TO HARBOR	17,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>144,950.00</b>
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>		<b>144,950.00</b>
<b>NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 508</b>		<b>0.00</b>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		3,251,116
ENDING FUND BALANCE		3,251,116



### ***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 w/Tree Lighting
- Old Fashioned Christmas in the Park
- Halloween in the Park
- ACF Holiday Auction
- Taste of Au Gres
- Weekly Music in the Park
- Annual Au Gres Cruisers – Rock-n-Roll Weekend
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
- Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
- Venetian Night Boat Parade
- City of Au Gres Riverside Park Legacy/Memorial Bench Donation Program, Veteran Banner Program

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

Current funding for the City of Au Gres Parks and Recreation Department is made available through the general fund, TIFA, and 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 - Sims 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, Garden Club, ACE Committee, Men’s 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**

	Acreege (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 Plaiz 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 2 Basketball Court 2 Baseball/Softball Fields Campsites Dog Park Fishing Area Horseshoe Pit
<b>Schools</b>																	
Au Gres Sims Schools	35.0																



	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>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
<b>Regional Recreation</b>																	
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.

**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 View, Huron Breeze, and Singing Bridge

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 and following** figures that shows location of some specific parks/sites/activities in the city and other private recreational facilities.

### ***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, 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 in 2010. Ownership was transferred to the City of Au Gres in August of 2018. The city will continue to 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 boaters and encourage future slip rentals in the 2024 season. The City of Au Gres has made many upgrades to the facility. Utilizing recommendations from the 2015 Sea Grant Sustainable Harbor Charrette as a guide, the city has added many amenities such as a splash pad, playscape, ADA kayak launch, Farmer's Market Pavilion, fishing pier, and fish cleaning station to the park. Before these features were added, the City refurbished all the existing buildings on the site by adding new steel roofing, painting, and opening temporary bathrooms.



**Annual Maintenance Schedule:** The City of Au Gres undertakes an annual assessment of condition and park needs and prioritizes projects and budgets accordingly to keep the park in optimal condition.

**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 108 campsites (with full hookups), 2 mini-cabins, a picnic area, playground equipment, ball diamonds, a boat ramp, courts for basketball ball, tennis, pickle courts, 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 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





**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, Huron Sports & Fitness -Tawas
- **Golf Course:** Huron Breeze Golf and Country Club, Knoll View Golf Course, Pinc 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

**Additional Grants Recently Approved for the City of Au Gres include:**

USDA	\$95,000/\$15,000 (match)	Farmers Market at Riverside Park
MEDC	\$100,000	Riverside Park Improvements
WIN	\$30,000/\$5,000 (match)	Universally Accessible Kayak Launch
ACF***	\$2,500/\$2,500 (match)	Pavilion at Disc Golf Course
BACF**	\$75,000/\$75,000 (match)	Riverside Park Splashpad
EGLE/CZM	\$44,560/\$44,560 (match)	Riverside Park Improvements



Arenac County EDC	\$5,000	Riverside Park Electrical Upgrades
SCIT *	\$50,000	Riverside Park Improvements
ACF***	\$4,500/\$2,500 (match)	Riverside Park Sunshades
ACF***	\$4,000/\$4,000 (match)	Riverside Ship Playscape
ACF***	\$1,500	Kristen’s Bark Park Water Station
ACF***	\$5,700	City Park ADA Bathroom Upgrade
ACF***	\$4,570	Riverside Park ADA Railing
ACF***	\$20,000/\$20,000 (match)	Riverfront Campground ADA Cabin

SCIT\* - Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Distribution

BACF\*\* - Bay Area Community Foundation

ACF\*\*\* - Arenac Community Funds

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

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 Riverbank Park 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
  - Identify improvement to core infrastructure needs within the Riverbank 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 Riverbank Park 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 riverbank/harbor rejuvenation (welcome center, gateway tower, residential development)
- Identify programming, policies and other cross promotion features that can leverage use of the marina by Riverfront 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, Saginaw Bay, and Lake Huron are all critical assets. 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 Riverfront Campground relocating baseball 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 Riverfront Campground 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.)
- 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 seasonal day, and/or overnight vehicles.
- Relocate ballfields with updated concession stand, new dugouts, fence, and bleachers)
- Identify maintenance responsibilities between volunteers and city (on-going).



- Monitor demand for yurts and 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.
- Mark Access properly.
- 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 (Omer to Au Gres & North into Iosco County) 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.** The City of Au Gres is evaluating this process to determine if it’s feasible for them to pursue with the MEDC.
- **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 Riverfront 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 range between \$15,000 and \$300,000 with a required minimum local match of a minimum of 25 percent. Final engineering and construction services are covered at a maximum of 15%. For development projects and \$1 Million for land acquisition projects.

#### ***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 Department of Natural Resources 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 Pump out Grants are available for funding upgrades to marine sewage disposal facilities or new pump outs 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.

### ***Environmental, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Grants***

Spare Tire Grants for asphalt paving projects, DWRP (Drinking Water), and CWSRF (Sanitary and Storm Sewer) Project Funding... low interest loans and grants.

Funding sources in the EGLE are also 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 EGLE is **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.

### ***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 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>			
Play Equipment (ADA surfaces, etc.)	\$65,000	Short Term	MDNR Passport, MNRTF, SCIT, ACF
Improve Pedestrian Crossing and Connections to the campground	\$30,000	Short Term	WIN/Community Foundation/Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Infrastructure Needs and Accessibility Improvements to Existing Restrooms and Showers, parking, etc	\$150,000	Short Term	Boating and Waterways Grant, MDEQ, CZM Grant/WIN



Dredging /Invasive Species Management	\$25,000	Mid Term	Boating and Waterways Grant, EGLE, SCIT, CZM Grant/WIN
Welcome Center/Gateway Feature (events, picnic tables, mulch, etc.)	\$75,000	Long Term	MDNR Passport, WIN, ACF, Consumers Energy Planet Grants
Riverside docks/slips need water/elect	\$125,000	Long Term	MDNR, CBDG, MNRTF, MDARD, Consumers Energy Planet Grants
Additional Fishing Access	\$45,000	Mid Term	WIN, CZM, Community Foundation
<b>Riverfront Park and Campground – On-going</b>			
20 -30 new campsites and ADA Cabins (ADA improvements to bathrooms such as hand free faucets, towel dispensers, motion lights, U.S 23 signage, etc.)	\$1,000,000	Short Term	MNRTF, MDNR Passport, MEDC Grants, MDARD, TIFA
Relocate ballfields update (replace concession doors, new dugouts, fence, and bleachers)	\$45,000	Short Term	MNRTG, MDNR Passport, Consumers Energy Planet Grants, MEDC Grants, Community Foundation Major League Baseball Foundation
Resurface tennis and basketball court; replace tennis court nets	\$25,000	Short Term	MDNR Passport Grant, EGLE Spare Tire Grant, Community Foundation
Repair/upgrade playground equipment (ADA surfaces, etc.)	\$25,000	Short Term	MNRTF, MDNR Passport, Consumers Energy Planet Grants, ACF, SCIT
Identify maintenance responsibilities between volunteers and city		On-going	N/A
Monitor demand for yurts and log cabin		On-Going	N/A
Upgrade small boat launch for kayak use	\$25,000	Short Term	MNRTF, CZM/WIN, MDNR Passport
Cross-promote harbor/boat slip and camping package deals		On-going	General Fund
Improve connection to local area sidewalks, trails, etc.	\$35,000	Long Term	MNRTF, MDNR Passport, MDOT TAP Grant
<b>Waterfront Access On-going</b>			
Wayfinding signage to launch sites	\$15,000	Short Term	CZM/WIN, Consumers Energy Planet Grants
Improved river access	50,000	On-going	MDNTF, MDNR Passport, Consumers Energy Passport, MEDC Grants
Improve parking at access sites	\$30,000	Short Term	CZM/WIN, EGLE Spare Tire Grants
<b>Baseball &amp; Soccer Fields On-going</b>			
Future relocation of ballfields and soccer fields for athletic complex	\$5,000	Short Term	TIFA, General Fund



Complete improvements and relocation of ballfields with electrical, water, and sanitary service to site/restrooms.	\$170,000	Short Term	MNRTF, MDNR Passport, MEDC, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Consumers Energy Planet Grants,
<b>Miscellaneous – On-going</b>			
KinderPlatz Park (roof, fence, arch repair, etc.)/Chapel Repairs	\$30,000	Short Term	SCIT, ACF, TFIA, User Fees, General Fund
Ash Tree Removal/Replacement	\$40,000	On-going	U.S. Forestry Grants
Corn Hole Courts	\$20,000	Short Term	SCIT, ACF, MDNR Passport Grant, TIFA, User Funds



## **APPENDIX**

**AD FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MDNR CHECKLIST**

**RESOLUTION**

**LAKE HURON FOREVER COMMUNITY**

**UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

**SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION PRINCIPLES**

**MAPS**

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- **AD FOR PUBLIC HEARING**
- **PUBLIC HEARING ADVERTISEMENT & AFFIDAVIT (BAY CITY TIMES)**

## 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)**



Bay City Times

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State of Michigan,) ss  
County of Bay)

Nancy Block being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of MLive Media Group; that Bay City Times is a public newspaper published in the city of Bay City, with general circulation in Bay county, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):  
Bay City Times 12/14/2023

*Nancy Block*

Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of January 2024

*Teasha R. Payne*

Notary Public

TEASHA R. FAYNE  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI  
COUNTY OF MECOSTA  
COMMISSION EXP FEB 24 2026  
ACTING IN COUNTY OF Kent

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 LaVonhe 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)  
com

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**MEETING MINUTES**

- **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (1-16-2024)**
- **CITY OF AU GRES CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (1-16-2024)**

**CITY OF AU GRES  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024  
5:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Chad Anthony, Barb Osborne, Sheree Wiltse, Jan Gore, Paige Belanger, Margaret Warr  
**ABSENT:** Dan & Terry Heinrich  
**ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager Dale Wiltse, Mayor Jon Sanford, Park Manager Chris Ireland, Rick Freeman

**1.) CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Chad Anthony at 5:00 p.m.

**2.) ROLL CALL**

Roll call noted Dan & Terry Heinrich absent.

**3.) MINUTES**

**MOTION** (Wiltse) to approve minutes from December 19, 2023 as submitted, support (Osborne). Motion carried.

**4.) CITIZENS COMMENTS:** None

**5.) OLD BUSINESS:** None

**6.) NEW BUSINESS**

**6.1 Open Public Hearing: Park & Recreation Master Plan**

Rick Freeman reviewed the updated proposed City of Au Gres 5-year Parks and Rec Plan with the board. There were no public comments.

**6.2 Close Public Hearing**

**MOTION** (Osborne) to close public hearing; support (Gore). Motion carried.

**6.3 Recommend to City Council to Adopt**

**MOTION** (Belanger) to recommend to City Council to adopt 5-year Park & Recreation Master Plan; support (Osborne). Motion carried.

**7.) CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

The City Manager informed the board that the City had applied for a MDARD Grant of 100,000 for the campground expansion project, the campground received a \$20,000 grant from the SCIT for ADA cabins, and the pavilion repair from Morton Buildings is scheduled to begin first of February.

**8.) PARK MANAGER COMMENTS:** None

**9.) ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** (Wiltse) adjourn at 6:00 p.m.; support (Osborne). Motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Chad Anthony

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dale Wiltse, City Manager

**CITY OF AU GRES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024  
7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jon Sanford, Jane Barbour, Joe Warr, John Popovich, Joe Warr  
**ABSENT:** Dan Heinrich  
**ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager Dale Wiltse, Arenac County Board of Commissioner Bobbie Burke, Rick Freeman

**1). CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Jon Sanford called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2). PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor led City Council and audience into the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3). ROLL CALL**

Roll call noted all members present.

**4). MINUTES**

**MOTION** (Warr) to approve December 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**5). SET AGENDA**

**MOTION** (Popovich) to set agenda as presented; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

**6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** None

**7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT**

Police Chief Charles Allen was absent tonight but had in agenda packet December statistics.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**8.1 Industrial Park Property Sale**

ATD would like to purchase 2 lots in the Industrial Park directly behind there shop and the former Bessinger Pickle location (which they just purchased). These 2 lots have 3 holes of the disc golf course located on them. Current plans include road access in the back of their shops instead of going out on Court Street and won't disturb disc golf course. City received a quote of \$14,875 from ATD to build 7 gates to be installed on the outside of the proposed garage-style doors planned in the park pavilion remodel. City Manager announced that John Rollins is also interested in one of these lots to build a large pole barn to store his equipment. City would need to hold public hearing prior to selling.

**MOTION** (Barbour) to agree to sell the 3 lots in the Industrial Park for \$15,000 each; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**8.2 City Court**

**Popovich:** Did some research on this subject and Michigan State Constitution back in the 1960's revised to change to County Court System; forbidden for Cities to have a court system so the idea is done deal.

**9). NEW BUSINESS**

**9.1 Adopt Park & Recreation Master Plan 2024-2028**

Rick Freeman was present tonight to answer any questions City Council might have. Parks & Recreation Commission meet earlier tonight to hold public hearing and finalize Recreation Master Plan. Deadline is February 1, 2024 to upload to MI Grants so City can then apply for any new grants coming out.

**MOTION** (Popovich) to approve resolution adopting Park & Recreation Master Plan for 2024-2028 years as recommended by Parks & Recreation Commission; support (Warr). Motion carried.

**9.2 MDOT Annual Resolution 2024 year**

**MOTION** (Warr) to approve MDOT Annual Resolution for the 2024 year; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**9.3 Credit Card Application- Mercantile Bank**

**MOTION** (Barbour) to approve obtaining a business credit card with a \$5000 limit from Mercantile Bank with Dale Wiltse, LaVonne Pritchard, Heath Christie, Randy Dittenbir, Chris Ireland, Charles Allen and Linda Kauffman as authorized users; support (Warr). Motion carried.

9.4 AT & T Equipment Upgrades

**MOTION (Popovich)** to approve AT & T equipment upgrades as presented on City water tower after structural calculations were done by Fullerton Engineering; support (Warr). Motion carried.

**10). CITY MANAGER REPORT**

- Kirk Olson letter attached in council packets. All units of government are in agreement that the Bike Path Project is a great idea, just need time to work out right-of-way/easements and financing. Suggestion would be to apply for 2% grant for feasibility study and go from there.
- City Park expansion- project moving forward and City applied for \$100,000 MDARD Grant (30% match) and will show this project done in phases to make grant application more appealing.
- City Park Pavilion repairs- scheduled to start February 2024
- Post Office- no news
- Passing of Rick Spies last week; will be deeply missed and was a prominent business owner

**11). COMMENTS**

11.1 Citizens: None

11.2 Mayor: Sad to see Rick Spies passing; great community support at the memorial service. Wanted to thank Park & Recreation Commission on all the work they put into updating Recreation Master Plan. Wanted to thank city staff on a fast response time and implementing a contingency plan with the lift station pump failure at Detroit Street or it could have been bad!

11.3 Council Members:

Popovich: Toured Bopp-Busch facility and was very impressed on their operation!

Warr: Glad to see Master Recreation Plan adopted and moving forward!

**11). PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**MOTION (Warr)** to approve payment of bills as submitted; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**MOTION (Warr)** to approve November financial statements as submitted; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

**13). ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (Barbour)** to adjourn meeting at 8:28 p.m.; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

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Jon Sanford, Mayor

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LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk

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**MDNR CHECKLIST**

**Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plan  
Certification Checklist**





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

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

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

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

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan:		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
City of Au Gres	Arenac	January 2024

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

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

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

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

Date of the Notice December 14, 2023

Type of Notice Website/Newspaper

Plan Location Online/In-office

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

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

Date of Notice December 14, 2023

Name of Newspaper Bay City Times

Date of Meeting January 16, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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

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

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

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

- 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 16, 2024
- 2. Official resolution of the \_\_\_\_\_ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: January 18, 2024
- 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: January 18, 2024

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

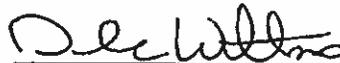
*I hereby certify that the recreation plan for*

City of Au Gres, Michigan

(Local Unit of Government)

*includes the required content, as indicated*

*above and as set forth by the DNR.*



1/18/2024

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

Date

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

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING, MI 48909-7925**

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Grants Management \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**LAKE HURON FOREVER COMMUNITY**

City of Au Gres Pledge



## THE PLEDGE

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

### 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.

#### 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.



## THE PLEDGE

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 and 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.**

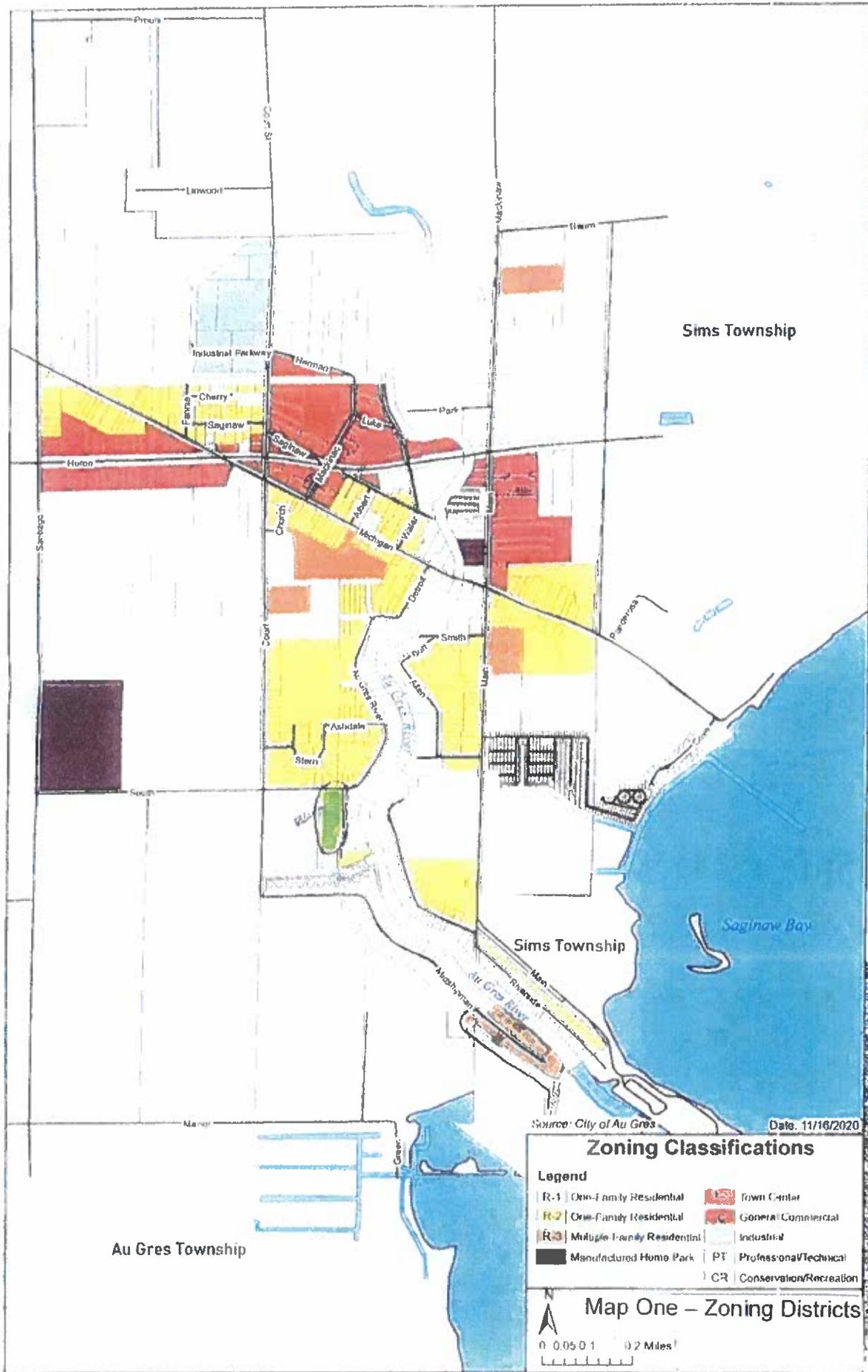
- a. Provide a clear line of sight to important elements for any seated or standing user
- b. Make reach to all components comfortable for any seated or standing user
- c. Accommodate variations in hand and grip size
- d. Provide adequate space for the use of assistive devices or personal assistance

## **SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION**

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

## **MAPS**

- **Map One – Zoning Districts**
- **Map Two – Natural Resources**
- **Map Three – Parks & Private Recreation**



Source: City of Au Gres Date: 11/16/2020

### Zoning Classifications

**Legend**

R-1 One-Family Residential	Town Center
R-2 One-Family Residential	General Commercial
R-3 Multiple-Family Residential	Industrial
Manufactured Home Park	Professional/Technical
	Conservation/Recreation

**Map One – Zoning Districts**

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



# City of Au Gres

Parks and Private Recreation



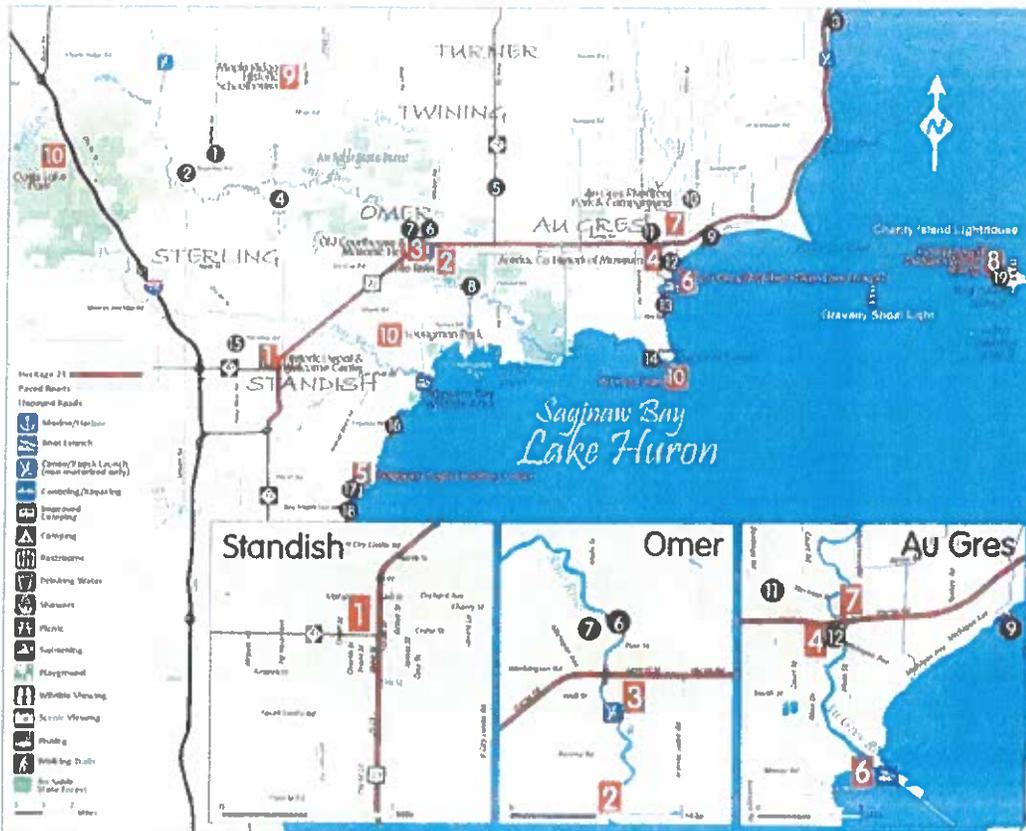
## Legend

Map Three - Parks & Private Recreation

Google Earth

Image © 2024 TerraMetrics

4000 ft



### Au Gres - Standish Area

1-19 Featured attractions described on this site

- 1 White's Canoe Library  
800 S. 44th St. • 989.654.2654  
www.whitecanoe.com
- 2 River View Campground & Canoe Library  
5755 S. Lumber Rd. • 989.654.2447  
www.riverviewcampground.com
- 3 Brown's Landing RV Park  
1187 E. 1st St. • 989.652.2217 • brownslanding.com
- 4 Crystal Creek Campground & Canoe Library  
111 N. Green St. • 989.653.2644
- 5 Whispering Pines Campground & Canoe Library  
538 S. E. • 989.653.1321  
www.whisperingpines.com
- 6 Rippling Waters Campground & Canoe Rental  
264 Mid. St. East • 989.653.7200  
www.ripplingwaters.com
- 7 Riverbend Campground & Canoe Rental  
204 N. Main St. • 989.653.1250  
www.riverbend.com
- 8 Russell Canoes & Campground  
188 Carleton Dr. • 989.653.2364  
www.russellcanoe.com
- 9 Big Bend Family Campground  
513 Carleton Dr. Standish • 989.653.2297  
www.bigbend.com
- 10 Northport Marina  
1675 E. Huron Rd. Au Gres • 989.673.8931
- 11 Presspich Nature Preserve  
located on Amey Rd north of Au Gres
- 12 Old Airport Dye Golf Course  
121 1st St. Au Gres • North on Court Street, left on Industrial Parkway
- 13 Au Gres Kindergarten/Chapel Park  
public wedding chapel • 989.676.8811
- 14 Point Au Gres Marina & Campground  
2325 Green Dr. Au Gres  
989.676.7314
- 15 Modern Craft Winery  
2760 E. South Rd. Au Gres • 989.676.0270  
www.moderncraftwinery.com
- 16 Kille River Campground & Canoe Library  
5825 S. Lumber Rd. Standish • 989.654.2554  
www.killerivercampground.com
- 17 Eagle Bay Marina  
1821 Saginaw Rd. Standish • 989.646.5061  
www.eaglebaymarina.com
- 18 Saginaw Nature Preserve  
located at the end of north rd
- 19 Fish Hatchery/Moose Park Preserve  
located on Hwy 40 north of Au Gres
- 20 Charity Island Lighthouse Cruise/Boat & Breakfast  
located from the E. E. Forest State Dr • 989.251.2210  
www.charityisland.net

Map Five: Saginaw Bay Water Trail



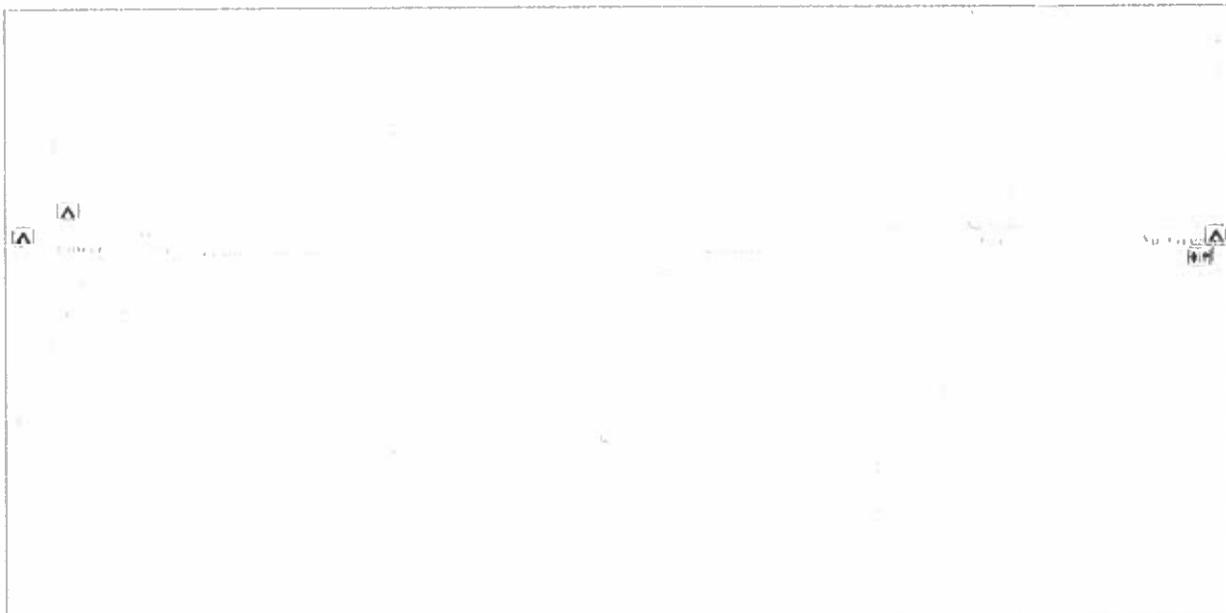
**Arenac County  
Saginaw Bay  
Water Trail Map**

- |  |                                   |                                     |                           |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. End of Worth Rd & White's Beach Rd            | 4. Wigwam Bay<br>Fur River Access | 9. End of Santlugh Rd               | 13. Au Gres City Park     | 18. End of W. Bessinger Rd.                      |
| 2. End of Bourdeau Rd & Stoddish Nature Preserve | 5. Rifle River Mouth              | 10. Pt. Au Gres Park                | 14. End of S. Tonkey Rd   | 19. End of Hammel Beach Rd                       |
| 3. End of Sagatou 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 Green Rd            | 12. DNR Public Access               | 16. End of Foster Rd.     | 21. End of Turner Rd.<br>& "The Slinging Bridge" |
|  | 8. End of Dreyer Rd               |                                     | 17. Sims Whitney Cemetery |  |



Map Page: Iron Belle Trail Route

### Iron Belle Trail

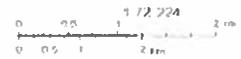


July 12, 2017

-  Restroom Facility
-  Campgrounds Other (Not State Owned)
-  Trail Parking

#### Showcase Trail - Planned Segments

 Existing Route



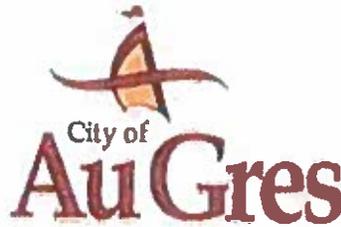
Project: Iron Belle Trail, Antrim, Michigan  
Date: July 12, 2017  
Scale: 1:25,000  
Author: City of Antrim, Michigan  
City of Antrim, Michigan  
City of Antrim, Michigan

Trail User

## **TRANSMITTAL LETTERS**

- **Eastern Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG)**
  - **Arenac County Planning – Parks & Recreation**
    - **Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribe**

124 West Huron Road  
Post Office Box 121  
Au Gres, Michigan 48703



Phone (989) 876-8811  
Fax (989) 876-6462  
www.cityofaugresmi.com  
cityofaugres@cityofaugresmi.com

January 18, 2024

Mr. William Ernat  
Eastern Michigan Council of Governments  
3144 Davenport Ave., Suite 200  
Saginaw, MI 48602-3494

RE: 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan – MDNR for the City of Au Gres, Michigan

Mr. Ernat:

The City of Au Gres is submitting the attached 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for their review and approval. This is required of local municipalities every five (5) years for the basis of identifying a communities existing parks and recreation property, facilities, current maintenance, and future plan for the municipality in the area of parks and recreation. This plan is required to be on file with the MDNR for any/all state grant programs.

The city is focused and maintaining and continuing to improve their parks and recreation opportunities through the city and support those same goals in the surrounding communities.

Your organization has supported similar efforts of the City of Au Gres in the past and look forward to your continued support in the future.

If you have any questions/concerns/ comments, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at the City of Au Gres

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Wiltse', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dale Wiltse  
City Manager/Zoning Administrator  
City of Au Gres

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Post Office Box 121  
Au Gres, Michigan 48703



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January 18, 2024

Ms. Lisa Salgat  
Arenac County Planning – Parks & Recreation  
120 N. Grove Street  
P.P. Box 747  
Standish, MI 48658

RE: 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan – MDNR for the City of Au Gres, Michigan

Ms. Salgat:

The City of Au Gres is submitting the attached 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for their review and approval. This is required of local municipalities every five (5) years for the basis of identifying a communities existing parks and recreation property, facilities, current maintenance, and future plan for the municipality in the area of parks and recreation. This plan is required to be on file with the MDNR for any/all state grant programs.

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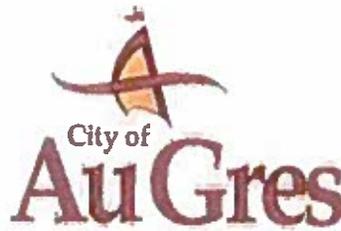
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Dale Wiltse  
City Manager/Zoning Administrator  
City of Au Gres

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January 18, 2024

Mr. Erik Rodriguez  
Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribe  
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

RE: 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan – MDNR for the City of Au Gres, Michigan

Mr. Rodriguez:

The City of Au Gres is submitting the attached 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for their review and approval. This is required of local municipalities every five (5) years for the basis of identifying a communities existing parks and recreation property, facilities, current maintenance, and future plan for the municipality in the area of parks and recreation. This plan is required to be on file with the MDNR for any/all state grant programs.

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