

# Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan

2007 - 2011

City of Fremont | Sheridan Charter Township

Dayton Township | Sherman Township



Adopted by  
Fremont City Council: 2007

Adopted by Sheridan  
Charter Township Board: 2007

Adopted by Dayton  
Township Board: 2007

Adopted by Sherman  
Township Board: 2007

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Jane Drake, *Council Member*  
Larry Breuker, *Council Member*  
Dick Conley, *Council Member*  
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## Fremont Area Park & Recreation

### Advisory Committee

Jeannie Caris, *Dayton Township*  
Pam Zuchowski, *Sherman Township*  
Marian Oosterhouse, *Sheridan Charter Township*  
Bryan Kolk, *Sheridan Charter Township*  
Rhondi Davis, *Fremont/ Public Schools*  
Brian Hettinger, *City of Fremont*  
David Byrne, *City of Fremont*  
Todd Blake, *City of Fremont*  
Roger Tuuk, *City of Fremont*

## Plan Adopted

*Fremont City Council: March 19, 2007*  
*Sheridan Charter Twp. Board: March 20, 2007*  
*Dayton Twp. Board: March , 2007*  
*Sherman Twp. Board: March 22, 2007*



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# Planning Process

For purposes of this plan, the Fremont Area communities include the City of Fremont, Dayton Township, Sheridan Charter Township and Sherman Township. The four units understand and realize that, especially in regard to the provision of recreation, they function as a single community. In 2000, the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township and Dayton Township joined forces to produce the first Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan. Since then, Sherman Township has joined the partnership in its vision to create an area-wide recreation plan that will enable the communities to provide recreational opportunities for their residents in the most efficient, effective and fiscally responsible manner.

## **Plan Development Process**

The process of developing the Recreation Master Plan was carried out by the Recreation Advisory Committee. The Committee was originally created in 2000 to help develop the first community-wide recreation master plan. Today, this committee comprises of one representative from Dayton Township, one from Sherman Township, two from Sheridan Charter Township, one from the Fremont Public Schools and four from the City of Fremont. Committee members were asked to serve because they represented a diverse cross-section of community interests and due to their active and vocal role in recreation throughout the years. The committee's primary responsibility was to oversee the task of preparing and recommending a Recreation Master Plan for the Fremont Area. The Committee meets monthly as needed and held five special meetings for this renewal process. The four communities also hired a non-profit consulting firm to assist them with the planning process.

## *Community Description*

Data for the community description portion of the plan was gathered from a number of different sources including the US Census Bureau, Soil Conservation Service, Newaygo County, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, City of Fremont, Dayton Township, Sheridan Charter Township, Sherman Township and MIRIS (Michigan Resource Information System). The data was gathered, compiled, mapped and presented to the Recreation Advisory Committee at their second meeting. The agenda for the second meeting also included an overview of the planning process, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requirements, a revised work plan and schedule and a preliminary draft community description section of the document.

## *Recreation Inventory*

Site visits were conducted at each park within the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, and Dayton Township for the first Area Recreation Master Plan in 2000. For this plan, the location of each park, public and private school and private recreation facility was re-inventoried and mapped to reflect new facilities, including facilities located in Sherman Township. The Recreation Inventory portion of the plan discusses the various programs, activities and events that are offered throughout the four

communities and the Fremont Public School District. This information was gathered directly from staff as well as community brochures. Information regarding programs and facilities outside of community boundaries was gathered to establish opportunities in the general proximity of the Fremont Area communities. The revised draft Recreation Inventory was distributed and reviewed with the Recreation Advisory Committee at their January 2007 meeting.

### *Administrative Structure*

Information regarding the existing organizational structure of recreation operations in the area were documented including operations and financials in regard to the Public School District. Duties of the various City, Township and school employees were also gathered from staff and summarized within the body of the text.

### *Basis for Action*

The Basis for Action portion of the plan was outlined and portions completed for presentation to the Advisory Committee at their January and February, 2007 meetings. This chapter includes information on national and state trends, acreage deficiencies by community and neighborhood, park land per capita analyses and facility standard analyses as well as a depiction of the current service area radii for the varying hierarchy of parks within the community. A community-wide survey was conducted and referenced, and an annual notice was published inviting public input on the annual update of the Capital Improvement Schedule. Also included are the summaries and results of the public input throughout the planning process as well as data on participation at numerous facilities and programs.

### *Action Plan*

The Action Plan of the document details the culmination of the Committee's research and discussions into recommended goals, guidelines and capital improvements for the next five years. The results of the background studies, recreation inventory, needs analysis, community input and Advisory Committee discussions were used to create this portion of the plan. The Committee conducted a brainstorming session at their early February, 2007 meeting in regard to goals, guidelines and capital improvements. These ideas were synthesized and presented to the Committee again at their second February, 2007 meeting where they were further refined. Scheduling issues were also discussed at the February 2007 meeting regarding the plan completion, public hearing and adoption dates. The Action Plan was finalized at an Advisory Committee Meeting in late February, 2007.

## **Public Involvement Process**

The involvement of the public was a high priority throughout the development of this plan. Several opportunities and venues were available to the public throughout the planning process, the focus of which is discussed below.

### *Park & Recreation Advisory Committee*

Public involvement opportunities began with the creation of the Recreation Advisory Committee. This group of residents (as is detailed in the body of the text) is a nine-member committee established to oversee the Master Planning process. Committee members include representatives not only from geographically diverse areas of the four communities but are people who represent many of the primary issues including operation, maintenance, funding, programming and coordination. This committee dedicated much of their time and effort to see the entire planning process through and produce a document that is thorough and provides direction for the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Sherman Township and Dayton Township over the next five years and beyond. The public was invited to participate in Advisory Committee meetings and made several comments on the plan in general as well as identifying recreation needs throughout the community. Notices for Advisory Committee meetings were published in the local newspaper.

### *Community Opinion Survey*

In January 2007, the Fremont Area Communities contracted with the *Research Services of Northwestern Michigan College* to conduct a telephone survey with registered voters of the Fremont Community. Based on a total population of 8,106 registered voters, a random sample of 260 was targeted for a 95% confidence level, +/-6 margin of error. A total of 261 surveys were completed. Questions covered various topics related to the use and provision of recreation. These questions and results are summarized in the Basis for Action section of this plan.

### *Town Meetings*

As part of the comprehensive planning process, the Recreation Advisory Committee held one Town Meeting to discuss preliminary sections of the recreation plan and results from the community-wide survey. In addition, public input was solicited.

Summaries of the comments made at these meetings can be found in the Basis for Action section of this plan.

### *Project Website*

To further support the comprehensive planning process, a project website was established, providing interested citizens with information regarding the planning process, meeting dates, contact information, *draft* sections of the plan and opportunities for public comments.

### *Public Hearing*

Minor edits were made to the plan per Committee and staff comment and a legal notice of a public hearing was published in the local newspaper with copies of the draft document made available at the Fremont Community Public Library. The public hearing was held in March 19, 2007. Meeting minutes can be found in Appendix D.

*Adoption*

At their regularly scheduled March 19, 2007 meeting, the Fremont City Council adopted the Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan by resolution. (See Appendix D)

At a special March 2007 meeting, the Dayton Township Board adopted the Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan by resolution. (See Appendix D)

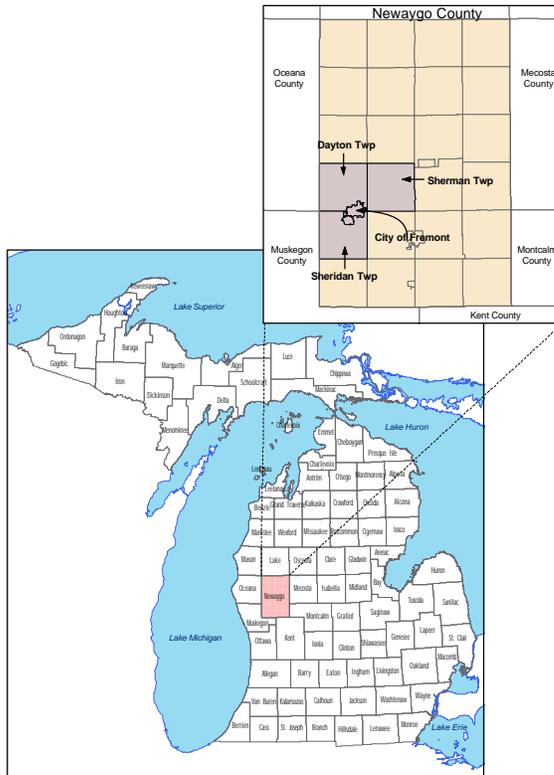
At their regularly scheduled March 20, 2007 meeting, the Sheridan Charter Township Board adopted the Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan by resolution. (See Appendix D)

At a special March 22, 2007 meeting, the Sherman Township Board adopted the Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan by resolution. (See Appendix D)

# Community Description

The City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Dayton Township and Sherman Township (herein referred to as the Fremont Area) are located in southwest and central Newaygo County (see map below). The Fremont Area is approximately 30 miles northeast of the City of Muskegon and 45 miles north of the Grand Rapids metropolitan area. The northeast portion of the Fremont Area borders the City of White Cloud, the geographical center of Newaygo County. The Fremont Area is served by M-82 and west 48<sup>th</sup> Street, which traverses all four jurisdictions and ties into M-120 and M-37.

## Social Characteristics



The examination of socioeconomic data is an essential element in the process of preparing a comprehensive recreation plan. Researching and dissecting existing data reveal a picture of the study area including what type of people live in the community, how old or young the population is, income levels, what industries people are employed in, the level of education of those people living in the area as well as many other characteristics. Understanding the make up of the population assists in determining future needs for the community. For example, the age of the population can reveal needs for public services such as parks and recreation, education and senior activities and programming. This baseline data can also be compared to the same information for the county as a whole, providing a frame of reference for the results of the study area. Collecting and analyzing information for the community also establishes trends occurring in the area, which can assist in estimating

changes in the future as well as identifying opportunities or constraints that might exist for future recreation development activities.

The social characteristics portion of the plan examines socioeconomic data for the Fremont Area. To provide a frame of reference, data is benchmarked against the county as well as surrounding communities where applicable. The following section evaluates the historical population growth in the area, the age, sex and race of the population, educational attainment and persons per household as well as projections of future population growth.

## Population Trends

Population data from 1960 through 2005 were gathered to establish the trends in population growth and decline within the Fremont Area as well as surrounding communities in the county.

As data below indicate, from 1960 to 2005, the Fremont Area (including the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Dayton Township and Sherman Township) has seen a population increase of approximately 32% with a majority of growth occurring in the 1990's. Dayton Township grew by approximately 21% and the City of Fremont grew by approximately 26% between 1960 and 2005. Sheridan Charter Township experienced a more moderate 9.6% overall population increase from 1969 to 2005. However, due to several decades of population fluctuation, the 2005 estimated population is approximately the same as 1970. Sherman Township experienced a considerable 108% overall population increase from 1960 to 2005, with a majority of growth occurring from 1960 to 1980. Overall, population growth for the Fremont Area occurred at a significantly slower pace than the county as a whole, but between 2000 and 2005 growth in Dayton and Sheridan Charter Townships was closely correlated to the growth rate of the county. During the same span, the City of Fremont experienced a significantly slower pace of growth and Sherman Township exceeded the growth rate of the county.

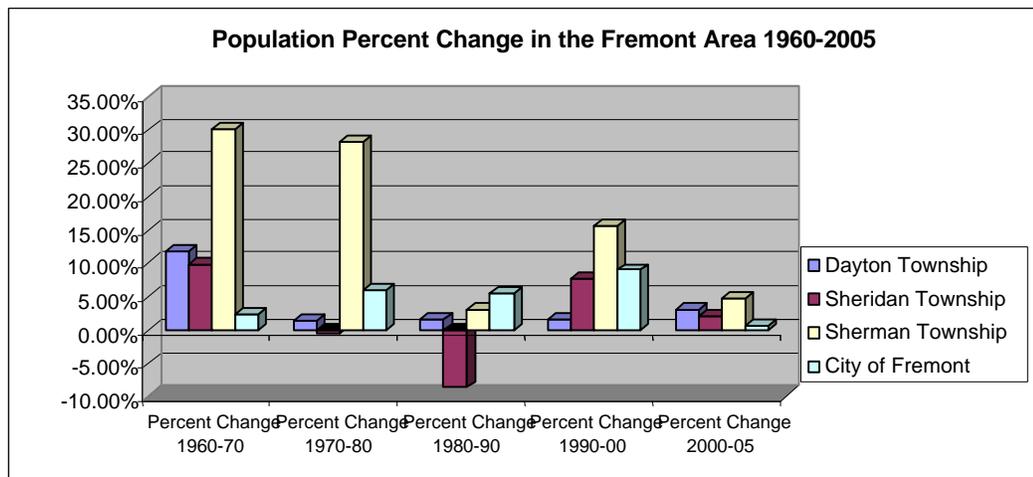
### Population Trends of the Fremont Area and Surrounding Communities: 1960 - 2005

	1960	1970	Percent Change 1960-70	1980	Percent Change 1970-80	1990	Percent Change 1980-90	2000	Percent Change 1990-00	Estimate 2005	Percent Change 2000-05	Total Percent Change 1960-2005
Dayton Township	1,709	1,910	11.76%	1,938	1.47%	1,971	1.70%	2,002	1.57%	2,065	3.15%	20.8%
Sheridan Township	2,256	2,477	9.80%	2,465	-0.48%	2,252	-8.64%	2,423	7.59%	2,473	2.06%	9.6%
Sherman Township	1,085	1,411	30.05%	1,810	28.28%	1,866	3.09%	2,159	15.70%	2,267	5.00%	108.9%
City of Fremont	3,384	3,465	2.39%	3,672	5.97%	3,875	5.53%	4,224	9.01%	4,256	0.76%	25.8%
Bridgeton Township	738	870	17.89%	1,562	79.54%	1,574	0.77%	2,098	33.29%	2,391	13.97%	224.0%
Washland Township	1,231	1,463	18.85%	1,751	19.69%	1,997	14.05%	2,570	28.69%	2,659	3.46%	116.0%
Warfield Township	1,189	1,448	21.78%	1,822	25.83%	2,067	13.45%	2,464	19.21%	2,524	2.44%	112.3%
Lincoln Township	444	490	10.36%	885	80.61%	969	9.49%	1,338	38.08%	1,388	3.74%	212.6%
Denver Township	1,237	1,362	10.11%	1,422	4.41%	1,532	7.74%	1,971	28.66%	2,052	4.11%	65.9%
Vilcox Township	500	519	3.80%	722	39.11%	831	15.10%	1,145	37.79%	1,212	5.85%	142.4%
Brooks Township	1,772	1,330	-24.90%	2,349	76.66%	2,728	16.13%	3,671	34.56%	3,744	1.99%	111.0%
Silverett Township	704	844	19.88%	1,360	61.13%	1,519	11.69%	1,985	30.67%	2,071	4.33%	194.2%
City of Newaygo	1,447	1,381	-4.56%	1,271	-7.97%	1,336	5.11%	1,670	25.00%	1,685	0.90%	16.4%
City of Grant	732	772	5.46%	683	-11.53%	764	11.86%	881	15.31%	885	0.45%	20.9%
City of White Cloud	1,001	1,044	4.30%	1,101	5.46%	1,147	4.18%	1,420	23.80%	1,432	0.85%	43.1%
Newaygo County	24,160	27,992	15.86%	34,917	24.74%	38,202	9.41%	47,874	25.32%	50,019	4.48%	107.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan 2000 - 2005

Within Newaygo County, the Townships surrounding the Fremont Area experienced their most significant growth between 1970 and 1980, with Lincoln and Bridgeton Townships experiencing nearly 80% growth rates. Between 1960 and 2005, the townships surrounding the Fremont Area experienced growth rates exceeding 100%, with Bridgeton and Lincoln Township experiencing growth rates over 200%.

With the exception of growth in the 1990's, the smaller cities in Newaygo County, including the City of Newaygo, Grant and White Cloud experienced a relatively slower growth rate or even a decline in population when compared to many of the townships in the area. This can most likely be attributed to several factors including the lack of available vacant land within the cities, the desire of many people to live on large lots in a rural atmosphere and the possible lack of appeal of the older housing stock within the cities. The City of Fremont has not experienced a decline in population since the 1930's and remains the most populous city in Newaygo County with a growth rate of 9.8% between 1990 and 2005. However, when compared to the surrounding cities during that same period, the City of Fremont was outpaced by the City of Newaygo (26%), Grant (15.8%) and White Cloud (24%).



Between 1970 and 1990, Sheridan Charter Township experienced a decline in population and was the only community in the immediate area to experience a decrease between 1980 and 1990. While 2000 census figures and 2005 population estimates reveal an end to this trend with the Township gaining approximately 221 persons between 1990 and 2005, the Township continues to grow at a slower pace than the majority of the surrounding communities and the estimated population is the same as it was in 1970.

*Population Projections*

County-wide population projections from 2000 through 2020 in five year increments were collected from the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) and the U.S. Census Bureau. The WMSRDC projections were based on county level population trends from 1994 to 2004.

Three sets of projections are generated; Arithmetic, Proportional and Constant County Share. The Arithmetic method adds a calculated number of persons to each five year period and is based upon the absolute change in population between 1970 and 2000. The Proportional method adds a percentage to each period which is based upon the 1970 through 2000 relative change in population. The Constant County Share method applies each community's average share of county population from 1970 to 2000 to the average county estimates for each five-year period. In all three instances, population projections were generated from U.S. Census Bureau 2005 population estimates.

## Population Projections: 2000 - 2020

	1990	2000	Estimate 2005	2010	2015	2020
<b>Fremont Area</b>	7,993	10,808	11,061			
Arithmetic				11,141	11,281	11,421
Proportional				11,156	11,313	11,472
Constant County Share				11,027	11,053	11,079
<b>Dayton Township</b>	1,971	2,002	2,065			
Arithmetic				2,080	2,096	2,111
Proportional				2,082	2,098	2,115
Constant County Share				2,079	2,093	2,108
WMRSDC				2,263	2,445	2,641
<b>Sheridan Township</b>	2,252	2,423	2,473			
Arithmetic				2,462	2,455	2,446
Proportional				2,462	2,455	2,446
Constant County Share				2,494	2,514	2,535
WMRSDC				2,711	2,930	3,165
<b>Sherman Township</b>	1,866	2,159	2,267			
Arithmetic				2,392	2,516	2,641
Proportional				2,467	2,685	2,923
Constant County Share				2,284	2,301	2,318
WMRSDC				2,486	2,687	2,903
<b>City of Fremont</b>	3,875	4,224	4,256			
Arithmetic				4,383	4,509	4,636
Proportional				4,411	4,572	4,739
Constant County Share				4,318	4,380	4,444
WMRSDC				4,687	5,064	5,471
<b>Newaygo County</b>	38,202	47,847	50,019			
WMRSDC				54,746	59,150	63,909
<b>Source: US Census Bureau, WMRSDC</b>						

Population projections estimates for the three communities vary depending on the method utilized due to the assumptions inherent in each method. While the arithmetic and proportional methods project relatively similar numbers, the constant county share projections vary by a significant number. This is due to the fact that this method is tied to the projections for the county as a whole while the arithmetic and proportional methods are community specific and calculated independently from the county. The most significant variance is in the projections for Sheridan Charter Township. The population in Sheridan Charter Township decreased from 1970 to 1990. The arithmetic and proportional methods make projections using this trend and estimate the population to continue to decrease. However, these projections can most likely be discounted due to a 7.59% increase in population between 1990 and 2000 and an estimated 2% increase in population between 2000 and 2005.

### Age Distribution

As was previously stated, analyzing the breakdown of the population in a community in terms of age can assist in determining current and future needs for recreation. In this analysis, six life-cycles are defined:

1. Preschool (Less than five years of age)
2. School (5 to 20 years)
3. Family Formation (21 to 44 years)
4. Empty Nest (45 to 64 years)
5. Senior (65 to 74 years)
6. Elderly (75 years or more)

As detailed on the chart and tables, Fremont’s largest population group falls within the family formation ages of 21 to 44 years old (3,302 persons or 30.5 percent of the population). In 2000, this was also the largest age group within each individual community. The smallest age group within Dayton Township and Sheridan Charter Township are those people 75 years and older, while those people under 5 years old represent the smallest population group within the City of Fremont and Sherman Township.

Nearly 20% of the population within the City and 17% of the population within Sherman Township is over 65 years old. While the number of people over 65 has decreased within these two jurisdictions since 1990, the number of people over 65 is relatively high when compared to Sheridan Charter Township (11%) and Dayton Township (10%). This may prove to be an important factor for future decision making within the City and Sherman Township in terms of affordable housing for seniors which offers living for diverse needs and abilities, in-home health services and community support services for the elderly. While the number of elderly people living in the City is greater than the Townships, since 1990, the number of elderly (75 years and older) living in the entire study area has increased significantly. At the same time, the number of people under 5 has decreased in the three Townships, particularly within Dayton Township (-42.9%) and Sheridan Charter Township (-30.6%) While the number of people under 5 has decreased in the Townships, the City has experienced growth of nearly 25%. In addition, with the exception of Dayton Township, each jurisdiction has experienced an increase in people between the ages of 5 and 20 (school age), an increase from the declining figures of the 1980’s. This may prove to be another important factor for future decision-making within each jurisdiction in terms of facilities and programming for school age children. While the male to female ratio within Dayton and Sheridan Charter Townships is nearly 50/50, there are (3%) more females residing within Sherman Township and (5%) more females residing within the City of Fremont.

**Percent Change in Age Distribution: 1990 to 2000**

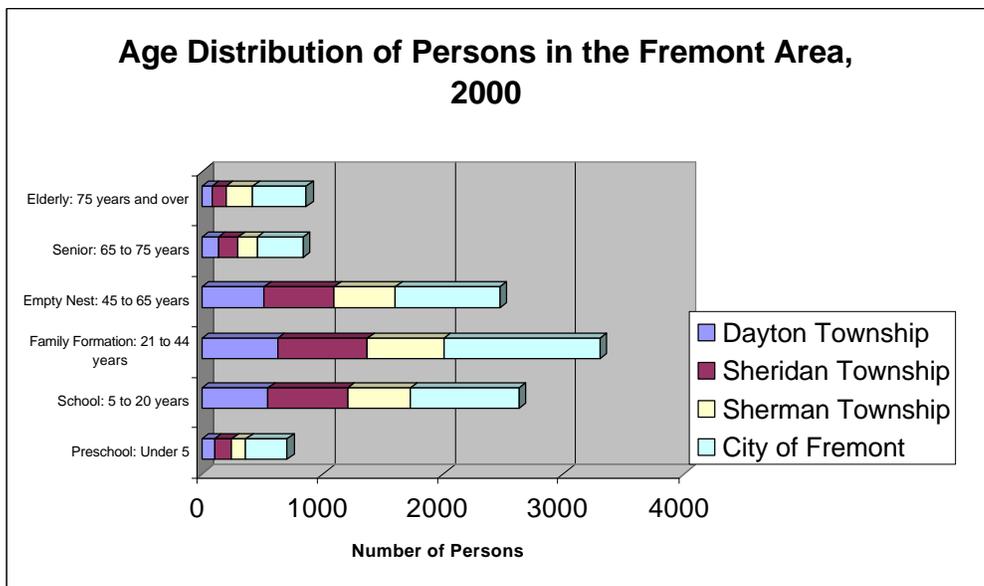
	<b>Dayton Township</b>	<b>Sheridan Township</b>	<b>Sherman Township</b>	<b>City of Fremont</b>
Preschool: Under 5	-42.9%	-30.6%	-8.1%	24.5%
School: 5 to 20 years	-3.0%	19.0%	14.9%	5.9%
Family Formation: 21 to 44 years	-6.3%	3.6%	11.3%	3.8%
Empty Nest: 45 to 65 years	26.9%	13.4%	43.8%	16.2%
Senior: 65 to 75 years	35.6%	3.8%	-9.3%	-9.2%
Elderly: 75 years and over	39.7%	31.5%	16.3%	30.6%

Source: US Census Bureau, Fremont Area Recreation Plan

### Fremont Area Age Distribution: 2000

	Dayton Township	Sheridan Township	Sherman Township	City of Fremont
Preschool: Under 5	104	145	114	341
School: 5 to 20 years	544	663	525	898
Family Formation: 21 to 44 years	622	753	631	1296
Empty Nest: 45 to 65 years	514	583	512	862
Senior: 65 to 75 years	137	162	156	383
Elderly: 75 years and over	81	117	221	444
Median Age	37.6	36.4	39.4	37.4

Source: US Census Bureau, Fremont Area Recreation Plan



### Disability Status

Analyzing the disability status of a community can assist decision makers with facility development and programming issues such as handicap accessibility as well as the type and location of recreation facilities. The following table illustrates the disability status of the population of the entire Fremont Area. In 2000, there were 7,000 people in the area who were 16 years or older, 15% (1,119) of which reported a disability that limited their mobility, self-care or both. This analysis should be referenced when making decisions regarding the type and locations of recreational facilities and programs.

## Disability Status in the Fremont Area 2000

	Number	% of Age Group Sub-total	% of Disabled population
<b>Population Aged 16 to 64 years</b>	5,889		
Physical limitation only	457	7.8%	28%
Self care limitation only	159	2.7%	10%
Go-outside-the-home only	296	5.0%	18%
Sub-total	912	15.5%	
<b>Population over 65 years</b>	1,528		
Physical limitation only	441	28.9%	27%
Self care limitation only	62	4.1%	4%
Go-outside-the-home only	218	14.3%	13%
Sub-total	721	47.2%	
<b>Total Disabled Population</b>	1,633		

Source: US Census Bureau (SF-3)

## Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000

Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000	Percent of Total Population				
	Dayton Township	Sheridan Township	Sherman Township	City of Fremont	Newaygo County
White	95.47%	94.88%	95.00%	95.60%	92.72%
Black	0.00%	0.08%	0.23%	0.25%	0.95%
American Indian	0.19%	0.08%	0.18%	0.53%	0.56%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.92%	0.55%	0.09%	1.43%	0.35%
Other Race	0.48%	1.31%	1.59%	0.51%	1.56%
Hispanic Origin (of any race)	2.94%	3.09%	2.91%	1.67%	3.86%

Source: US Census Bureau 2000, SF-3

### *Racial Composition*

The majority of people residing within the Fremont Area are Caucasian. Since 1990, the racial makeup of each jurisdiction has experienced an increase in people of Hispanic Origin. The City of Fremont's population differs slightly from the racial makeup of each Township in that 1.43% of the population are people of Asian or Pacific Islander race. Overall, the racial composition of the communities closely resembles the racial makeup of Newaygo County.

### *Persons Per Household*

A trend occurring nation-wide and characteristic of today’s population is the declining size of households. A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A housing unit is defined as a house, apartment, a mobile home, a group home, or a single room that is occupied as a separate living quarter. As a result of smaller households, it has been common for communities to register a net increase in the housing supply while not experiencing a proportional population growth or, in some cases, even a recorded population loss.

There are several factors that demographers have linked to the declining size of households including the fact that people are marrying at a later age than a generation ago, postponing having children and having fewer children when they do start a family. Nation-wide, married couple families still comprise the largest group of households, but the number of single parent (male or female) headed households is increasing and expected to grow, contributing to the decline in average household size. This nation-wide trend can be seen on a micro scale in the Fremont Area. In 1990, the average household sizes of Dayton, Sheridan Charter and Sherman Townships were 3.12 persons per household, 2.90 persons per household and 2.94 persons per household, respectively, while the City of Fremont had a relatively smaller persons per household at 2.34. Between 1990 and 2000, each Township, as well as the county and state, experienced a decline in household size, while the City remained even. The relationship trends among communities, county and state have remained relatively proportional over the last 30 years. The City of Fremont continues to have the fewest persons per household, even in relation to the county and state, while Dayton Township continues to have the highest persons per household, (2.89 in 2000).

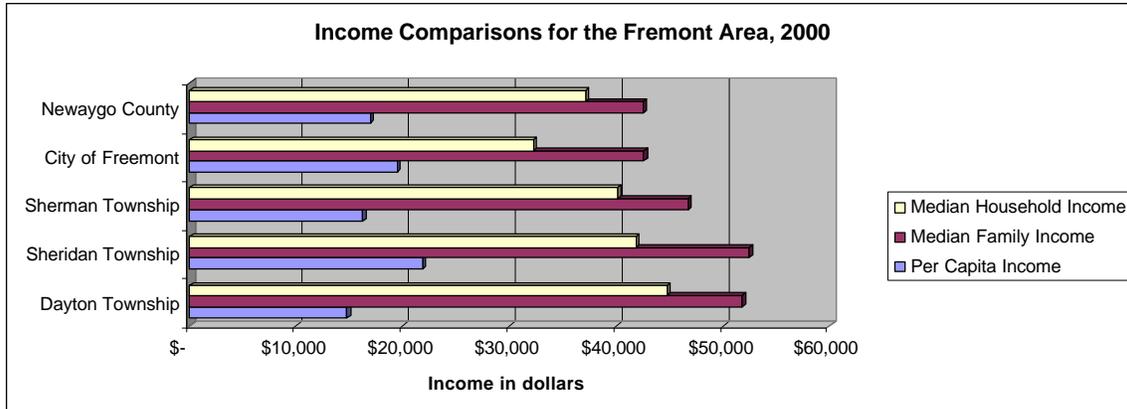
**Persons Per Household**

	1970	1980	1990	2000
<b>Dayton Township</b>	3.62	3.24	3.12	2.89
<b>Sheridan Township</b>	3.44	3.12	2.90	2.84
<b>Sherman Township</b>	n/a	n/a	2.94	2.71
<b>City of Fremont</b>	2.89	2.48	2.34	2.34
<b>Newaygo County</b>	3.28	2.91	2.74	2.68
<b>State of Michigan</b>	3.27	2.84	2.66	2.56

Source: US Census Bureau, Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan

***Income***

An important determinant of a community’s viability and ability to support future recreation facilities and programs is the income of its residents. Three measures of income (median household, median family and per capita) are analyzed on the following pages. It should be noted that income statistics for the 2000 Census reflect information from the 1999 calendar year and are in 1999 dollars.



Households are the basic consumer unit and supplier of labor to potential businesses. A household represents all the persons (not necessarily related) who occupy a housing unit and includes even those with one person living alone. Median household income (that level of income at which half of all households earn more and half of all households earn less) is a broad measure of relative economic health of a community’s populace. Within the Fremont Area, Dayton, Sheridan Charter and Sherman Townships have a significantly higher median household income (\$44,770, \$41,875 and \$40,163 respectively) in comparison to the City of Fremont (\$32,246).

Because many households consist of only one person, the household income figures are in most instances less than family income figures, as is the case in the Fremont Area. In compiling family income data, the US Census included the incomes of all members 15 years old and over in each family. Within the Fremont Area, Dayton and Sheridan Charter Townships have a significantly higher median family income than Sherman Township and the City of Fremont.

Per capita income figures represent income per person. The per capita income for residents of Sheridan Charter Township was \$21,834 while the per capita income for persons residing in Dayton Township, Sherman Township and the City of Fremont were (\$14,746, \$16,195 and \$19,475), respectively. Since 1990, Sheridan Charter Township experienced the largest per capita increase (\$10,030).

*Employment Trends*

This section analyzes the employment trends within the Fremont Area in terms of occupation and industry as well as the occupational trends from 1990 to 2000 within each individual community. Information on occupation describes the kind of work the person does on the job while information on industry relates to the kind of business conducted by a person’s employing organization. Some occupation groups are related closely to certain industries. Operators

- According to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, “Hot 50 List”, the ten best long-term growth occupations in Michigan include:
1. Personal Financial Advisor
  2. Sales Manager
  3. Marketing Managers
  4. General and Operations Managers
  5. Financial Managers
  6. Computer and Information Systems Managers
  7. Construction Managers
  8. Medical and Health Service Managers
  9. Physician Assistants
  10. Computer Software Engineers, Systems

of transportation equipment and farm operators and workers account for major portions of their respective industries of transportation and agriculture. However, the industry categories include persons in other occupations. For example, persons employed in agriculture include truck drivers and bookkeepers, while persons in the transportation industry include mechanics, freight handlers and payroll clerks. Understanding the composition of the workforce in a community can assist in assessing how a community might be affected by changes in the economy and employment trends. Data may reveal a need to diversify the employment base to protect the community from over reliance on one employment sector. The occupational trends within each community are crucial in establishing those employment sectors which are increasing at a high rate, stable or faltering. Due to changes in the industry classification system since 1990, the following charts attempt to *best match* 1990 occupation and industry classifications with 2000. In 2000, the Fremont Area had 4,770 people over the age of 16 who were employed. Nearly 20% (or 952) of those people were employed within the “professional and related” occupational category. The occupations that employed the second and third highest number of people were “office and administrative support” “service, other than productive”, with 718 and 626 people respectively.

The occupations that employ the greatest amount of people within Sheridan Charter Township are “Professional and Related” (215 people, or nearly 20% of those people living within Sheridan Charter Township), and “Office and Administrative Support” (167 people). The greatest amount of employed persons living in Dayton Township fall into the “Office and Administrative Support” category (170 people, or nearly 17%). The occupations that employ the greatest amount of people within Sherman Township are “Professional and Related” (143 people, or approximately 16% of those people living within Sheridan), “Service, other than Productive” (142 people), and “Office and Administrative Support” (140 people). A significant portion, 447 people or (24%), of employed people who reside within the City limits are employed in the “Professional and Related” occupation, with the second highest percentage of people (15%) being employed in the “Management, Professional and Related” occupation. Within the Fremont Area, “Professional and Related” experienced the greatest increase in terms of percentage of persons employed. In 1990, 621 people stated they were in the “Professional and Related” occupation, while in 2000 that number increased to 952 people, a 53% increase. Significant increases were also experienced within the “Transportation and Material Moving” occupation (47%), “Management, Professional and Related” occupation (31%) and “Office and Administrative Support” occupation (29%). The “Private Household” occupation category decreased by the most significant percentage (-100%), but it should be noted that the actual number of persons employed in this occupation was small to begin with 16 people in 1980, 11 people in 1990 and zero people in 2000. Significant decreases also occurred in the “Farming/Forestry/Fishing” (-77%) and “Installation, Maintenance, and Repair” (-33%) occupations.

**Occupational Trends in the Fremont Area: 1990 to 2000**

	1990	2000	% Change
Management, professional and related	455	594	31%
Professional and related	621	952	53%
Sales and related	391	447	14%
Office and administrative support	558	718	29%
Private household	11	0	-100%
Productive services	51	57	12%
Service, other than productive	568	626	10%

Farming/Forestry/Fishing	282	66	-77%
Production	478	546	14%
Installation, maintenance and repair	295	197	-33%
Transportation and Material Moving	233	343	47%
Construction and extraction	211	224	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3665</b>	<b>4770</b>	<b>30%</b>

**Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 and Fremont Area Recreation Plan**

In analyzing the industries in which people of Newaygo County are employed, 7 of the top 15 major employers in Newaygo County are located within the City of Fremont, employing 3,125 people. The Gerber Products Company, manufacturer of a number of non-durable goods, employs 1,300 people. The City of Fremont is also home to large employers in the metal stamping, lubricant, health care, education, life insurance and retail trade industry. In analyzing the industries in which people worked in the Fremont Area, over 60% work in either the manufacturing (24%), retail trade (12.7%), health services (12.5%) or education services industry (10.7%).

#### **Newaygo County Employers: 2004**

<b>Major Employers</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>	<b>Product</b>
<i>Gerber Products Company</i>	<i>Fremont</i>	<i>1300</i>	<i>Baby Food</i>
<i>DURA Automotive Systems, Inc.</i>	<i>Fremont</i>	<i>535</i>	<i>Metal stampings &amp; assemblies</i>
<i>Magna Donnelly Corporation</i>	<i>Newaygo</i>	<i>505</i>	<i>Automotive doors and mirrors</i>
<i>Gerber Memorial Health Services</i>	<i>Fremont</i>	<i>470</i>	<i>Health care services</i>
<i>Fremont Public Schools</i>	<i>Fremont</i>	<i>335</i>	<i>School/education</i>
<i>Grant Public Schools</i>	<i>Grant</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>School/education</i>
<i>Wm Bolthouse Farms</i>	<i>Grant</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>Vegetables (seasonal emp.)</i>
<i>White Cloud Public Schools</i>	<i>White Cloud</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>School/education</i>
<i>Newaygo Public Schools</i>	<i>Newaygo</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>School/education</i>
<i>County of Newaygo</i>	<i>White Cloud</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>County Government</i>
<i>Wal-mart</i>	<i>Fremont</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>Retail Department Store</i>
<i>Hesperia Public Schools</i>	<i>Hesperia</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>School/education</i>
<i>Gerber Life Insurance Company</i>	<i>Fremont</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>Life Insurance</i>
<i>North American Refractories</i>	<i>White Cloud</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>Refractory Products/Furnace Linings</i>
<i>Valspar (Lilly) Industries, Inc.</i>	<i>Fremont</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>Lubricants &amp; oil additives</i>

Source: Newaygo County Economic Development Office, 2004

#### **Industry Trends in the Fremont Area: 1990 to 2000**

	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	340	179	-47%
Mining	0	5	
Construction	231	272	18%
Manufacturing	1204	1151	-4%
Wholesale Trade	95	103	8%
Retail Trade	740	609	-18%

Transportation and Warehousing	109	148	36%
Utilities	43	29	-33%
Information	0	76	
Finances/Insurance/Real Estate	159	213	34%
Professional Services	141	293	108%
Entertainment/Recreation Services	35	240	586%
Health Services	470	597	27%
Educational Services	399	512	28%
Other Professional and Related Services	213	209	-2%
Public Administration	109	134	23%
Total	4288	4770	11%

Source: US Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000 SF-3

## Physical Characteristics

This portion of the Community Description chapter examines existing land use patterns for their distinguishing characteristics and impact on future land development, zoning in regard to recreation lands, the natural features of the community and finally the transportation systems within the Fremont Area.

### Physical Setting

The Fremont Area, located in southwest Newaygo County, encompasses four political jurisdictions; the City of Fremont, Dayton Township, Sherman Township and Sheridan Charter Township. The City of Fremont (including Fremont Lake), measures 5.06 square miles or 3.83 square miles without Fremont Lake, and has been incorporated from parts of Dayton and Sheridan Townships, which lie north and south of Main Street respectively. Sherman Township lies to the northeast. The Fremont Area is located approximately 45 miles northwest of the Grand Rapids metropolitan area and 30 miles northeast of the City of Muskegon.

The Fremont Area may be generally described as an urban center engulfed by inland lakes, rural farmland, forest lands and open space. Fremont Lake, the planning area's most prominent natural feature, is found in the northeast quadrant of Sheridan Charter Township. The Lake has an area of 1.23 square miles and a shoreline of nearly six miles. A string of four lakes found in the northeast portion of the City and the southeast portion of Dayton Township are connected to Fremont Lake by Darling Creek. Sherman Township is home to several prominent lakes including Robinson Lake, Crystal Lake and Ryerson Lake. In addition, large portions of the Manistee National Forest are located in the eastern third of Sherman Township.

### *Community Character Analysis*

Community character may be defined as the image one receives from viewing a landscape. There are many aspects to every image that combine to form an overall impression. The Small Town Planning

Handbook summarizes positive aspects associated with rural character. These aspects should be retained to the greatest extent possible to preserve the pastoral image associated with the rural areas. The positive aspects listed below are abundantly found in the rural landscape of Dayton, Sherman and Sheridan Charter Townships. The gently rolling pastures and agricultural fields are colored by farmsteads and separated by treed fence lines. The serene nature of the Township area provides residents with a sense of solitude. Wetlands surrounding lakes and creeks serve as a natural habitat for waterfowl. Scenic overlooks provide views of orchard rows and gravel country roads heading for the horizon.

<b>Positive Aspects of Rural Character</b>	
Wooded areas	Fence lines
Low activity	Shorelines
Open range	Quiet
Open fields	Water
Creeks	Trees along roads
Farm residences	Simplicity
Vistas	Architecture
Imagery	Historic Sites
Storage Elevators	Wetlands

Source: Daniels, Thomas L. Keller and Lapping, The Small Town Planning Handbook, Planners Press, American Planning Association, 1995

The City of Fremont, on the other hand, contains a compact development pattern within a more intimate, small mid-western town setting. The Small Town Planning Handbook provides insight into people’s perceptions of small towns. “Small towns conjure up images of tree-lined streets with sidewalks, slow, easy-moving traffic, and a town square where people shop and socialize. The houses are well kept among all income groups. Industries are on the edge of town, often on the other side of the railroad tracks. And from almost anywhere in the town, you can see out to the surrounding countryside. There is order, neatness, and safety. The town works as a place to live and to make a living. It works as a community. It has a sense of identity and of its place in the world.”<sup>1</sup>

*Community Sub-areas*

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<sup>1</sup> Daniels, Thomas L., Keller and Lapping, The Small Town Planning Handbook, Planners Press, American Planning Association, 1995.

The landscape found in the Fremont Area can be generally subdivided into eight areas of distinction. The following describes the location and distinguishing characteristics of each subarea. The subareas are depicted on Map 1, Community Character Subareas. They are intended to conceptually capture the predominant land use theme within the larger area. Areas between community sub-area types are intentionally left blank to depict areas of transition and to emphasize boundary lines as being conceptual in nature.

**Residential Neighborhood Areas**  
 Residential neighborhoods have developed within a rectangular grid street pattern throughout the City. The housing stock generally increases in age according to proximity to the city center, with some homes of historical significance being renovated to preserve the traditional character of the community. Modern housing developments are generally found in subdivisions in the northeast and southeast parts of the City. Moreover, new housing units are under construction along Valley Avenue, north of 44<sup>th</sup> Street. Two mobile home parks are situated adjacent to the industrial park in the southwest portion of the City. A manufactured housing park has developed in the northwest corner of the City.

**Public/Semi Public Areas**

Large tracts of land devoted for public and semi-public purposes embrace the City’s neighborhood areas. The southern perimeter of the City contains two public schools, four recreation areas and a cemetery. Ramshorn on the Lakes and Arboretum Park border neighborhoods to the east. Branstrom Park consumes over 100 acres of land in the north with Daisy Brook and Pathfinder elementary schools binding neighborhood areas to the northwest.

Churches with large acreage, such as All Saints and Second Christian Reformed, are also found along the City’s perimeter. These uses generally combine to form transition areas that separate more intense residential areas from the rural countryside. In general, large portions of the National Forest lie within Sherman Township from Baseline Road in the north to 40<sup>th</sup> Street in the south and almost the entire eastern third of Sherman Township.



**Central Business District (CBD)**

The focal point of the City is centered on its historic CBD situated along Main Street, between Weaver Avenue and Darling Avenue. The downtown is filled with specialty stores, banks, offices, restaurants and public buildings. Main Street is lined with trees, decorative street lamps and brick pavers that promote a pedestrian

friendly and attractive atmosphere. Off-street public parking areas are located to the rear of buildings and parallel to the road.

Veterans Memorial Park anchors the west-end of the downtown pulling pedestrian shoppers through the CBD. The park features an open-air amphitheater, picnic and resting area as well as a play area for children.



The newly constructed City Hall and Fremont Area District Library anchor the east-end of the CBD. The Fremont High School is sited adjacent to the east, adding to the cluster of public uses.

There are many prominent buildings within the downtown that give definition to the identity to the CBD. These structures include the Gerber Life Insurance Company, the United States Post Office, White Agency, Inc. and Huntington Bank.

### **West Main Street (M-82) Corridor Area**

The West Main Street Corridor Area covers properties fronting M-82, west of Gibson Avenue to Green Avenue. This area carries distinction for its franchise commercial/suburban type business developments that rely on automobile use and high visibility. The north side of the corridor contains large and small shopping plazas, freestanding businesses and a few single-family residences. The south-side of M-82 supports primarily strip commercial development on individual parcels.

### **East Main Street (Old M-20) and Stewart Avenue (M-82) Corridor Area**

The East Main Street and Stewart Avenue Corridor Area can be characterized as supporting segments of neighborhood commercial and office establishments that do not rely on passerby traffic. Included in this area are blocks of single-family residential units typically connected to neighborhood areas. This community subarea extends south into Sheridan Charter Township along M-82 to capture a node of general commercial development.

### **Industrial Areas**

The heart of the City's economy is largely pumped by its industry. The Gerber Products Company, Fremont's largest employer, occupies a substantial landmass north of the convergence of State Street and the CSX railroad. The complex contains manufacturing plants, corporate offices and a research

facility within a campus like setting and employs 1,254 persons<sup>2</sup>. Valspar Inc, a contract packaging company, lies to the east of the Gerber complex, within an undefined industrial node of small shops surrounded by residential uses.

The City's southwest side supports a 149-acre, state certified industrial park. It was developed with a campus-like setting, taking advantage of the land's natural wooded surroundings, and providing all the amenities, including municipal water and sanitary sewer, storm sewer facilities, curb/gutter asphalt streets and other private utilities such as electric, gas, telephone and cable television<sup>3</sup>. The industrial park was expanded in 1996 to include 118 acres of platted, fully improved land. The expansion area is beginning to develop, with one industry operational and two others under construction.



### **Lakeside Resort Area**

The Lakeside Resort Area includes land surrounding the chain of lakes found just outside the City limits in Dayton and Sheridan Townships and land surrounding Peterson, Robinson, Crystal and Long Lakes in Sherman Township. This area can be characterized as supporting shoreline cottages and year-round dwellings on relatively

small lots. The string of four lakes in Dayton Township is surrounded by platted subdivisions that take advantage of buildable soils. Residential development has occurred on long and narrow lots along the west and south shoreline of Fremont Lake. The north side contains more concentrated residential developments with sewers and shared access drives. The east side of Fremont Lake has not developed largely due to hydric soils and wetlands. In Sherman Township, residential development has occurred on long and narrow lots along the south shoreline of Peterson Lake, all but the southeast shoreline on Robinson Lake, the northwest and southeast shoreline of Crystal lake and west and south shorelines of Long Lake.

### **Rural Township Area**

The Rural Township Area can be generally described as a patchwork of agricultural fields, pastures, forested areas and dispersed residential development along section line roads. The Rural Township Area is filled with rich soils for agricultural production that feed the Gerber Products Company and other food processing industries. Apple orchards and dairy farms are tucked into the rolling hills while flatlands are used for the production of clean tillage crops such as corn, soybeans and vegetables. Horse breeding operations



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<sup>2</sup> City of Fremont Community Profile and Business Directory, Fremont Chamber of Commerce, 1998.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

are becoming increasingly prevalent in the area. Home-based vegetable and fruit stands sprout along the roadways during harvest season to add local flavor.

Upland forests found in the southern third of Sheridan Charter Township have not been cleared mainly due to non-prime agricultural soils.

### **Existing Land Use Inventory**

An understanding of the existing land development pattern and site conditions furnishes the basic information by which future residential, commercial, industrial and public land use decisions can be made. In the course of exercising its zoning powers, the controlling municipality must give reasonable consideration to the character of each area and its suitability for particular uses. An inventory of existing land use furthers this objective. Existing land use data was provided by the Center for Remote Sensing and GIS at Michigan State University, and reflects Michigan 1998/1999 land use/land cover update figures.

#### *Land Use Distribution*

Each existing land use was placed in one of sixteen general land use categories. Map 2, Existing Land Use, depicts the geographic distribution of the land use classifications. A discussion of each land use category follows.

### **Agriculture Land**

The agriculture category includes land under cultivation, horse farms, dairy farms, ranching operations, pastures, orchards and tree farms. These lands are generally located in areas of prime agricultural soils. Agricultural land occupies 53 percent of the Fremont Planning Area. Within Dayton Township, agricultural uses account for 15,735 acres, or 72.2 percent of the total land area. Just under two-thirds of Sheridan Charter Township is used for agricultural purposes.

### **Extractive**

The extractive category includes wells, quarries, gravel pits, mining sites and other operations which remove minerals and other matter from the earth's subsurface. Extractive operations are found outside the City in the rural countryside. In total, this category comprises 164 acres, or less than one percent of the Fremont Planning Area.



### **Forest Land**

The forest category includes all areas covered by broadleaf (northern hardwoods, central hardwoods, oak, aspen-birch, and lowland hardwoods), coniferous (pine, spruce-fir, lowland conifers, and managed

Christmas tree plantations), and mixed conifer-broadleaf forest. Forest land occupies 29 percent of the Fremont Area. Forest Lands account for 11,998.4 acres or 52.4% of the total land in Sherman Township.

### **Grass and Shrub Lands**

The grass and shrub land category includes land subject to continuous mowing, grazing or burning or areas dominated by native shrubs and low woody plants that if left undisturbed, will be dominated by young tree growth. In total, this category comprises 4,824 acres, or 7 percent of the total land area.

### **Industrial**

The industrial category includes manufacturing, assembling and general fabricating facilities, warehouses, heavy auto repair facilities and non-manufacturing uses which are industrial in their character (significant outdoor storage or shipping/receiving requirements). Examples of industrial uses include DURA Automotive, Lilly Industries, Larry's Transmission Service and Gerber Products Company. Developed industrial land uses occupy approximately 124.9 acres, or 5.7 percent of the total land area in the City of Fremont.

### **Manufactured Home Park**

The manufactured home park category includes land assembled for the purpose of locating a planned mobile home community on the site. Land so classified includes related service and recreational areas. No mobile home parks are located in Dayton or Sherman Townships.

Mobile home parks occupy 50.8 acres of land within the City of Fremont. They are situated near the Fremont Industrial Park and in the northwest corner of the City.

### **Multi-Family Residential**

This multiple-family residential category includes structures with two or more units on the same site. These may be duplexes, apartments or townhouses developed individually or in complexes. It also includes related lawn areas, parking lots and any accessory recreation facility. Examples of this type of use are Wedgewood Apartments, Oakcreek Village Apartments and Greenfield Manor. Multiple-family residential uses are primarily limited to the City of Fremont where public services are readily available. This category comprises 29.7 acres of City land.

### **Open Land and Other**

The open land and other category includes land used for outdoor cultural, public assembly and recreational purposes such as fairgrounds, some parkland and cemeteries. Open land and other uses occupy 267.5 acres or 12.4 percent of the land with the City of Fremont.

### **Primary/Central Business District**

The central business district contains a mix of land uses at the historic core of the City. It includes specialty stores, restaurants, banks, offices, public buildings and residential dwelling units. This category encompasses 14 acres of land along Main Street, between Weaver Avenue and Darling Avenue.

### **Secondary/Neighborhood or Rural Business**

The commercial category includes convenience stores, comparison shopping centers and general commercial businesses, as well as gasoline stations, restaurants, automotive sales, light auto repair/service facilities (i.e., quick oil change businesses), theaters and landscaping supplies. In total, this category encompasses 89 acres in the Fremont Area.

### **Single-Family Residential**

The single-family residential category includes site-built single-family detached structures used as a permanent dwelling, manufactured (modular) dwelling or mobile homes located outside of designated mobile home parks and accessory buildings, such as garages, that are related to these units. It also includes small farmsteads and related agricultural buildings located near the primary dwelling.

Single-family residential uses occupy 2,234 acres, or 3.2 percent of land within the Fremont Planning Area. Within the City of Fremont, single-family residential uses account for nearly two-fifth's of the City land area, occupying approximately 838 acres. Larger lot single-family residential development is found on 331 acres in Dayton Township, 480 acres in Sherman Township and 584 acres in Sheridan Charter Township.

### **Transition Lands**

The transitional lands category includes lands that appear to be changing in use, but have yet to be identified by a field inspection. These lands are primarily associated near the urban fringe where open and agricultural lands are likely to transition into more urban or residential uses.

### **Transportation, Communication, Utilities**

The Transportation, Communication and Utilities category includes major highways, railways and airports, areas associated with radio, radar, television and telephone equipment and areas associated with the transport of gas, oil, water and sewage. This category occupies 465 acres in the Fremont Planning Area.

## Water

The water category includes all lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, and drains. This category comprises 937.7 acres in the Fremont Community. The lakes category comprises 735.8 acres or 3.2 percent of the land in Sherman Township.

## Wetlands

The wetlands category includes all areas where the water table is at, near or above the land surface for a significant part of most years. In Sherman Township, wetlands occupy 1,049 or 4.6 percent of the land.

### Fremont Area Land Use Categories

Land Use Categories	City of Fremont		Dayton Twp.		Sheridan Ch. Twp.		Sherman Twp.		Fremont Area	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Agricultural Land	177.4	8.2%	15,735.5	72.0%	13,422.7	63.1%	6,976.8	30.5%	36,312.4	53.3%
Extractive	8.2	0.4%	55.2	0.3%	79.2	0.4%	21.8	0.1%	164.4	0.2%
Forest Land	199.2	9.2%	3,429.5	15.7%	4,589.0	21.6%	11,998.4	52.4%	20,216.1	29.7%
Grass and Shrub Lands	190.0	8.8%	1,326.8	6.1%	1,906.9	9.0%	1,402.3	6.1%	4,826.0	7.1%
Industrial	124.9	5.8%	24.8	0.1%	16.5	0.1%			166.2	0.2%
Institutional	133.2	6.2%	0.2	0.0%			21.1	0.1%	154.4	0.2%
Manufactured Home Park	50.8	2.4%			3.4	0.0%			54.2	0.1%
Multi-Family Residential	29.7	1.4%	0.2	0.0%					29.9	0.0%
Open Land and Other	267.5	12.4%	169.0	0.8%	14.1	0.1%	86.5	0.4%	537.2	0.8%
Primary/Central Business District	21.9	1.0%			8.7	0.0%			30.6	0.0%
Secondary/Neighborhood or Rural Business	44.3	2.1%	13.2	0.1%	18.4	0.1%	13.1	0.1%	89.0	0.1%
Single Family Residential	838.3	38.8%	331.7	1.5%	584.9	2.7%	480.0	2.1%	2,234.8	3.3%
Transitional Land	33.2	1.5%			14.2	0.1%	56.9	0.2%	104.3	0.2%
Transportation, Communication, Utilities					420.6	2.0%	44.6	0.2%	465.2	0.7%
Water			183.1	0.8%	18.8	0.1%	735.8	3.2%	937.6	1.4%
Wetlands	41.0	1.9%	581.9	2.7%	175.4	0.8%	1,049.5	4.6%	1,847.9	2.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,159.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>21,851.0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>21,272.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>22,886.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>68,170.1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Natural Features

One measure of a community’s “quality of life” can be found in its natural features. Natural features include a variety of elements such as wetlands, woodlands and bodies of water. The amount, type and location of these features help to establish an area’s “character,” while also providing vital habitat for a variety of wildlife. Natural areas are often times also prime areas for both active and passive recreational opportunities. Activities such as excavation, filling, clearing, grading and construction, which take place during the development of a site, can significantly affect a community’s natural features.

Citizens have become increasingly aware of the sensitive nature of their environment and the extent to which it affects the quality of their lives. The level of importance that citizens place on the environment and environmental issues was apparent in a recent poll commissioned by the National Wildlife

Federation. Results of the poll found that 62 percent of American voters were in favor of strong environmental protection, while only 18 percent were opposed to such measures<sup>4</sup> .

Another study, conducted in 1992, identified and ranked the State of Michigan's most pressing environmental issues. The results of this study showed that land use planning procedures that fail to consider a community's natural features and the integrity of their ecosystems pose one of the greatest risks to the quality of the environment in the future<sup>5</sup> .

For these reasons, and many others, special attention should be given to the preservation of natural and *environmentally-sensitive* areas in long-range planning initiatives. Environmentally-sensitive areas are lands whose destruction or disturbance will immediately affect the life of the community by either:

- Creating hazards such as flooding or slope erosion;
- Contaminating important public resources such as groundwater supplies or surface water bodies; or,
- Misusing land with significant productivity characteristics and renewable resources.

### *Climate*

The general climatic characteristics of Newaygo County are highly varied due to the topographical variations of the region and the proximity of the county to Lake Michigan (approximately 25 miles to the west). Lake-effect weather patterns occur in the area, giving way to somewhat longer winter seasons and heavier snowfalls than those experienced in the eastern half of the State. The Soil Survey for Newaygo County includes weather readings from three stations in the area. Information below was derived from averaging data compiled by all three stations. In winter, the average temperature for the Fremont Area is approximately 22° F. In summer, the average temperature is approximately 69° F, with the growing season lasting approximately 128 days.

Average annual precipitation (rain) for the Fremont Area amounts to approximately 32 inches, with more than half of this amount occurring during the months of April through September. Snowfall for the area averages 75 inches annually.

### *Geology*

Generally, the surface geology of the Fremont Area consists of several outwash and lake plains in nearly level valleys having defined boundaries. Marshall sandstone underlies all of Newaygo County. Other minor formations which overlie the county-wide Marshall sandstone formation consist of limestone, gypsum, shale and clay. Overlying these rock formations is a mass of glacial drift, deposited after the

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<sup>4</sup> Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Office of Great Lakes Activity Report, February 1995. (Poll conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates for the National Wildlife Federation.)

<sup>5</sup> Michigan Relative Risk Analysis Project. Michigan's Environment and Relative Risk. 1992.

Wisconsinan Glaciation during the last Ice Age. This glacial drift ranges from 200 to 800 feet in thickness. Glacial meltwater streams, which were much larger than the current rivers and streams, deposited outwash material into the valleys. The long abandoned meltwater channels have been filled with organic deposits over time. As the ice receded and the levels of the glacial lakes dropped, the valleys were incised and terraces formed along present day streams and rivers.

### *Topography*

The topography of the Fremont Area is characterized by gently sloping to nearly level plains. Elevations range from approximately 975 feet in north-central Dayton Township to 835 feet in north-eastern Sherman Township and 710 feet in south-central Sheridan Charter Township. The following map (Map 3) depicts the few areas in the community with slopes greater than 12 percent. The majority of these are found in the north-western and south-eastern third of Sherman Township (Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36). A small pocket of steep slopes are also located in the south-central portions of Sheridan Charter Township (Sections 28, 29, 32 and 33) and northern portions of Dayton Township (Sections 1, 2 and 5) as well as in the southern portions around the chain of four lakes, near the northern border of the City of Fremont (Sections 25 and 26).

Steep slopes are subject to earth movement, especially where they have been disturbed by excavation and deforestation. Although the amount of movement may be slight, it can result in cracked foundations, tilted basement walls and damaged sewer and water lines. Where possible, buildings should not be placed on slopes in excess of 12 percent<sup>6</sup>. Construction on these types of slopes is not only subject to earth movement, but it can also prove costly, due to the need for extensive construction engineering provisions.

### *Bodies of Water*

Many of the creeks and streams found in the Fremont Area are direct results of glacial activity. Darling Creek and Brooks Creek are the two primary creeks in the Fremont Area. Darling Creek runs from First Lake to Fremont Lake, while Brooks Creek runs from Fremont Lake into Bridgeton Township and eventually to the Muskegon River. Other creeks include Cushman, Dragoo, Dry Run, Butler, Wrights and Black Creeks. The White River cuts across the northeast corner of Sherman Township. Located in the north-central portion of Sheridan Charter Township, approximately 1 mile south of Dayton Township, Fremont Lake is 790 acres and is the second largest natural lake in Newaygo County. Fremont Lake provides the area with an excellent source of water related recreational activities and picturesque views. The area also has a few additional and relatively small natural lakes. The largest of these include Robinson Lake, Crystal Lake and Ryerson Lake in Sherman Township and the “chain” of lakes in the southeastern portion of Dayton Township. The “chain” of lakes include First Lake, Second Lake, Third Lake and Fourth Lake. The largest of the four, Third Lake, is approximately 20 acres in

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<sup>6</sup> Stream Sites: Buying, Building and Care, *Michigan Natural Resources Commission*.  
*Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan*

size. As was previously discussed, this chain of lakes is surrounded by land with varying degrees of elevation change creating one of the most scenic areas in the community.

### *Carrying Capacity*

According to the *Soil Survey of Newaygo County, Michigan*<sup>7</sup>, there are 7 major soil associations found in the Fremont Area: Plainfield-Grattan-Brems, Cosad-DelRey-Sickles, Coloma-Spinks-Metea, Marlette-Metea-Spinks, Toogood-Boyer, Glendora-Abscota-Algansee and Pipestone-Covert-Kingsville. The following table briefly describes the general characteristics of each soil association.

Soil types in the immediate vicinity of the City of Fremont, as well as the majority of Dayton Township and the south-western portion of Sherman Township, are well suited for crops and pasture (Marlette). These soils also provide a good base for building sites and roads. In contrast, a majority of soils in Sheridan and Sherman Townships can be characterized as having limited development capacity. For example, the eastern portion of Sheridan Township and the North-eastern portion of Sherman Township consist of poorly drained soils which are best suited only as woodland and wetland habitat (Plainfield, Pipestone & Glendora) and vegetable production when drained and improved, while the western portion of the Township consists of soils which are well suited for pasture or cropland (Cosad).

An important aspect regarding the types of soils found in the Fremont Area is the incidence of *hydric soils*. The United States Department of Agriculture defines hydric soils as soils that form under conditions of saturation, flooding or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper portion. Hydric soils pose significant development concerns. In order to use them for building sites of any type, special engineering and design considerations must be considered.

Map 3 shows the general location of hydric soils in the Fremont area. As can be seen, hydric soils tend to be found in areas such as lowland drainage courses, particularly along Dry Run Creek and Brooks Creek; south of Fremont Lake, in areas associated with wetlands along the eastern shore of Fremont Lake, or in woodland areas such as the south-central portion of Sheridan Charter Township and the north-eastern portions of Sherman Township.

Map 3 also delineates the location of soils that have been categorized by the Soil Conservation Service as having severe constraints in the construction of dwellings without basements due to slope, wetness, cutbanks cave, ponding, subsides, low strength, etc. A large portion of the Fremont Area contains such soils. Severe soils are scattered throughout Dayton Township but are more concentrated in Sheridan and the northeastern portions of Sherman Township. There is a strong correlation between soils that are

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<sup>7</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Services, Soil Survey of Newaygo County, Michigan, February 1995.

difficult to build on and the existing land use pattern throughout Sheridan Charter Township. While these soils have been built on in the past and most likely will continue to be, construction and engineering costs will be more extensive than construction on drier, more stable soils. The majority of the soils in the entire planning area also have severe constraints when utilized as septic tank absorption fields.

### *Prime Farmland*

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, prime farmland is defined as:

“Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage fiber and oilseed crops, and is available for use as cropland, pastureland, rangeland and forestland.”<sup>8</sup>

In general, prime farmlands have adequate and dependable water supplies from precipitation or irrigation, as well as favorable temperatures and growing seasons. In addition, prime farmlands are relatively rock-free and permeable to water and air. Prime farmlands are also not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods of time and are not frequently flooded during the growing season. As is illustrated in Map 4, prime farmlands dominate the Fremont Area. Prime farmland soils have been broken down into three categories--those that are prime soils and have less than a 6 percent slope (P1), those that are considered prime farmland soils if they are adequately drained (P2), and those soils which are prime soils if they are not flooded (P3).

A large percentage of prime farmland in the Fremont Area is found on the well drained, loamy Marlette soils that underlie the majority of Dayton Township. Sheridan Charter Township has a good share of prime farmlands as well, found primarily in the western third of the Township and areas southeast of Fremont Lake. Sherman Township has a fair share of prime farmlands as well, found primarily in the southwestern quarter of the Township. Prime farmland soils also ring the entire City limits of Fremont.

These soils coincide closely with properties enrolled in the PA 116 program. In 1974, the Michigan State Legislature adopted the *Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act*. This is now known as *Part 361, Farmland and Open Space Preservation, of Act 451*. The scope of this program is to preserve prime agricultural and open space lands by allowing the landowner to enter into a legally binding document with the State, agreeing not to develop the land for a set period of time. In exchange for not developing the land, the landowner may receive special tax consideration. The legally binding agreements are for a time period of between 10 and 90 years and are recorded at the County Register of Deeds.

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid, p.80.

## Soil Associations in the Fremont Area

Association	General Location				Description
	Dayton Township	Sheridan Township	Sherman Township	City of Fremont	
<b>Plainfield-Grattan-Brems</b>	Not Found	Southeast Portion	Northeast Portion	Not Found	Excessively drained soils on outwash plains and moraines. Formed in sandy deposits. Rapid permeability. Slopes to 70 percent. Best suited as road fill. Most areas used as woodland wildlife habitat. Only 0 to 6 percent slopes suited to building site development.
<b>Cosad-DelRay-Sickles</b>	Southwest Portion	Southwest Portion	Not Found	Not Found	Somewhat poorly drained soils on lake plains and outwash plains. Formed in sandy sediments over loam and clay deposits. Rapid permeability in upper part of profile, slow in lower part. Typical slopes 0 to 3 percent. Best suited as woodland and wetland wildlife habitat. Most areas used as cropland. Well-suited as pasture. Cosad loamy soils with 0 to 3 percent slopes considered prime farmland.
<b>Coloma-Spikes-Metea</b>	Eastern Portion	North Central Portion	Southeast Portion	Not Found	Excessively drained, rapidly permeable soils on moraines and outwash plains. Formed in sandy deposits. Typical slopes 0 to 6 percent. Fairly well suited to pasture. Lower slope, well suited to building site development, poorly suited to septic tank absorption fields.
<b>Marlette-Metea-Spinks</b>	Majority	Northern Portion	Southwest Portion	Majority	Well drained and moderately well drained, moderately slow permeable soils on moraines or till plains. Formed in loamy deposits. Typical slopes 1 to 6 percent. Most areas used for cultivated crops or for orchards. Well suited for crops such as corn, winter wheat, oats and hay. well suited as pasture. Fairly well suited to building site development. Marlette loams, moderately wet with 1 to 6 percent slopes considered prime farmland.
<b>Pipestone-Covert-Kingsville</b>	Not Found	Eastern Portion	Northern Portion	Not Found	Somewhat poorly drained, rapidly permeable soils on lake plains and outwash plains. Formed in sandy deposits. Typical slopes 0 to 4 percent. Most areas used as woodlands. Poorly suited to pasture and cropland. Unsited to building site development.
<b>Toogood-Boyer</b>	Not Found	Not Found	Northeast Portion	Not Found	Somewhat excessively drained soils on broad, flat plains, of the side slopes of steep drainage ways and ridges. Formed in loamy sand deposits. Typical slopes 0 to 18 percent. Most areas used as woodlands. Poorly suited for to cropland and generally unsited to building site development.
<b>Glendora-Abscota-Algansee</b>	Not Found	Not Found	Northern Portion	Not Found	Very poorly drained soils on flood plains. Formed in loamy deposits. Typical slopes 0 to 3 percent. Most areas used as woodlands. A few areas well suited for croplands. Wetness and flooding a major concern and unsited for septic tanks.

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Bewaygo County, Michigan, 1995

When applications are received by the MDNR (Michigan Department of Natural Resources), they are evaluated according to criteria established by Part 361 of Act 451, which includes a scoring system approved by both the Natural Resources Commission and the Commission of Agriculture. Factors considered in the selection of parcels include a mandate that at least 51% of the parcel be devoted to an agricultural use, and that the local governing body with zoning authority over the nominated property must approve all applications. Other factors include consideration of the productive capacity of the farmland, threat of conversion to non-farm uses, complementing *local* farmland preservation efforts, proximity to other similarly protected land and the availability of matching funds.

**PA 116 Property in the Fremont Area**

<b>Sheridan Township</b>	3,640	acres
<b>Dayton Township</b>	7,401	acres
<b>Sherman Township</b>	5,743	acres
<b>Total</b>	16,784	acres

Source: Fremont Rec. Plan 2000, Sherman Twp. Master Plan 2004

As is apparent on Map 4, the PA 116 program has been very popular in the Fremont Area, with significant portions of property retained for agricultural purposes. Properties enrolled in the PA 116 program are not only lands which are considered to be “prime farmlands”, but they also incorporate additional properties throughout the planning area.

A sizable amount of agricultural land is being preserved through this process in both Sheridan and Dayton Townships. Although this program ensures that a large portion of privately-held land within the Fremont Area remains agricultural for many years, significant implications regarding the future development of these lands exist. For example, due to the fact that many local landowners entered into PA 116 agreements, the amount of land available for immediate residential or commercial expansion is limited. Lands preserved under the PA 116 program place additional development pressures on the community by tying up large tracts of potentially developable land for extended periods of time. Additionally, land prices may rise considerably as a result, limiting the affordability of the area. Therefore, the effects resulting from participation in this program by local landowners should continue to be monitored by City and Township officials in the future.



## *Wetlands*

In simple terms, a wetland is an area that is influenced by water in which certain water tolerant plants are likely to survive and reproduce. This may include areas that are *seasonally wet*, by a surface or ground water influence, as well as areas that are permanently saturated or ponded throughout the year<sup>9</sup>. Wetlands are important because they contribute to the quality of other valuable natural resources, such as inland lakes, groundwater, fisheries, wildlife and in Michigan, the Great Lakes. Wetlands provide places for breeding, nesting and rearing of young waterfowl and other species of birds, mammals, fish and reptiles. Wetlands intercept and hold flood or storm waters, naturally dissipating them over a period of time. They also intercept and retain excess nutrients from surface water, generated mainly by human practices such as agriculture or lawn fertilizing, sewage treatment or road salt application. Wetland systems filter these excess nutrients out of the surface runoff, lessening the occurrence of unwanted plant and algae growth in inland lakes and streams<sup>10</sup>.

Part 303 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, defines a wetland as:

*“Land characterized by the presence of water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, wetland vegetation or aquatic life and is commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh and which is any of the following:*

- Contiguous to the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair, an inland lake or pond, or a river or stream.
- Not contiguous to the Great Lakes, an inland lake or pond, or a river or stream; and more than five acres in size; except this subdivision shall not be of effect, except for the purpose of inventorying, in counties of less than 100,000 population.
- Not contiguous to the Great Lakes, an inland lake or pond, or a river or stream; and five acres or less in size if the Department determines that protection of the area is essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the State from pollution, impairment or destruction and the Department has so notified the owner.”

The Wetland Act authorizes the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to preserve certain wetland areas. The MDEQ may require permits before altering regulated wetlands and may prohibit development in some locations. Among the criteria used by the MDEQ when conducting a wetland determination are:

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<sup>9</sup> Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Wetland Protection. [Online]. Available from <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/wetland1.html>. Accessed 17 June 1999.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

- Presence of standing water (at least one week of the year).
- Presence of hydric soil types that are saturated, flooded or ponded sufficiently to favor wetland vegetation (usually black or dark brown in color).
- Predominance of wetland vegetation/plant material, or aquatic life, such as cattails, reeds, willows, dogwood, elderberries and/or red or silver maple trees.
- Presence of important or endangered plant or wild life habitat or a rare ecosystem.
- The area serves as an important groundwater recharge.
- Size and Location - minimum size to be state regulated is five acres unless the wetland is contiguous to a lake, pond, river or stream, or is considered to be “essential to the preservation of natural resources of the state.”

The determination that a site contains a regulated wetland can have several consequences. The MDEQ may issue a permit to fill the wetland or they may require mitigation, such as replacing the wetland, which sometimes involves increasing the overall on-site wetland acreage by two or three times. The MDEQ may also prohibit development in the wetland area if it is determined that there is a “prudent” alternative.

Wetlands and wooded wetlands identified on Map 5 were derived from the current land use data set. As the map indicates, wetlands are sparsely scattered throughout the Fremont Area. The largest concentrations of wetlands are located in the eastern and central portions of Dayton Township and Sherman Township and are surrounded by upland deciduous forest.

Another significant wetland area is located on the eastern shore of Fremont Lake. The impact of the presence of this wetland can be seen on the Existing Land Use map where properties surrounding the lake have been heavily developed while this portion remains vacant. This particular body of wetlands will continue to pose constraints regarding future development as it is considered a “regulated wetland” under the guidelines mentioned above.

It should be noted that the map delineates *significant* wetlands, but is not necessarily all encompassing and delineates only the general boundaries of wetlands. Where this map or on-site observation indicates the likelihood of a regulated wetland, further professional on-site investigation should take place, which may include contacting the MDEQ for verification.

Although the existence of wetlands may place certain restrictions on future development in the Fremont Area, the community should develop regulations which promote these areas as *amenities* that *enhance*, not as *detriments* to *avoid*.



### *Groundwater*

Groundwater is a term used to describe available subsurface water in porous layers called aquifers. Groundwater supplies about 20 percent of the United States water demand<sup>11</sup> and 100 percent of the Newaygo County demand. The groundwater source is protected by the soils which exist between the aquifer and the surface. Heavy soils, such as clay, provide a protective cap for groundwater, while light soils, such as sand, allow chemicals and other surface contaminants to seep more freely into the groundwater. Soil types often make it necessary to bypass a shallow aquifer and go to a deeper, more protected source. It is important to understand that surface soils may be no indication of the type of protective cap which exists to protect the groundwater.

Past agricultural practices are often the source of today's groundwater contamination problems. Heavy applications of fertilizers have left many areas in the midwest with high levels of nitrates in the water supply. According to the Newaygo County Health Department, several scattered areas within the study area, particularly in Dayton Township, are experiencing these high levels of nitrate.

The first available aquifer in Dayton Township is between forty and sixty feet deep. The soils in Dayton Township do little to prevent contaminants from seeping into the groundwater, thus the contamination. The Health Department cited the area west of Stone Road, between 44<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Streets as areas experiencing unacceptable levels of nitrate in the water. Another concern for Dayton Township is the old Kunnen's Landfill, north of the City of Fremont. The landfill was determined by the Health Department to be leaking into the surrounding soils, contaminating the nearby upper aquifer. This contamination has put both City wells and private wells in the Township at risk. The Health Department is continuing to work with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to address this hazard.

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<sup>11</sup> Standard Handbook for Engineers, F.S. Merritt, et. Al., McGraw-Hill, 1996.  
*Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan*

Sheridan Charter Township has less extensive groundwater concerns than Dayton Township. The Health Department attributes this to the fact that less farming occurred in the past and the soils in Sheridan have provided a heavier, more protective cap for the aquifer. The Health Department cited the area along M-82, between 56<sup>th</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Streets as the area with the poorest soils and most cases of nitrate contamination in Sheridan. Another problem in Sheridan stems from the site of the Weaver Oil Company. Leaking fuel tanks allowed hydrocarbons to seep into the groundwater and into the Township. The area has since been cleaned, but the Health Department is unsure of how deep into the earth the cleaning extended and is continuing to monitor the site.

The City of Fremont has less of a problem with nitrates and other surface contaminants in the water supply than with the contamination occurring from private septic systems leeching into nearby private wells. This is especially a concern in the southern part of the City, along M-82 south, where the soils are not especially well suited for private septic systems.

Any development in any area of groundwater concern is potentially hazardous, especially if the proposed use involves any hazardous materials storage or use. Even small amounts of dry-cleaning fluid or paint solvent can create a hazard that may stay hidden for several years. Low to medium density residential uses are most often recommended for areas of groundwater vulnerability.

### *Woodlands*

Woodlands are a very valuable natural asset to have in a community. They provide necessary functions such as: habitat for many wildlife species, climate moderators, watershed protection from siltation and soil erosion caused by storm water runoff, wind and noise buffers, as well as aesthetic and recreational enjoyment.

Data obtained from the current land use data set indicate several woodland stands throughout the Fremont Area. While virtually every section in the community contains woodlands as shown on Map 5, by far the largest contiguous stands are those found in the Manistee National Forest, located in the eastern half of Sherman Township. In addition, significant stands are located in the northern and central tiers of Dayton Township (Sections 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 20 and 24) as well as in the southern tier of Sheridan Charter Township in and around the confluence of Dry Run Creek and Brooks Creek. (Sections 26 to 29 and 31 to 36).

Woodlands located in well drained soils on the uplands (mainly the majority of Dayton Township) consist of deciduous species such as sugar maple, aspen, birch, oaks and beech. Woodlands in poorly drained soils (mainly those in the western portion of Sheridan Charter Township) consist of soft maple, elm and ash. Woodlands in well drained, sandy soils (those in the lower tier of Sheridan Charter Township) contain several different species of pine. Woodlands located in poorly drained soils up the uplands (mainly the majority of eastern Sherman Township) consist of several different species of pine.

There are also areas throughout the community that contain significant coniferous forests, consisting of such species as white, red and jack pines as well as other upland and lowland conifers.

### *Special Natural Features*

The Michigan State Department of Natural Resources maintains a comprehensive database of special natural features that are present within the state. Specifically, the database, known as the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) tracks the presence of plant, insect and animal species which are threatened or endangered at both state and federal levels. The presence of threatened or endangered species does not necessarily preclude development but may require alterations of a development plan.

At the present time, the MNFI has identified the Karner Blue butterfly as the Fremont Area's lone special natural feature.<sup>12</sup> The Karner Blue is considered state threatened and federally endangered. The MNFI provides the following description of its habitat and management recommendations:

The Karner Blue butterfly is a species of open-canopied barrens communities, including oak and pine-oak barrens. Its larval host plant, blue lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) has declined markedly within its range due to shading from closed canopies, competition from other plants, and extreme soil scarification following farming or intensive logging and burning regimes. Lupine, an early successful species, can become abundant after appropriate disturbances, fire or logging, for example.

The Karner Blue has two generations per year. This small butterfly is silvery blue. Adults are active most of the day, decreasing activity during midday and during cool, rainy weather. Adults typically live an average of five days. Peak flight dates are late May through early June and mid-July through early August.

Recommendations for management of Karner Blue butterfly habitat will be pertinent only if the Karner Blue butterflies larval host plant, blue lupine, is present. If lupine is present the following guidelines should be followed:

- Mower blades should be set no lower than 6 inches
- Mowing should not occur before August 15<sup>th</sup> (i.e. no spring mowing at all)
- No burning of habitat where lupine exists

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<sup>12</sup> State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, *Notification Letter*, July 27, 1999.

### Barrier-Free Status

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. Therefore, an important step in planning must involve the evaluation of a community's park and recreation system accessibility to persons with disabilities.<sup>13</sup> Each of the 13 public parks (8 in the City of Fremont/2 in Sheridan Charter Township/3 in Sherman Township) were inventoried to identify barrier-free conditions and issues in 2006. The table below indicates barrier-free and handicap accessible areas at each of the 13 parks.

**Barrier-Free Status at Fremont Area Public Parks**

Public Park	Paved Parking	Curb Cuts	Sidewalks	Loading Points	Restrooms	Paved Pathways	Railed Stairway	Picnic Table
Branstrom park	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
Clubview Park								
Bebee's Natural Park								
Arboretum Park						✓		✓
Fremont Lake Park	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Fremont Ave. tot-Lot		✓						
Cherry Hill Playground								
Veteran Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Sheridan Boat Launch								
Sheridan Chtr. Twp. Property								✓
Sherman Twp. Boat Launch								
Robinson Lake Boat Launch					✓			✓
Alley Lake Roadside Park								✓

#### **Branstrom Park**

A paved road traverses through Branstrom Park. There are pathways leading to the lower picnic shelter, playground area and restroom. The paved portions of a walking path are in good condition. There are picnic tables in the upper portion of the park which are accessible by a paved pathway. There is a paved parking area near the baseball diamond with a steep, narrow path without railings leading to the handicap accessible restrooms. The restroom appears to be difficult to approach. There are stairs with a railing leading to the ball diamond. Throughout the park there are extensive dirt walking/ running trails. There is also a cabin referred to as the 'Lodge' available for groups to reserve, off a paved pathway.

#### **Clubview Park**

Clubview Park is a small park within a residential neighborhood with open space. There are no curb cuts from the road and no pathways leading to the park.

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<sup>13</sup> Community Recreation Planning: Guidelines for preparing a Community Recreation Plan. MDNR. 1/99.  
*Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan*

### **Beebe's Natural Park**

Beebe's Nature Park is in its natural state and remains undeveloped. It is accessed from a dirt road.

### **Arboretum Park**

Arboretum Park consists of open space and wooded areas. Paved, narrow pathways stretch across various portions of the park and eventually lead to streets. The pathways are in good condition. There are also benches scattered throughout the park with no pathways leading to them.

### **Fremont Lake Park**

Paved roads in good condition lead to paved parking areas at Fremont Lake Park. Designated handicapped parking is located close to the handicapped accessible restrooms. There are access points to the picnic areas, shelter, beach, playground and volleyball court. Near the boat launch, a wooden dock stretches out into the lake and does not have railings.

### **Fremont Avenue Tot-Lot**

There is a curb cut off of the road into the Fremont Avenue Tot Lot, but there are no pathways leading into the park.

### **Cherry Hill Playground**

There is a short driveway leading into the Cherry Hill Playground which is almost completely covered with grass. There is no access provided to the swings and open space.

### **Veterans Memorial Park**

Veterans Memorial Park is the most handicap accessible park in the Fremont Area. There are paved parking areas and curb cuts from the road to the sidewalks. The park has paved pathways throughout and an access point to the playground apparatus. There is a handicap accessible picnic table in the picnic shelter. There are paved pathways surrounding the memorial at the center of the park as well as leading to the handicapped seating surrounding the band shell. Restrooms at the park are handicap accessible and there is also a ramp for individuals to get up to the stage area.

### **Sheridan Charter Township Boat Launch**

The boat launch is accessed via a dirt road which leads into a large gravel parking and loading area. There is no railing by the water's edge.

### **Sheridan Charter Township Property**

The Township property is undeveloped with no parking or additional facilities.

**Robinson Lake Boat Launch**

The Robinson Lake Boat Launch is not adequately accessible.

**Sherman Twp. Boat Launch and Beach Area**

The Sherman Twp. Boat Launch is not adequately accessible.

**Alley Lake Roadside Park**

The Alley Lake Roadside Park is not adequately accessible.

**Recreation & Enrichment Programs**

While there are currently no programs designed specifically for mentally and physically challenged people, all of the school buildings are handicap accessible and have designated parking areas. The Recreation and Enrichment Program does not prohibit anyone from participating and have on occasion accommodated challenged children into programs by altering the rules of the game to enable them to fully participate.

**Status of DNR Recreation Grant Inventory**

Grant Number: TF05 - 107

Park Name: Fremont Town and Country Path

Scope: Construction of a non-motorized recreational asphalt pathway

Location: Fremont Industrial Park-Outlot B

Official construction of Phase 2 (formerly referred to as Phase 1b) of the Path will begin in the Spring of 2007. The City Public Work Department will initially “blaze” the trail by clearing the trees and stumps needed for traversing through the wooded area of the Industrial Park, thereby saving funds for more Path development. During re-construction of West Main Street (M-82) last summer, the City also contracted with MDOT to include the widening of the sidewalk from 5’ to 8’, between Market Street and Snyder Avenue, of which is completed. The Path will cross at the Market Street traffic light for safety purposes and traverse north along Market by the GMHS’ new proposed health-fitness facility.

We have also just received the completed engineering package and secured the necessary easements needed from several property owners, for certain sections of the Path. The NC Road Commission also recently approved placement of the Path within their road right-of-ways where proposed. A formal maintenance agreement between the City, Sheridan Township and Road Commission is being drafted.

We also recently received a \$9,000 grant from the NC District Health Department for marketing, signage, benches and further enhancement of the Path. The City’s Public Work crew will construct miniature picnic pavilions and benches for placement along the Path with said funds. Following formalization of the mutual agreement needed between the City and the Road Commission, the engineering plans, easements and state funding agreement will be forwarded to the MDNR for approval. Once they’ve accepted the above items, we’ll be given the green light to advertise for construction bids for the project.

# Recreation Inventory

Developing a complete inventory of recreation facilities, programs and events is an essential component of a 5-year Recreation Master Plan because it provides a base of information to use in determining the future needs for the community. Understanding what is currently available to the residents of the Fremont Area will assist in decision-making in the future.

This section is divided into two components: existing recreation facilities in the Fremont Area as well as Newaygo County and existing recreation programs and events. Each component includes an inventory of current available offerings and where available and relevant, capacity, level of use and number of participants data.

## Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities inventoried include those parks and equipment owned and operated by the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Sherman Township and Dayton Township, those facilities located on and managed by the Fremont Public School District, facilities on private school property, State of Michigan and finally significant recreation opportunities available to residents of the Fremont Area but outside of the planning boundaries.

Once the park inventory was complete, each public park and school property was categorized as either a mini-park, neighborhood park or community park based on the following classification system for local and regional recreation open space developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association<sup>1</sup>:

- A **mini-park** is an area of specialized facilities that serve a concentration or limited population or specific group, such as tots or senior citizens. It has a service area of less than ¼ mile in radius, with a desirable size of one acre or less. The standard for development is ¼ to ½ acre per 1,000 population, while desirable site characteristics include location within a neighborhood in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse developments or housing for the elderly.
- A **neighborhood park/playground** is an area for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc. It has a service area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood). The desirable size for a neighborhood park/playground is at least 15 acres, with a standard of one to two acres per 1,000 population. Desirable site characteristics include suitability for intense development, easy accessibility to neighborhood population, and geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. Such neighborhood park/playground may be developed as a school-park facility.

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<sup>1</sup> Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *Guidelines for Preparing a Community Recreation Plan*, November 1996, P. A-5.  
*Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan*

- A **community park** is an area of diverse environmental quality, which may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities (such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools) or may be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation (such as walking, viewing, sitting and picnicking) or depending on site suitability and community needs, may be any combination of the above. It has a service area of several neighborhoods within a one- to two-mile radius. The desirable size for a community park is at least twenty-five acres, with a standard of five to eight acres per 1,000 population. Desirable site characteristics include natural features (such as bodies of water) and areas suited for intense development, which are easily accessible to the neighborhoods served.

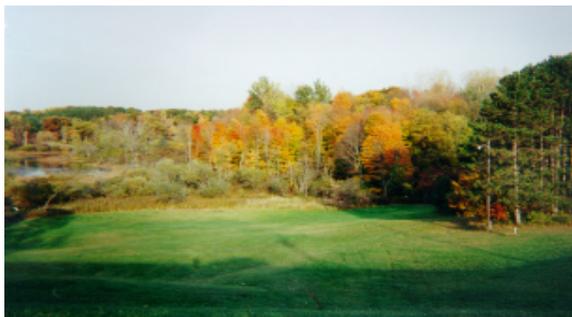
Some of the parks within the Fremont Area fit neatly into one of the above categories while several others do not. When comparing the overall facilities within the Fremont Area, there are three definite types of parks that follow many, but not all, of the published standards. The parks within the Fremont Area were essentially categorized dependent on types of amenities offered as well as their service area.

### **Public Parks & Facilities**

The following public parks are located within the City of Fremont, Sherman Township and Sheridan Charter Township: (see Map 6)

#### *Branstrom Park*

Branstrom Park is a community park located in the northeastern portion of the City, bordering Dayton Township. The park is over 108 acres in size and has many amenities including a fenced-in/lighted baseball field (small), several miles of rustic walking and hiking trails, a paved biking & walking path trailhead of the Town & Country Path, a multipurpose court for basketball, ice skating & hockey, sledding hill, a playground area with equipment, picnic tables and a pavilion, a 24-hole competition-level disc golf course, a community lodge with fire-place available for rental and parking for all of the above amenities.



The park remains relatively undeveloped offering acres of natural area to enjoy and explore. Due to its location, size and recreational opportunities, the park serves all four jurisdictions in the Fremont Area Community.

### Clubview Park

Clubview Park is a small, 0.5-acre mini-park located within a residential neighborhood in the northeast portion of the City between Clubview Drive and Hillcrest Avenue. The park provides open space for residents in the immediate area, but does not generally attract visitors from outside the neighborhood.

### Beebe's Natural Park

Beebe's Natural Park is a 0.45-acre area on the east side of town, north of the abandoned railroad line. The park is accessed at the southern dead end of Beebe Avenue. The park remains undeveloped.

### Arboretum Park

Arboretum Park is a relatively large property located within a residential neighborhood in the southeast portion of the City. The park is approximately 9.5 acres of primarily undeveloped wooded land and open space. Originally preserved and developed as an arboretum of Michigan-native trees, plants and floral.



The park has walking trails and paths as well as benches and picnic tables. The park not only provides an aesthetic quality to the neighborhood but also serves as a unique passive recreation area. The Parks beauty attracts an ever increasing amount of wedding ceremonies in various locations.



### Fremont Lake Park

Fremont Lake Park is also a unique community park located on the northern shore of Fremont Lake in the southwest portion of the City. Fremont Lake Park is over 17 acres in size and offers 67 sites for camping with trailers, public



beach, playground and boat launch access to the lake. The park has parking, restrooms and a bathhouse available as well as playground equipment, a sand volleyball court and shelters, tables, grills for picnicking and serves as an additional trailhead for the Town & Country Path.

*Sheridan Charter Township Boat Launch*

The Sheridan Charter Township Boat Launch is approximately 6.5-acres of land located on the south shore of Fremont Lake, directly behind the Township Hall. The site has a large gravel area for parking and the maneuvering of vehicles and boats as well as a seasonal boat dock, a playground area and picnic area.

There are plans to expand the picnic area and extend pathways along the lake shore.



*Sherman Township Boat Launch & Beach*

Sherman Township has a park on the north side of Crystal Lake off 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. The park has a boat launch, beach area and parking.

*Fremont Avenue Tot Lot*

The Fremont Avenue Tot Lot is a small, 0.5-acre mini-park located north of Main Street in the neighborhood just west of the Gerber Products Company factory and offices. This park has several pieces of playground equipment and primarily serves the residents in the immediate neighborhood.

*Veterans Memorial Park*

Veterans Park is the most accessible and visible park in the Fremont Area due to its prime location along Main Street in the heart of downtown Fremont. Veterans Park is a small community park approximately 2.4 acres in size. The park serves as one of the focal points for the downtown area providing playground equipment, a walking path, a memorial to the Fremont Area veterans of war, an amphitheater which is the location of the popular summer concert series as well as a picnic shelter and tables.



*Newaygo County Fairgrounds*

The 28-acre plus fairgrounds property is a city-owned parcel leased to the Newaygo County Fair Association for the annual county fair held for one week in late summer. The site is located west of Stewart Avenue in

the southeastern portion of the City. There are several permanent structures at the site used for a number of fair activities.

### Town & Country Path

The Town & Country Path is a non-motorized paved pathway for walking, biking, hiking, rollerblading and skate boarding meeting ADA requirements.

Currently, two miles of the path have been



constructed (Phase 1) with funding for an additional three miles (Phase 2) approved and slated to be constructed in 2007. The Path connects Parks, elementary schools, residential areas and business districts.

The Path's public committee is actively pursuing funding for additional construction and extension of the Path (Phase 3) to traverse around Fremont Lake to connect with the Sheridan Charter Township Boat Launch & Playground.

### Cherry Hill Park

Cherry Hill Park is a 2.8-acre park located in the northern portion of the City near Hemlock Street and Michigan Avenue, north of the Gerber Products Company. The park contains a grass practice ball field, play area and open space.

### Fremont Skate/Bike Park

The Skate/Bike Park is located on approximately 2 acres along Lake Drive, across from the Fremont Middle School and Bus Garage. The park entails seven types of ramps and was completed in 2002 to accommodate the increasing popularity of skateboarding and trick-bike riding.



### Sheridan Charter Township Property

Sheridan Charter Township owns a large, approximately 168-acre parcel in the southeast portion of the Township near the intersection of 88th Street and Osborn Avenue. Currently, the property is unsigned with no designated parking area and remains as an undeveloped passive recreation area with natural walking and

hiking trails. Recently, the development of non-motorized biking trails was approved, whereas a parking area off 88<sup>th</sup> Street will be available.

#### Fremont Industrial Park- Natural Outlots



The Fremont Industrial Park contains several outlots preserved as natural buffers between the Industrial Park and its surrounding residential areas. The Town & Country Path travels along Locust Avenue in the Park and enters into the wooded outlots traversing over and along creeks and offering resting/viewing areas along the way.

#### Robinson Lake Public Boat Launch

The Michigan DNR owns a public access to Robinson Lake on Park Lane, on the north side of the lake. There is a public boat launch, picnic area and restrooms with parking available.

#### Alley Lake Roadside Park

The Michigan DNR owns a roadside park on the north side of Alley Lake along Old M-20. There is public access, a picnic area, restrooms and parking available.

#### North Country Trail

The North Country Trail (NCT) traverse over 4,000 miles from the Adirondacks of New York State to the plains of North Dakota. Currently, approximately 3 miles of the NCT lie in the northern portion of Sherman Township.

#### **Public School Properties**

There are seven public school properties in the Fremont Area, all of which are located within the boundaries of the City of Fremont. The schools in the area play a significant role in recreation for the Fremont community and often times serve as community and neighborhood parks due to their size, location and amenities. Public school properties include the following:

### Pine Street Elementary

The Pine Street Primary School (kindergarten) serves as a neighborhood park in the southeast portion of the City. The property includes over 16 acres of land with two junior soccer fields, a gazebo and playground equipment as well as a picnic shelter and tables. The school also has an indoor gymnasium.

### Pathfinder Elementary



Pathfinder Elementary School (grades 1-3), a relatively new school that opened in the Fall of 1997, located in the northern portion of the City at the intersection of Weaver Avenue and 44<sup>th</sup> Street, bordering Dayton Township. The school is on approximately 22-acres of land and includes open space, a regulation size soccer field (or three junior soccer fields), a practice baseball-ball field, significant amounts of playground equipment, six basketball hoops, picnic tables and an indoor gymnasium. The school is also linked to the Town and Country Path.

### Daisy Brook Elementary

The Daisy Brook Elementary School (grades 4-5) is located on 13.9 acres, southeast of the Pathfinder Elementary School. The school provides a practice soccer field (or two junior soccer fields), a practice ball diamond, playground equipment, open space, a gazebo and picnic tables. The school is also linked to the Town and Country Path.



### Fremont Middle School

The Middle School property is a relatively large site encompassing over 69 acres of land in the southern portion of the City near Fremont Lake. The school serves as a community park due to its size and recreational opportunities. The property includes a regulation soccer game field, two baseball diamonds (one lighted), one softball game field, eight new lighted tennis courts, two batting cages, eight basketball hoops, two indoor gymnasiums and a nature trail and gazebo along a creek south of the school. In addition, the Fremont Skate Park and Town and Country Path border the property to the west.

### Fremont High School

Fremont High School is located on just over six acres at the corner of Stewart Avenue and Main Street in downtown Fremont. While the high school property provides little in terms of outdoor recreation activities, the school gymnasium and indoor swimming pool are heavily used by residents of the Fremont Area.

### Pine Street Athletic Field

The Pine Street Athletic Field is located south of Pine Street and is under the jurisdiction of the Fremont Public School District. The 16+ acre site includes a football stadium with bleachers, locker rooms, lights, public restrooms and concessions building. A 6-lane track encircles the football field. Outside of the stadium area is a practice T-ball area, two football practice fields and eight tennis courts.



### Fremont Community Education

The Fremont Community Education occupies the former Cedar Street Elementary School and is located adjacent to the Fremont Middle School on ten acres of land. A soccer game field and playground area is located south of the building.

### **Private School Properties**

There are five private school properties which play a small role in the provision of recreation opportunities within the Fremont Area, three of which are located within the city limits.

### Providence Christian High School

Providence Christian High School is located on 20 acres three miles south of town at the intersection of 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and S. Warner Avenue. Outdoor amenities include a high school competition soccer field and open space. The school also has an indoor gymnasium.

### Christian Middle School

The Christian Middle School is located on 13.4 acres on the east side of town along Hillcrest Avenue. Outdoor amenities include a soccer field, two practice ball diamonds and open space. The school also has an indoor gymnasium.

### Christian Elementary School

The Christian Elementary School is located directly across Hillcrest from the Middle School. The school is on 3.9 acres and includes two practice ball diamonds, playground equipment, two basketball hoops, a soccer field and open space. The Elementary School also has a small indoor gymnasium.

### Cornerstone Christian Academy

The Cornerstone Christian Academy (Grades K-8) is located on 3.6 acres in the northern portion of the City along 44th Street. The school has a play area, two basketball hoops and a volleyball court.

### St. Michael's Catholic School

St. Michael's (K-8) is located on the west side of Sheridan Charter Township on Maple Island Road (M-120). The school has a small play area.

## **Private Recreation**

There are several private recreation providers within the Fremont Area including:

### Fremont Lanes South (Bowling)

The Fremont Lanes South is located just 1/2 mile south of the City limits on Warner Avenue. The facility has 16 computer controlled alleys and a restaurant open to the public.

### Ramshorn on the Lakes

Ramshorn on the Lakes is a private restaurant and golf course located on the City's north side on First and Second Lakes. The Club's restaurant is open year round.

### Northwood Golf Course

The Northwood Golf Course is a 142-acre, 18-hole course located in Dayton Township along Comstock Avenue between 24th and 32nd Streets.

### Summer Breeze Par 3 Golf Course

The Summer Breeze Par 3 Course is a 9-hole course located on the same site as the bowling alley on Warner Avenue, south of the City limits.

### Briar Hill Golf Course

The Briar Hill Golf Course is an 18-hole course on 150 acres located on 40<sup>th</sup> & Gordon, 2-miles from M-37.

### **Other Recreation Opportunities**

Recreation opportunities are also available outside of the City of Fremont and Sheridan Charter, Dayton and Sherman Townships limits, some of which include:

### Newaygo County Parks

There are several County parks offering recreational opportunities including:

- Sandy Beach Campground  
220 campsites on the backwaters of Hardy Pond near White Cloud
- Henning Park Campground  
60 campsites on the Muskegon River near Newaygo
- Pettibone Lake Campground  
16 campsites in northern Newaygo County near Bitely
- Hardy Dam Marina  
37 boat slips on the backwaters of Hardy Pond near White Cloud
- Day-Use Parks (Four)
- Sports Park  
Located on M-37, north of the City of Newaygo includes sledding hills and access to 84 miles of groomed snowmobile trails.
- Camp Swampy  
52 campsites, swimming area, beach volleyball, hiking trails, picnic area, boat rentals and boat launch on Diamond Lake, 6 miles northwest of White Cloud.

### Huron-Manistee National Forest

There are over 108,000 acres of the Manistee National Forest in Newaygo County. The forests provide numerous recreational opportunities including camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, motorcycling, ATV trails, snowmobiling, mushroom hunting, picnicking, game hunting and canoeing.

### Newaygo State Park

The Newaygo State Park is located at Beech and 32nd and offers picnicking, shelters, fishing, swimming, a bath house, boat ramp, campgrounds and hiking.

### North Country National Scenic Trail

Newaygo County is the exact center of the 4,000-mile-long North Country National Scenic Trail which stretches from the Vermont/New York border through seven states onto the Lewis and Clark Trail, North Dakota. The trail traverses through many areas of Newaygo County including the Manistee National Forest. No motorized vehicles are permitted on the trail. Sponsored hikes are held throughout the year with several trailheads located throughout Newaygo County.

### NCCS Camp Newaygo and Wetland Trail

Camp Newaygo, owned by Newaygo County Community Services (NCCS) is located not far from Fremont, north of Newaygo. The camp includes traditional summer programs such as resident camping, overnight camping for families and day camping for youth. The NCCS is also collaborating with private groups, schools and others to offer training programs in professional development and recreation. The Camp is also home to a 1.25-mile boardwalk trail through an unusual bog to educate citizens about the importance of preserving natural areas and wetlands. The trail is the only one in Michigan to cross a sphagnum bog.

### Camp Echo

Camp Echo is a YMCA camp located on Long Lake. The camp is operated by McGaw YMCA in Evanston Illinois. The camp includes several one to two week summer programs for youth. Among other things the camp has several overnight cabins, beach access, a softball field, basketball courts, tennis courts, a volleyball court, horseback riding, bike trails, nature trails, a Frisbee golf course, ping-pong tables, an amphitheatre and a craft center.

### White Cloud City Campground

The White Cloud City Campground (formally a state park) sits on 89 acres adjacent to the white river. The campground can accommodate large groups and is equipped with showers, electric and sanitation hookups and an enclosed shelter with kitchen facilities.

### Hardy Dam Rustic Nature Trail

The trail is a three-mile round trip along an unpaved trail over varying terrain. The trail parallels the Muskegon River.

### Muskegon River

The Muskegon River flows through Newaygo County providing many unusual canoeing opportunities. Quiet water canoeing is available on the backwater of Croton and Hardy Dams and down river canoeing is accessible from below Croton Dam to Maple Island Road.

### Golfing

There are several public golf courses available to area residents including:

- Ramshorn on the Lakes (Fremont) 18 holes
- Briar Hill GC (2 miles west of M-37) 18 holes
- Brigadoon Golf Club (Grant) 27 holes
- Grand View Golf Course (New Era) 18 holes
- Village Green Golf Club (Newaygo) 18 holes
- Northwood Golf Course 18 holes

### Steven B. Wessling Observatory

The Stephen F. Wessling Observatory is located approximately 8 miles north of the city of Fremont on the corner of Baseline and Stone Road. The Observatory is located on the Kropscott Farm donated to the Newaygo Conservation District by Earle and Mildred Kropscott. The telescope is located in an open-air room and is available to the Newaygo County Dark Sky Astronomers (NCDSA), a local club.

### ***Programs and Events***

#### Newaygo County Fair

The Newaygo County Fair is held for one week in late summer at the fairgrounds in Fremont. There are daily judgings and shows of livestock. Evening entertainment includes a demolition derby, modified tractor pull and moto-cross racing. The fair has been held since 1954.

#### Events at the Fairgrounds

Throughout the summer season, special events such as an Antique Tractor Club show and Moto-Cross Racing are held at the County fair grounds located on the south end of the city limits along South Warner Avenue (M-82).

### Summer Concert Series

On Thursday evenings in June and July, the Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors free concerts performed at the amphitheater in Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Fremont.

### Newaygo County Council for the Arts

The Council for the Arts (NCCA) is located in the ARTSPLACE building in downtown Fremont. The facility includes a gallery showcasing various art media and offers classes and programs for all ages.

### Fremont Outdoor Art Fair

An annual juried art fair is held in late summer at Veterans Memorial Park. The fair includes exhibitors specializing in fine arts, paintings, jewelry, pottery and much more. The well attended fair began in 1965 and is sponsored by the NCCA.

### The National Baby Food Festival

Fremont celebrates the City's distinction as the "Baby Food Capital of the World" by hosting the annual National Baby Food Festival each summer. Downtown Main Street is closed to motor vehicles during the festival which focuses around a theme of the "Great American Lifestyle". The festival attracts more than 100,000 people during its five-day run. Events include the baby crawl, baby food eating contest, a carnival midway, arts and crafts, a car show and nightly headliner entertainment.

### Fall Harvest Festival

The Fall Harvest Festival is sponsored by the Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Fremont. Activities are held downtown and at Branstrom Park in October. The festival offers live performances, various culinary cook-offs, bingo and a beverage tent downtown and various competitive family events at Branstrom Park.

While this list is not all inclusive, other activities and events held in the Fremont Area include:

- Fun Horse Show at the fairgrounds
- Annual Carnival & Auction at Fremont Christian School
- Walk America at Veterans Memorial Park
- Open Horse Show at the fairgrounds
- Holiday Arts & Craft Fair at the Fremont High School
- NCCA full schedule of arts programming

## **Recreation Enrichment Programs**

Recreation Enrichment Programs are mainly operated through the Fremont Public School District's Community Recreation Office and offer the following programs for the youth, adults and elderly of the Fremont Area:

- Fall Elementary Soccer (Co-ed)
- Spring Elementary Soccer (Co-ed)
- Tee-Ball (Co-ed)
- Coach Pitch (Co-ed)
- Boys' Elementary Basketball
- Girls' Elementary Basketball
- Inter-City Youth Tennis (Boys & Girls)
- Middle School Tennis (Boys & Girls)
- Elementary Wrestling (Boys)
- FAST Swimming (Co-ed)
- Kids Karate (Co-ed)
- Tumbling
- Girls on the Run
- Men's Church League Slo-Pitch
- Men's Over-27 Fall Slo-Pitch
- Ladies' Church League Volleyball
- Men's Church League Basketball
- Adult Karate
- Ballroom Dance
  
- Youth Tennis Lessons
- Youth Swimming Lessons
- Tiny-Tot Swim Lessons
- Sports Clinics
- Youth Enrichment Classes
  
- Adult Enrichment Classes
- Water & Aerobics Exercise Classes
- Senior Citizen Enrichment
- Adult Daytime Exercise Classes
  
- Adult Lane Swims
- Family Open Swim
- Fitness Center (Membership)
- Weight Training Classes

There are a few non-profit organizations and programs that also offer enrichment programs for area youth:

- Fremont Area Little League Baseball
- Fremont Junior Packer Football/Cheerleading
- Fremont Youth Soccer
- Fremont Tennis Association
- Fremont Wrestling Club
- Fremont YES Tennis Association
- District Health #10 Girls on the Run
- NECS Boys and Girls Club

High School Athletic Opportunities

On average, 630 High School students participate in 34 high school athletic programs including the following boys and girls activities:

<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshman, JV &amp; Varsity Basketball</li> <li>• Freshman, JV &amp; Varsity Football</li> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Tennis</li> <li>• Varsity Track</li> <li>• Cross Country</li> <li>• JV &amp; Varsity Soccer</li> <li>• JV &amp; Varsity Baseball</li> <li>• Wrestling</li> <li>• Golf</li> <li>• Bowling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshman, JV &amp; Varsity Basketball</li> <li>• Freshman, JV &amp; Varsity Volleyball</li> <li>• Varsity Track</li> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Tennis</li> <li>• JV &amp; Varsity Softball</li> <li>• JV &amp; Varsity Soccer</li> <li>• Varsity Competition Cheer</li> <li>• Cross Country</li> <li>• Golf</li> <li>• Bowling</li> </ul>

Middle School Athletic Opportunities

On average, 125 Middle School students participate in 21 middle school athletic programs including the following boys and girls activities:

<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Football</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Cross Country</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Basketball</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Wrestling</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Swimming</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Track</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Cross Country</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Basketball</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Volleyball</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Swimming</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Track</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Wrestling</li> </ul>

# Administrative Structure

Public Act 156 of 1917 entitled *Local Government, Operate System of Public Recreation* authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to *operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds.*<sup>1</sup>

Section 1:

a. Any City, Village, County, or Township may:

1. Operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds;
2. Acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities;
3. Employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants; and,
4. Vote and expend funds for the operation of such a system.

## *Fremont Area Recreation Advisory Committee*

Due to the pace of the Recreation Master Planning process and the current responsibilities and work load of the Fremont Area Planning Commission, a ‘Fremont Area Recreation Advisory Committee’ was created. Their purpose is to oversee and guide the planning process and to provide a recommendation in the form of a draft Recreation Master Plan to the Fremont City Council, Sheridan Charter Township Board, Sherman Township Board and Dayton Township Board for their approvals.

Members of the Advisory Committee represented a diverse cross-section of the Fremont Area population and have also exhibited interest and dedication in Fremont Recreation over the years. The Advisory Committee consists of the following eight citizens:

### **Dayton Township Appointees**

- **Mrs. Jeannie Caris**
- **Vacant**

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<sup>1</sup> Summary of Laws Relating to Local Parks and Recreation, State of Michigan 1978, MSU Dec. 1978.  
*Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan*

### **Sheridan Charter Township Appointees**

- **Mrs. Marian Oosterhouse**
- **Mr. Bryan Kolk**

### **Sherman Township Appointees**

- **Mrs. Pam Zuchowski**
- **Vacant**

### **City of Fremont Appointees**

- **Mrs. Rhondi Davis**, Assistant Director of Recreation Enrichment, Fremont Public Schools
- **Mr. Brian Hettinger**, City DPW Superintendent
- **Mr. David Byrne**, Fremont Planning Commission
- **Mr. Todd Blake**, Clerk/Finance Director
- **Mr. Roger Tuuk**, Fremont Sports Enthusiast

The Park & Recreation Advisory Committee met several times throughout the planning process and served as a sounding board, citizen voice and recommending body to the City Council and Township Boards.

### *Fremont Public Schools*

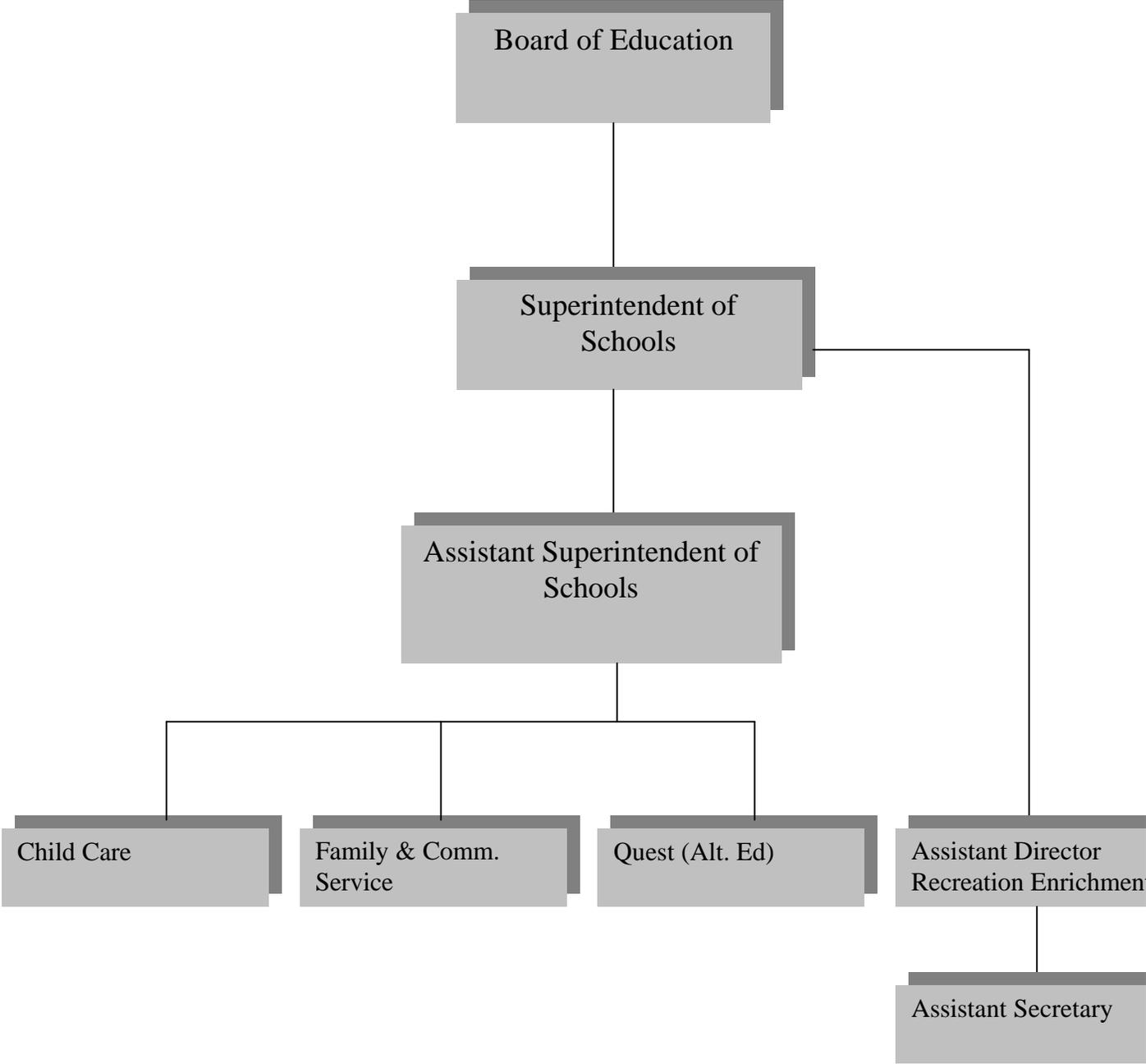
The Fremont Public School District plays an essential role in the provision of recreational opportunities to the Fremont Area residents. Within the public school system is a Community Education Department which includes four programs:

- Child Care
- Family and Community Services
- Quest (Alternative Education)
- Recreation Enrichment

Under the direction of the Director of Recreation Enrichment, the Recreation Enrichment Program offers, organizes and operates the various recreational activities provided to area residents. The relationship of the School District and the three Fremont Area communities truly is an example of a coordinated partnership. Recreation Enrichment works very closely with the City to coordinate the use and maintenance of the various parks and schools. The City of Fremont maintains all of the public parks including Branstrom Park, the northern portion of which is owned by the school district. The schools schedule and organize the recreation programs and activities such as soccer, baseball, etc., on school properties, with the exception of the use of the ballfield at Branstrom Park. The school's Maintenance Department maintains Branstrom Field when they are using it and also absorbs the costs to maintain the

fields on school property. The City of Fremont cleans the restrooms, cuts the grass and picks up the garbage at Branstrom Field. The Recreation Enrichment Department is responsible for scheduling at the various fields, and the schools get first priority at Branstrom Park. The organizational chart for the School District and specifically those departments assisting with the provision of recreation is depicted on the following chart.

# Fremont Public Schools Organizational Chart (Recreation)



### *City of Fremont*

While the City of Fremont does not have an organized Recreation Department, there are several positions within city government that are responsible for coordination with the schools, maintenance of public parks and improvement decisions. The following personnel are involved with parks and recreation (see organizational chart on the following pages):

#### **City Manager**

The City Manager works directly under the City Council. The Manager directly supervises all department heads and indirectly supervises all other city employees. Operational duties include the initiation of studies and the monitoring of operations to ensure quality services are provided in an efficient and timely manner. The City Manager supervises the development of budget forecasts and assists the Finance Officer with preparation of the annual budget. The Manager also assists with the development of capital improvement programs and monitors capital needs and appropriate financing mechanisms for larger purchases and projects. The Manager is in the position to recommend recreational policies and expenditures to the City Council and oversees the operations performed by his department heads and staff.

#### **City Clerk/Finance Director**

The City Clerk works under the direction of the City Council and City Manager. The Clerk manages and administers the City's finances including expenditures and revenues. The Clerk assists in the preparation of the annual City operating and capital budgets and administers the final budget. The clerk currently serves on the Fremont Area Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

#### **Public Works Superintendent**

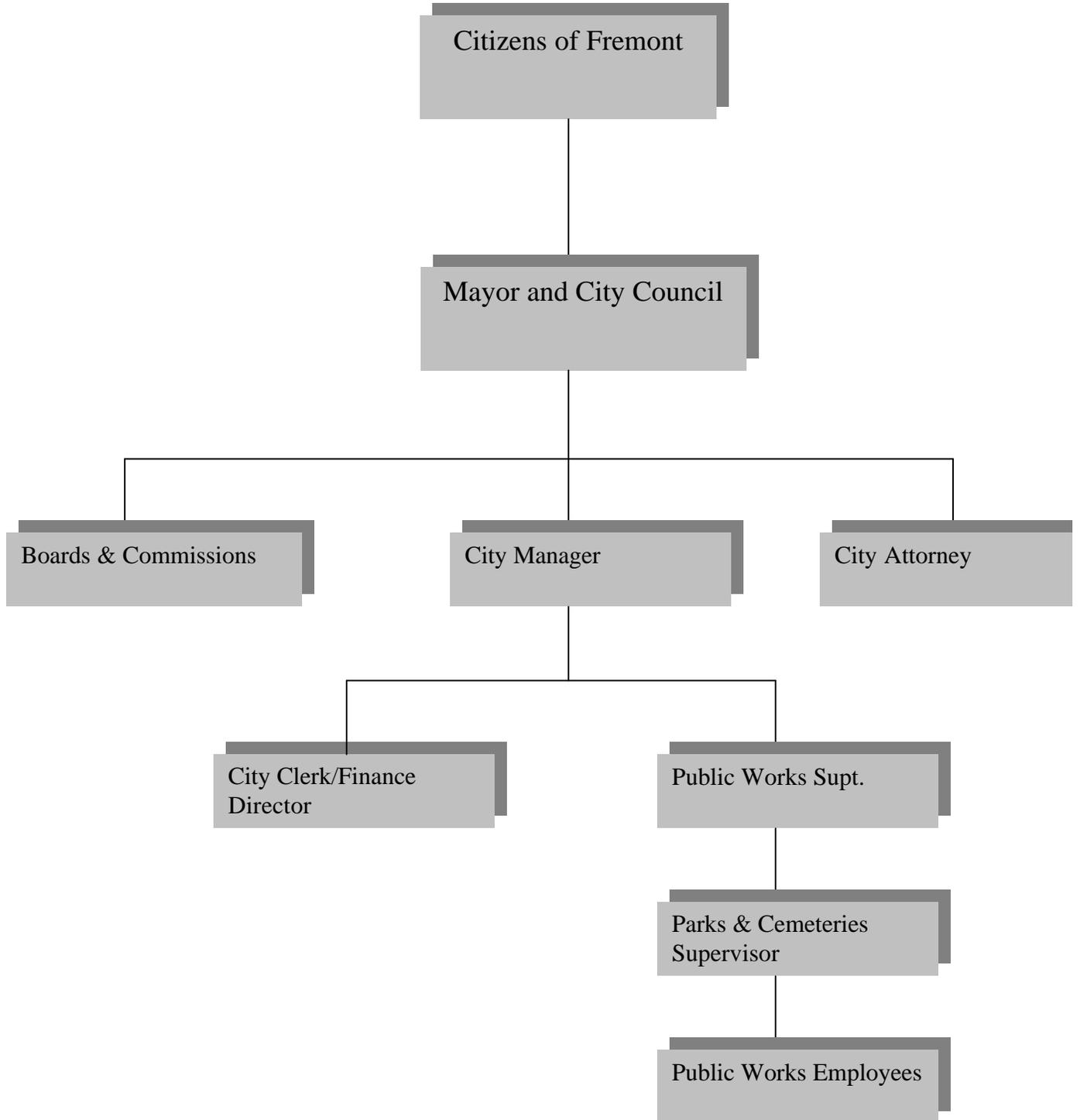
The Public Works Superintendent works under the City Manager and directly supervises the Parks and Cemeteries Supervisor. The City Manager coordinates efforts with the public school Recreation Enrichment Program. The Public Works Superintendent performs administrative and supervisory tasks related to the operations of the City's parks, water and wastewater utilities, cemeteries, streets, airport and other public works functions. The Public Works Superintendent also develops and administers operating and capital budgets as well as plans and implements public works capital projects. The Superintendent also establishes departmental operating policies and priorities.

## **Parks and Cemeteries Supervisor**

The Parks and Cemeteries Supervisor works directly under the Public Works Superintendent and supervises employees assigned to cemetery, parks, public grounds and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) maintenance activities. The Parks and Cemeteries Supervisor also develops recommendations for changes in policies and park and cemetery expansion or development. The Supervisor oversees and assists with maintaining equipment and facilities including boat docks, picnic tables, park and playground structures, foot bridges, amphitheater, fountains, mowers, tractors, etc. The Supervisor also coordinates the set-up and breakdown of temporary shelters, staging and seating associated with festivals and other public events and ensures proper clean up after special events.

# City of Fremont

## Organizational Chart (Recreation)



## **Laborer**

This position is under direct supervision of the Public Works Superintendent and performs a wide range of laborer and semi-skilled tasks in support of public works operations. In regards to parks, this position is responsible for mowing, maintaining, repairing, pruning, etc at the City parks.

### *Sheridan Charter Township*

Sheridan Charter Township residents are within the boundaries of the Fremont School District and are able to participate in programs offered through the Recreation Enrichment Program. All parks within Fremont are also available to the general public, regardless of residency. As described in the Recreation Inventory, Sheridan Charter Township has two primary public recreation areas located within its boundaries: the undeveloped Sheridan Charter Township property at 88th Street and Osborn Avenue and the boat launch located on the south side of Fremont Lake. The operations and organization of Sheridan Charter Township are not complicated. The Township Board has final authority, with the general administration and operations of Township business residing with the Township Supervisor. The Township also has a Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor and Zoning Administrator. In regards to recreation, the majority of decisions and policies reside with the Supervisor and Township Board. The Township maintains the boat dock through contracting out services on an as-needed basis. Many of the improvements that have been made have been driven by citizen requests, including the upgrading of the boat launch area in the past few years.

### *Dayton Township*

Dayton Township functions very much in the same way as Sheridan Charter Township. The Township is governed by the Township Board with administrative duties and everyday operations facilitated by the Township Supervisor. The Township also has a Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor and Zoning/Building Administrator. There are no public recreation facilities currently located within Dayton Township.

### *Sherman Township*

Sherman Township functions very much in the same way as Sheridan Charter and Dayton Townships. The Township is governed by the Township Board with administrative duties and everyday operations facilitated by the Township Supervisor. The Township also has a Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor and Zoning/Building Administrator. As described in the Recreation Inventory, Sherman Township has three primary public recreation areas located within its boundaries: Crystal Lake Beach and Boat Launch, Robinson Lake Public Boat Launch, Alley Lake Roadside Park and a small portion of the North Country Trail.

### *Proposed Changes*

Through the planning process, the Recreation Advisory Committee recognized the need for representatives from all four communities as well as the Fremont Public School District to continue to meet on a regular (semi-annual) basis to oversee the implementation of the area-wide recreation plan. It was suggested that this group of people meet on a relatively informal manner and discuss items such as funding equity, maintenance, grant applications, capital improvements, programming, etc. It was agreed that the formation of a committee to continue to oversee area-wide recreation would assist in providing recreation in a fair, equitable, efficient and effective manner.

### *Budget Analysis*

Budget information for expenditures and revenues was gathered for the five primary entities involved in the Recreation Planning process: the Recreation Enrichment Program (Public Schools), the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Sherman Township and Dayton Township. The City of Fremont and the Fremont Public School District are the two primary monetary contributors to recreation provided to area residents. There is no specific financial agreement established between the various parties. While each community may not directly contribute funding to the City or School District for recreation, all residents in the area do pay sales and property taxes, both of which contribute to the operation of the Fremont Public School District.

### *Fremont Public Schools (Recreation Enrichment)*

As was described in detail in the previous pages, the Recreation Enrichment Program, through the public school district, operates as the traditional ‘Recreation Department’ for the Fremont Area. The Program administers and organizes all of the recreation programs as well as schedules and maintains all school properties that are used for the recreation programs. In general, the programs offered through Recreation Enrichment support themselves. In other words, participants’ fees cover the expenses needed to operate that particular program. The schools do subsidize the personnel to operate and organize the Enrichment Program. The schools also make their indoor and outdoor facilities available for the Enrichment Programs. This includes both the indoor and outdoor maintenance fees and costs to keep the buildings open throughout the year and after-school hours. The table below details the estimated expenditures for maintenance and upgrades to those school grounds and the High School Pool that are used by the Recreation Enrichment Program. It should be noted that these costs are estimates due to the difficulty in extracting costs which are a direct result of the Enrichment Programs’ use of facilities. For example, both school programs and enrichment programs use the Pine Athletic Fields, so costs such as repairs to maintenance equipment and marking the fields are difficult to allocate.

**Fremont Public Schools  
2006-07 Estimated Expenditures  
Grounds and Pool Maintenance and Upgrades**

Supplies and Repair Expenses	\$20,000
New Equipment	(none)
10% of District Maintenance Personnel Costs*	<u>\$11,839</u>
Total Estimated Direct Labor Costs for 2006-07 School Year	\$31,839

\*Wages/Benefits for 2 regular maintenance employees. This estimate assumes 10% of their time spent on grounds care and maintenance.

Costs associated with supplies and repairs total approximately \$20,000 and include items such as gas/electric for the athletic fields, electrical lighting work, repairs to equipment and maintenance supplies such as pool chemicals and lime for field markings.

The table below details the estimated subsidy for the past fiscal year by the Fremont Public Schools for the operation of the Recreation Enrichment Program. The revenues include contributions from the City of Fremont as well as United Way. Total expenditures for the Recreation & Enrichment program have been calculated at nearly \$196,000. The public schools also rent their seven school buildings to various groups including churches, private companies, individuals, etc. This revenue was estimated at over \$16,000, resulting in approximately \$16,000 of subsidized expenditures.

In regards to maintenance personnel, the cost for wages and benefits is included as well as 10% of the total cost for school maintenance personnel. This 10% is merely an estimate of time spent on grounds and maintenance. The total direct costs for the 2006-07 school year was approximately \$31,839. It was then estimated that 10% of the costs were attributable to the Recreation & Enrichment Program. This results in \$3,184 in maintenance costs associated with the Recreation & Enrichment Program.

*Fremont Community Education Recreation & Enrichment*

	Percentage Change				
	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	from 2003 to 2007
Revenue					
Fees	147,622	139,777	137,731	143,614	-2.7%
Other Facilities	17,530	21,806	17,213	16,000	-8.7%
United Way	1,500	76	130	130	-91.3%
Advised Funds Grand	--	--	10,000	--	--
City Contribution	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>0%</u>
Totals	<b>186,652</b>	<b>181,658</b>	<b>185,074</b>	<b>179,744</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>
Expenditures					
Salaries	201,469	186,286	187,025	165,264	-18%
Purchased Services	8,103	9,500	13,300	13,616	+68%
Supplies	<u>17,269</u>	<u>18,856</u>	<u>12,923</u>	<u>16,904</u>	<u>-2.1%</u>
Totals	<b>226,841</b>	<b>214,642</b>	<b>213,277</b>	<b>195,784</b>	<b>-13.7%</b>
Program Net	<b>(40,189)</b>	<b>(32,984)</b>	<b>(28,203)</b>	<b>(16,040)</b>	<b>60.1%</b>

**Fremont Public Schools  
Cost of Operating Recreation Programming  
July 2006 – June 2007 Fiscal Year**

Recreation & Enrichment Revenues*	\$163,744
Plus Facility Reservations	\$16,000
Less Recreation & Enrichment Expenditures	\$195,784
<b>Recreation &amp; Enrichment Losses</b>	<b>(\$16,040)</b>
Grounds/Pool Care Maintenance Expenses**	\$31,839
Less School & Athletic Use (90%)	\$28,655
<b>Maintenance Department Losses</b>	<b>(\$3,184)</b>
<b>Cost to Fremont Public Schools General Fund</b>	<b>\$19,224</b>

\*Rec/Enrich Revenues include contributions made from City of Fremont and The Fremont Area Foundation Grants.

\*\*Total Maintenance Expenses do not include costs such as: Truck & Van Repairs, Gas & Oil, Tires, Vehicle Insurance, Liability & Worker Comp. Insurance Costs, phone, postage, gym expenses and overhead.

In summary, combining the \$16,040 in subsidized expenditures and \$3,184 in subsidized maintenance costs, the Fremont Public School District financially supports the Recreation & Enrichment Program with approximately \$19,224 per year.

*City of Fremont*

The City of Fremont funds the operation of the Public Works Department, the position of Parks and Cemeteries Supervisor and related staff to maintain the existing public parks within Fremont. In addition

to the upkeep and improvements made over the years to the public parks within the City, the City includes a continuing contribution to the Fremont School District Community/School Recreation Program. This annual contribution for operating purposes has grown through the years. The City also contributes funding on a project-by-project basis. For example, the schools requested materials to upgrade the Branstrom ballfield which the schools utilize. The City purchased and delivered a load of field dressing to the field and school personnel and volunteers worked on the improvements.

**City of Fremont Expenditures 2003 to 2007**

<b>Account Classification</b>	<b>Actual FY 03/04</b>	<b>Actual FY 04/05</b>	<b>Actual FY 05/06</b>	<b>Actual FY 06/07</b>
Salaries and Wages	\$46,571	\$45,641	\$41,120	\$47,000
Supplies & Materials	\$5,525	\$3,502	\$4,125	\$5,000
Professional & Contractual Services	\$9,345	\$10,582	\$8,210	\$9,000
Utilities	\$19,885	\$18,431	\$21,060	\$21,000
Equipment Rental	\$16,622	\$14,292	\$1,585	\$16,000
Repairs and Maintenance	\$9,933	\$5,771	\$7,180	\$8,000
Contributions to FPS Community Recreation	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$127,881</b>	<b>\$118,219</b>	<b>\$103,280</b>	<b>\$126,000</b>
Capital Outlay	\$244,360	\$107,499	\$120,285	\$300,560
<b>Total Parks and Recreation</b>	<b>\$372,241</b>	<b>\$225,718</b>	<b>\$223,565</b>	<b>\$426,560</b>

NOTE: City of Fremont fiscal year ends June 30.

The table above details the expenditures from fiscal year 1993 to 2007 for recreation and culture. Expenditures fall within one of seven categories including salaries and wages, supplies and materials, professional and contractual services, utilities, equipment rental, repairs and maintenance and contributions to FPS Community Recreation. The total expenditures from the City of Fremont for recreation and culture have increased by more than 14% over the past three years. The City contributions to the Community Ed Recreation School Program was increased from \$17,000 to \$20,000 in 2003.

In the 2006/2007 Operating Budget, the City included a line item for the continuing contribution to the schools as well as \$300,000 for the construction of Phase Two of the Towns and Country Path.

The only recreation-related revenue generator within the City of Fremont is the rental receipts associated with campground sites at Fremont Lake Park. The following table illustrates the revenues generated over the past three years, which averages approximately \$96,000 per year. This money is placed in the City General Fund to help offset park operating costs and to cover matching requirements for future park redevelopment grants.

## Tourist Park Rental Revenues

2003/04	\$98,665
2004/05	\$96,267
2005/06	\$93,575
Source: City of Fremont Revenues	

### *Sheridan Charter Township*

While Sheridan Charter Township does not currently contribute funds directly to the City of Fremont or the public school district for recreation purposes, the Township does fund the maintenance and operation of their facilities. Approximately 15 years ago, the Township paid for the dock on the south side of Fremont Lake, and volunteers dedicate their time and efforts to put the dock in and out each year. The only other maintenance related to the facility are dust control measures and the placement of additional gravel as needed. These costs are conducted similar to a road project and are funded through the Township's general fund. Other projects in recent years include:

- **Improvements to Brooks Creek**  
South of 80th Street, Brooks Creek becomes a designated trout stream. Approximately 3 years ago, the Township worked with the County Road Commission to alter the roadway and replace culverts that were incorrectly placed and were gathering sediment. These improvements ensured that this portion of Brooks Creek would remain a productive trout stream.
- **Clean Lakes Project on Fremont Lake**  
In 1993 and 1994, the Township received a grant from the MDNR to produce best management practices for properties and activities affecting the quality of Fremont Lake. The project budget was over \$100,000, with half funded by the MDNR and the remainder through the Lake Association. The City was a willing and active participant in the project.
- **Volunteer Clean-Up**  
In 1993, the Township organized a volunteer clean-up of the Township forest property at 88th and Osborn.
- **Bow Fishing Contest**  
The Township hosted a bow fishing contest in conjunction with the Bow Fishing Association in the summer of 1997.

- Fireworks

The Township annually gives permission for a private fireworks display on property at the east end of Fremont Lake which is paid for with private donations. The City and Township make land available for viewing and assist in the planning and safety coordination of the event.

*Dayton Township*

Dayton Township does not have any public park facilities under its jurisdiction and therefore has not had any expenditures or revenues in regard to recreation.

*Sherman Township*

Sherman Township has not had any expenditures or revenues in regard to recreation in the recreation facilities within their township.

# Basis For Action

Many elements must be considered prior to the decision-making process of establishing a prioritized capital improvements schedule for the next five years. Communities must be aware of recreational trends, national standards, participation data at existing facilities and community opinion, as well as demographic trends and the capability of the land and its surroundings. This section attempts to consolidate the various factors that must be acknowledged and the abundance of aspects, perceptions, and ideas that need to be filtered and categorized to produce the prioritized needs of the community. Because there are so many factors which will ultimately determine needs, caution should be taken to not analyze each piece of information individually, but integrate them to produce the “big picture.”

## *National Recreation Activity Survey*

It is important to be aware of recreation trends occurring nationally and in Michigan to be able to anticipate which activities will incorporate a large number of participants and which activities show the greatest growth in popularity. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) conducts national surveys that measure activities by participation and percent change from the previous survey. The definition of participation includes those persons seven years and older who have participated in the activity more than once during the year of the survey. The following table ranks activities by the highest participation in 2005 and compares it to the level of participation in 2000.

In 2005, Exercise Walking (86.0 million), Swimming (58.0 million), Exercising with Equipment (54.2 million), Camping (46.0 million) and Bowling (45.4 million) were the top five activities that people participated in at least once a year. This marks a change from a 1998 survey in which the top five activities included Exercise Walking, Swimming, Camping, Exercising with Equipment and Fishing.

From 2000 to 2005, the number of people enjoying kayaking and rafting increased dramatically by over 141% from 3.1 million to 7.6 million. Additionally, the number of people enjoying paintball, archery, target shooting, muzzle-loading and hunting with a bow and arrow increased by 50%, 49.5%, 47.5%, 43% and 41.2% respectively. The number of people who enjoyed weightlifting and working out at the club also increased by 43% and 44.3% respectively. Those activities that experienced the greatest decreases in participation from 2000 to 2005 were in-line roller skating (-39.9%), cross-country skiing (-19.9%) and backpack/wilderness camping (-13.7%).

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) also conducts national surveys that measure activities by participation on a state by state basis. This data is used to create a state-by-state index. The index is established by dividing the state’s percentage of participants in a particular activity by its percentage of the U.S. population. For example, Florida has 13.2% of the total participants in salt-water fishing and 5.4 % of the U.S. population. This yields an index of 243, indicating that Floridians are more than twice as likely (2.43 times, to be exact) to participate in salt-water fishing as the national average. The state-by-state index is based on a sampling of 20,000 U.S households. Only sports with at least seven million participants nationally are included in the study. The following table ranks the top five activities in 2003.

### State Index, Michigan: 2003

Index	Sports
209	Golf
148	Bowling
147	Softball
146	Hunting with Firearms
140	Camping (vacation/overnight)

### National Sport Participation: 2000 v 2005

	Sport	2000	2005	Percent Change 00 - 05
1	Exercise Walking	86.3	86.0	-0.3%
2	Swimming	60.7	58.0	-4.5%
3	Exercising with Equipment	44.8	54.2	21.0%
4	Camping	49.9	46.0	-7.8%
5	Bowling	43.1	45.4	5.3%
6	Fishing	49.3	43.3	-12.1%
7	Bicycle Riding	43.1	43.1	0.1%
8	Billiards/Pool	32.5	37.3	14.5%
9	Weightlifting	24.8	35.5	43.0%
10	Workout at Club	24.1	34.7	44.3%
11	Aerobic Exercising	28.6	33.7	17.7%
12	Basketball	27.1	29.9	10.4%
13	Hiking	24.3	29.8	22.6%
14	Running/Jogging	22.8	29.2	28.2%
15	Boating, Motor/Power	24.2	27.5	13.6%
16	Golf	26.4	24.7	-6.5%
17	Target Shooting	14.8	21.9	47.5%
18	Hunting with Firearms	19.1	19.4	1.5%
19	Baseball	15.6	14.6	-6.4%
20	Softball	14.0	14.1	0.8%
21	Soccer	12.9	14.1	9.8%
22	Backpack/Wilderness Camping	15.4	13.3	-13.7%
23	Volleyball	12.3	13.2	7.7%
24	In-line Roller Skating	21.8	13.1	-39.9%
25	Skateboarding	9.1	12.0	32.9%
26	Tennis	10.0	11.1	10.9%
27	Scooter Riding	11.6	10.4	-10.4%
28	Football (tackle)	7.5	9.9	33.0%
29	Mountain Biking (off road)	7.1	9.2	30.5%
30	Paintball Games	5.3	8.0	50.0%
31	Kayaking/Rafting	3.1	7.6	141.4%
32	Skiing (alpine)	7.4	6.9	-6.7%
33	Archery (target)	4.5	6.8	49.5%
34	Water Skiing	5.9	6.7	13.6%
35	Hunting w/Bow & Arrow	4.7	6.6	41.2%
36	Snowboarding	4.3	6.0	37.7%
37	Muzzleloading	2.9	4.1	43.0%
38	Hockey (ice)	1.9	2.4	25.4%
39	Skiing (cross-country)	2.3	1.9	-19.9%

Source: NSGA, Industry Research & Statistics - Sports Participation 2005. Ranked in order of participation in 2005.

### *National Planning Standards*

In the process of determining and prioritizing needs, it is not only important to understand the national and state -wide trends in terms of participating levels and popularity, but it is also imperative to compare the provisions of local recreation facilities to published standards. This comparison of existing facilities to standard acreage and facility requirements may be used as another tool to determine needs within the Fremont Area.

### *Acreage Standards*

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides a recommended park classification system, which recognizes that open space serves people at different levels. This classification system is also recognized in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, *Guidelines for the Development Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans*. The classification system categorizes open space as either mini-parks, neighborhood parks or community parks. The desirable characteristics relative to the size and acreage provisions per 1,000 people are again listed:

- **Mini-Park**  
Service area of less than ¼ mile in radius with a desirable size of one acre or less. The standard is 0.25 to 0.50 acres per 1,000 people.
- **Neighborhood Park**  
Service area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius with a desirable size of at least 15 acres. The standard is 1.0 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 people.
- **Community Park**  
Service area is 1 to 2 miles in radius with a desirable size of at least 25 acres. The standard is 5.0 to 8.0 acres per 1,000 people.

NRPA standards were established in the early 1980's and do not necessarily represent current popular recreation activities. The most current addition of the NRPA, *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* does not include acreage provisions and states;

*Facility standards are useful as guidelines, but that a community should determine what mix of facilities best meets its specific needs. The primary concern of park and recreation administrators is to see that there is enough park land, located in the right places, at the right time people are there to use it.*

NRPA acreage provisions and classification standards are still widely used across the country to address community recreation needs. For the purpose of this plan update, the NRPA acreage standards applied in the 2000 Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan was again applied to existing park acreage in the Fremont Area to begin to determine any additional needs in terms of land acquisition.

For purposes of the Community Park analysis, the Fremont Area (Fremont, Sheridan, Dayton and Sherman) is considered **one community**. In terms of recreation, this is generally how recreation is provided and operated. The following table indicates the projected 2010 population for the Fremont Area as a whole, as well as the individual municipality and Townships.

### Projected Year 2010 Populations

	2005 Estimate	Average Increase 1970 to 2000	2010 Projections
Dayton Township	2,065	0.8%	2,080
Sheridan Township	2,473	-0.36%	2,462
Sherman Township	2,267	8.84%	2,392
City of Fremont	4,256	3.65%	4,256
<b>Fremont Area</b>	<b>11,061</b>	<b>1.41%</b>	<b>11,141</b>

### Community Parks

The following table applies the NRPA standard for community park land, which stipulates a desired standard of 5.0 to 8.0 acres per 1,000 people, to the existing acreage within the Fremont Area, which for these purposes is considered one community in relation to the year 2010 population projections. As the table indicates, the community as a whole reveals no acreage deficiencies in terms of availability of community park land. It should be noted that this does not take into consideration the type or availability of facilities nor the distance those people located in the outlying townships must travel to reach these parks.

### Community Parks Standards and Deficiencies in Acres: 2010

Community	Total/Standard	Community Parks	Park Acreage	Deficiency
Fremont Area	55.3 to 88.4 acres			
		Branstrom Park	108.9	
		Fremont Lake Park	17.3	
		Veterans Memorial Park	2.4	
		Newaygo County Fairgrounds	28.2	
		Sheridan Boat Launch	6.5	
		Sheridan Twp. Property	168	
		Fremont High School	7.2	
		Fremont Middle School	69.1	
		Pine Street Athletic Field	16.3	
		Providence Christian High School	20	
		Robinson Lake Public Boat Launch	3.6	
		Sherman Twp. Boat Launch and Beach	0.38	
		Fremont Industrial Park - Natural Outlets	20.1	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>467.98</b>	<b>0</b>

### *Neighborhood Parks*

A similar analysis was conducted on the neighborhood parks within the Fremont Area. As was specified in the Recreation Inventory, the Fremont Area contains 11 parks that have been categorized as neighborhood parks due to their size and/or amenities.

The NRPA standard for neighborhood park land, which stipulates a desired standard of 1.0 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 people, was applied to the existing acreage within the Fremont Area, which for these purposes is considered one community in relation to the year 2010 population projections.

As the table below indicates, according to these standards, Dayton and Sherman Township do not contain any neighborhood parks and are deficient in neighborhood parkland by 2 to 4.7 acres. Sheridan Charter Township and the City of Fremont are not deficient in neighborhood parkland. It should be noted that both public and private schools have been categorized and included in the analysis as neighborhood parks. These schools are often times available and used for recreation, but are not true public parks due to their limited availability and funding issues.

An acreage analysis for mini-parks was not conducted due to the obvious results. Only two parks, the Clubview Park and the Fremont Avenue Tot-Lot are considered to be mini-parks. Mini-parks and neighborhood parks do not play as an essential role in the more rural areas where yards and open space are available and abundant for the use of township residents.

#### **Neighborhood Parks Standards and Deficiencies in Acres: 2010**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Total/Standard</b>	<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>Deficiency</b>
Dayton Township	2.0 to 4.1 acres		0	2.0 to 4.1 acres
Sheridan Township	2.4 to 4.9 acres		2.8	0
Sherman Township	2.3 to 4.7 acres			2.3 to 4.7 acres
City of Fremont	4.2 to 8.5 acres	Beebe's Natural Park	0.4	
		Arboretum Park	9.5	
		Cherry Hill Park	2.8	
		Pathfinder Elementary	22.7	
		Daisy Brook Elementary	13.9	
		Pine Street Elementary	10.8	
		Fremont Comm. Edu. Center	10	
		Christian Middle School	13.4	
		Christian Elementary School	3.9	
		Cornerstone Christian Academy	3.6	
		<b>Total</b>		<b>91.5</b>

### *Per Capita Park Land*

A parks land analysis was conducted by governmental unit to determine the public park acreage per 100 residents in each community. In this analysis, the population estimates for 2005 were used. The following table illustrates the park acreage per 100 residents by governmental unit. This table illustrates only 'public' park land per 100 residents.

#### **Per Capita Park Land**

<b>Governmental Unit</b>	<b>Public Park Acreage per 100 residents</b>
Fremont Area	3.5
Sheridan Charter Township	7.2
Dayton Township	0.0
Sherman Township	0.2
City of Fremont	4.8

The relatively low population within Sheridan Charter Township tends to skew the acreage per resident figure, considering there are only two public parks within the Township, the boat launch and the undeveloped 168-acre Township property. Overall, within the Fremont Area, there are 3.5 acres of public park land per 100 people.

### *Park Service Areas*

As has been referenced, each type of park (community, neighborhood and mini) has different service areas. The community park service area is a one- to two-mile radius, neighborhood parks serve an area between 1/4- to 1/2-mile radius and mini parks serve a radius of less than 1/4 mile. The following two maps illustrate the service areas for these types of parks within the Fremont Area. This analysis assists in identifying areas of the community that are under- served in regard to the availability of recreational land.

As Map 7 reveals, the entire City is currently served by Community Parks (two-mile radius). Those areas, served by the community parks located within the City, extend beyond the City limits into Sheridan Charter, Sherman and Dayton Townships. Those people residing generally between 24th Street, the southern border of Sheridan Charter Township, Luce Avenue and Comstock Avenue and areas around Robinson Lake and Crystal Lake in Sherman township have community park facilities that are fairly accessible. Beyond that, most residents of the Fremont Area cannot easily (within two miles) access a community park facility.

The Neighborhood/Mini Park Service Areas map (Map 8) illustrates those areas within the community that can access a neighborhood or mini-park, which tend to offer more passive recreation opportunities within one-half mile from their home. The map indicates that nearly all residents within Dayton and Sheridan Charter Townships do not have easy access to facilities offered in neighborhood/mini-parks.

This may not pose as significant an issue as the unavailability of community park land due to the fact that most people residing in the outlying Townships have relatively larger pieces of property and available open space to kick a ball, play catch and have a game of touch football. The map also identifies a significant portion of the City that is not served by neighborhood/mini-parks. This area is generally from Westwood Avenue west to the City limits.

### *Facility Standards*

The NRPA has also published typical recreation facility standards that specify facility service areas, the number of facilities and the land area needed to service the population. Standards for facilities usually located within neighborhood and community parks are provided on the following table. These standards can be used in conjunction with the acreage standards to further identify the Fremont Area's recreation needs. Data in the Facility Deficiencies table compares the existing community recreation facilities to the NRPA published standards.

When comparing the public recreational facilities within the Fremont Area to published standards, it reveals that the area is not deficient in terms of those facilities analyzed and the published standards. This data, however, must be used in conjunction with other factors contained within this chapter and elsewhere in this document such as population projections, participation information and results of public input and surveys. While the comparison to national standards does not indicate any facility deficiencies, other known data such as participation levels, condition and scheduling issues must be referenced. For example, in a community such as the Fremont Area, where young children are abundant and soccer is a very popular sport, one soccer field would not be sufficient. The Fremont High School contains one indoor swimming pool. Therefore, the table reveals that the communities are not deficient in the provision of swimming pools. In analyzing the current condition of the swimming pool, however, this statement is inaccurate due to the antiquated condition of the pool and the fact that the current swimming facility does not meet existing state guidelines. In the case of the Fremont Area, a new swimming pool is a critically needed facility. Current trends within the community must also be considered in order to interpret this data in the appropriate context. For example, while tennis may be experiencing an overall decline in the country, they may in fact be facilities and programs that are in very high demand within individual communities.

<b>Recreation Facility Standards</b>				
<b>Activity/Facility</b>	<b>Minimum Space Requirements</b>	<b>Units Per Population</b>	<b>Service Radius</b>	<b>Location Notes</b>
<b>Basketball Court</b>		1/5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings
<b>Youth</b>	2,400 – 3,036 sq. ft.			
<b>High School</b>	5,040 – 7,280 sq. ft.			
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	1/100,000	½ hour to 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting number of units.
<b>Tennis Court</b>	7,200 sq. ft./court 2 acres/complex	1/2,000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2 – 4 courts. Located in neighborhood/community park or adjacent to school site.
<b>Volleyball Court</b>	4,000 sq. ft.	1/5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as basketball court.
<b>Ballfields</b>		1/5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex.
<b>Baseball</b>	3 – 3.85 acres	1/30,000		Lighted fields part of community complex. Softball fields may also be used for youth baseball.
<b>Little League</b>	1.2 acre	(lighted)		
<b>Softball</b>	1.5 – 2 acres			
<b>Football Field</b>	1.5 acre	1/20,000	15 – 30 min. travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
<b>Soccer Field</b>	1.7 – 2.1 acres	1/10,000	1 – 2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	½ to 2-acre site	1/20,000	15 – 30 min. travel time	Located in community park or school site.

Data from Roger A. Lancaster, Ed., Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, Alexandria, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983, pages 60 – 61.

<b>Recreation Facility Deficiencies Fremont Area</b>				
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Standard/ Population</b>	<b>Total/ Standard</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Deficiency</b>
Basketball Court	1 per 5,000	2	20 <sup>a</sup>	0
Ice Hockey	1 per 100,000	0	0	0
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000	5	10	(+5)
Volleyball Ct. (outdoor)	1 per 5,000	2	4	(+2)
Baseball	1 per 5,000	2	2	0
Baseball (Smaller)	1 per 5,000	2	10	(+8)
Football Field	1 per 20,000	0	1	(+1)
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	1	2 <sup>b</sup>	(+1)
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	0	1	(+1)

<sup>a</sup>While there are 20 basketball hoops within the public parks, none of which are full courts but rather individual hoops.

<sup>b</sup>Of the 8 soccer areas within the City, there is one game-quality field and two others which are used for games. The majority of soccer areas are for practice or junior fields.

### *Community Opinion Survey*

In January 2007, the Fremont Area Communities contracted with the Research Services of Northwestern Michigan College to conduct a telephone survey with registered voters of the Fremont Community. Based on a total population of 8,106 registered voters, a random sample of 260 was targeted for a 95% confidence level, +/-6 margin of error; a total of 261 surveys were completed. Confidence intervals from individual jurisdictions are larger due to smaller sample sizes. Therefore the margin of error for each jurisdiction is +/-9.7% for the City of Fremont, +/-11.5% for Sheridan Charter Township, +/-13.2% for Dayton Township and +/-15.5% for Sherman Township. The table below shows specific frequency and percent of returns for each jurisdiction.

### **Community Survey Returns**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>City of Fremont</b>	99	37.9	37.9
<b>Sheridan Charter Township</b>	70	26.8	64.8
<b>Dayton Township</b>	53	20.3	85.1
<b>Sherman Township</b>	39	14.9	100
<b>Total</b>	261	100	

Questions covered various topics related to the use and provision of recreation. The following are the key findings from the results. The survey, survey results and the survey final report can be found in Appendix C.

- Over half of respondents indicated they had visited Branstrom and Fremont Lake parks during the past year (56% and 58%, respectively), while 46% indicated they had visited Veterans Memorial Park. In addition, the majority or single largest group of respondents reported visiting these parks one to five times in the past year (Veterans Memorial Park - 55%; Branstrom - 54%; Fremont Lake - 49%).
- The majority of respondents (77%) indicated they had visited Fremont Lake in the past year, with 47% of those visiting the lake indicating they had done so one to five times over the course of the past year. Respondents most frequently cited swimming (35%), fishing (23%), and boating/waterskiing (21%) as activities they had participated in on the lake.
- Respondents most frequently reported they or their family members had participated in the following recreational activities: The Swirl (32%), Fremont Lake Playground (22%), and Branstrom Sledding Hill (19%). In addition, 41% of respondents indicated they had walked, hiked, biked, or inline skated on the Branstrom Nature Trails, while 30% indicated they had walked, hiked, biked, or inline skated on the Town & Country Path.
- The majority of respondents (80%) reported favoring the extension of the Town & Country Path around the west side of Fremont Lake south, then east to Sheridan Township boat launch/playground.
- The majority of respondents (73%) indicated they would like to see more non-motorized pathways developed that would extend into their jurisdiction and connect to other communities' path systems
- The majority of respondents (61%) indicated they would support an up to 1 mill request by the Recreation Authority to create new recreation facilities and/or improve or repair existing structures; 19% of respondents indicated they would not support the request and 20% indicated they are uncertain if they would support the request.
- When asked what kind of activities or amenities they would like to see if a recreation center were to be developed in the Fremont Area, respondents most frequently identified: indoor pool (22%) and indoor jogging/walking track (20%).
- The majority of respondents (51%) indicated they are somewhat satisfied with available recreational facilities and programs in the Fremont Area, with 76% reporting some level of satisfaction overall. When asked what satisfies them most about the available recreational facilities and programs, this group of respondents most frequently cited proximity (25%) and variety (25%).
- Respondents most frequently identified newspapers and word-of-mouth as sources from which they receive most of their information about recreation in the Fremont Area (62% and 58%, respectively).

- The majority of respondents (73%) indicated they would like to see the Fremont Community have more recreational facilities, with 77% of this group of respondents indicating they would be willing to contribute money to help pay for new recreational facilities.

### *Public Input*

The Fremont Area Recreation Committee held a public meeting on Monday, February 12, 2007 at the Fremont City Hall. The meeting was held in the City Hall chambers so that attending public could be included in discussions and provide input. The meeting began with a brief overview of the purpose of the Recreation Plan, the status of work completed thus far, and the general purpose of the meeting. The meeting was then opened up to the public for comments. The following comments were received:

Concerning amenities for a potential indoor recreation center:

- Tennis courts
- Child care area
- Concession stand/juice bar
- Racquetball courts
- Areas to observe active participants

Concerning amenities for a potential outdoor recreation center:

- Football fields/ Baseball fields (Little League)

Other items for the community:

- Water Park
- Mountain-Bike Trails
- Lights on the Sledding Hill (Branstrom Park)
- Equestrian Trails

### *Participation and Use Data in Fremont Community Education Program*

Data is compiled each year for several of the programs and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Enrichment Program. Participation and use data is particularly accurate and complete with regard to the participation levels of the majority of the programs with associated fees as well as the use of the school facilities for school and non-school use. The following table lists the participation levels for selected programs from 2003 to 2006.

	<b>Number of Participants</b>			<b>% Percent Change</b>
	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2005-06</u>	<u>2003-2006</u>
<b><u>YOUTH RECREATIONAL SPORTS LEAGUES</u></b>				
Fall Soccer (Co-Ed)	227	174	159	-30%
Spring Soccer (Co-Ed)	289	227	234	-19%
Tee-Ball (Co-Ed)	98	113	120	+22.4%
Coach Pitch (Co-Ed)	85	105	98	+15.3%
Boys' Basketball	110	83	72	-34.5%
Girls' Basketball	128	101	113	-11.7%
Co-Ed Basketball	92	87	61	-33.7%
Girls Softball Clinic	11	32	61	+454.5%
Fremonsters Wrestling (Boys)	51	52	50	-2.0%
FAST Swimming (Co-Ed)	44	39	41	-6.8%
Golf	47	65	24	-48.9%
	<b>1,182</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>-12.6%</b>
<b><u>YOUTH SUMMER ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES</u></b>				
Tennis Lessons	85	55	47	-44.7%
Swimming Lessons (including Summer Magic)	662	307	357	-46.1%
Volleyball Camp	55	64	---	-100%
Lady Packers B-ball Clinic	35	43	28	-2%
Boy's B-ball Clinic	35	29	---	-100%
Kids Dance	---	54	20	-63%
Kids Karate	---	85	95	+11.8%
Tumbling	199	172	247	+24.1%
	<b>1,081</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>-42.6%</b>
<b><u>ADULT SPORTS LEAGUES</u></b>				
Church League Slo-Pitch	127	106	83	-34.6%
Ladies' Church League Volleyball	65	60	74	+13.8%
Men's Church League Basketball	112	92	97	-13.4%
Men's Over-27 Fall Slo-Pitch	112	109	94	-16.1%
	<b>416</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>-16.3%</b>
<b><u>ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS</u></b>				
Karate (Youth Included 2003-04)	119	47	56	-52.9%
Senior Citizens	612	562	564	-7.8%
Shape-Up/ Dance Lessons	356	561	662	+86%
Computer Classes etc.	11	32	67	+509%
	<b>1,198</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>+12.6%</b>
<b><u>OPEN SWIM PERIODS</u></b>				
AM Swim	1,954	2,089	2,428	+24.3%
Family Open Swim	3,472	2,780	3,244	-6.6%
	<b>5,426</b>	<b>4,869</b>	<b>5,672</b>	<b>+4.5%</b>
<b><u>USE OF FREMONT SCHOOL FACILITIES</u></b>				
Swimming Pool	388	855	906	+133.5%
High School Gym	268	352	393	+46.6%
Multi-Purpose Room	231	236	209	-9.5%
Old Café	41	89	35	-14.6%
Media Centers	271	26	218	-19.6%
Middle School Gym (Old)	311	208	246	-20.9%
Middle School Gym (New)	389	429	277	-28.8%
Middle School Cafeteria	151	16	83	-45%
Pine Primary Gym	255	177	229	-10.2%
Community Ed Gym	400	511	375	-6.3%
Community Ed Commons/Community Rooms	352	150	51	-85.5%
Daisy Brook Gym	148	290	190	+28.4%
Daisy Brook Café	144	256	106	-26.4%
Pathfinder Gum	451	512	411	-8.9%
Pathfinder Pods	407	654	921	+126.3%
	<b>4,207</b>	<b>4,761</b>	<b>4,650</b>	<b>+10.5%</b>
<b><u>FREMONT FITNESS CENTER MEMBERSHIPS</u></b>				
1-Time	---	103	78	-24.3%
10-Pass	10	39	43	+330%
1-Month	9	37	40	+344.4%
3-Month	72	46	39	-45.8%
6-Month	12	7	3	-75%
1-Year	25	18	10	-60%
Staff	==	==	33	==
	<b>214</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>+15%</b>

# Action Plan

As was stated in the Basis For Action, a community must base recreation improvement and service decisions on recreational trends, national standards, participation data at existing facilities, community opinion and financial ability, as well as demographic trends and the availability of land. The following describes the Fremont Area's goals, guidelines and program to maintain and improve recreational opportunities in the community.

The plan for parks and recreation must support the overall goals and objectives for area-wide development, growth and services. Statements of specific goals and recommended guidelines will then guide the formulation and implementation of the Recreation Master Plan. These statements of goals and guidelines are expressions of agreement on the Plan, as established by the Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee and adopted by the Fremont City Council, Sheridan Charter Township Board, Sherman Township Board and Dayton Township Board.

## **Goals**

The following goals are established for the Fremont Area to guide the provision and enhancement of recreation in the area.

- Encourage safe recreation facilities and programs that are appropriately located and well-designed.
- Provide year-round facilities that encourage healthy activities and participation by residents of all ages, income levels and abilities.
- Encourage cooperation and foster relationships between the five primary public agencies in the Fremont Area: the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Sherman Township, Dayton Township and the Fremont Public School District.
- Provide sufficient recreation space and facilities within the Fremont Area to serve the existing and future needs of residents and visitors to the area.
- Allocate resources in a fiscally responsible and equitable manner to build and maintain existing and future parks, recreation facilities and programs within the Fremont Area.
- Continue the planning process through periodic review of the plan and necessary updates.

## **Guidelines**

The following guidelines are established to assist in implementing the goals and providing effective and efficient recreation opportunities for the residents of the Fremont Area. The guidelines have been placed into one of eight categories relating to the organization, operation, maintenance, programming, staffing and facility development of recreation in the Fremont Area.

### *Organizational*

- Establish and maintain open communication between the City of Fremont, Fremont Public Schools and Sheridan Charter, Sherman and Dayton Townships.
- Hold open and regular (at least semi-annual) meetings among representatives of all Five entities as a forum for inviting communication on how to best implement the area-wide Recreation Master Plan.
- Explore potential formation of a multi-jurisdictional recreation management entity (e.g. Recreation Authority) for the Fremont Area.

### *Staffing*

- Explore opportunities for area students to assist in the development and operation of the recreation program
- Explore possibilities of partnerships in terms of maintenance, personnel and equipment

### *Programming*

- Work closely with area advocates to accommodate and enhance various activities and programs for the physically and/or mentally challenged population.
- Develop additional activities and programs geared toward area residents of all ages, income levels and abilities.

### *Public Information*

- Be clear and concise in communicating recreation-related activities with the general public.
- Establish, communicate and advertise policies for safety, loitering and hours of operation of public parks.
- Develop and release information regarding area-wide recreation opportunities and current events onto Fremont Area web sites.

- Continue to actively involve the public in the decision-making process.

#### *Operation*

- Encourage partnerships with public and private entities including corporations, foundations, civic associations, volunteer programs, etc. to avoid duplication and maximize resources.

#### *Maintenance*

- Evaluate and address solutions to maintenance issues.
- Discuss maintenance issues at semi-annual meetings to create awareness and ensure proper coordination of efforts.
- Keep apprised of current state and federal recreation guidelines and standards, including barrier-free and safety requirements.

#### *Land Acquisition*

- Investigate the potential expansion of existing sites through property donation, purchase and/or reuse.

#### *Facility Development*

- Promote facilities and activities that are accessible to all Fremont Area residents and visitors.
- In the development of new facilities, consider a central location to ensure ease of access, appropriateness of traffic generation and interrelation of facilities with school, home and work.
- Commit to facility design and location that produces the lowest impacts on the surrounding land uses and environment.
- Identify and encourage opportunities to provide consolidated facilities that offer a variety of recreational activities at one site.
- Consider the preservation of environmentally and agriculturally sensitive lands when determining the most appropriate location for new recreation facilities.

## **Capital Improvements**

The capital improvements schedule for this Recreation Plan has been established not only to provide a framework for decision makers but also to enable the Fremont Area communities to apply for grant funds for proposed projects. The capital improvements schedule is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive nor exclusive. The schedule merely reflects the results of the Committee's research, brainstorming and data gathering in conjunction with input from City, School and Township officials and staff as well as the general public. It is very likely that the schedule and plan will be amended at some point due to unanticipated circumstances such as private donations, changing recreation trends, community opinion and/or available grants.

The capital improvements schedule details the anticipated acquisition and development for the years 2007-2011. The schedule is organized by year and includes project names and cost estimates as well as a break down of those costs by the anticipated funding sources (See Appendix A for descriptions of the various funding opportunities.) The capital improvements schedule represents the project priorities for the entire Fremont Area (Fremont, Dayton, Sherman and Sheridan). The capital improvements schedule does not prioritize projects based on the individual communities' needs and wants; rather the needs and wants of the community as a whole. It is the intention of the Fremont Area Communities to coordinate efforts in the implementation of the capital improvements schedule over the next five years, including issues such as equitable cost sharing, operation and maintenance. The rationale for the capital improvements schedule is documented in the Basis For Action section of this plan. A map is also included identifying the location of the proposed improvements.

## **Actions to Address Barrier-Free Issues**

The Fremont Area documented several barrier-free accessibility issues at their public park facilities (See Recreation Inventory). The Recreation Advisory Committee has identified several goals, guidelines and capital improvements to ensure that all new facilities and/or equipment as well as existing park sites and facilities are barrier-free, or will transition into barrier-free facilities. Those specific goals, guidelines and capital improvements are reiterated below:

### *Goal*

- Provide year-round facilities that encourage healthy activities and participation by residents of all ages, income levels and abilities.

### *Guidelines*

- Work closely with area advocates to accommodate and enhance various activities and programs for the physically and/or mentally challenged population.
- Keep apprised of current state and federal recreation guidelines and standards, including barrier-free and safety requirements.

- Promote facilities and activities that are accessible to all Fremont Area residents and visitors
- In the development of new facilities, consider a central location to ensure ease of access, appropriateness of traffic generation and interrelation of facilities with school, home and work.

### *Capital Improvements-ADA*

While all new improvements to public facilities must be in compliance with ADA requirements, the Recreation Advisory Committee and the Fremont Area have incorporated several specific capital improvements to address and improve the barrier-free status of existing and future public facilities. They include:

- **Non-Motorized Pathway**  
The Fremont Area has established an aggressive plan to incorporate additional non-motorized pathways connecting the Fremont communities to each other as well as other communities in the Newaygo County. This pathway system is constructed of an impervious surface that is barrier-free and accessible to all residents.
- **Recreation Center**  
The Fremont Area has included the exploration and possible construction of a Community Recreation Center, which is envisioned to include a swimming area, workout room, meeting areas, etc., all of which will be designed to accommodate and encourage use by the disabled population.
- **Outdoor Facility**  
The need for additional outdoor recreation opportunities, particularly soccer, baseball and football fields, were identified as high priorities within the Fremont Area. While a specific site has yet to be identified or secured for such a multipurpose facility, it is anticipated that the park would also include, restrooms, parking, a concession stand and playground equipment, all of which would be designed to accommodate the disabled population.
- **Sheridan Charter Township Property**  
The Fremont Area envisions improvements at the 168-acre property, which would greatly improve its accessibility to all area residents. While it is envisioned that the park will remain a predominantly passive area, improvements may include parking,

picnic areas, pavilion and playground equipment, all of which will be designed and constructed to encourage use by all segments of the population.

### **Long -Range Goals/Projects**

The recreation planning process included numerous meetings and public input in which the Recreation Advisory Committee identified many projects, needs and wants of the community for recreation in the Fremont Area. All of those projects and goals identified were not included within the 5-year lifespan of this recreation plan but nevertheless remain important elements to document. The communities wished to record the long-term ideas generated throughout the planning process so that the work conducted in the generation of this plan could be continued in the generation of the next 5-year recreation plan.

It is a primary long-term goal of the Fremont Area communities to provide a continuous non-motorized pathway that traverses through all three communities and connects residents with each other, schools, parks, places of work, places of commerce, etc. Other projects that were discussed are as follows:

#### **General**

- Interpretive/educational natural areas
- Additional restrooms in parks
- Purchase wetland west of Osborn (Now part of Stoneycreek Subdivision)
- Purchase property surrounding Lorden Lake
- Develop City's Decker well field and tower site

#### **Fremont Lake Park**

- Develop parcel to the east of the existing park
- Acquire adjacent land to complete expansion efforts

#### **Branstrom Park**

- Install a map sign

#### **Arboretum Park**

- Acquire land to expand Arboretum Park

#### **Veterans Memorial Park**

- Minor upgrades to amphitheater
- Safety surfacing and handicap access surface at playground equipment

#### **Fremont Industrial Park**

- Continue development of 3 outlots (20 acres) into nature viewing areas/trail system

**FREMONT AREA PARKS AND RECREATION  
Capital Improvements Schedule 2007 - 2011**

**Calendar Year 2007**

See Map 9

Project Description	Cost Estimate*	Possible Funding Sources (See Glossary)	Project Status
<p><b>Recreation Center</b> (swimming, track, racquetball, tennis, weight training, skating...)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility study &amp; analysis of potential sites</li> <li>• Consider combining w/Outdoor Facility</li> </ul> </p>	TBD	FPSD, FAC, FACF, Donors Local Businesses	
<p><b>Outdoor Facility</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility study &amp; analysis of potential sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate potential for collaboration with Newaygo Recreation Authority</li> <li>• Game-quality soccer fields (2)</li> <li>• Baseball Fields (3), Football Fields (2)</li> <li>• Restrooms/Concession Stand/Parking</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </p>	TBD	FAC, FPSD, FACF Foundations, Authority Millage	Completed Individually
<p><b>Sheridan Charter Township Property (88th St. &amp; Osborn Rd.)</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue schematic design process &amp; discussion on property plans</li> <li>• Mountain Bike Trails approved and to be constructed by private group</li> </ul> </p>	\$8,000 ?	FAC, Donors Donors	
<p><b>Soccer Field</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finish improvements to FPS "varsity" soccer field</li> </ul> </p>	TBD		
<p><b>Branstrom Park</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install Electronic Scoreboard</li> </ul> </p>	\$10,000	FACF, COF, Donors	
<p><b>ADA Assessment</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete thorough ADA assessment of each new park</li> </ul> </p>	TBD	FAC	

**Town and Country Pathway**

• Finish construction of Phase II.	\$200,000	FAC, FACF, State MDNR, Donors,	
• Complete Phase II enhancements (signs, benches, bike rack)	\$9,000	MI District #10 Health Dept. Grant	
• Design and Construct additional phase(s)	\$400,000	Funds Award/Engineering	
• Evaluation/identification of pathway extension to observation point on Fremont Lake	\$150,000	State Grants, Donors	

**Non-Motorized Pathway**

• Evaluation/identification of non-motorized pathway traversing through Sherman Township and connections with regional trail systems	TBD	FAC	
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**Recreation Authority (to construct & maintain recreational programs/facilities)**

• Evaluate establishment of Recreation Authority	TBD	FAC	
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**Sherman Township Boat Launch & Beach**

• Investigate & evaluate opportunities for improvements to current site	TBD	FAC	
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**Robinson Lake Public Boat Launch**

• Investigate & evaluate opportunities for improvements to current site	TBD	FAC	
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**General**

• Investigate (& possibly purchase) potential park & recreational land acquisition opportunities	TBD	FAC, MNRTF, TNC, TPL, Donors, Foundations	On-going
• Investigate acquisition and improvement of lands in conjunction w/ Newaygo Conservation District (NCD)	TBD	FAC, MNRTF, TNC, TPL, Donors, Foundations	On-going
• Evaluate and investigate recreation programming opportunities and feasibility of existing facilities	TBD	FAC	On-going
• Evaluate and investigate new marketing and promotional opportunities	TBD	FAC	On-going

\* All cost estimates are general in nature and must be reevaluated when scopes of work are more defined.

**FREMONT AREA PARKS AND RECREATION  
Capital Improvements Schedule 2007 - 2011  
Calendar Year 2008**

Project Description	Cost Estimate*	Possible Funding Sources (See Glossary)	Project Status
<b>Recreation Center</b> (swimming, track, racquetball, tennis, weight training, skating...)			
• Secure funding	TBD	FAC	
• Site acquisition & design	TBD	FAC, FACF, FPCF, Donors, Bonds, Millage, Spec. Assessment	
<b>Outdoor Facility</b>			
• Secure funding & start construction:	TBD	FAC, FPSD, FACF, Foundations, Donors, Authority Millage	
• Game-quality soccer fields (2)			
• Baseball Fields (3), Football Fields (2)			
• Restrooms/Concession Stand/Parking			
<b>Sheridan Charter Township Property (88th St. &amp; Osborn Rd.)</b>			
• Secure funding, complete grant application for design work	\$4,000	FAC	
<b>Town and Country Pathway</b>			
• Design and planning of additional phase(s)	TBD	Rec. Authority Millage, State Grants	
• Secure funding for pathway extension to observation point on Fremont Lake		Donors & other Misc. Grants	
<b>Non-Motorized Pathway</b>			
• Evaluation/identification of non-motorized pathway traversing through Sherman Township	TBD	FAC	
<b>Recreation Authority (to construct &amp; maintain recreational programs/facilities)</b>			
• Evaluate possible millage proposal for Aug. or Nov. ballot	TBD	FAC	

***Branstrom Park***

- Evaluate and investigate enhancements of sledding hill \$4,000 COF

***General***

- Investigate (& possibly purchase) potential park & recreational land acquisition opportunities TBD FAC, MNRTF, TNC, TPL, Donors, Foundations On-going
- Investigate acquisition and improvement of lands in conjunction w/ Newaygo Conservation District (NCD) TBD FAC, MNRTF, TNC, TPL, Donors, Foundations On-going
- Evaluate and investigate recreation programming opportunities and feasibility of existing facilities TBD FAC On-going
- Evaluate and investigate new marketing and promotional opportunities TBD FAC On-going

\* All cost estimates are general in nature and must be reevaluated when scopes of work are more defined.

**FREMONT AREA PARKS AND RECREATION  
Capital Improvements Schedule 2007 - 2011  
Calendar Year 2009**

Project Description	Cost Estimate*	Possible Funding Sources (See Glossary)	Project Status
<p><b>Recreation Center</b> (swimming, track, racquetball, tennis, weight training, skating...)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct Recreation Center or remodel an existing building</li> </ul> </p>	TBD	FAC, FACF, Millage	
<p><b>Outdoor Facility</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete construction of new facility of needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Game-quality soccer fields (2)</li> <li>• Baseball Fields (3), Football Fields (2)</li> <li>• Restrooms/Concession Stand/Parking</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </p>	TBD	FAC, FPSD, FACF, Foundations, Donors, Authority Millage	
<p><b>Sheridan Charter Township Property (88th St. &amp; Osborn Rd.)</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of improvements possibly including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnic areas/pavilion</li> <li>• Non-paved trails, rustic camp sites</li> <li>• Parking, controlled access, small playground equipment</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </p>		MNRTF, FAC, FACF, Donors, Foundations, Millage, SA's	
<p><b>Town and Country Pathway</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and planning of additional phase(s)</li> </ul> </p>	TBD	Rec. Authority Millage, State Grants Donors & other Misc. Grants	
<p><b>Non-Motorized Pathway</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation/identification of non-motorized pathway traversing through Sherman Township</li> </ul> </p>	TBD	FAC	
<p><b>Level of Service (LOS) Evaluation</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct LOS evaluation of each recreation facility</li> </ul> </p>	TBD	FAC, FACF	

**General**

• Investigate (& possibly purchase) potential park & recreational land acquisition opportunities	TBD	FAC, MNRTF, TNC, TPL, Donors, Foundations	On-going
• Investigate acquisition and improvement of lands in conjunction w/ Newaygo Conservation District (NCD)	TBD	FAC, MNRTF, TNC, TPL, Donors, Foundations	On-going
• Evaluate and investigate recreation programming opportunities and feasibility of existing facilities	TBD	FAC	On-going
• Evaluate and investigate new marketing and promotional opportunities	TBD	FAC	On-going

\* All cost estimates are general in nature and must be reevaluated when scopes of work are more defined.

**FREMONT AREA PARKS AND RECREATION  
Capital Improvements Schedule 2007 - 2011  
Calendar Year 2010**

<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Cost Estimate*</b>	<b>Possible Funding Sources (See Glossary)</b>	<b>Project Status</b>
<b><i>Town and Country Pathway</i></b>			
• Design and planning of additional phase(s)	TBD	Rec. Authority Millage, State Grants	
<b><i>Non-Motorized Pathway</i></b>			
• Evaluation/identification of non-motorized pathway traversing	TBD	FAC	
<b>Level of Service (LOS) Evaluation</b>			
• Complete LOS evaluation of each recreation facility	TBD	FAC, FACF	
<b><i>General</i></b>			
• Investigate (& possibly purchase) potential park & recreational land acquisition opportunities	TBD	FAC, MNRTF, TNC, TPL, Donors, Foundations	On-going
• Investigate acquisition and improvement of lands in conjunction w/ Newaygo Conservation District (NCD)	TBD	FAC, MNRTF, TNC, TPL, Donors, Foundations	On-going
• Evaluate and investigate recreation programming opportunities and feasibility of existing facilities	TBD	FAC	On-going
• Evaluate and investigate new marketing and promotional opportunities	TBD	FAC	On-going

\* All cost estimates are general in nature and must be reevaluated when scopes of work are more defined.

**FREMONT AREA PARKS AND RECREATION  
Capital Improvements Schedule 2007 - 2011  
Calendar Year 2011**

<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Cost Estimate*</b>	<b>Possible Funding Sources (See Glossary)</b>	<b>Project Status</b>
<b><i>Town and Country Pathway</i></b>			
• Design and planning of additional phase(s)	TBD	Rec. Authority Millage, State Grants	
<b><i>Non-Motorized Pathway</i></b>			
• Evaluation/identification of non-motorized pathway traversing	TBD	FAC	
<b><i>General</i></b>			
• Investigate (& possibly purchase) potential park & recreational land acquisition opportunities	TBD	FAC, MNRTF, TNC, TPL, Donors, Foundations	On-going
• Investigate acquisition and improvement of lands in conjunction w/ Newaygo Conservation District (NCD)	TBD	FAC, MNRTF, TNC, TPL, Donors, Foundations	On-going
• Evaluate and investigate recreation programming opportunities and feasibility of existing facilities	TBD	FAC	On-going
• Evaluate and investigate new marketing and promotional opportunities	TBD	FAC	On-going

\* All cost estimates are general in nature and must be reevaluated when scopes of work are more defined.

**FREMONT AREA PARKS & RECREATION PLAN**  
**Capital Improvements Schedule 2007-2011**

**Glossary of Possible Funding Sources**

Abbreviation	Funding Source Description
Bonds	<b>Municipal government bonds</b> issued by one of the units of local government, the County or a Recreation Authority
COF	<b>City of Fremont-</b> General Fund, Parks Department
Donors	<b>Individual or corporate donors</b>
FAC	<b>Fremont Area Communities-</b> Jointly funded by a sharing formula between the City of Fremont and Dayton, Sheridan Charter & Sherman Townships
FACF	<b>Fremont Area Community Foundation</b> (non-City endowment fund grants) Grant making strategy states that FACF will focus resources primarily on expanding opportunities that enhance the well being of children, youth and families in Newaygo County. Grants made each year are categorized into five major areas of interest: Community Development, Arts & Culture, Education, Community Health & Human Services and Environmental
Fisheries	<b>MI Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Inland Fisheries Grant Program.</b> 50% grants for projects such as fish habitat restoration, bank stabilization, upland erosion control, fish culture and fishing access development & improvement, such as fishing piers, platforms, boat ramps & parking lots. Max. grant \$30,000
Foundations	<b>Other public &amp; private foundations</b> with park & recreation development & enhancement objectives
FPS students	<b>Fremont Public School Students</b> , typically project specific groups, e.g. skatepark, nature trail development, adopt-a-stream, etc.
FPSD	<b>Fremont Public School District</b> , from general operating, maintenance or FACF advised funds
Gerber Foundation	<b>Gerber Foundation</b> grants for projects to serve children
GSA	<b>Girl Scouts of America</b> , typically project- specific groups, e.g. Arboretum Park clean up, etc.
MDOT TEA-21	<b>MI Department of Transportation- Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.</b> Up to 80% grants for provision of facilities & safety & educational activities for pedestrians & bikes, acquisition of scenic easements or historic sites, landscaping & other scenic beautification, historic preservation, preservation of abandoned railroad corridors, control & removal of outdoor advertising (billboards), archaeological planning & research, environmental mitigation & others
Millage	<b>Property tax levy/millage</b> for specific park & recreational facilities (const. & operation). May be a special voted millage of one of the FACs, the County or a special Recreation Authority

MNRTF	<b>MI Natural Resources Trust Fund-</b> Up to 75% grants for both the purchase of land (or interests in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, and the development of land for public outdoor recreation use. No max. for acquisition projects, max. \$500,000 for development projects
Nat. Heritage	<b>Natural Heritage Small Grants-</b> Funds from the State’s Nongame Wildlife Fund to identify, protect, manage & restore native plant & animal species, natural communities, other natural features & to promote the knowledge, enjoyment & stewardship of MI’s native species & ecosystems. Grants from \$200-\$5,000.
TNC	<b>The Nature Conservancy-</b> A private nonprofit organization that provides the following services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Buying and managing ecologically important areas</li> <li>· Negotiating agreements to manage areas without holding title to them, through partnerships or conservation easements</li> <li>· Offering training to partner organizations and government agencies that manage land</li> <li>· Educating people who live in ecologically sensitive areas about the importance of biodiversity and helping them to live in better harmony with the natural environment</li> <li>· Working with resource-based industries to alter their business practices to have less environmental impact</li> <li>· Helping government agencies work together and better allocate public resources toward conservation</li> </ul>
NCD	<b>Newaygo Conservation District-</b> provides conservation type assistance to landowners in Newaygo County. Works w/landowners on conservation practices. Assists w/schools in regard to environmental education & collaborates w/several local and statewide agencies on various projects that involve the environment.
Svc. Clubs	<b>Local Service Clubs-</b> typically specific projects e.g. Fort Fremont Playground (Rotary, Lions, Garden Club, etc.)
SA's	<b>Special Assessments-</b> levied against private properties which benefit from a specific project or service or from an areawide project e.g. paths, recreation center
TPL	<b>Trust for Public Land-</b> a private nonprofit land conservation organization that works nationwide to conserve land for public use. TPL specializes in real estate, applying its expertise in planning, negotiations, public finance & law to protect land. TPL’s capital funds for land acquisition allow it to quickly take land off the market, enabling TPL to “hold” the land for a public agency or conservation group to raise the funds & buy the land from the TPL, typically at or below the fair market value.

Waterways	<p><b>MDNR Waterways Fund</b>- grants for physical development of recreational boating facilities. Two sections of Fund:</p> <p>1) Small Grants Program for Boating Access- 75%, max. \$30,000 for projects such as launching ramps, expanded or paved parking areas, vault toilets, courtesy piers, upgrading of existing facilities for barrier-free design &amp; “carry down” access</p> <p>2) Boat Launching Facilities Program- 75-100% grants include engineering, const. &amp; contingency costs associated w/ development or expansion or ramps. No min. or max. grant.</p>
WBCPF	<p><b>William Branstrom City Park Fund</b>- Annual net income from this City endowment fund @ the FAF is used for the maintenance, improvement &amp; expansion of both Arboretum &amp; Branstrom Parks.</p>

# Appendix A

## **Possible Funding Sources**

### ***Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)***

The MNRTF provides funding for both the purchase of land (or interests in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, and the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation use. Goals of the program are to: 1) protect Michigan's natural resources, and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment; 2) provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes, and facilitate their recreational use; 3) meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities; 4) improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Michigan's urban areas; and 5) stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation related tourism and community revitalization.

Any individual, group, organization or unit of government may submit a land acquisition proposal. However, only state and local units of government can submit development proposals. All proposals for grants must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000.

### ***Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)***

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) established a fund for Transportation Enhancement Activities. TEA 21 of 1998 continued this program through the year 2003. Ten percent of the Surface Transportation Fund is set aside for these activities: provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, scenic or historic highway programs, landscaping and other scenic beautification, historic preservation, rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, preservation of abandoned railway corridors, control and removal of outdoor advertising, archaeological planning and research, environmental mitigation and the establishment of transportation museums. Local match must be a minimum of 20 percent. Matching funds can include private donations and/or federal funds.

### ***Recreation Improvement Fund Grants (RIF)***

This program provides funds for the development of recreational trails, restoration of areas damaged by off- road vehicles and clean up of inland lakes. Trails must be more than of "local significance," must pass "through" a community and must accommodate a wide array of public recreational uses (walking, biking, horses, etc.) RIF is not available to local units of government unless in partnership with the MDNR. Grants are available for state forest land or public property only. Applications are due by July 1 of each year, and funding requires a 25 percent local match.

### ***Urban and Community Forestry Program***

This MDNR program provides information and technical assistance to municipal governments and volunteer groups for urban and community forest activities such as tree inventories, management plans, planting and other maintenance activities. Grant requests may be up to \$20,000. Local units of government and non-profit organizations are eligible.

### ***Global Releaf***

Global Releaf of Michigan is a grassroots, volunteer, not-for-profit organization created by The American Forestry Association. Assistance is available for joint tree plantings within communities. Global Releaf of Michigan will help communities with site selection, arrange for the acquisition and delivery of the plant material and provide technical assistance and instruction on the day of the planting. Applications are most successful when submitted by a non-government organization that has support and commitments from the municipality.

### ***Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI)***

The \$675 million general obligation bond is slated for seven categories of projects: Brownfield Redevelopment and Environmental Cleanup (\$335M), Protect and Enhance Michigan's Lakes, Rivers, and Streams (\$165M), Reclaim and Revitalize Local Waterfronts (\$50M), Make Critical State Park Improvements (\$50M), Enhance Local Parks and Recreational Opportunities (\$50M), Pollution Prevention (\$20M), and Protect Public From Lead Hazards(\$5M).

Grants to enhance local parks and recreation opportunities are between \$15,000 and \$750,000 and are awarded to local units of government to implement projects based on locally defined needs. Applicants are required to demonstrate the project's need in a comprehensive recreation plan and provide at least 25 percent of the project's costs as local match. The construction and renovation of public outdoor and indoor recreation facilities such as recreation centers, sports fields, playgrounds, non-motorized trails, nature centers, fishing piers and swimming pools are eligible projects. The bond funds will assist local projects that cannot be assisted under the MNRTF program either due to funding limitations or MNRTF funding requirements.

### ***Ford Foundation Community Forestry Initiative***

Grants are available through the Ford Foundation for short-term organizational development grants for domestic, community-based forestry projects. Phase One is designed to assist grantees to refine their strategic plan and/or project concept prior to moving on to implementation. Maximum grant request is \$40,000. RFP's are available on-line through the Ford Foundation and Aspen Institute at: <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/rural>.

### ***Trust For Public Land (TPL)***

The Trust For Public Land is a private nonprofit land conservation organization that works nationwide to conserve land for people. TPL specializes in real estate, applying its expertise in planning, negotiation, public finance and law to protect land for public use. Working with private landowners, communities and government agencies, TPL has helped protect almost 1 million acres nationwide for people to enjoy as parks, playgrounds, community gardens, recreation areas, historic landmarks and wilderness lands. The TPL's capital funds for land acquisition allow it to quickly take land off the market, enabling TPL to "hold" the land for a public agency or conservation group to raise the funds and buy the land from the TPL, typically at or below the fair market price.

### ***Waterways Fund***

This program provides funding to local units of government for the development of recreational boating facilities. The local unit must provide the land for these facilities and agree to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the completed facility. Projects include the:

**Small Grants Program for Boating Access** provides financial and construction assistance equal to 75 percent of the total construction cost, with a maximum grant amount of \$30,000. Eligible projects can include facilities such as concrete launching ramps, expanded or paved parking areas, vault-type toilet facilities, courtesy piers, upgrading of existing facilities to barrier-free design and "carry down" access. Applications are accepted at all times.

#### **The Boat Launching Facilities Program**

Provides financial assistance ranging from 75-100% of the total project cost, based on the local unit's financial capability. Eligible expenses include engineering, construction and contingency costs associated with the development or expansion of launching ramp facilities. There is no minimum or maximum grant amount. The application deadline is April 1 of each year.

### ***Inland Fisheries Grant Program***

This program provides funding to local units of government, school districts and conservation-oriented organizations to enhance inland fishing opportunities. The types of projects that are eligible include: fish habitat restoration; bank stabilization; upland erosion control; fish culture; and fishing access development and improvement, such as fishing piers and platforms, boat ramps and parking lots. The maximum grant is \$30,000 per project, and the grantee must provide at least 50 percent of the project's cost. The application deadline is March 31 of each year.

### ***Natural Heritage Small Grants***

This program provides funds from the Nongame Wildlife Fund to all units of government, as well as groups and individuals to identify, protect, manage and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, other natural features and to promote the knowledge, enjoyment and stewardship of Michigan's native species and ecosystems for present and future generations. Grants range between \$200 and \$5,000. Proposals with matching funds are given higher priority. Application deadline is approximately December 1 of each year.

# Appendix B

**News Articles**

**Public Participation Media**

# Appendix C

**Community Survey**

**Survey Report/Results**

# City of Fremont Recreational Survey

Intro: Hello, this is \_\_\_\_\_ calling from Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City. We are conducting a survey for the Fremont Area Park & Recreation Committee. They are interested in your desires and concerns with regard to area recreational opportunities. The information you provide will be used to update the 5-year Recreational Plan for the area comprised of City of Fremont, Sheridan, Dayton, & Sherman Townships.

**Q1\_1 In which City / Township do you reside?**

- City of Fremont.....
- Sheridan Charter Township .....
- Dayton Township .....
- Sherman Township.....

**During the past year, with your family in mind...**

**Q1a What parks have you visited in the Fremont area? (Do not read, let them list parks)**

- Branstrom .....
- Fremont Lake Park.....
- Sheridan Twp Boat Launch/Playground .....
- Veterans Memorial Park.....
- Fremont Skate Park.....
- Crystal Lake Boat Launch/Beach .....
- Others (Please Specify).....
- Other parks: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q1 How often have you visited this/these parks (in the past year)?**

	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	More than 20
Branstrom Park	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fremont Lake Park	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sheridan Twp Boat Launch/Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Veterans Memorial Park	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fremont Skate Park	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Crystal Lake Boat Launch/Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Others	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**Q2a What Public Lakes in the Fremont Area have you visited? (Do not read)**

- Fremont Lake.....
- Crystal Lake .....
- Robinson Lake .....
- Second/Third Lake .....
- Other .....
- Other Lake(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q2 How often did you visit this/these lake(s) (in the past year)?**

	1-5 times	6-10 times	11-15 times	16-20 times	More than 20
Fremont Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Crystal Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Robinson Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Second/Third Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other Lakes(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**Q2c For what activity/activities have you visted Fremont Area Public Lakes?**

	<i>Fishing</i>	<i>Boat/Ski</i>	<i>Swimming</i>	<i>Kayaking</i>	<i>Canoeing</i>
Fremont Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Crystal Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Robinson Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Second/Third Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**Q3a What recreational activities have you or family members participated in? (Do not read)**

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
Multipurpose Court / Ice Rink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branstrom Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branstrom Picnic Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branstrom Lodge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branstrom Sledding Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branstrom Frisbee/Disc Golf Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branstrom Baseball Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fremont Lake Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fremont Lake Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fremont Lake Picnic / Pavilions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fremont Lake Beach Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Swirl (ice cream shop)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fremont Lake Campground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterans Park Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheridan Twp Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fremont School Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other #3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other #1</i>		
<i>Other #2</i>		
<i>Other #3</i>		

**Q3 How often? (have you participated in those activities in the past year)**

	<i>1-5</i>	<i>6-10</i>	<i>11-15</i>	<i>16-20</i>	<i>More than 20</i>
Multipurpose Court / Ice Rink	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Branstrom Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Branstrom Picnic Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Branstrom Lodge	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Branstrom Sledding Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Branstrom Frisbee / Disc Golf Course	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Branstrom Baseball Field	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fremont Lake Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fremont Lake Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fremont Lake Picnic / Pavilions	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fremont Lake Beach Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The Swirl (ice cream shop)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fremont Lake Campground	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Veterans Park Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sheridan Twp Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fremont School Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other #1	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other #2	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other #3	<input type="checkbox"/>				

- Q4a** Have you walked, hiked, biked, or inline skated on the Town & Country Path or any of the nature trails in Branstrom Park or Sheridan Township's forest property by the airport?
- Town & Country Path .....
- Branstrom Nature Trails.....
- Sheridan Twp Nature Trails .....

**Q4** How often?

	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	More than 20
Town & Country Path	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Branstrom Nature Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sheridan Twp Nature Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>				

- Q5** There are plans to extend the Town & Country Path around the west side of Fremont Lake south, then east to the Sheridan Township boat launch / playground. Do you favor this plan?
- Yes .....
- No.....
- Uncertain .....

- Q6** Would you like to see more non-motorized pathways developed that would extend into your jurisdiction and possibly connecting to other communities' path systems?
- Yes .....
- No.....
- Uncertain .....

**There has been consideration of forming a Recreation Authority that would replace the Fremont Area Park & Recreation Advisory Committee, therefore taking on duties of planning for new recreation facilities.**

- Q7** If an up to 1 mill request was made by the Recreation Authority to create new recreation facilities and/or improve or repair existing structures, adding additional pathways, etc. would you support that request?
- Yes .....
- No.....
- Uncertain .....

- Q8** If a Recreation Center were to be developed in the Fremont Area, either indoor or outdoor, what kind of activities or amenities would you like to see? *(do not read; choose all that apply)*
- Tennis.....
- Racquetball / Handball .....
- Weight/fitness room.....
- Pool.....
- Jogging/walking track.....
- Ice Rink .....
- Child Care.....
- Youth football field.....
- Youth baseball field .....
- Youth soccer field.....
- Concession/bathrooms building .....
- Other indoor activity/amenity.....
- Other outdoor activity/amenity.....
- Other indoor \_\_\_\_\_
- Other outdoor \_\_\_\_\_

- Q9** Are there any other improvements or additional recreational facilities that you would like, that I have not mentioned?
- Yes .....
- No.....

Please describe what they are:

---

---

**Q11 Overall, how satisfied are you with the available recreational facilities & programs in the Fremont Area?**

- Very Satisfied.....
- Somewhat Satisfied.....
- Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied.....
- Somewhat Dissatisfied.....
- Very Dissatisfied.....

**Q12 What satisfies you most about these facilities & programs? (do not read)**

- Proximity.....
  - Condition.....
  - Variety.....
  - Quality.....
  - Other (please specify).....
  - Other
- 

**Q13 What dissatisfies you most about these facilities & programs? (do not read)**

- Proximity.....
  - Condition.....
  - Variety.....
  - Quality.....
  - Other (please specify).....
  - Other
- 

**Q14 Where do you get most of your information about recreation in the Fremont Area? (choose all that apply)**

- City or Township Mailings.....
  - Web sites.....
  - City and Township Officials.....
  - Newspapers.....
  - Public School Literature.....
  - Word of Mouth.....
  - Radio.....
  - Other (please specify).....
  - Other
- 

**Q15 Would you like to see the Fremont Community have more recreational facilities?**

- Yes.....
- No.....

**Q16 Would you be willing to contribute money to help pay for new recreational facilities?**

- Yes.....
- No.....

**OK, I have just a few remaining questions for you to answer...**

**Q17 If you don't mind sharing with me, which of the following age categories do you fall under?**

- 18-25.....
- 26-35.....
- 36-49.....
- 50-59.....
- 60-69.....
- 70 and over.....

Q18 Do you have any additional comments about recreational facilities in the Fremont Community?

---

---

Q19 Do you have any comments or questions about the survey that you would like me to communicate back to the team?

---

---

**That completes this survey. Thank you for taking the time to participate!**

DO NOT ASK

Q21 Gender

Male.....

Female.....

Q22 Phone number

---

Report to  
CITY OF FREMONT  
for  
2007 Parks and Recreation Survey

Prepared by:

*Research Services  
Northwestern Michigan College*

February 2007

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Objective:

The current research was designed to assess opinions and attitudes of registered voters within the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Dayton Township and Sherman Township regarding parks and recreational opportunities in the Fremont Area.

### Methodology:

A telephone survey was conducted between January 16 – 19, 2007 with registered voters in the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Dayton Township, and Sherman Township. Based upon a total population of 8,106 registered voters, a random sample of 260 was targeted for a 95% confidence level, +/-6% margin of error; a total of 261 surveys was completed.

### Key Findings:

-Over half of respondents indicated they had visited Branstrom and Fremont Lake parks during the past year (56% and 58%, respectively), while 46% indicated they had visited Veterans Memorial Park. In addition, the majority or single largest group of respondents reported visiting these parks one to five times in the past year (Veterans Memorial Park - 55%; Branstrom - 54%; Fremont Lake - 49%).

-The majority of respondents (77%) indicated they had visited Fremont Lake in the past year, with 47% of those visiting the lake indicating they had done so one to five times over the course of the past year. Respondents most frequently cited swimming (35%), fishing (23%), and boating/waterskiing (21%) as activities they had participated in on the lake.

-Respondents most frequently reported they or their family members had participated in the following recreational activities: The Swirl (32%), Fremont Lake Playground (22%), and Branstrom Sledding Hill (19%). In addition, 41% of respondents indicated they had walked, hiked, biked, or inline skated on the Branstrom Nature Trails, while 30% indicated they had walked, hiked, biked, or inline skated on the Town & Country Path.

-The majority of respondents (80%) reported favoring the extension of the Town & Country Path around the west side of Fremont Lake south, then east to Sheridan Township boat launch/playground.

-The majority of respondents (73%) indicated they would like to see more non-motorized pathways developed that would extend into their jurisdiction and connect to other communities' path systems

-The majority of respondents (61%) indicated they would support an up to 1 mill request by the Recreation Authority to create new recreation facilities and/or improve or repair existing structures; 19% of respondents indicated they would not support the request and 20% indicated they are uncertain if they would support the request.

-When asked what kind of activities or amenities they would like to see if a recreation center were to be developed in the Fremont Area, respondents most frequently identified: indoor pool (22%) and indoor jogging/walking track (20%).

-The majority of respondents (51%) indicated they are somewhat satisfied with available recreational facilities and programs in the Fremont Area, with 76% reporting some level of satisfaction overall. When asked what satisfies them most about the available recreational facilities and programs, this group of respondents most frequently cited proximity (25%) and variety (25%).

-Respondents most frequently identified newspapers and word-of-mouth as sources from which they receive most of their information about recreation in the Fremont Area (62% and 58%, respectively).

-The majority of respondents (73%) indicated they would like to see the Fremont Community have more recreational facilities, with 77% of this group of respondents indicating they would be willing to contribute money to help pay for new recreational facilities.

## 1.0 OVERVIEW

### 1.1 Objective

The current research was designed to assess opinions and attitudes of registered voters within the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Dayton Township, and Sherman Township regarding parks and recreational opportunities. Survey participants were asked to indicate 1) what area parks and public lakes they had visited, and frequency of use, within the past year, and 2) what types of recreational activities they and their families had participated in over the course of the past year. Participants were also asked to rate their satisfaction with existing activities and facilities and were asked what types of activities and/or amenities would be of interest if a recreation center were to be developed in the Fremont Area. In addition, survey participants were asked to indicate their potential support for a millage increase to fund new/existing recreation facilities. Demographic data was gathered for use in determining views by various respondent subsections.

### 1.2 Methodology

A telephone survey was conducted between January 16 – 19, 2007 with registered voters in the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Dayton Township, and Sherman Township. A random sample was selected from the total population of 8,106 registered voters. Based upon a total population of 8,106, a sample size of 260 was targeted for a 95% confidence level and +/- 6% margin of error; a total of 261 surveys was completed. Confidence intervals for individual jurisdictions are larger due to smaller sample sizes. Margin of error for each jurisdiction is as follows: City of Fremont +/-9.7%, Sheridan Charter Township +/-11.5%, Dayton Township +/-13.2%, and Sherman Township +/-15.5%.

Survey data was entered via computer assisted telephone interviewing and analyzed using SPSS for Windows. Analyses include frequencies, cross-tabulations and significance testing. Survey variables which interact significantly with jurisdiction are noted with an asterisk (\*) in 3.0: Survey Results by Jurisdiction

## 2.0 SURVEY RESULTS

### In which City/Township do you reside?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	City of Fremont	99	37.9	37.9	37.9
	Sheridan Charter Township	70	26.8	26.8	64.8
	Dayton Township	53	20.3	20.3	85.1
	Sherman Township	39	14.9	14.9	100.0
	Total	261	100.0	100.0	

### 1. What parks have you visited in the Fremont Area? How often during the past year?

What parks have you visited in the Fremont Area?		How often during the past year?				
		1-5 times	6-10 times	11-15 times	16-20 times	More than 20
Branstrom Park	55.6% (145)	54.2% (78)	22.9% (33)	8.3% (12)	2.8% (4)	11.8% (17)
Fremont Lake Park	57.9% (151)	49.0% (74)	25.2% (38)	8.6% (13)	5.3% (8)	11.9% (18)
Sheridan Twp Boat Launch/Playground	4.2% (11)	45.5% (5)	0	9.1% (1)	36.4% (4)	9.1% (1)
Veterans Memorial	46.0% (120)	55.0% (66)	30.0% (36)	6.7% (8)	3.3% (4)	5.0% (6)
Fremont Skate Park	4.2% (11)	60.0% (6)	10.0% (1)	20.0% (2)	0	10.0% (1)
Crystal Lake Boat Launch/Beach	1.1% (3)	66.7% (2)	0	0	0	33.3% (1)
Other	8.8% (23)	78.3% (18)	8.7% (2)	0	4.3% (1)	8.7% (2)

Note: Some respondents indicating they visited one or more parks did not report frequency

### Other - park(s) visited in the Fremont Area:

Park	Frequency
Not Applicable	238
Second/Third Lake	1
Arboretum Park	14
Croton, Cartedam	1
Fremont City Park	2
Loda Lake	1
Newaygo City Park	1
Newaygo, Riverside Park	1
Sportsman Park	1
White Cloud	1
Total	261

**2. What public lakes have you visited in the Fremont Area? How often during the past year?**

What public lakes have you visited in the Fremont Area?		How often during the past year?				
		1-5 times	6-10 times	11-15 times	16-20 times	More than 20
Fremont Lake	77.4% (202*)	46.5% (92)	17.2% (34)	10.6% (21)	4.5% (9)	21.2% (42)
Crystal Lake	14.9% (39)	65.8% (25)	13.2% (5)	2.6% (1)	10.5% (4)	7.9% (3)
Robinson Lake	6.9% (18)	52.9% (9)	17.6% (3)	0	0	29.4% (5)
Second/Third Lake	11.1% (29)	44.8% (13)	20.7% (6)	13.8% (4)	6.9% (2)	13.8% (4)
Other	17.6% (46)	47.7% (21)	11.4% (5)	9.1% (4)	6.8% (3)	25.0% (11)

Note: Some respondents indicating they visited one or more public lakes did not report frequency

**Other - lakes visited:**

Lake	Frequency
Brooks Lake	1
Diamond Lake	1
First/Second/Third/Fourth Lakes	4
Ford Lake	1
Hardy Pond/Dam	2
Harmsan Lake	1
Hess Lake	2
Kimball/Pickerel/Emerald Lakes	10
Lake Michigan	3
Long Lake	18
Martin Lake	2
Muskegon River	3
Peck Lake	1
Peterson Lake	2
Ryerson Lake	6
Twin Lake	1
Waters Western Horizon	1
White River	2

**2a. For what activities during the past year have you visited Fremont Area public lakes?**

	What activities?				
	Fishing	Boating / Skiing	Swimming	Kayaking	Canoeing
Fremont Lake	23.0% (60)	20.7% (54)	34.5% (90)	3.8% (10)	1.9% (5)
Crystal Lake	7.7% (20)	3.1% (8)	8.4% (22)	1.1% (3)	0.4% (1)
Robinson Lake	3.8% (10)	3.1% (8)	3.1% (8)	0.8% (2)	0.4%(1)
Second/Third Lake	7.7% (20)	0.8% (2)	1.5% (4)	0	1.9% (5)
Other Lakes	8.0% (21)	5.4% (14)	5.4% (14)	1.5% (4)	1.1% (3)

Note: Several respondents indicated they had visited one or more of the designated lakes, but only to picnic or participate in some other activity not listed

**3. What recreational activities have you or family members participated in?  
How often during the past year?**

Area/Activity	Participated	How often during the past year?				
		1-5 times	6-10 times	11-15 times	16-20 times	More than 20
Multipurpose Court / Ice Rink	5.7% (15)	46.2% (6)	38.5% (5)	7.7% (1)	0	7.7% (1)
Branstrom Playground	9.2% (24)	45.5% (10)	36.4% (8)	13.6% (3)	0	4.5% (1)
Branstrom Picnic Areas	10.3% (27)	80.0% (20)	20.0% (5)	0	0	0
Branstrom Lodge	1.9% (5)	75.0% (3)	25.0 (1)	0	0	0
Branstrom Sledding Hill	18.8% (49)	79.1% (34)	16.3% (7)	2.3% (1)	0	2.3% (1)
Branstrom Frisbee / Disc Golf Course	6.1% (16)	46.7% (7)	20.0% (3)	0	6.7% (1)	26.7% (4)
Branstrom Baseball Field	10.3% (27)	36.4% (8)	13.6% (3)	18.2% (4)	18.2% (4)	13.6% (3)
Fremont Lake Beach	17.6% (46)	47.4% (18)	34.2% (13)	5.3% (2)	2.6% (1)	10.5% (4)
Fremont Lake Playground	22.2% (58)	43.4% (23)	32.1% (17)	9.4% (5)	3.8% (2)	11.3% (6)
Fremont Lake Picnic / Pavilions	17.2% (45)	63.6% (28)	25.0% (11)	6.8% (3)	0	4.5% (2)
Fremont Lake Beach Volleyball	1.1% (3)	1.1% (3)	0	0	0	0
The Swirl	31.8% (83)	41.8% (33)	24.1% (19)	10.1% (8)	8.9% (7)	15.2% (12)
Fremont Lake Campground	1.5% (4)	1.5% (4)	0	0	0	0
Veterans Park Playground	12.6% (33)	56.7% (17)	33.3% (10)	3.3% (1)	3.3% (1)	3.3% (1)
Sheridan Twp Playground	1.1% (3)	33.3% (1)	33.3% (1)	33.3% (1)	0	0
Fremont School Playgrounds	6.5% (17)	28.6% (4)	28.6% (4)	0	21.4% (3)	21.4% (3)
Other Activity (1)	21.8% (57)	40.4% (21)	21.2% (11)	5.8% (3)	3.8% (2)	28.8% (15)
Other Activity (2)	4.2% (11)	66.7% (6)	11.1% (1)	0	0	22.2% (2)
Other Activity (3)	1.9% (5)	25.0% (1)	50.0% (2)	0	0	25.0% (1)

Note: Several respondents indicated they had visited the facility but did not participate in any activity

**Other - recreational activity:**

Activity	Frequency
Walking/Hiking/Jogging/Running	17
Biking	7
Cross country skiing	6
Golf	5
Concerts	4
Fishing	4
Boating/Jet skiing	2
Skateboarding	1
Arts & Crafts Festival at Veterans Park	1
Ampitheater at Veterans Park	1
Any physical activity	1
I visit my daughter on Long-Ryerson lake but don't participate in any activities	1
Daisy Brook Playground & Sledding	1
Fairgrounds Tractor Pull	1
Fall Harvest	1
Festival in Veterans Park	1
Fremont Lake Park special events (musicals etc.)	1
Baseball – Fremont Middle School	1
Downhill skiing	2
Hesperia Whitecloud	1
Hoeing in the garden	1
Horseback riding	1
Hunting/Rifle Club	3
Manistee National Forest	1
Memorial services	3
Muskegon Area lakes	1
Pine Street School Playground	1
Fall Festival at Branstrom	1
Snowmobile paths	1
Soccer near middle school	1
Swimming	1
Tennis	1
Veterans Park Baby Food Festival	1
Veterans Park band shell/Picnic area	1
We don't swim, fish, or go boating. We just sit and look at the ducks.	1
Winter/Snow sports	1
Woodland Park	1

**4. Have you walked, hiked, biked, or inline skated on the Town & Country Path or any of the nature trails in Branstrom Park or Sheridan Township's forest property by the airport? How often during the past year?**

		How often during the past year?				
		1-5 times	6-10 times	11-15 times	16-20 times	More than 20
Town & Country Path	29.5% (77)	40.3% (31)	24.7% (19)	6.5% (5)	6.5% (5)	22.1% (17)
Branstrom Nature Trails	40.6% (106)	52.9% (55)	19.2% (20)	8.7% (9)	4.8% (5)	14.4% (15)
Sheridan Twp Nature Trails	3.1% (8)	62.5% (5)	12.5% (1)	0	25.0% (2)	0

**5. There are plans to extend the Town & Country Path around the west side of Fremont Lake south, then east to Sheridan Township boat launch / playground. Do you favor this plan?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	207	79.3	79.6	79.6
	No	27	10.3	10.4	90.0
	Uncertain	26	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	260	99.6	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.4		
Total		261	100.0		

**6. Would you like to see more non-motorized pathways developed that would extend into your jurisdiction and possibly connecting to other communities' path systems?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	191	73.2	73.2	73.2
	No	45	17.2	17.2	90.4
	Uncertain	25	9.6	9.6	100.0
	Total	261	100.0	100.0	

**7. If an up to 1 mill request was made by the Recreation Authority to create new recreation facilities and/or improve or repair existing facilities, would you support that request?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	159	60.9	61.2	61.2
	No	50	19.2	19.2	80.4
	Uncertain	51	19.5	19.6	100.0
	Total	260	99.6	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.4		
Total		261	100.0		

**8. If a Recreation Center were to be developed in the Fremont Area, either indoor or outdoor, what kind of activities or amenities would you like to see?**

	Percent	Count
Tennis	9.6	25
Racquetball/Handball	9.2	24
Weight/Fitness room	13.8	36
Pool	21.8	57
Jogging/Walking track	20.3	53
Ice rink	13.8	36
Child care	1.1	3
Youth football field	3.4	9
Youth baseball field	8.8	23
Youth soccer field	7.3	19
Concession/Bathrooms building	1.5	4
Other indoor activity/Amenity	20.7	54
Other outdoor activity/Amenity	14.9	39

**Other - indoor activity:**

Activity	Frequency
Basketball	15
Rollerskating	10
Skate park	3
Soccer	9
Volleyball	6
Hockey	2
Exercise classes/Aerobics	2
Dodgeball	2
Activities for youth	6
Anything built would be used	1
More facilities for home school students	1
Climbing wall	2
Crafts/Environmental studies	1
Family organized activity	1
Jumpalene (like a moonwalk)	1
Plays	1
Pool table and arcade indoors (for age 14-19)	1
Snack Bar- with adequate supervision	1
Water aerobics	1
Ice rink with dome cover	1

**Other - outdoor activity:**

Activity	Frequency
Basketball	5
Biking	10
Hiking	5
Groomed cross country skiing	3
Go carts	2
Volleyball	2
Skate park	3
Nature/Environmental studies	2
Activities for youth	1
Anything outdoors	1
Archery/Crafts	1
Climbing wall/High ropes course	1
Gathering building	1
Miniature golf	1
Golf course	1
Picnic	2
Public shooting range	1
Snack bar, hockey, soccer – with adequate supervision	1
Outdoor pool with water slides, could charge	1

**9. Are there any other improvements or additional recreational facilities that you would like, that I have not mentioned?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	39	14.9	22.0	22.0
	No	138	52.9	78.0	100.0
	Total	177	67.8	100.0	
Missing	System	84	32.2		
Total		261	100.0		

**10. Please describe what they are:**

- A place for small boats to be moored/Low end boat slips
- Better boat launch at Sheridan Twp with longer dock on the south side
- Better maintenance of current playground equipment
- Better parking for public fishing access on First Lake
- Biking trails
- City of Fremont should print map of existing pathways
- Clean up woods area; clean up trash (down hill from baseball field)
- Computer and/or technology labs, like photography studios; dirt bike trails

Extended hours for walking in gym after supper, or at gym and fitness center; more things for children

Fishing for kids

Freemont Lake is really nice lake, but needs to be maintained better. Pool at high school should be open to general public not just water aerobics, should offer lessons etc.

Fremont wants to expand, have to attract people to community from Grand Rapids and surrounding areas

Gun Club

Hockey facility in Branstrom needs improving, also when making improvements on facilities use durable materials that don't need replacing as often

Patrolling on bikes by authorities

Improve cross country trails

Improve frisbee golf course

Indoor walking area - someplace you don't have to pay

Kids need more bike trails

Early American theme extended to downtown

More nature trails and pathways for people with ATVs, are few trails for motorcycles but not safe enough for senior citizens to ride ATV's

More opportunities to sled for kids

More public docks at Three Mile Lake

More weight rooms, archery

Need more

New high school swimming pool

Outdoor ice rink should be kept up - usually left unattended, doesn't get smoothed out

Miniature golf at the Cedar Street building

Skate park indoor, laser tag, teen facility

Skating rink - is always reserved for sports and not accessible to public

Sledding

Sledding hill at Branstrom needs to be maintained better, enlarge area to make safer, maybe a tow-rope, supervision, always too crowded

Snowmobile riding allowed on certain pathways

Soccer field indoors

Something [at the] old Walmart site

Something additional for older kids

Teen center and day camp type of activities that are supervised

Continue path so that you can walk safely

Would like to see activities for young people because there are none now

11. Overall, how satisfied are you with available recreational facilities/programs in the Fremont Area?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Satisfied	64	24.5	24.6	24.6
	Somewhat Satisfied	133	51.0	51.2	75.8
	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	51	19.5	19.6	95.4
	Somewhat Dissatisfied	9	3.4	3.5	98.8
	Very Dissatisfied	3	1.1	1.2	100.0
	Total	260	99.6	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.4		
Total		261	100.0		

12. What satisfies you most about these facilities & programs in the Fremont Area?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Proximity	47	18.0	24.6	24.6
	Condition	21	8.0	11.0	35.6
	Variety	47	18.0	24.6	60.2
	Quality	23	8.8	12.0	72.3
	Availability	13	5.0	6.8	79.1
	Other	40	15.3	20.9	100.0
	Total	191	73.2	100.0	
Missing	System	70	26.8		
Total		261	100.0		

**Other – satisfies most:**

	Frequency
Not applicable	218
Activities for youth	5
An initial presence in the community	1
Area lends itself to enjoyment of the facilities	1
At least there is something versus nothing	1
Bike paths	1
Both proximity and condition, would not go if one or the other did not apply	1
Branstrom Park is wonderful facility; want it preserved for future generations	1
Continually growing and improving, good rec. program for youth in summer	1
Cost	4
Doesn't like buildings being scattered, also lacks completion	1
Enjoyed small bands, sitting on benches/lawn chairs and listening	1
Expansion of hiking, biking and walking trails	1
Family facility	1
Family oriented programs	1
For therapy	1
Initiative that the community is taking	1
Not sure; haven't thought about it	1
Lots of younger children facilities but teen age group is in need	1
Love that we have a 36 hole frisbee golf	1
Naturalistic element, experiencing nature	1
No fees charged for use	1
Not sure, because have not used in several years, but did enjoy the facilities in the past	1
Operating hours - early morn for seniors/evening for children and adults	1
Park is good, skateboard place, ice cream - keep doing things for the kids	1
Pathways	1
Still natural	1
The fact that they are there	1
The fact that they keep expanding, realizing that more is needed for young people in area	1
Friendly people	1
Things are kept up/clean, especially boat ramps	1

Trails especially Town and Country Trail	1
Very family friendly providing bathrooms, pathways etc. (from New England, this is not a privilege at our parks)	1
Walk the trails and enjoy nature	1
Walking trails and ability to go fishing in the lakes around the area	1
Walking trails and skate park	1
Well kept	1
Total	261

**13. What dissatisfies you most about these facilities & programs?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Proximity	1	.4	8.3	8.3
	Variety	1	.4	8.3	16.7
	Quality	1	.4	8.3	25.0
	Other	9	3.4	75.0	100.0
	Total	12	4.6	100.0	
Missing	System	249	95.4		
Total		261	100.0		

**Other – dissatisfies most:**

	Frequency
Not applicable	252
Need community center to meet people, visit, and have coffee after exercising, good shower facilities; could charge or sell memberships	1
No fitness gym	1
Not enough indoor facilities	1
Not up-to-date, no facilities indoors	1
Nothing available for teens to occupy their time	1
Nothing available nearby for smaller children	1
Wish more activities available (recreation center & facilities)	1
Public should have use of a track and pool	1
Lack of facilities and programs; too far away	1
Total	261

**14. Where do you get most of your information about recreation in the Fremont Area?**

	Frequency	Percent
City or Township Mailings	40	15.3
Web sites	7	2.7
City and Township Officials	22	8.4
Newspapers	161	61.7
Public School Literature	74	28.4
Word of Mouth	150	57.5
Radio	14	5.4
Other	23	8.8

Note: Some respondents selecting "Other" indicated they worked for the City of Fremont or surrounding townships, or had lived there all of their lives and "just knew about it."

**15. Would you like to see the Fremont Community have more recreational facilities?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	181	69.3	73.3	73.3
	No	66	25.3	26.7	100.0
	Total	247	94.6	100.0	
Missing	System	14	5.4		
Total		261	100.0		

**16. Would you be willing to contribute money to help pay for new recreational facilities?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	129	49.4	77.2	77.2
	No	38	14.6	22.8	100.0
	Total	167	64.0	100.0	
Missing	System	94	36.0		
Total		261	100.0		

**17. Which of the following age categories do you fall under?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-25	14	5.4	5.4	5.4
	26-35	25	9.6	9.6	14.9
	36-49	63	24.1	24.1	39.1
	50-59	57	21.8	21.8	60.9
	60-69	53	20.3	20.3	81.2
	70 and over	49	18.8	18.8	100.0
	Total	261	100.0	100.0	

**20. Gender:**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	122	46.7	46.7	46.7
	Female	139	53.3	53.3	100.0
	Total	261	100.0	100.0	

### 3.0 RESULTS BY JURISDICTION

A series of cross-tabulation analyses, all survey variables by jurisdiction, was conducted for the purpose of further exploring the data. Chi-square analyses, which compare obtained frequencies with expected frequencies, identify significant findings. An asterisk (\*) denotes survey variables found to have a statistically significant interaction with jurisdiction.

#### Parks visited in the Fremont Area

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
<b>Branstrom Park</b>	<b>55.6%</b>	61.6%	52.9%	56.6%	43.6%
<b>*Fremont Lake Park</b>	<b>57.9</b>	64.6	45.7	69.8	46.2
<b>*Sheridan Twp Boat Launch/Playground</b>	<b>4.2</b>	0	11.4	3.8	2.6
<b>Veterans Memorial Park</b>	<b>46.0</b>	51.5	41.4	45.3	41.0
<b>Fremont Skate Park</b>	<b>4.2</b>	3.0	5.7	0	10.3
<b>Crystal Lake Boat Launch/Beach</b>	<b>1.1</b>	0	1.4	3.8	0
<b>Other</b>	<b>8.8</b>	10.1	12.9	1.9	7.7

#### Lakes visited in the Fremont Area

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
<b>*Fremont Lake</b>	<b>77.4%</b>	84.8%	78.6%	81.1%	51.3%
<b>*Crystal Lake</b>	<b>14.9</b>	10.1	12.9	13.2	33.3
<b>*Robinson Lake</b>	<b>6.9</b>	2.0	10.0	3.8	17.9
<b>Second/Third Lake</b>	<b>11.1</b>	10.1	14.3	15.1	2.6
<b>Other</b>	<b>17.6</b>	14.1	20.0	17.0	23.1

Recreational activities participated in:

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
Multipurpose Court / Ice Rink	5.7%	6.1%	2.9%	7.5%	7.7%
Branstrom Playground	9.2	14.1	4.3	7.5	7.7
Branstrom Picnic Areas	10.3	9.1	8.6	13.2	12.8
Branstrom Lodge	1.9	1.0	4.3	1.9	0
Branstrom Sledding Hill	18.8	20.2	11.4	26.4	17.9
Branstrom Frisbee/Disc Golf Course	6.1	7.1	4.3	5.7	7.7
Branstrom Baseball Field	10.3	6.1	11.4	17.0	10.3
Fremont Lake Beach	17.6	16.2	14.3	20.8	23.1
Fremont Lake Playground	22.2	24.2	18.6	20.8	25.6
Fremont Lake Picnic / Pavilions	17.2	14.1	17.1	20.8	20.5
Fremont Lake Beach Volleyball	1.1	0	0	1.9	5.1
The Swirl	31.8	29.3	34.3	26.4	41.0
Fremont Lake Campground	1.5	1.0	0	1.9	5.1
Veterans Park Playground	12.6	15.2	7.1	13.2	15.4
Sheridan Twp Playground	1.1	1.0	1.4	0	2.6
Fremont School Playgrounds	6.5	5.1	7.1	5.7	10.3
Other - 1	21.8	23.2	25.7	20.8	12.8
Other - 2	4.2	7.1	2.9	3.8	0
Other - 3	1.9	2.0	1.4	1.9	2.6

Have you walked, hiked, biked, or inline skated on the Town & Country Path or in Branstrom Park or Sheridan Township's forest property?

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
*Town & Country Path	29.5%	40.4%	22.9%	28.3%	15.4%
Branstrom Nature Trails	40.6	45.5	42.9	39.6	25.6
Sheridan Twp Nature Trails	3.1	3.0	5.7	0	2.6

\*There are plans to extend the Town & Country Path around the west side of Fremont Lake south, then east to the Sheridan Township boat launch / playground. Do you favor this plan?

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
Yes	79.6%	89.8%	82.9%	64.2%	69.2%
No	10.4	5.1	10.0	18.9	12.8
Uncertain	10.0	5.1	7.1	17.0	17.9

\*Would you like to see more non-motorized pathways developed that would extend into your jurisdiction and possibly connecting to other communities' path systems?

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
Yes	73.2%	80.8%	78.6%	60.4%	61.5%
No	17.2	10.1	15.7	22.6	30.8
Uncertain	9.6	9.1	5.7	17.0	7.7

\*If an up to 1 mill request was made by the Recreation Authority to create new recreation facilities and/or improve or repair existing structures, adding additional pathways, etc. would you support that request?

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
Yes	61.2%	71.4%	60.0%	56.6%	43.6%
No	19.2	12.2	21.4	26.4	23.1
Uncertain	19.6	16.3	18.6	17.0	33.3

If a Recreation Center were to be developed in the Fremont Area, what kind of activities or amenities would you like to see?

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
Tennis	9.6%	10.1%	5.7%	13.2%	10.3%
*Racquetball / Handball	9.6	13.1	1.4	9.4	15.4
Weight / Fitness room	13.8	19.2	5.7	13.2	15.4
Pool	21.8	27.3	15.7	22.6	17.9
*Jogging / Walking track	20.3	30.3	11.4	17.0	15.4
Ice rink	13.8	13.1	11.4	18.9	12.8
Child care	1.1	2.0	0	0	2.6
Youth football field	3.4	5.1	2.9	1.9	2.6
Youth baseball field	8.8	6.1	10.0	11.3	10.3
Youth soccer field	7.3	6.1	8.6	5.7	10.3
Concessions / Bathrooms	1.5	3.0	0	0	2.6
Other indoor activity / Amenity	20.7	21.2	14.3	26.4	23.1
Other outdoor activity / Amenity	14.9	15.2	15.7	17.0	10.3

Are there any other improvements or additional recreational facilities that you would like, that I have not mentioned?

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
Yes	22.0%	21.9%	17.3%	25.6%	27.3%
No	78.0	78.1	82.7	74.4	72.7

Overall, how satisfied are you with the available recreational facilities & programs in the Fremont Area?

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
Very Satisfied	24.6%	27.3%	24.6%	24.5%	17.9%
Somewhat Satisfied	51.2	56.6	47.8	45.3	51.3
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	19.6	13.1	21.7	20.8	30.8
Somewhat Dissatisfied	3.5	2.0	4.3	7.5	0
Very Dissatisfied	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.9	0

What satisfies you most about these facilities & programs?

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
Proximity	24.6%	22.2%	22.4%	42.9%	11.5%
Condition	11.0	12.3	6.1	5.7	23.1
Variety	24.6	25.9	24.5	25.7	19.2
Quality	12.0	13.6	12.2	2.9	19.2
Availability	6.8	6.2	10.2	8.6	0
Other	20.9	19.8	24.5	14.3	26.9

What dissatisfies you most about these facilities & programs?

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
Proximity	8.3%	0%	25.0%	0%	0%
Condition	0	0	0	0	0
Variety	8.3	0	25.0	0	0
Quality	8.3	0	0	20.0	0
Other	75.0	100.0	50.0	80.0	0

**Where do you get most of your information about recreation in the Fremont Area?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>City of Fremont</b>	<b>Sheridan Charter Twp</b>	<b>Dayton Twp</b>	<b>Sherman Twp</b>
<b>*City or Township Mailings</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	26.3%	10.0%	5.7%	10.3%
<b>Web sites</b>	<b>2.7</b>	3.0	1.4	3.8	2.6
<b>City and Township Officials</b>	<b>8.4</b>	11.1	8.6	5.7	5.1
<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>61.7</b>	60.6	58.6	66.0	64.1
<b>Public School Literature</b>	<b>28.4</b>	28.3	20.0	37.7	30.8
<b>Word of Mouth</b>	<b>57.5</b>	56.6	58.6	58.5	56.4
<b>Radio</b>	<b>5.4</b>	5.1	1.4	9.4	7.7
<b>Other</b>	<b>8.8</b>	10.1	10.0	9.4	2.6

**Would you like to see the Fremont Community have more recreational facilities?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>City of Fremont</b>	<b>Sheridan Charter Twp</b>	<b>Dayton Twp</b>	<b>Sherman Twp</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>73.3%</b>	77.8%	65.7%	73.1%	76.3%
<b>No</b>	<b>26.7</b>	22.2	34.3	26.9	23.7

**Would you be willing to contribute money to help pay for new recreational facilities?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>City of Fremont</b>	<b>Sheridan Charter Twp</b>	<b>Dayton Twp</b>	<b>Sherman Twp</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>77.2%</b>	80.3%	80.0%	78.8%	64.3%
<b>No</b>	<b>22.8</b>	19.7	20.0	21.2	35.7

Which of the following age categories do you fall under?

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
18-25	5.4%	4.0%	10.0%	1.9%	5.1%
26-35	9.6	14.1	5.7	7.5	7.7
36-49	24.1	17.2	24.3	34.0	28.2
50-59	21.8	21.2	18.6	26.4	23.1
60-69	20.3	22.2	21.4	17.0	17.9
70 and over	18.8	21.2	20.0	13.2	17.9

Gender:

	Total	City of Fremont	Sheridan Charter Twp	Dayton Twp	Sherman Twp
Male	46.7%	41.4%	52.9%	43.4%	53.8%
Female	53.3	58.6	47.1	56.6	46.2

# Appendix D

**Resolutions of Adoption**

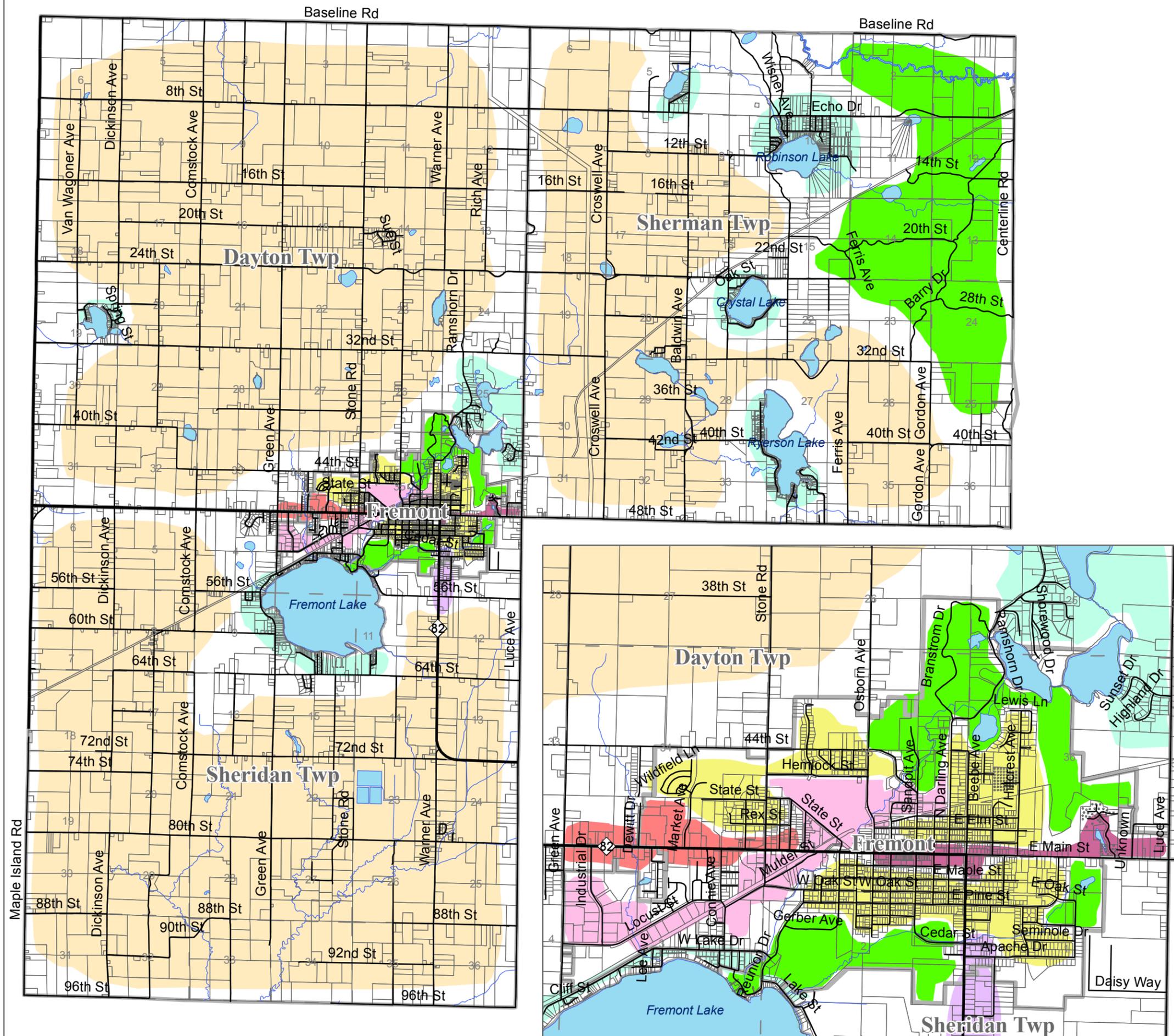
**Letters of Transmittal**

**DNR Certified Checklist**

**Public Meeting Minutes**

# Fremont Area Map 1

## Community Subareas



- State Highway
- Roads
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Section Line
- Lakes
- Streams
- East Main Street / Stewart Ave. Corridor Area
- Central Business District Area
- Industrial Areas
- Lakeside Resort Residential Areas
- Public / Semi Public Areas
- Residential Neighborhood Areas
- Rural Township Areas
- West Main Street / M-82 Corridor Area

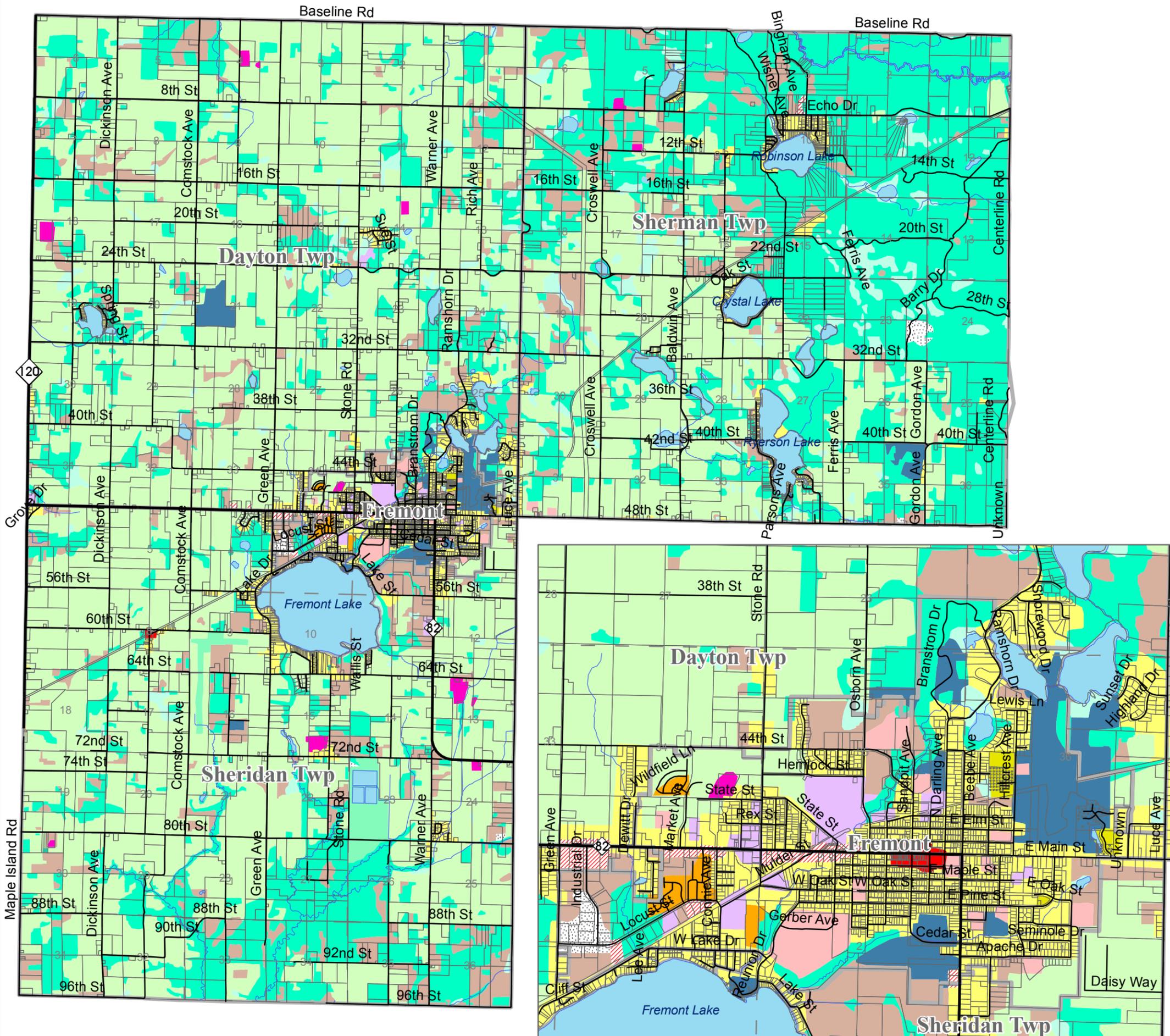
Source:  
Grand Valley State University

Michigan Center for Geographic Information,  
Department of Information Technology



# Fremont Area Map 2

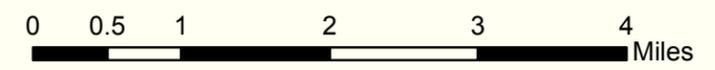
## Current Land Use



- State Highway
- Roads
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Section Line
- Lakes
- Streams
- Agricultural Land
- Extractive
- Forest Land
- Grass and Shrub Lands
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Manufactured Home Park
- Multi-Family Residential
- Open Land and Other
- Primary/Central Business District
- Secondary/Neighborhood or Rural Business
- Single Family Residential
- Transitional Land
- Transportation, Communication, Utilities
- Water
- Wetlands

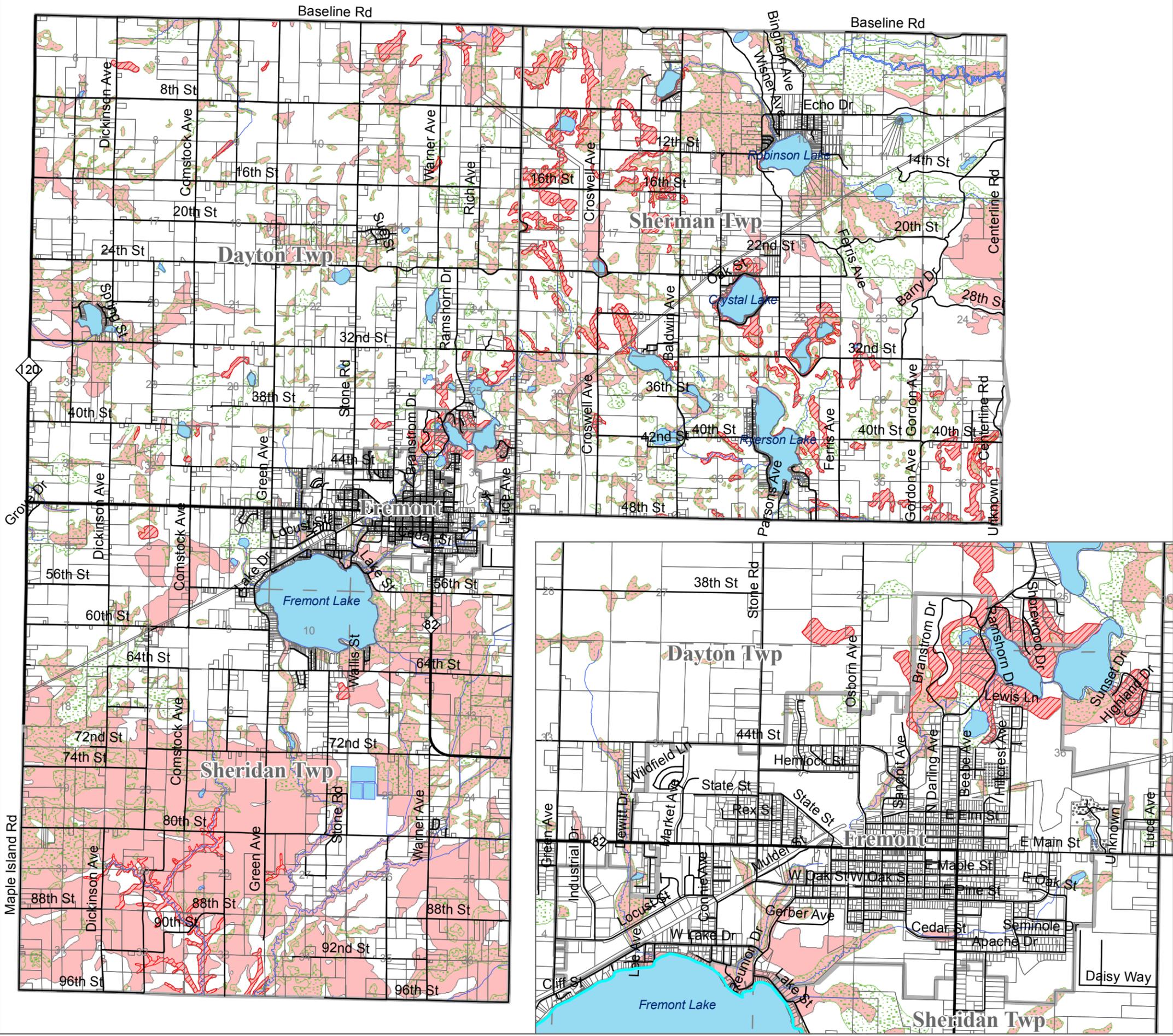
Source:  
 Grand Valley State University, based on 1998 imagery  
 Analysis conducted by Center for Remote Sensing and  
 Geographic Information Science, Michigan State University

Michigan Center for Geographic Information,  
 Department of Information Technology



Map Produced January 2007 by:

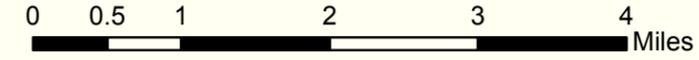
**Land Information  
 Access Association**  
 helping communities sustain their cultural and natural resources



- State Highway
- Roads
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Section Line
- Lakes
- Streams
- Steep Slopes (> 12%)
- Hydric Soils
- Severe Constraint for Developments without a Basement

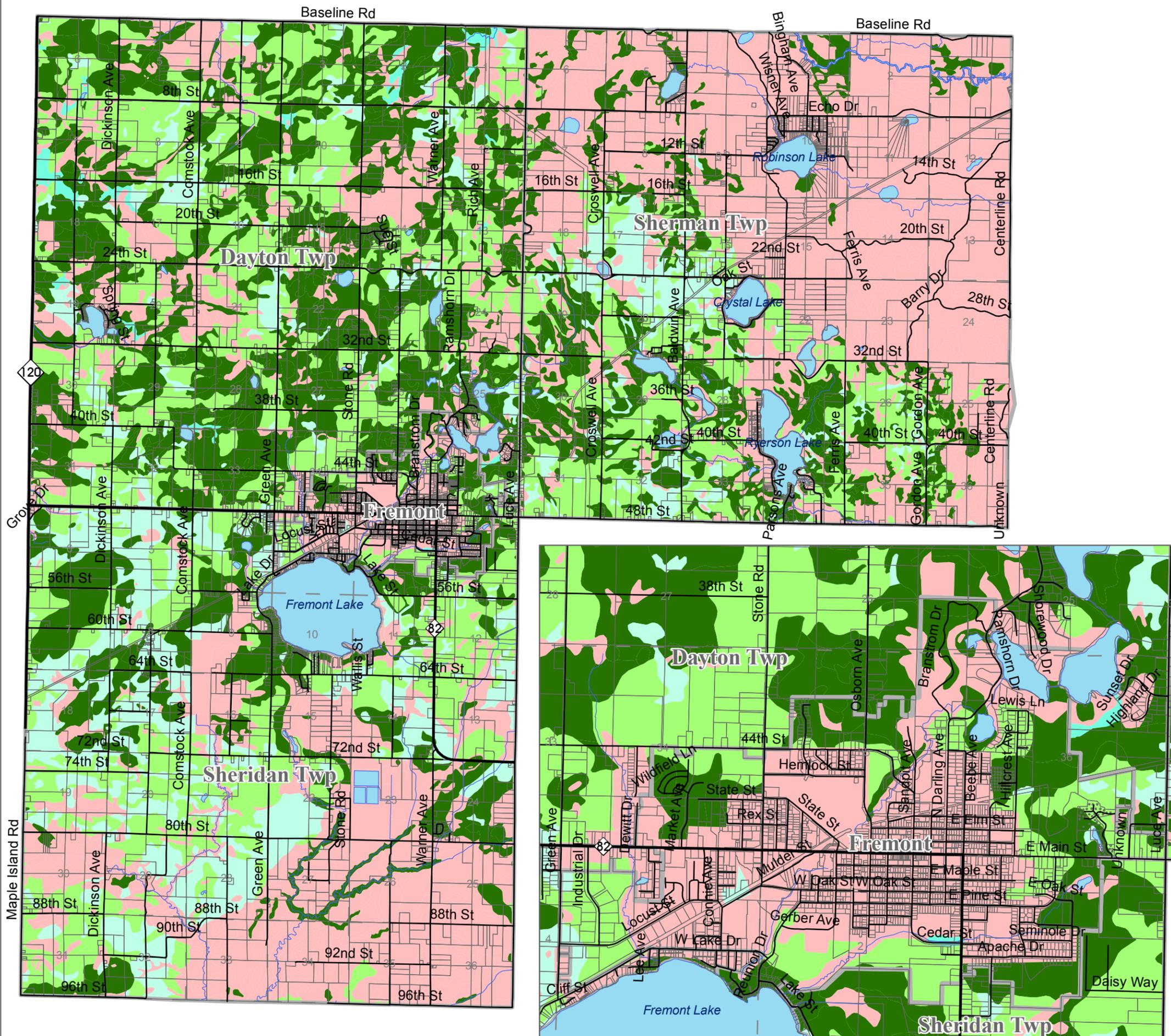
Source:  
Soil Survey of Newaygo County, Michigan, United States  
Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service  
and Forest Service

Michigan Center for Geographic Information,  
Department of Information Technology



Map Produced January 2007 by:





- State Highway
- Roads
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Section Line
- Lakes
- Streams

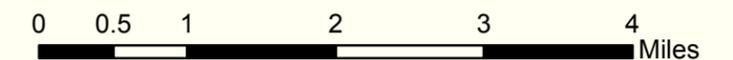
**Farmland Classification by Soil Type**

- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of local importance
- Prime farmland if drained
- Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Not prime farmland

Farmland Classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, or farmland of local importance. Farmland classification identifies the location and extent of the most suitable land for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRC5 policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

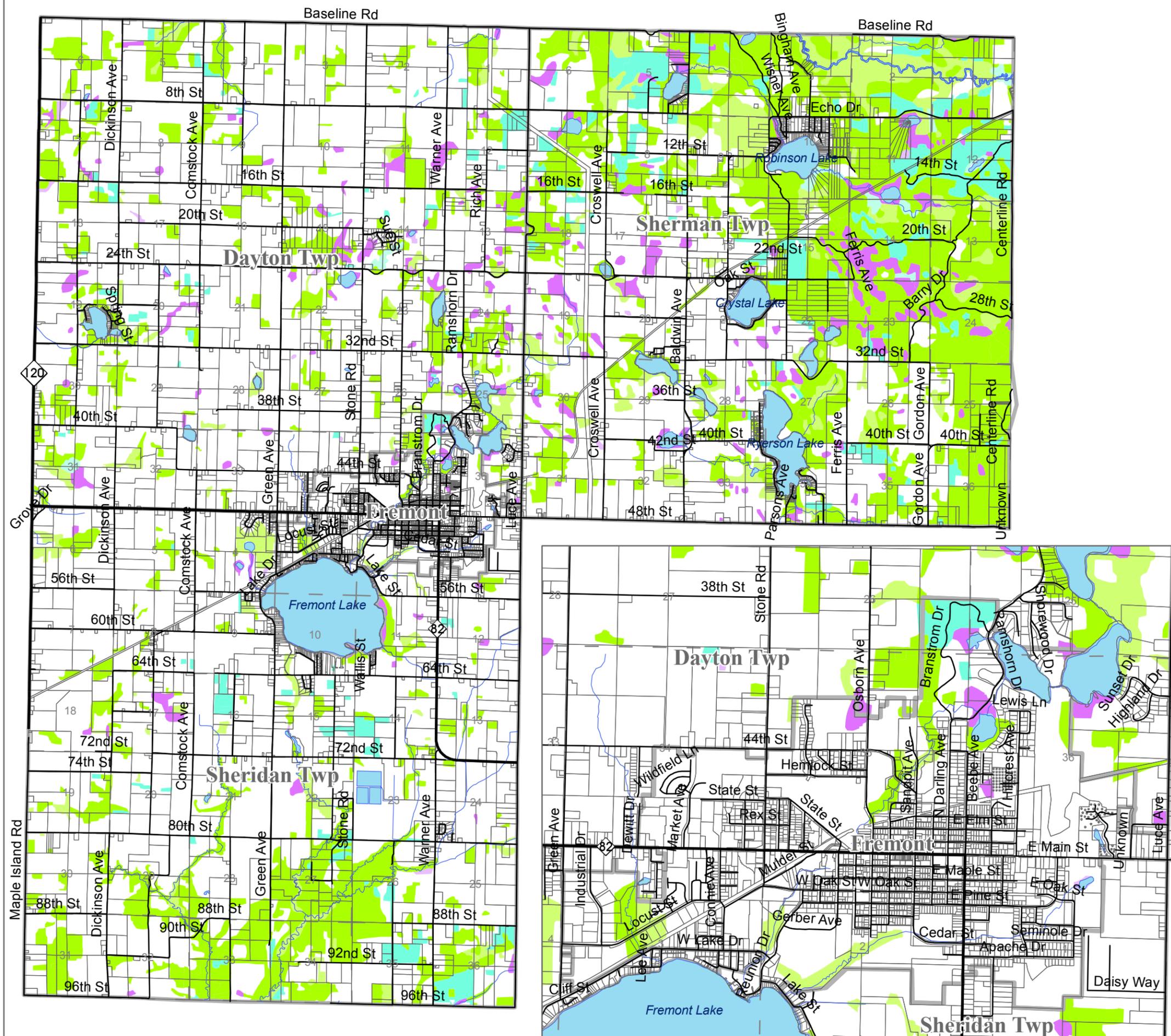
Source:  
 Soil Survey of Newaygo County, Michigan, United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service

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 Department of Information Technology



Map Produced January 2007 by:

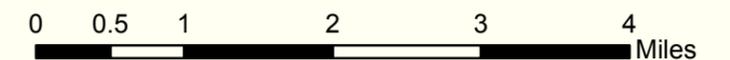




- State Highway
- Roads
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Section Line
- Lakes
- Streams
- Upland Deciduous
- Lowland Deciduous
- Upland Conifer
- Lowland Conifer
- Wooded Wetland
- Wetland

Source:  
 Grand Valley State University

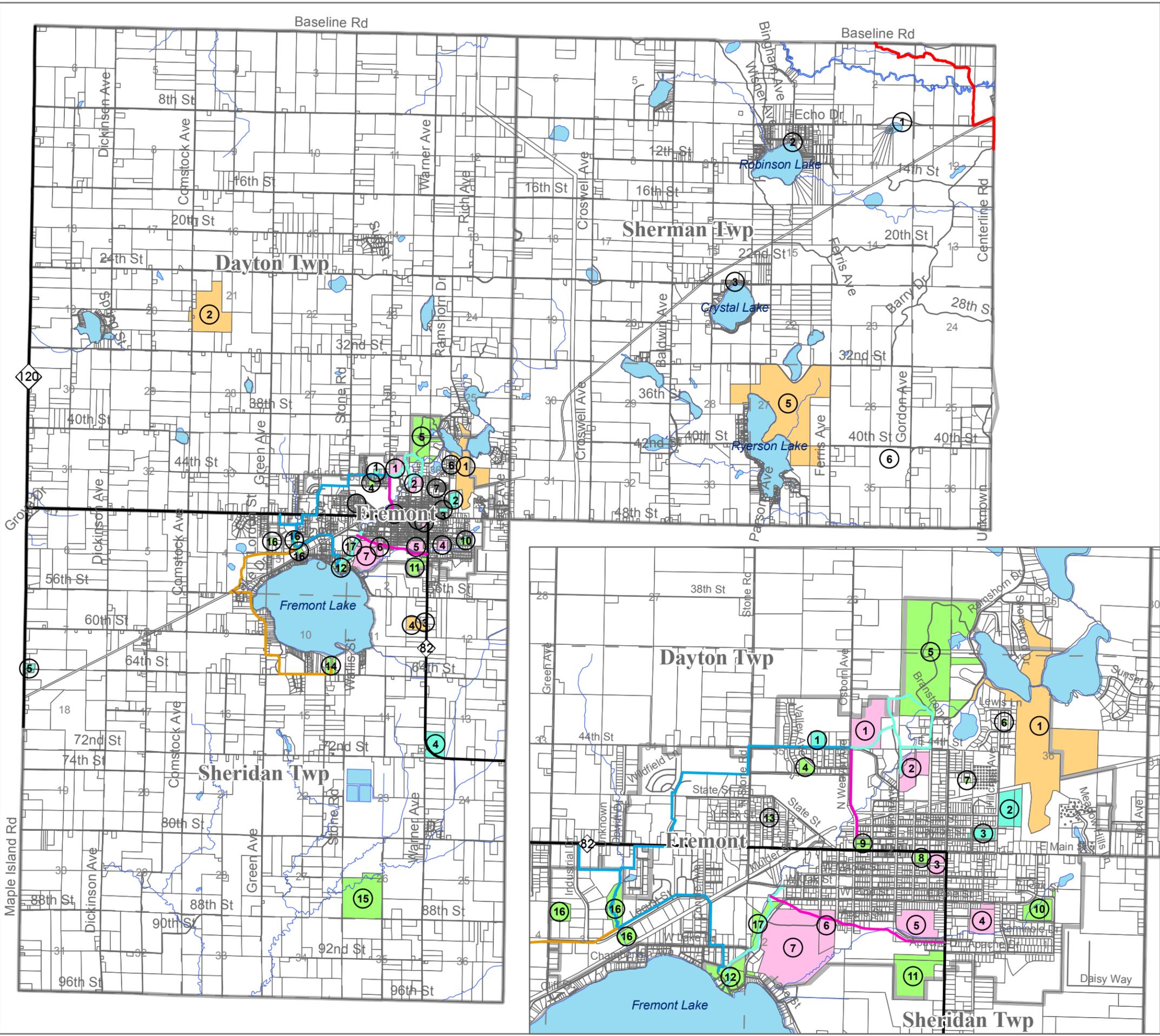
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Map Produced January 2007 by:



# Fremont Area Recreation Inventory Map 6



- State Highway
- Roads
- Jurisdiction
- ▭ Boundary
- ▭ Property
- ▭ Boundaries
- ▭ Section Line
- ▭ Town & Country Trail
- ▭ Lakes
- ▭ Streams
- ▭ North Country Trail
- ▭ Phase 1 (Completed)\*
- ▭ Phase 2 (2007-08)\*
- ▭ Phase 3 (Proposed)
- ▭ Phase 4 (Proposed)

- Public Parks and Facilities**
1. Alley Lake Roadside Park
  2. Robinson Lake Public Boat Launch
  3. Sherman Township Boat Launch and Beach
  4. Cherry Hill Park
  5. Branstrom Park
  6. Club View Park
  7. Beebe Natural Area
  8. Fremont Area District Library
  9. Veterans Memorial Park
  10. Arboretum Park
  11. Newaygo County Fairgrounds
  12. Fremont Lake Park
  13. Fremont Ave. Tot-Lot
  14. Sheridan Twp Boat Launch / Playground\*
  15. Sheridan Twp Property
  16. Industrial Park Outlot - A, B, C
  17. Fremont Skate / Bike Park\*

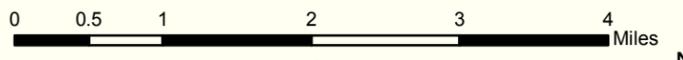
- Public Schools**
1. Pathfinder Elementary
  2. Daisy Brook Elementary
  3. Fremont High School
  4. Pine Street Elementary School
  5. Pine Street Athletic Field
  6. Fremont Community Ed. Center
  7. Fremont Middle School

- Private Recreation**
1. Ramshorn on the Lakes
  2. Northwood Golf Course
  3. Fremont Bowling Lanes
  4. Summer Breeze Par 3 Golf Course
  5. YMCA Camp Echo
  6. Briar Hill Golf Course

- Private Schools**
1. Cornerston Christian Academy
  2. Christian Middle School
  3. Christian Elementary
  4. Providence Christian High School\*
  5. St. Michael's Catholic School

\* Signifying project completion during the last 5 years

Source:  
Michigan Center for Geographic Information,  
Department of Information Technology

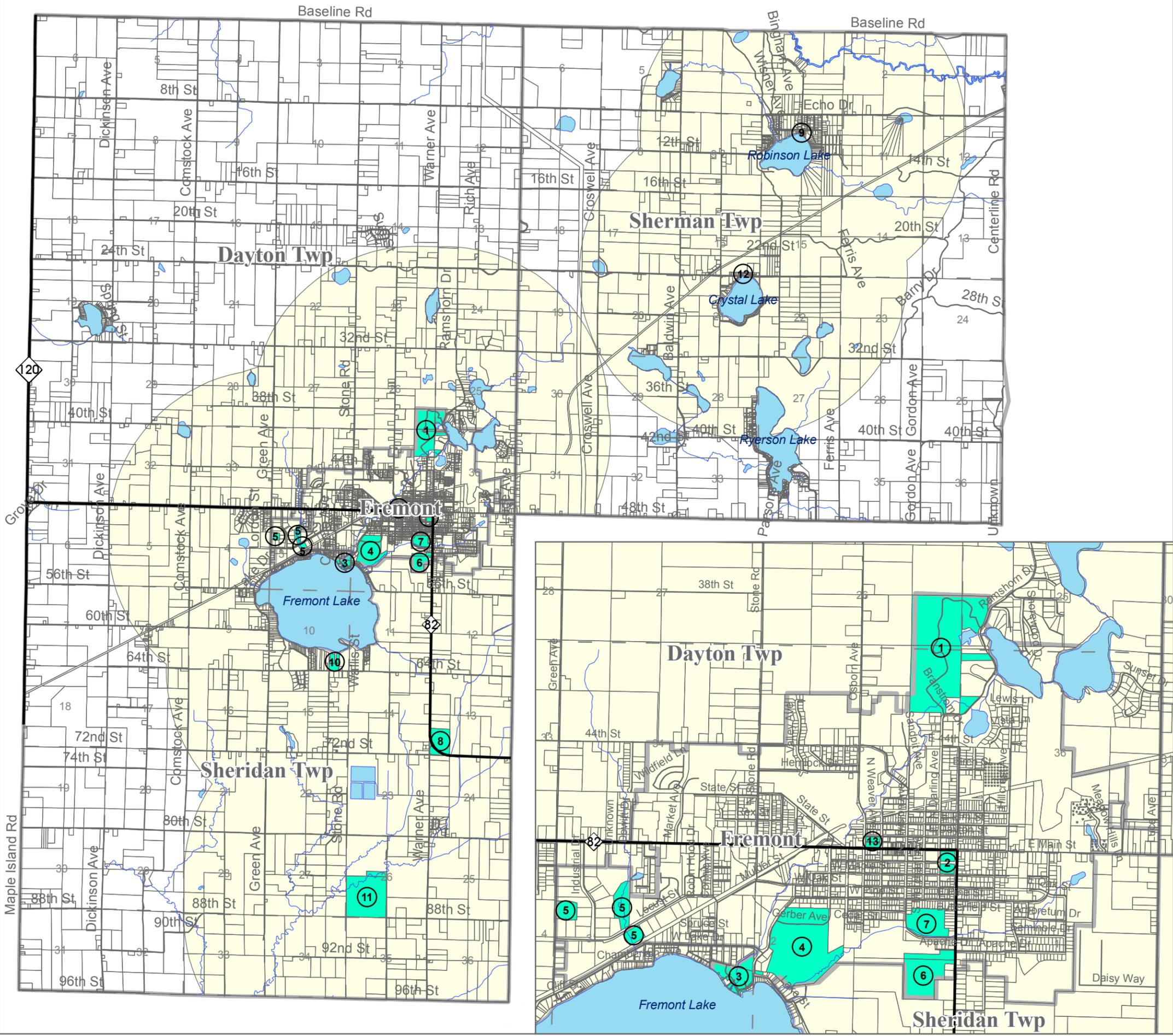


Map Produced  
January 2007 by:



# Fremont Area Map 7

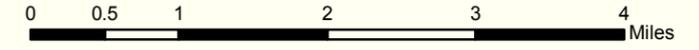
## Community Park Service Areas



- State Highway
- Roads
- ▭ Jurisdiction Boundary
- ▭ Property Boundaries
- Section Line
- ▭ Lakes
- Streams
- ▭ 2 mile buffer

- Public Parks and Facilities**
1. Branstrom Park
  2. Fremont High School
  3. Fremont Lake Park
  4. Fremont Middle School
  5. Industrial Park Outlot - A, B, C
  6. Newaygo County Fairgrounds
  7. Pine Street Athletic Field
  8. Providence Christian High School
  9. Robinson Lake Public Boat Launch
  10. Sheridan Twp Boat Launch
  11. Sheridan Twp Property
  12. Sherman Township Boat Launch and Beach
  13. Veterans Memorial Park

Source:  
Michigan Center for Geographic Information,  
Department of Information Technology



Map Produced January 2007 by:

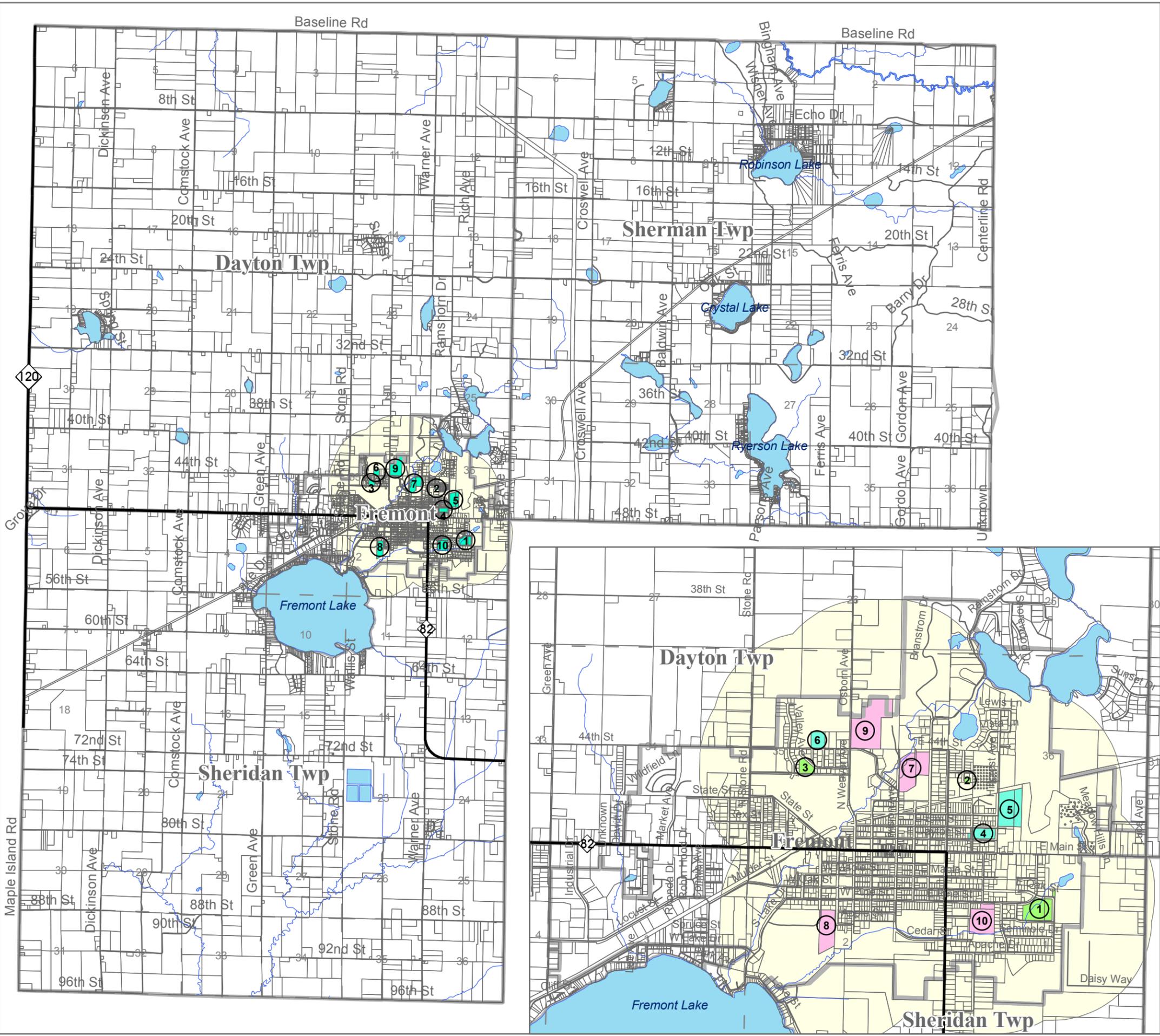


# Fremont Area Map 8

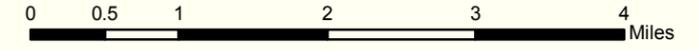
## Neighborhood/Mini-Park Service Areas

- State Highway
- Roads
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Section Line
- Lakes
- Streams
- 1/2 mile buffer

- Neighborhood/Mini Parks
- 1. Arboretum Park
- 2. Beebe Natural Area
- 3. Cherry Hill Park
- 4. Christian Elementary
- 5. Christian Middle School
- 6. Cornerston Christian Academy
- 7. Daisy Brook Elementary
- 8. Fremont Community Ed. Center
- 9. Pathfinder Elementary
- 10. Pine Street Elementary School



Source:  
Michigan Center for Geographic Information,  
Department of Information Technology



Map Produced January 2007 by:



