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Village of Westphalia

Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan

2014-2018



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1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

History

The history of Westphalia, Michigan, is long and rich, and is one that is difficult to summarize in just a few pages. The following description does not include all of the village history, but instead highlights interesting points in its history, such as the emigration of the first German Catholic settlers and their establishment of a church in Westphalia.

Information is gratefully taken with permission from *Of Pilgrimage, Prayer, and Promise* produced by the Westphalia Historical Society, *Westphalia Area History*, and from *Sisters of Christian Charity* revised edition 1999.

First Settlers

The first settlers of Westphalia arrived in the port of New York on October 3rd, 1836 aboard the Leontine from their long journey which began in the port of Bremen, Germany. Even before the emigrants sailed from Bremen, they had to travel there by land from their home in Sauerland in the western part of Germany. These first few settlers were Father Anton Kopp, Westphalia St. Mary's pioneering priest, and the Eberhard Platte family. By way of the Erie Canal, they landed in Detroit on the 25th of that same month.

Taking the advice of Father Martin Kundig of St. Mary's Parish in Detroit, Father Anton Kopp and Eberhard Platte set out on foot for the newly established land office in the town of Ionia. These two men traveled on foot to Ionia by Dexter Trail, passing through present day cities and towns such as, Ann Arbor, Dexter, Chelsea, Stockbridge, Mason, Lansing, and DeWitt. After arriving at the office on November 4th and waiting six days, they finally made a purchase of 560 acres which would one day become the home of St. Mary's Parish.

Meanwhile, five men, Anton Cordes, Joseph Platte, John Hanses, William Tillmann and John Salter, were waiting in Lyons for Father Anton Kopp and Eberhard Platte. These five had also made their way along the Dexter Trail from Detroit, while the rest of their families stayed in Detroit. A hired trapper and trading post operator guided the settlers to their land-holdings. The pioneers named the settlement Westphalia in memory of their German homeland. Work began immediately to pave the wilderness into arable land. More than 300 families immigrated to Westphalia from then until 1923.

Emigrants to Westphalia came from almost every state of present day western Germany. Early settlers came from Bavaria and the Sauerland, but later settlers came from all over Germany, as well as Poland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Ireland. Most were from the middle-class who had acquired a trade of some sort, such as blacksmithing, masonry, carpentry, or shoemaking.

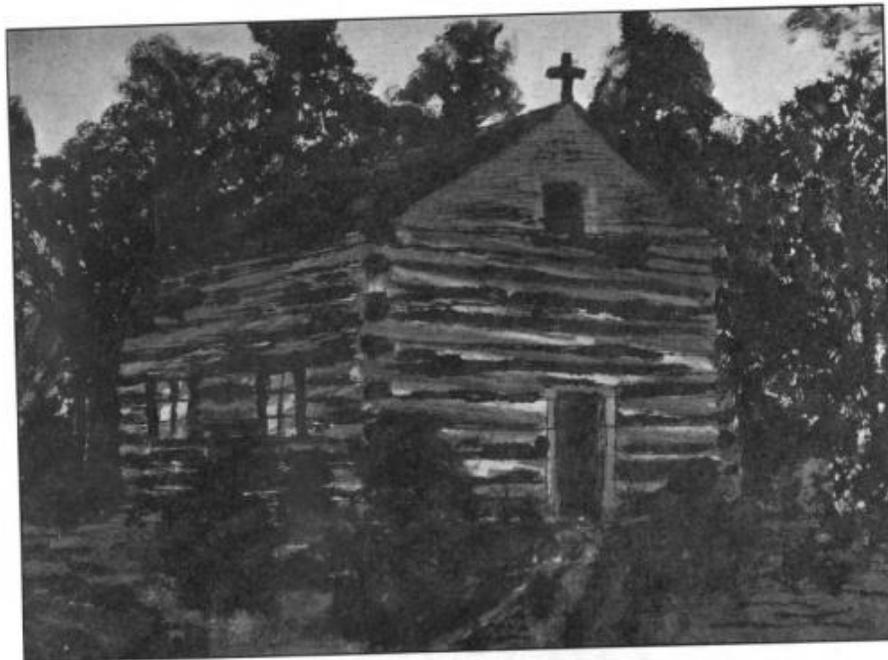
The first wave of emigrants, who arrived in 1836-1860, did not flee from religious persecution. They were escaping the depressing feudal like political system. After the overthrow of Napoleon in 1815, the great powers of Europe rearranged the map of Europe, and the Rhineland area in Germany became part of Prussia. The Germans struggled under this feudal like political system and longed for peace and order that was not fulfilled by this map rearranging. Later emigrants, from 1871-1885, came to America to escape the religious persecution of Catholics in Germany.

The valley of the Grand River where Westphalia is located was considered at that time worthless by the land speculators. But the settlers knew that the swampy and heavily forested land was a sign of good soil. And they were correct, as Westphalia is a thriving farming community to this day.

The German Catholic parish was established almost immediately after the settlers first arrived. After buying the land at Ionia, Father Anton Kopp traveled back to Detroit. On November 19th, the day after he arrived back in Detroit, Father Anton Kopp visited Bishop Friedrich Reese and was assigned the new German parish. This appointment has great significance, "It was the beginning of the rural Catholic Church in Michigan," wrote Father Kopp in his journal. Father Anton Kopp returned back to his assigned parish in September of 1837 and celebrated Masses in the homes of the settlers. In March of 1838 a two-room log house, that served as the first church as well, was completed. Father Anton Kopp stayed with his parish for five years, until he left for his new assignment at St. Mary's in Detroit.

The Churches of Westphalia

Early records reveal that one of the first buildings to be erected in what is now the Village of Westphalia was a log church. It was located about one-half mile west of the present rectory. The location may seem peculiar at the present time, but it must be remembered that there were no roads at that time, and the site upon which our village now stands was dotted with swampy places. The first settlers therefore chose higher ground upon which to build the first church. This church was constructed of logs and contained two rooms. One of these rooms was used as a chapel. The other was used as a living room by the pioneer priest of Westphalia.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, 1836

Within several years, more settlers came and the village spread in an easterly direction. The first log church was followed by a larger frame structure in 1847. Known as St. Peter's Church, that structure was replaced in 1869 with a church constructed of brick from Westphalia's brickyard and black walnut from its forests. The new church dedicated as St. Mary's Church served the parish until it was destroyed by fire in 1959. The present church, erected on the site of the original log church was dedicated on May 28, 1962.

Village of Westphalia

The Village of Westphalia was incorporated in 1882. In 1934 the first village street was blacktopped. In 1951 a municipal water system was built. In 1970 construction was started on a sanitary sewer system to serve the entire village. A planning and zoning commission was formed in 1973 to initiate a program of planning for future growth. The zoning ordinance was adopted by the Village Council on May 19, 1975, and became effective on June 8, 1975. In 1976 most of the Village's unpaved streets were blacktopped. In 1986 the Village purchased land for a water storage tower. Construction of the tower was completed in 1987. The Village continues to re-build storm sewers, resurface streets, and install new water and sewer lines to accommodate development.

Geography

The Village of Westphalia is located at the junction of Grange Road and Price Road, approximately 25 miles northwest of Lansing, Michigan. The Village is conveniently accessed from I-96, approximately 8 miles north of exit 84. According to the United States Census Bureau, the Village has a total area of 1.1 square miles (2.8 km²), all land. The latitude of Westphalia is 42.929N. The longitude is -84.798W. The elevation of Westphalia is 761 feet above sea level. The USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map of Westphalia is included as Exhibit 2.

Demographics

According to 2010 Census, the population of the Village of Westphalia was 923, consisting of 446 (48.3%) males and 473 (51.7%) females. The median age of the residents was 39.4 years. From 2000 to 2010 the population growth percentage was 5.4% (from 876 to 923 people).

Exhibit 1 provides detailed statistics from the 2010 Census relative to the Village of Westphalia including a breakdown of population by age, sex, race, household, and family information.

2. VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Roles of Village Council, Parks and Recreation Committee, and Dept. of Public Works Staff

An effective administrative structure is essential for implementing actions to address the community's needs and desires. Following is an overview of the Village Council, Parks and Recreation Committee and Department of Public Works (DPW) staff.

Village Council

The residents of the Village of Westphalia have elected a 7 person village council to represent the interests of the residents, establish budgets and oversee activities of the Village. The Village employs a part-time clerk and treasurer, both of whom are appointed by the Village Council. The Village also employs two full time staff in the Department of Public Works to meet the day to day needs of the community, which include road maintenance and snow removal, mowing of Village property, and maintenance and upkeep of water, sewer, and park facilities. See table 1 below for a complete listing of Village employees and trustees.

Table 1-Village Council

Village Council		Term Expires
President:	Dean Kohagen	November, 2014
Clerk:	Sandy Smith	November, 2014 (appointed)
Treasurer:	Wendy Thelen	November, 2014 (appointed)
Assessor:	Mark Thelen	November, 2014 (appointed)
Trustees:	Kevin Krzeminski	November, 2014
	Steve Miller	November, 2014
	Nort Upson, Pres. Pro-Tem	November, 2014
	Phil Smith	November, 2016
	Dave Boswell	November, 2016
	Tim Fandel	November, 2016

Parks and Recreation Committee and DPW Staff

The Parks and Recreation Committee, in collaboration with the Village Council and the Village Department of Public Works (DPW), is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Daniel Droste Memorial Park and corresponding recreational programs. Traditionally, the Parks and Recreation Committee is made up of 5 volunteer members. The Committee operates in an advisory capacity to the Village Council. Decisions and financing relative to park improvements, equipment acquisition and maintenance are ultimately a function of the Village Council. See table 2 below for a listing of Parks & Recreation Committee Members and DPW staff.

The volunteer members of the Parks & Recreation Committee are dedicated to providing positive recreational opportunities for the residents of the Village of Westphalia as well as Westphalia Township and their guests. The Committee members do so by:

- Advising the community and the Village Council on matters related to the operation of Daniel Droste Memorial Park and its programs.
- Operating quality recreational programs and facilities.
- Working cooperatively with local, state, and national recreational providers.
- In collaboration with the Village Council and DPW staff, acquiring and maintaining necessary equipment.
- In collaboration with the Village Council and DPW staff, overseeing the day to day operations of the park and utilization of the associated funding from the various sources (described below).

Table 2- DPW and Parks & Recreation Committee

DPW/Parks and Recs.		
DPW Supervisor	Jim Bierstetel	
DPW Staff	Steve Miller	
Village Council Representative	Dean Kohagen	
Parks & Recs	Dave Schneider	
Parks & Recs	Roy Miller	
Parks & Recs	Travis Thelen	
Parks & Recs	Vacant	

Programming

Currently the Village Parks and Recreation Committee operates numerous adult men’s and women’s softball and horseshoe leagues. The Committee also administers rental of the three pavilions for various community and family outings. An additional initiative is currently underway exploring the construction of Tennis courts and the development of Tennis Programs for adults and youth.

Current Funding Sources

Traditionally the Parks and Recreation Fund, which is accounted for as a separate fund in the Village’s accounts, receives annual operating subsidies of approximately \$800 from the Village of Westphalia General Fund, and \$800 from Westphalia Township. Remaining Parks and Recreation Fund revenues fluctuate annually. In addition to the aforementioned operating subsidies, during the Fiscal Year Ended February 28, 2013, the Parks and Recreation fund collected \$7,925 from user charges for sporting opportunities, and \$2,520 from pavilion rentals and interest. For the Fiscal Year Ended February 28, 2013, the Parks and Recreation Fund had an ending fund balance of \$9,049.

Role of Volunteers

As mentioned above, the Parks and Recreation Committee is made up of 5 volunteer members. The volunteer members of the Parks & Recreation Committee are dedicated to providing positive recreational opportunities for the residents of the Village of Westphalia as well as Westphalia Township and their guests.

Relationships with School Districts and other Public Agencies

As described further in the Section Titled Recreation Inventory, the recreational needs of not only Village of Westphalia Residents, but also those of other municipalities within Clinton County are currently served by many entities. The cities, villages, and townships within Clinton County cumulatively offer diverse recreational opportunities. The thirteen public school districts and several private schools that serve Clinton County residents also offer various recreational opportunities. Play grounds and sports fields including baseball, football, soccer and running tracks are available at most, if not all of these schools. Additionally, the Westphalia Parks and Recreation fund receives an annual subsidy of \$800 from Westphalia Township, as many township residents utilize the park and its programs.

3. LOCAL, COUNTY & STATE RECREATION INVENTORY

Description of the Process

In its continuing effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for Village residents and visitors, the Village of Westphalia Village Council authorized the development of the 2014 Village of Westphalia Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan. The plan was directed by community volunteers in consultation with the Village Council and the Parks and Recreation Committee. Following a 30 day comment period, an advertised public hearing was held by the Village Council on January 6, 2014 to obtain additional public input prior to approving this plan. The plan represents the culmination of efforts to establish recreational goals, objectives and action plans for the next five years. The plan will also enable the Village of Westphalia to apply for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to assist in reaching its recreational goals.

Inventory of Village of Westphalia Recreational Facilities

Daniel Droste Memorial Park

Much of the recreational activity in Westphalia centers around Daniel Droste Memorial Park. The land for the park was initially acquired and placed into operation by the Westphalia Jaycees. Upon abolishment of the Jaycees, the park was subsequently acquired by Westphalia Township. On April 25, 2000, the Village of Westphalia purchased the park property and associated buildings and equipment from Westphalia Township.

The Park is approximately 9.2 acres in size and is located on West Main Street at the western boundary of the Village limits. The park offers a softball field, horseshoe courts, a walking track, a band shell, playground equipment, picnic facilities, restrooms, barbecue area, three pavilions (which can be rented for family reunions and other activities), plenty of open green space and shady escapes. It's a great place to have a family gathering, watch a softball game, take the kids to play, read a book, or just relax and enjoy the serenity.

A proposed site development plan for the construction of tennis courts was prepared by and in consultation with the United States Tennis Association. Exhibit 3 illustrates the suggested USTA layout for two 78' courts.

Results of a physical inventory, taken November 12, 2013, of Daniel Droste Memorial Park Facilities follow:

Buildings:

- Red Pavilion measures 35'W * 62'L * 10'H (2170 sq. ft.). The building has 10 overhead lights, 2 double duplex outlets, 2 single duplex outlets, and 21 picnic tables measuring 8' in length.
- White Pavilion measures 25'W * 31'L * 10'H (775 sq. ft.). The building has 2 overhead lights, 1 double duplex outlet, and 11 picnic tables measuring 8' in length.
- Blue Pavilion measures 25'W * 31'L * 10'H (775 sq. ft.). The building has 2 overhead lights, 1 double duplex outlet, and 11 picnic tables measuring 8' in length.

- Band Shell measures 23'W * 33'L * 12'H (759 sq. ft.). The building has 4 overhead lights, 6 duplex outlets and a stage that measures 8'W * 16'L * 21"H (128 sq. ft.).
- Bathroom building measures 16'W * 22'H * 8'H (352 sq. ft.). It has separate facilities for men and women that are handicap accessible.
- Softball Field Concessions Building measures 14'W * 32'L * 9.5'H (448 sq. ft.) and a concrete covered porch area that measures 10'W * 32'L * 9.5'H (320 sq. ft.)

Playground Equipment:

- Two swing sets, each measuring approximately 12' in height, with a total of 12 swings, 4 of which are for infants.
- One swing set measuring approximately 8' in height, with a total of 4 swings.
- One dome-shaped monkey bar set, 23' in diameter and 7' in height.
- One Grand Time® Playground set.
- Six slides of varying heights (some of which are integrated into the Grand Time® Playground set).
- One 4 seat teeter-totter.
- One merry-go-round, 10' in diameter.
- Six single-person spring rockers.
- One light tower measuring an estimated 28' in height.

Softball Field:

- Fenced field with outfield fences measuring from 289' to 295' from home plate.
- Eight light towers measuring an estimated 50' in height.
- Two (Home and Visitor) permanent benches.
- Two sets of bleachers.
- Electric Scoreboard.
- Concessions stand (building described above) with 3 picnic tables.

Horseshoe courts:

- Six horseshoe courts meeting The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association standards with protective fencing and scoreboards.
- Three light towers measuring approximately 20' in height and one light tower measuring approximately 14' in height.

Walking track:

- A concrete walking track that measures 8' in width and approximately 0.25 miles in length, with light towers measuring approximately 14' in height at the northern and western boundaries of the track.

Parking:

- One paved parking lot with one light pole measuring approximately 20' in height. This lot has painted lines that provide 32 parking spaces and includes handicap parking.

- One unpaved parking lot with one light pole measuring approximately 14' in height. The total number of parking spaces in this lot is unknown.

Other amenities:

- Three drinking fountains are located throughout the park.
- Eight permanent park benches and many picnic tables are located in the playground/walking track areas.

Inventory of School Facilities within the Village Of Westphalia

St. Mary School also offers residents various recreational opportunities. Playground equipment, a basketball court, and sports fields that can be seasonally modified to accommodate youth baseball, softball and soccer are available.

Inventory of State-Owned Recreation Facilities

The State of Michigan has key facilities and lands that help meet outdoor recreational needs. Six of these areas are located within Clinton County. Each offers slightly different opportunities and activities that contribute to the diversity of the area.

Rose Lake Wildlife Research Center

Located in Bath Township, this area is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is comprised of over 3,500 acres of rolling hills, lakes and wetlands. The area is managed for wildlife research and wildlife associated recreation. It offers hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities for people within several surrounding counties. The area has been developed with many parking areas, 15 miles of marked trails, skeet shooting, rifle ranges, youth group camping and is also a favorite place for non-motorized trail activities. The area is managed primarily for small game, wildlife habitat and is a site for the State's pheasant and wild turkey release programs. Hunting is also permitted in various locations within the area during the appropriate seasons.

Sleepy Hollow State Park

Located in Victor Township, the property is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and encompasses over 2,600 acres of land. The South Maple Drain winds through the site and is the source of the 410 acre Lake Ovid, an impoundment located in the center of the park that is a popular cool water fishery. The park contains a modern campground, a primitive organization campground, three picnic areas, a half-mile beach, 16 miles of non-motorized trails, a boat launch, fishing piers, and hunting during the appropriate seasons. Mountain biking and cross country skiing are also popular uses of the various trails. Several playground areas are also located adjacent to the picnic areas providing swings, slides and other equipment.

Babcock Landing

The MDNR also maintains a boat launch within Victor Township. This launch is located on the Looking Glass River and is accessed from Babcock Road. It is a carry-down launching area, which means the site does not have an improved boat launch. It is suitable for car-top boats and canoes exclusively. The launch is open daily from 4:00 AM to 11:00 PM and is used by anglers and boaters

Muskrat Lake Game Area

Olive Township is host to this 219 acre area which includes a public access lake and surrounding uplands managed for wildlife habitat and hunting. A trail system is lacking in the Game Area.

Maple River State Game Area

Located in Lebanon and Essex Townships, this area has an extensive system of wetlands and river access sites. The area is managed for wildlife viewing and hunting as well as a wetland restoration project. There are over 4,700 acres of property in the area with over 11 miles of trails, most of which are unimproved. The Maple River traverses the majority of the area and provides boating opportunities for canoes and other small boats as well as fishing. Various parking areas can be found throughout the area.

Portland State Game Area

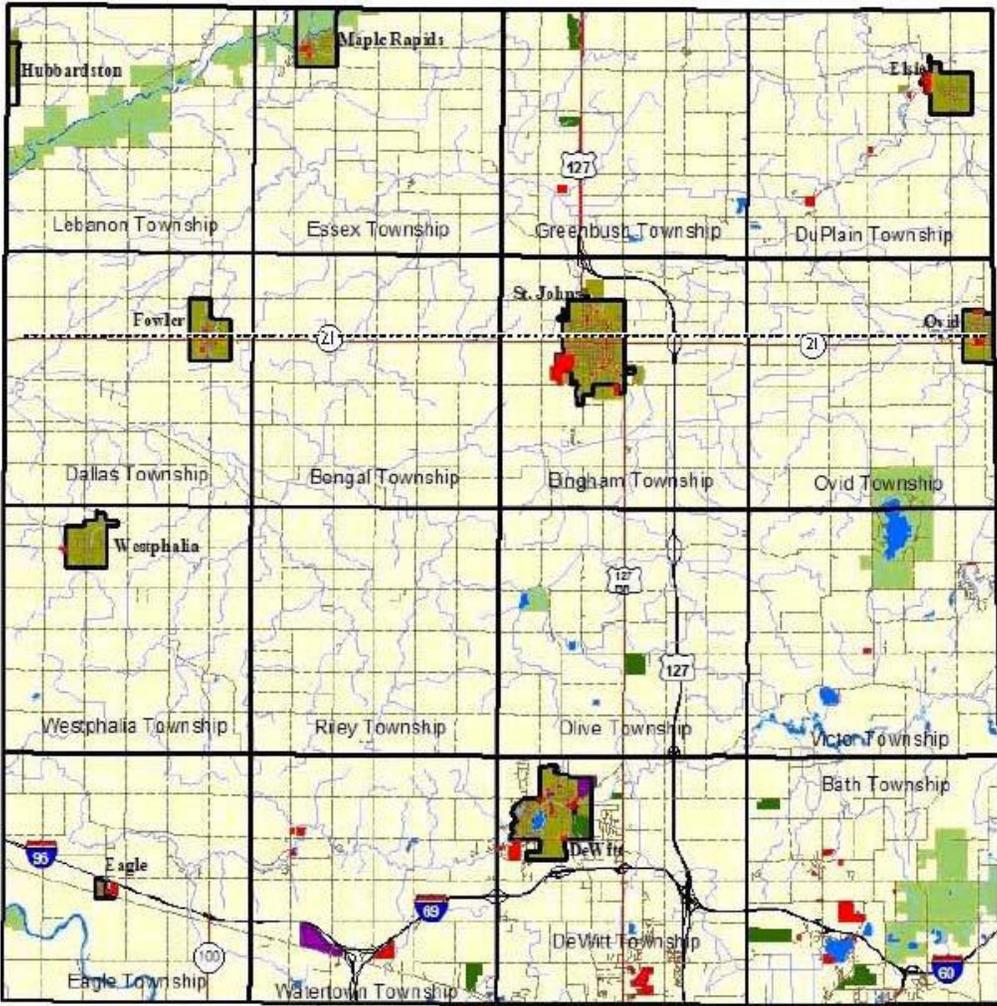
Located in the very southwest tip of the county, a portion of the Portland State Game Area is found in Eagle Township. It provides opportunities for hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing as well as being used for non-motorized trail activities.

Inventory of Other Municipal Facilities in Clinton County

The recreational needs of Clinton County residents are currently served by many entities. However, Clinton County itself provides very few facilities or opportunities. The various municipalities and school districts within the county, as well as several State owned facilities provide the majority of the current recreational opportunities. Most of the municipal facilities are of limited size and offer limited opportunities for expansion due to location and urban growth around the facilities.

The following inventory of County recreational facilities and opportunities is separated into six categories, which include county owned facilities, township facilities, city and village facilities, school district facilities, private facilities and regional facilities. It should be noted that these facilities and the programs offered by the various entities have overlap with regards to the use of the facilities and participation in the programs offered. With thirteen different school districts and twenty-five different municipalities (cities, villages and townships), there is a significant opportunity for overlap between user facilities. For location information, see the Map below.

Map 1- Recreation Facilities in Clinton County



Recreation Facilities

- Legend:**
- Township & City Boundaries
 - Interstate
 - State Trunkline
 - County Roads
 - Water
 - Parks
 - Private Facilities
 - Golf
 - State Parks
 - City - Village
 - Railroad ROW

Map 1

Source: Clinton County Development Department

Inventory of County-Owned Facilities

Clinton County currently owns two areas of land. One is the 4-H Fairgrounds and the other is the newly acquired Motz Park. Clinton County acquired this land from Leon Searles of Searles Construction, Inc. This community park, servicing surrounding townships, totals 42 acres in which there is a 17 acre lake that was formerly a gravel pit. This area receives the top rating in regards to ADA compliance regarding site characteristics. There are no lined parking spots but the parking area is firm gravel and the path to the lake will be able to be at a 5% slope. There are no other facilities at this time but the County has applied for a grant to acquire monies for development. These developments will be built according to ADA guidelines. This land was acquired with a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund of \$340,000 (grant number TF04-0407) that was matched by the County.

The County uses the 4-H Fairgrounds as a special use park to hold events such as the Mint Festival. This area is adjacent to the St. Johns City Park and encompasses 38 acres. This area receives the top rating in regards to ADA compliance. There are 7 handicap/van accessible parking spots (4 is

minimum according to the ADA guidelines), all paved walks are accessible (curb-cuts, etc.) and all facilities are accessible (36" doors, etc.).

The County has long-range plans for renovations at the 4-H Fairgrounds. Phase one has been completed of which included drive and access extension and repair, a storm water retention pond, Smith Hall improvements, a new swine barn and green space additions. The total cost for these renovations (not including the swine barn and Smith Hall improvements) was \$2,328,000 from the public improvement fund. There will be a total of five more phases of renovation of the Fairgrounds. Phase 2: Site work and south fairgrounds; Phase 3: Site work and covered arena; Phase 4: Site work and west access drive and lot; Phase 5: Site work and campground; Phase 6: Site work and conference center.

Inventory of Township Facilities within Clinton County

The sixteen townships within Clinton County offer a wide range of recreational opportunities. For example, several townships offer nothing more than a small playground area adjacent to their township hall or no facilities at all, where as three of the townships have staffed parks and recreation departments and planned recreational programs. The following inventory represents established recreational opportunities in the Townships. In that some Townships do not have established facilities, those Townships are not listed.

Bath Township

Bath Township has several community parks that offer a range of recreational opportunities, as well as a township parks and recreation program, which offers programs and activities for township residents. The township also offers soccer, t-ball and baseball programs and a seasonal event area.

- James Couzens Memorial Park is a two acre park located on Main St. just south of Bath. The park features a pavilion, a war memorial and a historical marker commemorating the Bath School Disaster of 1927.
- Fletcher Robson Nature Park was recently donated to the Township for a natural area. Initial trails and a small parking area have been cleared by township staff and further trails, benches, amenities will continue to be completed in-house by township staff. This park is targeted for passive recreational uses and natural trails.
- Park Lake Waterfront/North Webster Road Park is a 26 acre site that is currently owned by the township and development of this site will depend upon the results of a forthcoming utilization study.
- Upton Road Park is a 19 acre parcel of property that is currently undeveloped. Possible uses are multiple active sports opportunities such as baseball, softball, basketball and football facilities.
- Gary Lane Soccer Complex (Bath Soccer Field) provides the only soccer area within the township. Additional improvements are being made to create a permanent soccer facility. This includes improvements to drainage, construction of a restroom/concession/storage facility, handicap accessible paths, fencing and equipment.

- The Park Lake Beach is a one-acre lake front site on Park Lake, which features 300 feet of clean sand beach. Public swimming is permitted from this area.
- Rickard Park Boat Launch is another facility on Park Lake that offers a one-acre site with the only public access to the lake for boating. It features a paved boat launch and a small picnic area.
- Wiwasser Park is a 1.5 acre park across the street from the Rickard Boat Launch Park with playground equipment, a sand volleyball court, picnic tables, a grill and mature trees.
- The Michigan Wildlife Habitat Conservancy (MWHC) is also located in Bath Township on approximately 200 acres south of Drumheller Rd. encompassing Grass Lake and other unique natural features. Their property also houses the Bengal Wildlife Center, an educational center offering demonstration projects in wetland preservation and enhancement as well as wildlife habitat development.

Dallas Township

- Fowler Conservation Club is a private 10 acre site with woods and river access. It also has an outdoor pavilion and a building that can be rented for various activities.

DeWitt Township

DeWitt Township offers numerous parks and playgrounds as well as recreational programs for township residents. A staffed position for a parks and recreation director provides the daily operation of the program and guidance to the township parks and recreation commission. Their programs include soccer, t-ball and baseball leagues, as well as indoor basketball and volleyball leagues and open court times. They also offer seasonal activities such as an Easter Egg hunt, bike rodeo and other events.

- Valley Farms Park & Kramer - Ruthruf Area is an 11 acre site that offers a variety of activities. A disc golf course and natural trails through wooded areas, along with soccer fields, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, t-ball and softball diamonds and a playground with various equipment are found in this park. Additionally, there are horseshoe pits, 2 pavilions, picnic tables and restrooms. Numerous improvements have been made to this site over the past several years, making it a favorite township park.
- DeWitt Community Center is the former township hall. Portions of the building have been demolished, leaving a large recreational room and support rooms which offer indoor recreational opportunities year-round. This is also the location of the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority that provides recreational opportunities to DeWitt Township and the City of DeWitt.
- Stationhouse Playground is the newest Township Park. It was completed in the summer of 2002 and offers a modern piece of playground equipment with slides, climbing areas and

more. Swings and picnic tables are also available. The adjacent township hall and the fire station provide parking.

- Richard A. Padgett Natural Area is a 42 acre community park, which is adjacent to a 38 acre parcel of property, which contains the local wastewater treatment plant. The park has authorization from the Water Department to utilize 27.4 acres of their property for recreational purposes, bringing the total park acreage to 69.4 acres. The park is mainly wooded with various types of forests and scrub/shrub areas. Walking/jogging trails, a parking area, restroom facilities and picnic tables are available. Programs to mark the trails are underway.
- Looking Glass Riverfront Park is a 5.2 acre park that provides approximately 930 feet of access to the Looking Glass River. This park provides the only access to a water body within the Township park system. The park offers a canoe launch, observation deck, parking area, picnic tables and several grills.
- Valley-Turner a 3.4 acre neighborhood park/playground which offers a climbing tower and several swings, along with a few picnic tables.
- Coleman Play Lot is a small, 1.3 acre, neighborhood park/playground which was given to the Township for use as a public park by the Granger Waste Management Company. This playground includes a playground structure with slides and climbers, as well as several benches.
- Wood-Webb Park is a 7.6 acres park, which is undeveloped at this time. There is no parking or other facility on site at this time.
- Granger Meadows Park – As part of a community host agreement for the expansion of the Granger Wood St. Landfill, a park of approximately 76-acres in size has been developed. Facilities include a sledding hill, in-line skating rink, trails, softball/baseball diamond, playground, skating pond, basketball court, restrooms and pavilions.
- An 11 acre parcel acquired from MDOT by the Township is undeveloped at the time. It is bounded by US-127, Round Lake Road, Wood Street and provides more than 400 feet of frontage on the north bank of the Looking Glass River.

Duplain Township

- Friendship Park

Eagle Township

- Lincoln Brick Park, an Eaton County Park, is partially located within Eagle Township.
- Eagle Park owned by the Eagle Township Fair Association, a private entity. It includes pavilions, truck and tractor-pull area and mud bog area as well as softball fields, tennis/basketball courts, playground equipment and a caboose railcar.

Victor Township

- Victor Township has a recreation plan that targets development of the existing ten acres of property adjacent to the township hall. The action items outlined in their five year plan (1999-2003) included construction of restroom facilities for outdoor recreation, development of a regulation soccer field, expansion of the parking lot, addition of fencing along the southeastern side of site and establishing a nature/walking trail around the perimeter of the site. To date, they have accomplished at least the first three items and have a very well supported township soccer program.
- In the township plan, two private sites are also noted as having recreational facilities.
- The Grove Bible Church on Price road is noted it has some recreational facilities including a playground, two soccer fields and two softball/baseball fields.
- Lake Victoria in Laingsburg is also mentioned as a recreational site, which is accessible to residents of Lake Victoria by several private beach areas and a ten acre park with a softball/baseball diamond, open play area and a pavilion.

Watertown Township

- Watertown Township Office Complex - Play area and open field behind Township Hall.
- Looking Glass Park is located ½ mile south of the Township Hall and contains three acres of property. It offers a canoe launch and access to the Looking Glass River, as well as baseball/softball diamond, sand volleyball, swings, ½ court basketball, pavilion with power and restrooms.
- Heritage Park located in Wacousta encompasses 9.3 acres and offers access to the Looking Glass River via a canoe launch, access to the Township Hall, 1 mile trail, baseball/softball diamonds, sand volleyball, soccer field, and a pavilion with power.
- Holiday Haven (private facility) is a Girl Scout Camp and educational center.
- Minibeast Zooseum and Educational Center is a private learning/interpretive center devoted to insects. The center includes hands-on exhibits, resource center, science store and outdoor classroom.

Inventory of City and Village Recreation Facilities within Clinton County

The cities and villages within Clinton County offer diverse recreational opportunities just like the townships. Some have small community parks while others have larger parks and activity programs. Those cities and villages without established facilities are not listed.

Village of Maple Rapids

- Maple Rapids Memorial Ball Fields
- Maple Rapids Village Park & Community Center

Village of Elsie

- Elsie Park has a picnic area and baseball/softball field.
- Hope Green Park

Village of Fowler

- Fink Park contains softball/baseball diamonds, playground, and a pavilion and restrooms.
- Victor Street Park contains an ice rink and playground.
- Field of Dreams includes playground and play equipment, picnic area and pavilion.

City of St. Johns

The City of St. Johns has an extensive park system, which supplements the local school system and their recreational facilities. Additionally, the community has a strong community recreation program with non-profit organizations such as the St. Johns Youth Athletic Association, the St. Johns Youth Baseball, American Youth Soccer Organization, etc. These organizations make use of the City and School district facilities to provide local recreation programs.

- Senior Citizen Park contains several basketball and tennis courts as well as a soccer field, picnic shelter, restrooms and grills.
- J.C. Park provides a small neighborhood park with playground equipment and benches.
- Kibbee Street Park is another neighborhood park with playground equipment, several picnic tables and a small basketball court.
- Water Tower Park is a neighborhood park with playground equipment, several picnic tables and a small basketball court.
- Oak Street Park is a small playground with various equipment.
- Baseball Park (Little League) has four baseball diamonds and a practice net which is used by the local little league teams.
- St. Johns Depot is host to city festivals and events and is located downtown.
- St. Johns City Park is the largest of the city parks and contains a multitude of facilities. The Veterans Memorial Swimming Pool is located within the park. There are also 4 tennis courts, a band shell, picnic pavilion, several playgrounds, numerous horseshoe pits, several smaller

picnic shelters, benches and picnic tables throughout the park, and several restrooms. There are several paved and unpaved trails as well as a 1/4 mile paved track and roller blade court.

A basketball court, three softball diamonds and a disc golf course are also available. A sand volleyball court, sledding hill, seasonal skating rink and warming house round out the facilities.

- 4-H Fairgrounds are owned by Clinton County and governed by the Clinton County Board of Commissioners, however, the property is actually located within the City of St. Johns. The fairground consists of Smith Hall, which is used for community activities and meetings, several animal barns, restrooms an arena and a seasonal skating rink. Parking for many of the events held at the fairgrounds is provided by the use of the St. Johns High School parking lot.

In addition to these existing facilities, the City is currently updating their plan to include provisions for the development of a rails-to-trails program, approximately 1.5 miles of asphalt trail through the city, and possibly a skate park. The rails-to-trails project would complement the County goals of a linear park system offering trail opportunities for county residents.

Village of Ovid

- Gumaer Park - located near the North Elementary School, this park offers woods, exercise trails and a pavilion along with a vehicle parking lot.
- Boyer Park- located at 119 S. Main Road, this park offers picnic tables and benches.
- Ovid Recreation Field

City of DeWitt

The City of DeWitt offers an extensive number and type of recreational opportunities to local residents. There are numerous parks available, as well as recreation programs, ranging from soccer leagues to baseball leagues and special activities such as summer concerts in the Memorial Park. There are also numerous private recreational facilities within the community, which are mainly parks of recent subdivision developments. The City has made a concerted effort to connect all of the City parks with a bicycle trail and walking paths and has created a very attractive and efficient park system for local residents. There are also numerous private recreation facilities and playgrounds that are part of local subdivisions. These various lots have not been inventoried due to the private ownership of the property.

- McGuire Park is a neighborhood park along the Looking Glass River. This park has recently been redeveloped to include a new play structure, two picnic pavilions, portable restrooms, two zone soccer fields and a pedestrian pathway along the river.
- The City Hall and Police Department site on approximately 4.5 acres of land. The property is currently undeveloped with the exception of the river trail, which leads to River Trail Park. The city hall lot provides parking.

- River Trail Park has undergone a tremendous amount of development since it was first acquired in 1992. The park has been developed into a nine acre park with a play structure, picnic pavilion, restroom facility, parking lot and open spaces, as well as bicycle/walking trails to City Hall and River Side Park.
- DeWitt Sports Park is a 14.5 acre complex that provides a soccer field, two adult-size softball fields, a maintenance/restroom facility, concession stand, a large playground structure and a swing set, as well as a large parking area. This facility has extensive use by local residents and is connected to the other City parks by way of the bicycle/walking trail.
- Wilson Street Park is a 0.75 acre parcel, which is an open play space utilized for zone soccer in the spring and fall.
- Riverside Park is a 2.98 acre neighborhood park located along the Looking Glass River. The park has had recent upgrades, including a new picnic pavilion, a new playground structure, a barrier-free playhouse and restroom facilities. Large multi-use open space and parking lot are available as well. This park is linked with a trail to the River Trail Park and is located across the street from Memorial Park.
- Memorial Park is a small one-acre park that contains a gazebo, sidewalks and gardens and serves as a passive recreation area, just south of the downtown business district.
- City Park is currently an undeveloped piece of property containing 0.42 acres of property.
- Percy Carris Park is a 1 acre site with serves as a mini-park and contains various play equipment.
- Elmwood Park is a 0.7 acre site with a sand volleyball court horseshoe pit, picnic tables and a paved pathway.
- Well House #1 is an open space area of 6 acres which is undeveloped area leased to the Millbrook Homeowners Association for a small playground area.

Inventory of School Facilities within Clinton County

The thirteen public school districts and several private schools that serve Clinton County residents offer various recreational opportunities. Play grounds and sports fields including baseball, football, soccer and running tracks are available at most, if not all of these schools. Although their size and style vary, the primary focus is that they offer recreational activities. The following lists the thirteen public school districts; however, no attempt has been made to inventory each school districts facilities at this time, because seven of these school districts actually have the majority of their school campuses outside of Clinton County.

- Bath
- Carson City - Crystal
- DeWitt
- Fowler
- Fulton

- Grand Ledge
- Haslett
- Laingsburg
- Lansing
- Ovid-Elsie
- Pewamo-Westphalia
- Portland
- St. Johns

School facilities play an important role in the provision of recreational opportunities within the County. They meet the local recreational needs and provide the majority of the local indoor recreational experiences. The availability of school recreational facilities to the general public varies by school district. The school facilities and programming are closely related to the local programming and facilities.

Inventory of Private Facilities within the County

There are also numerous private facilities such that have not inventoried in detail since they predominately offer specific recreational opportunities that may not appeal to a broad enough cross section of the county population. They include golf courses, nature centers, shooting and archery clubs and private subdivision trails and pathways.

Inventory of Regional Facilities

Being located at the northern edge of the Lansing metropolitan area provides a wide range of recreational opportunities for the residents of Clinton County. For example Ingham and Eaton Counties have fairly extensive park systems and recreational programs. Ingham County owns seven parks, 2 canoe landings, a boat launch, a soccer complex and a trail system. Eaton County owns five parks totaling 285.5 acres. The cities of East Lansing and Lansing, as well as Haslett, Okemos, Grand Ledge and Holt offer parks and recreational programs, any of which are open to non-residents. Coupled with larger recreational facilities such as Oldsmobile Park, the Michigan State University Campus, Potter Park Zoo and the Woldumar Nature Center, there are many recreational opportunities available. However, as noted in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Needs Assessment, a large natural resource based park and trail opportunities are still sought by Clinton County residents.

Accessibility Assessment

As described in the Inventory of Village of Westphalia Recreational Facilities section of this plan, Daniel Droste Memorial Park is barrier free, has handicap parking available, and restroom facilities are handicap accessible.

Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreational Facilities

The Village has not obtained any State or Federal Grant Funds for its park and recreational facilities.

4. DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

The first step in the development of the plan involved gathering and updating information about the Village of Westphalia and its recreational opportunities. Physical characteristics of the Village, demographic information about the community, and an inventory of existing park facilities helped to provide the base from which future recreation decisions will be made.

An analysis of data gathered from the Public Input Process (see below) helped identify and prioritize additional recreational opportunities. From the accumulated data, a draft of the plan was developed and presented to the Village Council prior to its November 4, 2013 meeting. Based on Council feedback from the November 4, 2013 meeting, a preliminary plan was developed and made available to the public November 22, 2013 (see Appendix 2). Following a 30 day comment period, a public hearing was held by the Village Council on January 6, 2014. The plan was then approved by the Village Council on January 6, 2014 (see Appendix 1 and Appendix 4). The plan was then transmitted to the Clinton County Planning Commission (see Appendix 5) and the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (see Appendix 6).

This plan reflects a prioritized list of improvements to existing facilities and the development of new facilities that best address the needs and desires of the citizens of Westphalia.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The Village of Westphalia Planning Commission, Village Council, Village Clerk, and individual volunteers from the citizenry worked diligently to acquire and accumulate citizens' opinions for this plan. These opinions were gathered primarily in four ways:

Village Planning Commission Survey of Village Residents

In an effort to identify and prioritize needs of the Village, in August, 2012, the Village of Westphalia Planning Commission mailed a survey to all 341 Village residences. A total of 129 surveys were returned. 71 of the responses were submitted from the Over 60 age group, 21 from the 51-60 age group, 14 from the 41-50 age group, 13 from the 31-40 age group, 7 from the 21-30 age group and 3 did not indicate their age. Included in the survey was the question "If you are in favor of additional park facilities, what would you like to see added:"

A summary of responses, in order of preference follows:

- Tennis courts - 22
- Basketball courts - 12
- Picnic areas/pavilion - 11
- Baseball/softball fields -10
- Children's playground - 10
- Swimming pool - 8
- Skate park - 7
- Horseshoe Pits - 3
- Other - 0

Petition Drive

In an effort to provide the Westphalia Village Council with sufficient support justifying the construction of tennis courts within the Village of Westphalia, volunteer residents undertook a petition drive promoting the construction of Tennis Courts within the Village. The three primary means of gathering petition signatures were: placement of hard copy petitions in the Parish Youth Center; placement of hard copy petitions in a local business operating a fitness facility; and the use of an on-line petition. The specific wording of the petition was as follows:

THE PETITION

Whereas Tennis provides a great social outlet, not to mention a total body workout that burns an average 498 calories an hour,

And whereas Tennis is one of the few sports that is multi-generational and can be played for a lifetime, and accordingly makes a great family activity,

And whereas the residents of Westphalia enjoy the camaraderie of community residents and pride themselves on their community and its facilities,

And whereas no public Tennis facilities are available within the Village of Westphalia, thereby requiring resident tennis enthusiasts to travel to Tennis facilities of other communities,

We therefore respectfully petition the Westphalia Village Council to take necessary action to result in the construction of Tennis Courts within the Village of Westphalia.

A total of 280 signatures were obtained as a result of this petition effort. Minimal duplication was noted between the on-line version and the hard copy petitions. The signatures were presented to the Village Council on July 2, 2012 for further consideration.

Letters of Support from Community Leaders

In an effort to provide the Westphalia Village Council with further support justifying the construction of tennis courts within the Village of Westphalia, volunteer residents sought to obtain letters of support from community leaders. Letters supporting the construction of Tennis Courts were obtained from the County Sheriff, the Principal of St. Mary's School in Westphalia, the Principal of the Pewamo-Westphalia Elementary School, Dr. Anthony Holowko, DO, Sparrow Medical Group, cardiologist Dr. Paul Zack, Ingham Cardiovascular Group, and a member of the Pewamo-Westphalia School Board. (It should also be noted that several members of the school board signed the on-line petition.)

Public Meetings

As described in the Description of Planning Process (see above), following a 30 day comment period, an advertised (see Appendix 3) public hearing was held by the Village Council on January 6, 2014 to obtain additional public input prior to approving this plan.

Also noteworthy is the fact that the issue regarding the desire for the construction of tennis courts was frequently discussed during Village Council Meetings over a period of several months beginning in approximately May, 2012. The minutes of those meetings were made public via the Village Cable TV channel as well as hard copy distribution in various businesses within the Village.

6. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal #1- To provide for a physically active and socially-connected community.

Objective: Increase the types of activities offered to a broader range of people of differing ages and abilities.

Objective: Increase the number of organized events and level of participation.

Objective: Provide safe and well-maintained grounds, buildings, and equipment.

Goal #2- To provide recreation and leisure programs that are accessible and affordable to all citizens.

Objective: Work with local schools and community volunteers to facilitate recreation and leisure programs.

Objective: Work cooperatively with users to more efficiently utilize facilities.

Objective: Pursue additional funding opportunities.

Goal #3- To provide facilities that meet the multi-generational recreation needs of the community.

Objective: Continue to perform necessary equipment, building and property maintenance.

Objective: Create programs that provide multi-generational interaction.

Objective: Work cooperatively with users to develop/expand/improve facilities to effectively and efficiently meet their needs.

Goal #4-To increase program utilization by Village residents and visitors.

Objective: Apply for state and private grants for recreational purposes.

Objective: Increase the number of users and hours of available recreational programs.

Objective: Increase available programming for children, teens, and the Over 40 age groups.

7. FIVE YEAR ACTION PROGRAM

This section of the plan is a culmination of a comprehensive planning effort that included an assessment of community demographics and recreational opportunities within the Village and surrounding communities. It identifies the recreation-related actions the Village intends to undertake over the course of the next five years. The Action Program focuses primarily on activities that will preserve the quality of existing facilities for Village residents and visitors, as well as projects that will expand the recreational opportunities to age groups that may be currently underserved.

For the five year period commencing in 2014 and continuing through 2018, the Village intends to undertake the following actions:

- Continue to evaluate equipment to ensure performance of necessary repair and maintenance.
- Continue to evaluate recreational buildings for structural integrity, necessary maintenance, and community value/potential.
- Seek funding for additional paved parking.
- Evaluate facility for accessibility of all citizenry.
- Explore future land acquisition for park expansion.
- Develop designation of green space areas.
- Explore coordination of youth program with community schools.
- Construct shuffle board courts.
- Seek funding from State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant programs for construction of tennis courts.
- Seek funding from United States Tennis Association (USTA) for construction of tennis courts.
- Continue to collaborate with USTA for comprehensive information and specifications on tennis court construction and maintenance and development of Tennis program for youth and adults.
- Collaborate with St. Mary's elementary school to implement elements of a youth tennis program.
- Ascertain the level of interest in, and pursue the establishment of Adult and Youth Tennis Leagues.

Exhibit 1

2010 Census Data for Westphalia, MI

POPULATION BY SEX AND AGE		
Total 2010 Census Population for WESTPHALIA, MI	923	100.0%
Under 5 years	61	6.6%
5 to 9 years	69	7.5%
10 to 14 years	79	8.6%
15 to 19 years	61	6.6%
20 to 24 years	41	4.4%
25 to 29 years	62	6.7%
30 to 34 years	51	5.5%
35 to 39 years	44	4.8%
40 to 44 years	63	6.8%
45 to 49 years	68	7.4%
50 to 54 years	32	3.5%
55 to 59 years	41	4.4%
60 to 64 years	44	4.8%
65 to 69 years	46	5.0%
70 to 74 years	61	6.6%
75 to 79 years	50	5.4%
80 to 84 years	28	3.0%
85 years and over	22	2.4%
Median age (years)	39.4	(X)

2010 Census Data for Westphalia, MI

POPULATION BY SEX AND AGE		
Male population of WESTPHALIA, MI	446	48.3%
Under 5 years	27	2.9%
5 to 9 years	37	4.0%
10 to 14 years	37	4.0%
15 to 19 years	29	3.1%
20 to 24 years	19	2.1%
25 to 29 years	33	3.6%
30 to 34 years	25	2.7%
35 to 39 years	19	2.1%
40 to 44 years	29	3.1%
45 to 49 years	40	4.3%
50 to 54 years	18	2.0%
55 to 59 years	21	2.3%
60 to 64 years	19	2.1%
65 to 69 years	23	2.5%
70 to 74 years	28	3.0%
75 to 79 years	22	2.4%
80 to 84 years	12	1.3%
85 years and over	8	0.9%
Median age (years)	39.4	(X)

2010 Census Data for Westphalia, MI

POPULATION BY SEX AND AGE		
Female population of WESTPHALIA, MI	477	51.7%
Under 5 years	34	3.7%
5 to 9 years	32	3.5%
10 to 14 years	42	4.6%
15 to 19 years	32	3.5%
20 to 24 years	22	2.4%
25 to 29 years	29	3.1%
30 to 34 years	26	2.8%
35 to 39 years	25	2.7%
40 to 44 years	34	3.7%
45 to 49 years	28	3.0%
50 to 54 years	14	1.5%
55 to 59 years	20	2.2%
60 to 64 years	25	2.7%
65 to 69 years	23	2.5%
70 to 74 years	33	3.6%
75 to 79 years	28	3.0%
80 to 84 years	16	1.7%
85 years and over	14	1.5%
Median age (years)	39.3	(X)

2010 Census Data for Westphalia, MI

Population by Race

All Races		923	
One Race	Total	918	
	White	906	
	Black	1	
	Native American	1	
	Asian	Total	1
		Korean	1
	Other Race	9	
Multiracial	Total	5	
	White + Other	5	

Population by Household Relationship

Total Household Population		923
Householders		355
Spouses		238
Own Children	All Ages	306
	Under Age 18	248
Other Relatives	All Ages	2
	Under Age 18	1
	Age 65+	-
Non-Relatives	All Ages	22
	Under Age 18	5
	Age 65+	2
	Unmarried Partners	10

2010 Census Data for Westphalia, MI

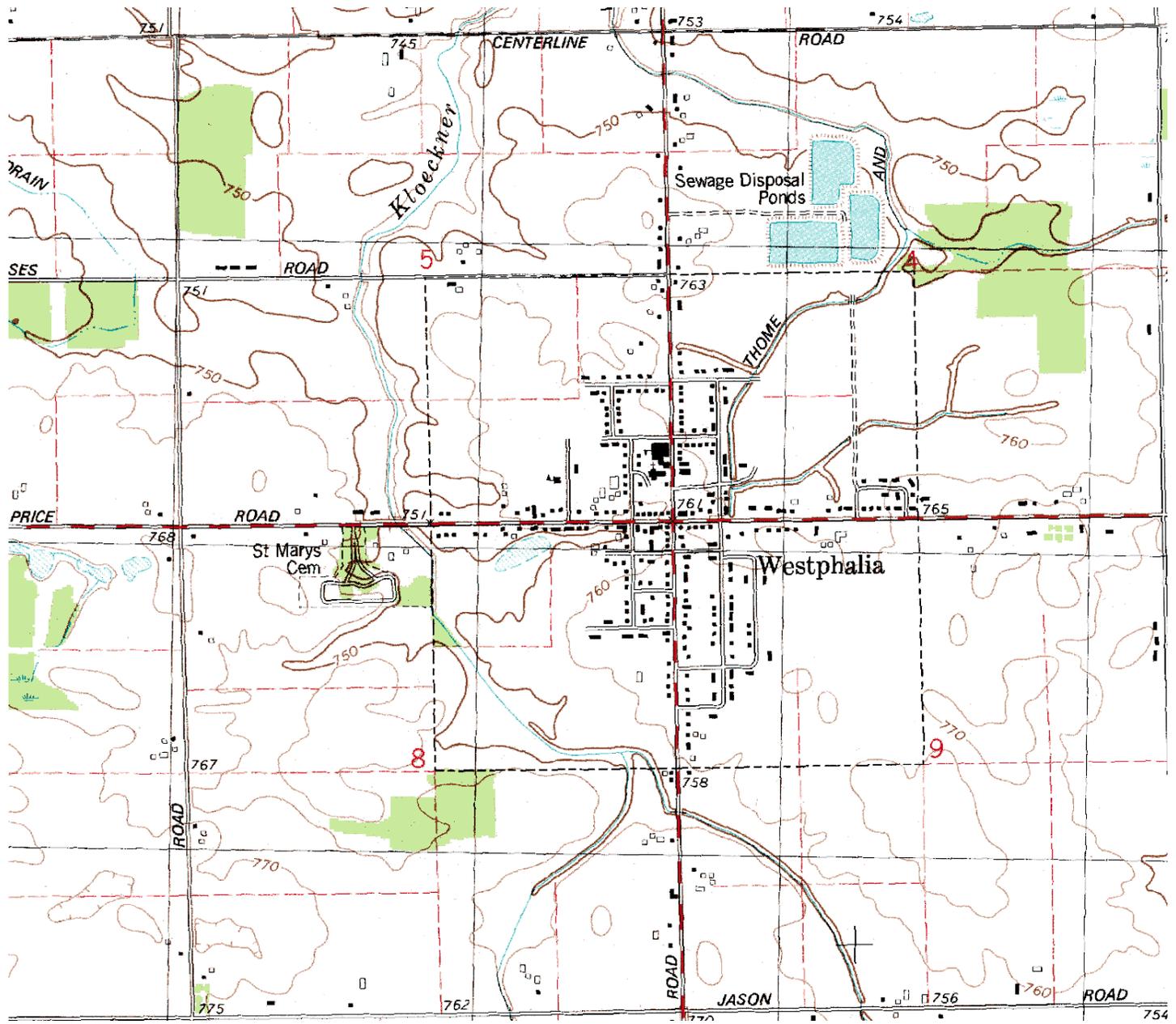
Households By Type

Total Households			355	
Family Households	All Types	Total	267	
		With Own Children <18	108	
	Husband-Wife Families	Total	238	
		With Own Children <18	88	
	Male Heads w/ no Spouse Present	Total	7	
		With Own Children <18	4	
	Female Heads w/ no Spouse Present	Total	22	
		With Own Children <18	16	
	Non-Family Households	All Types		88
		One-Person Households	Total	79
Male (all ages)			35	
Male (age 65+)			9	
Female (all ages)			44	
Female (age 65+)			36	
Multi-Person Households		With Members <Age 18	109	
	With Members Age 65+	132		

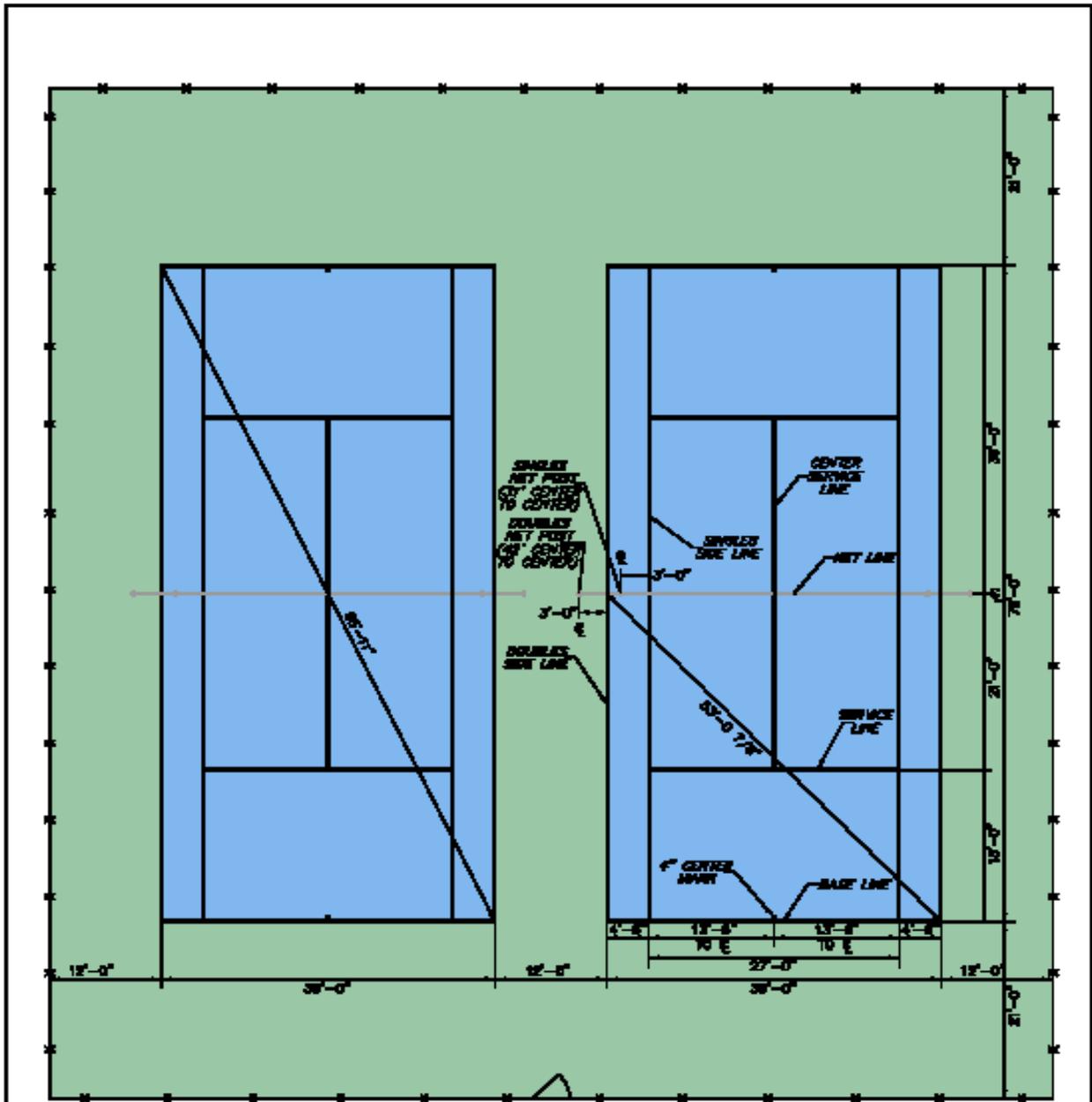
Household and Family Size

Average Household Size	2.60
Average Family Size	3.04

USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map-Westphalia, Michigan



Source: Reprinted with permission from http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/spatialdatalibrary/PDF_maps/topomaps/Westphalia.pdf



2 COURT LAYOUT

NOTES:

1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO THE INSIDE EDGE OF THE PLANNING LINES UNLESS THE DIMENSION OF THE CENTER LINES WHICH ARE MEASURED NET TO CENTER.
2. THE CENTER SERVICE LINE AND CENTER MARKS SHALL BE 2 INCHES WIDE. OTHER LINES SHALL BE BETWEEN 1" AND 2" WIDE, EXCEPT THE BASE LINES MAY BE UP TO 4 INCHES WIDE.

78 FOOT TENNIS
TYPICAL STRIPING PLAN

NOVEMBER 4, 2010





November 4, 2013

Dear Village Council,

The Westphalia Parks & Recreation Committee has reviewed the proposed *Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan* for the Village of Westphalia and unanimously supports its submission to the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Plan highlights many worthwhile projects and improvements that blend well with the goals the Parks and Recreation Committee envisions for future improvements to Westphalia's park system.

Having an approved Plan on file with the DNR will provide the opportunity to apply for potential grant money towards park projects that would otherwise be unattainable. We believe this would benefit the Village by providing an improved park system and more recreational opportunities for our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roy A. Miller".

Roy Miller, Chairman
Westphalia Parks & Recreation Committee



November 4, 2013

Dear Village Council,

The Westphalia Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed *Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan* for the Village of Westphalia. We feel the projects outlined in the Plan would improve the current park system and provide Village residents with more recreational opportunities. Recreational opportunities give the citizens of Westphalia and the surrounding area the ability to be more physically active which helps to promote a healthy lifestyle in our community.

The Westphalia Planning Commission unanimously supports the Plan and its submission to the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Commission also realizes that having an approved Plan on file with the DNR provides the opportunity to apply for potential grant money towards park projects. This grant money would offset local tax dollars that would otherwise be needed to complete such projects. We believe this too would be an added benefit to the residents of the Village of Westphalia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Boswell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dave Boswell, Chairman
Westphalia Planning Commission