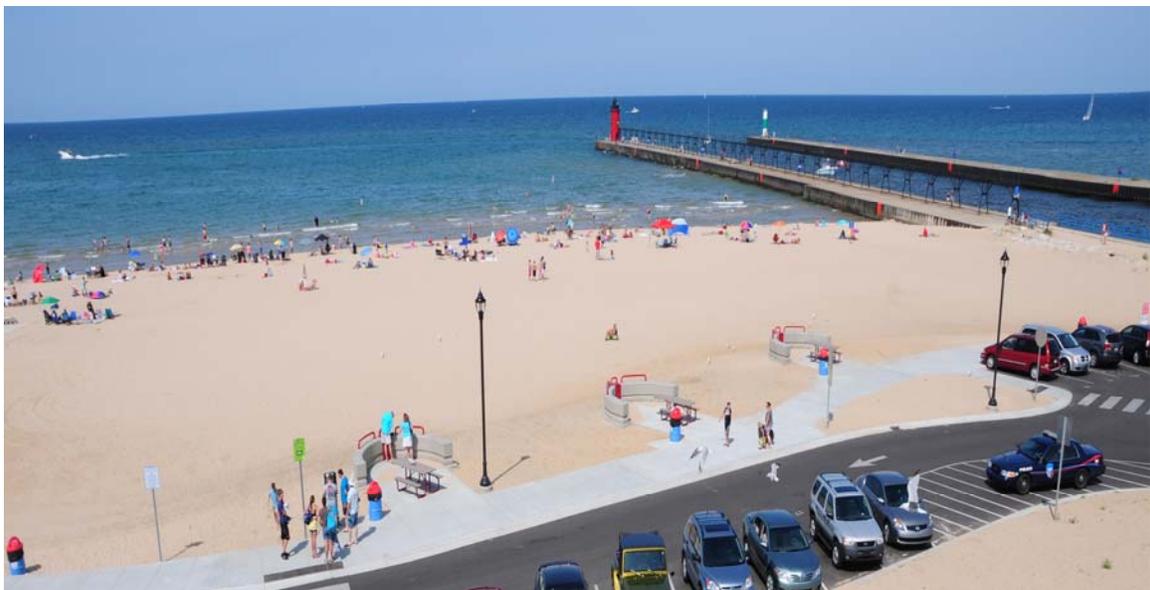


**City of South Haven  
South Haven Public Schools  
South Haven Township  
South Haven Area Recreation Authority - (SHARA)**



**Recreation Plan  
2013-2017**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **City of South Haven City Council**

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Andy Klavins  
Clark Gruber  
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Vickiy Kozlik Wall  
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Staff Members

### **City of South Haven Harbor Commission**

### **City of South Haven Planning Commission**

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Brenda Bertorelli (Clerk)  
Hillary Fisher (Treasurer)  
Michael DeGrandchamp (Trustee)  
Floyd "Sandy" Dopp (Trustee)  
Mel Jessup (Trustee)  
Paul Kiry (Trustee)

**South Haven Township Planning Commission**

Steven J. L. Larsen, Chair  
Lowell Tippman, Vice-Chair  
Paul Kiry, Secretary  
Cindi Compton  
Dixie Capps  
Mark Odland  
Mike DeGrandchamp, Board Representative

**South Haven Planning Commission-Parks Sub-Committee**

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Vacant  
Vacant

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Joe DeGrandchamp  
Charlie Dotson  
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**South Haven Public Schools Superintendent**

Robert Herrera

**SHARA**

Ross Stein  
Dennis Fitzgibbon  
Mark McClendon  
Dana Getman  
Robert Herrera

**SHARP Committee**

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# **Community Description**

**Section 1**

## Community Description

### Location

Located on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Black River, the area offers an abundance of recreational activities year round. Whether your greatest moments are spent beach combing, boating, sailing, golfing, hiking, biking, fishing, in-line skating, skateboarding, kayaking, canoeing, wine tasting, visiting u-pick farms, horseback riding, camping at private or state run campgrounds, playing at the local park or attending festivals, the area continues to offer the best activities for families, seniors, rural residents and city dwellers. Also, due to it's location on the Great Lakes, the city is a major attraction to visitors and second-home owners, especially during the summer months.

The HarborWalk is a two-mile walking tour around the harbor serving people of all abilities. Historical signs tell of the rich history along the harbor. The Kal-Haven Trail, stretching from Kalamazoo to South Haven, is used by hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, cross-county skiers, and snowmobilers. This past year an extension of the trail from the trail head to downtown was completed. Several campgrounds have been developed along the trail due to its popularity. Nearby is the Van Buren State Park offering camping, hiking trails, and a beautiful beach. Adjoining the State Park is North Point, a County-owned 17 acre park, which also offers hiking, bird-watching, and Lake Michigan frontage. The Van Buren Trail runs from Hartford to South Haven on old railroad tracks. The Bangor/South Haven Heritage Water Trail flows from Bangor to South Haven. Winter brings ice skating activities to the downtown South Haven Ice Rink.

Summer is the most popular season bringing with it a flurry of activities. Beach fun, fishing, golfing, boating, windsurfing, and shopping are highlights of the season. South Haven is a shallow draft/recreational harbor and is blessed with a variety of natural resources, historic background, and an abundance of publicly-owned property. South Haven provides a variety of recreational resources not only to its local residents, but to the residents of the immediate surrounding area and acts as a regional base for recreation for people throughout the state and the Midwest. In addition to over two miles of frontage on Lake Michigan, South Haven has the Black River running through the city limits which, during the summer months, acts as a port with over 1,100 boat slips.

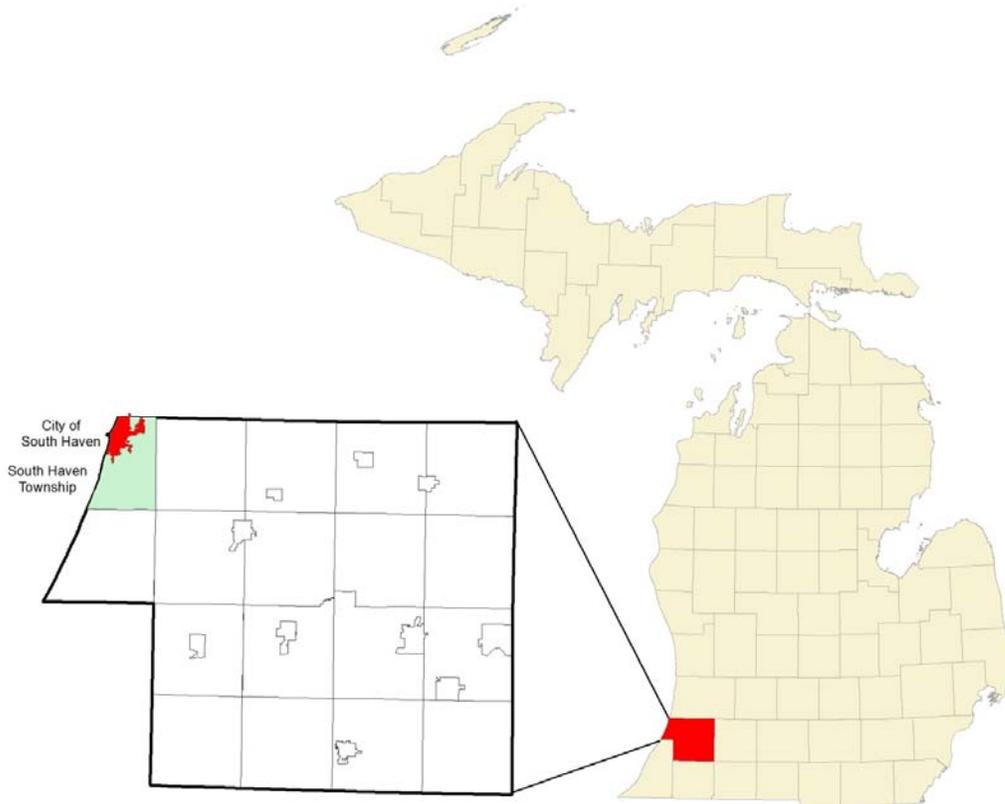
The City of South Haven encompasses approximately 3.5 square miles of the land in the northwest corner of Van Buren County, Michigan and a small portion of this is also located in the southwest section of Allegan County. The City is about 48 miles north of the Michigan-Indiana border, about 38 miles west of Kalamazoo, 30 miles south of Holland, and 20 miles north of St. Joseph/Benton Harbor. With a year-round population of approximately 4,403,<sup>1</sup> it is essentially a small urban community that is surrounded by a large rural-based farming

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<sup>1</sup> U.S Census Bureau, 2010 Census

community also known as the "Blueberry Capital". The City is conveniently located with three exits off I-196.

South Haven Township encompasses approximately 17.5 square miles of the land in the northwest corner of Van Buren County, Michigan. The Township surrounds the City of South Haven on two sides (south and east). The Township is bordered on the north by Casco Township in Allegan County, Geneva Township in Van Buren County borders the east, Covert Township borders the south and Lake Michigan to the west. The Black River runs east to west through the northern mile of the Township.



## Population<sup>2</sup>

### A. General Trends

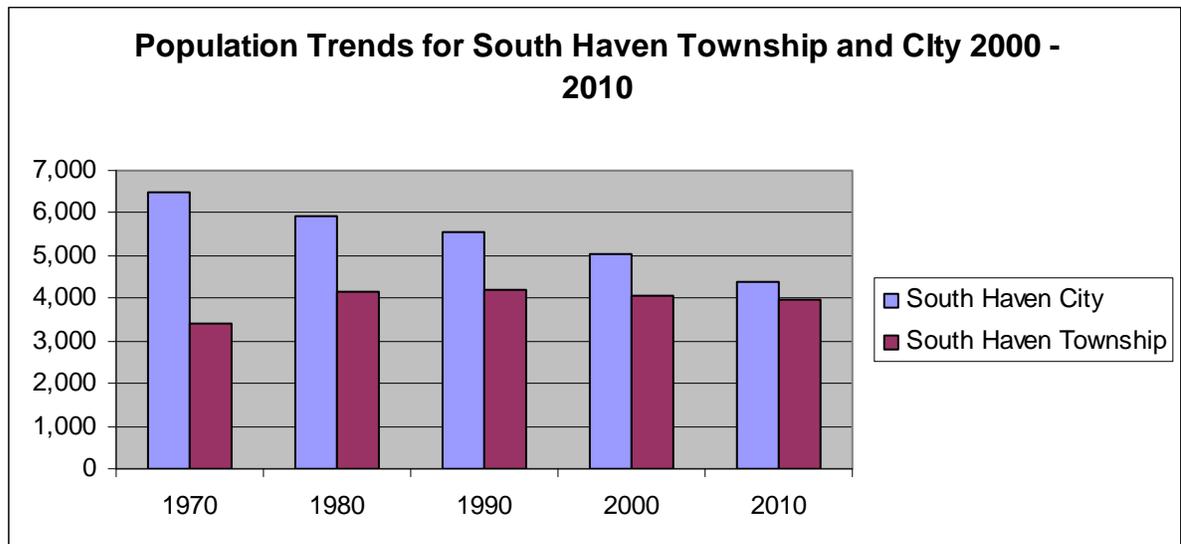
South Haven experienced a decline in population between 2000 and 2010; the population of the City was 5,563 in 2000 and it was 4,403 in 2010, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census. South Haven Township also saw a slight decrease in population from 4,185 to 3,983 persons. Other surrounding townships and Van Buren County as a whole also experienced population decreases from 2000 to 2010. See Table 1-1, Chart 1-1.

Table 1-1

POPULATION TRENDS FOR SOUTH HAVEN TOWNSHIP AND CITY					
1970 - 2010					
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
South Haven City	6,471	5,943	5,563	5,021	4403
South Haven Township	3,416	4,174	4,185	4,046	3983
Van Buren County	56,173	66,814	70,060	76,263	76,258

Source: Census of Population, U.S. Bureau of the Census

Chart 1-1



<sup>2</sup> U.S Census Bureau, 2010 Census

## B. Population Distribution by Races

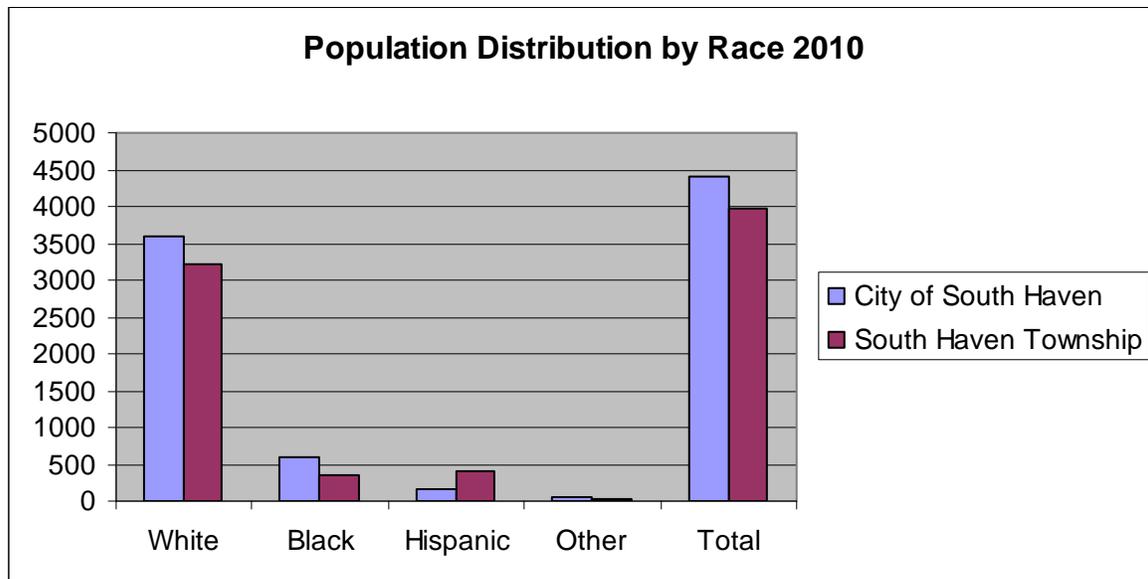
The population of the City of South Haven and South Haven Township is largely white. Of the minority groups, the African American population is the largest in the city, with 586 in 2010 and the Hispanic population is the largest in the township with 407. The trend between 2000 and 2010 was that the number of African American persons declined in nearly all jurisdictions. During the same period, the number of Hispanic persons in nearly all jurisdictions increased. The number of persons of Hispanic origin has increased in the years between 2000 and 2010. It almost doubled in the township. See Table 1-2, Chart 1-2.

Table 1-2

POPULATION Distribution by Race, 2010					
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
City of South Haven	3594	586	169	54	4403
South Haven Township	3208	339	407	29	3983

Source: Census of Population, U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010

Chart 1-2



### C. Gender and Age Profiles

The City of South Haven has a higher median age than that of the State in 2010. The median age for the State was 38.4 and for the City of South Haven, it was 47.7 and for the surrounding Townships it ranged from 37 to 39. This is somewhat typical of smaller communities in Michigan, as younger persons leave the community in search of employment. Implications of this trend include an increasing need for medical services for older persons, a less rapid growth of schools, and greater economic success for businesses catering to older persons. Also, there is a larger female population in both the city and the township. See Table 1-3, Chart 1-3, and Table 1-4, Chart 1-4.

Table 1-3

AGE COHORTS* IN SOUTH HAVEN TOWNSHIP AND CITY, 2010					
	Township	City		Township	City
Under 18	983	889	Under 18	24.6 %	20.1 %
20-24	213	245	20-24	5.3 %	5.5 %
25-34	407	425	25-34	10.2 %	9.6 %
35-49	746	684	35-49	18.7 %	15.5 %
50-64	895	1068	50-64	22.4%	24.2 %
65 and Over	652	989	65 and Over	16.3%	22.4 %
	3983	4403		100.00%	100.00%

\*Cohorts are groups with similar characteristics, in this case, a close range in age.

Source: Census of Population, U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2010

Chart 1-3

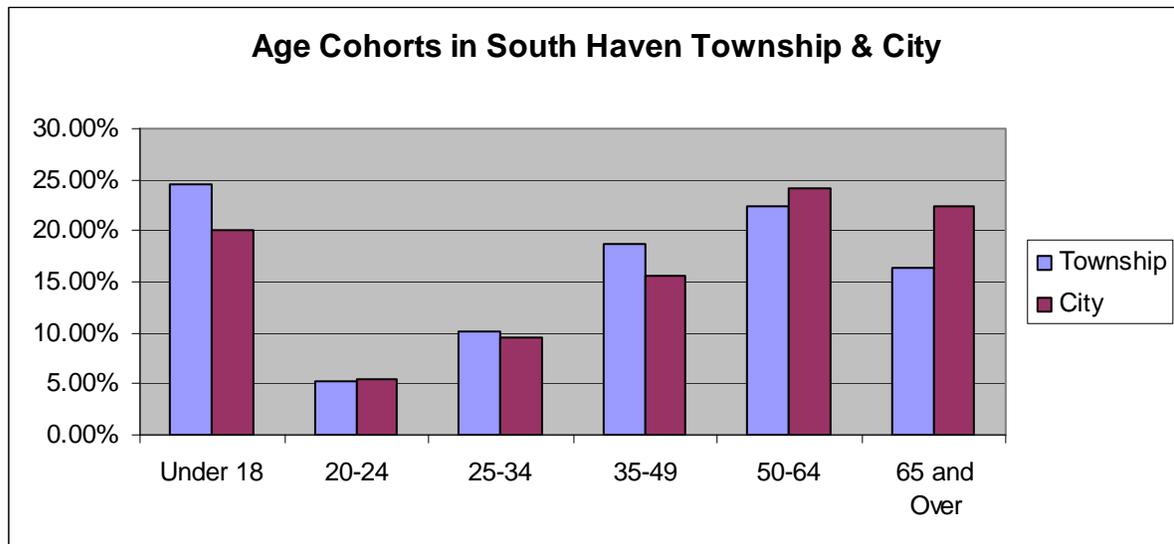
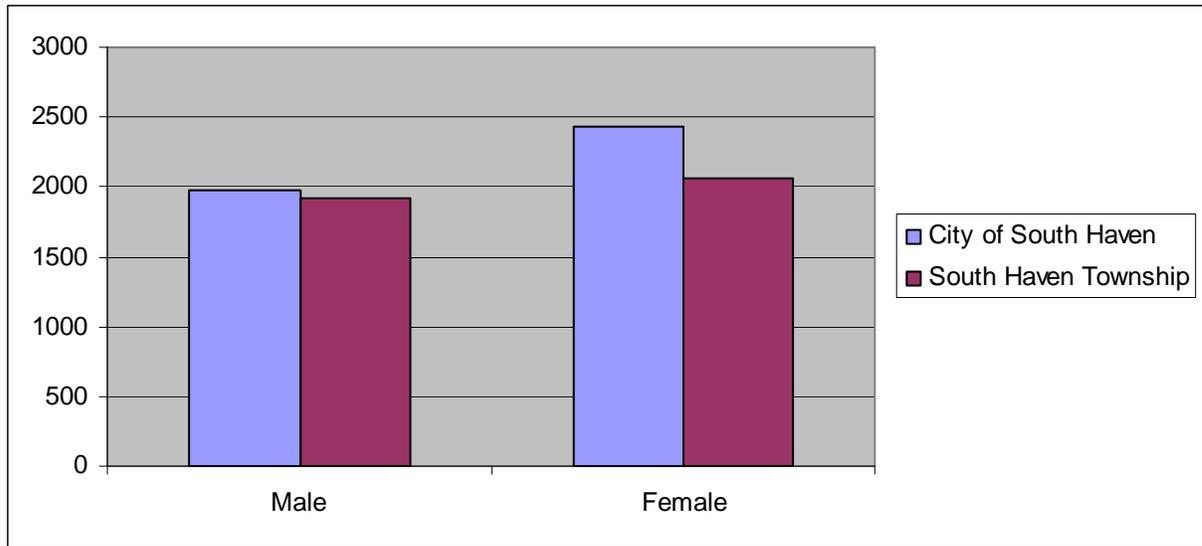


Table 1-4

POPULATION BY GENDER FOR THE SOUTH HAVEN AREA, 2010			
Community	Male	Female	Total
City of South Haven	1977	2426	4403
South Haven Township	1917	2066	3983

Source: Census of Housing, U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

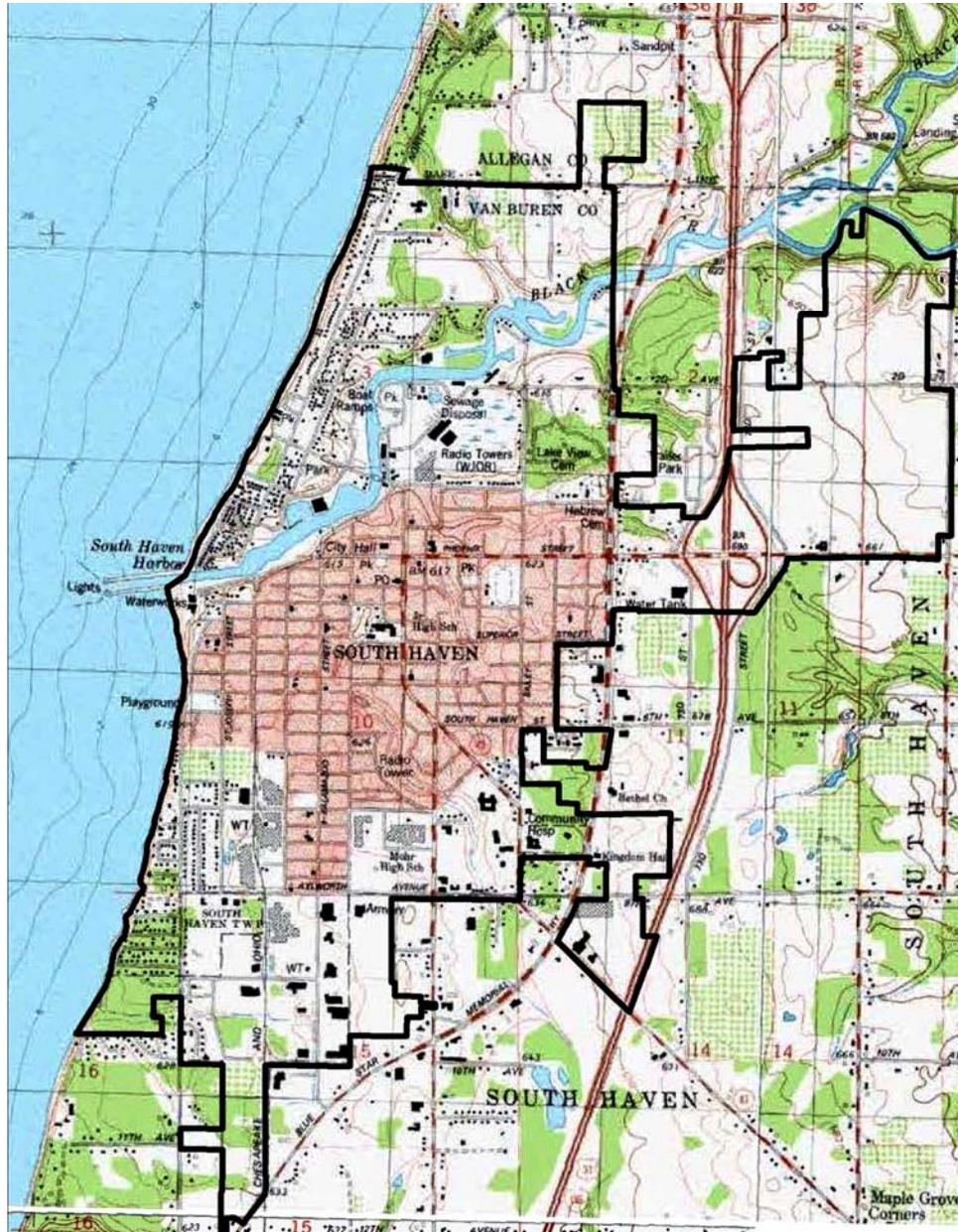
Chart 1-4



## Physical Character

### A. Topography

The topography of South Haven beginning with its west side starts as sandy beaches leading to clay bluffs up to 50 feet high. There are many ravines through the City, most of which are wooded. The Black River valley makes up the center of the City with downtown established on a bluff overlooking the river.



## **B. Climate<sup>3</sup>**

*The following information was taken from the Soil survey of Van Buren County, Michigan. Prepared by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Climatology Division, East Lansing, Michigan.*

### **Winter in Van Buren County**

In winter, the average temperature is 25.5 degrees Fahrenheit and the average daily minimum temperature is 17.8 degrees. The lowest temperature on record occurred in Bloomingdale on three occasions - February 10, 1912, February 5, 1918 and February 7, 1978, and was -22 degrees. The average seasonal snowfall is 91.4 inches. The greatest snow depth at any one time during the period of record was 45 inches, on December 12, 1962. On the average, 64 days of the year have at least 1 inch of snow on the ground. The number of such days varies greatly from year to year. The highest seasonal snowfall was 158.8 inches, during the winter of 1962-1963. The lowest seasonal snowfall was 21.2 inches, during the winter of 1905-1906. The heaviest 1-day snowfall on record was 20 inches, on December 10, 1962.

### **Summer in Van Buren County**

In summer, the average temperature is 69.1 degrees Fahrenheit and the average daily maximum temperature is 81.1 degrees. The highest recorded temperature, which occurred in Bloomingdale on July 5, 1911, was 105 degrees. The total annual precipitation is 38.28 inches. Of this, 21.31 inches, or about 56%, usually falls in April through September. The growing season of most crops falls within this period. Two years out of ten, the rainfall in April through September is less than 17.3 inches. The heaviest single day rainfall on record was 9.78 inches in Bloomingdale on September 1, 1914. This is the greatest single day precipitation total ever recorded in the history of Michigan climatological observations. The 9.78 inches fell in only 6 hours. Thunderstorms occur on about 36 days each year.

### **Humidity, Sunshine and Wind**

The average relative humidity in mid-afternoon is about 62%. Humidity is higher at night and the average at dawn is about 82%. The sun shines 62% of the time in summer and 32% in winter. The prevailing wind is from the west.

## **C. Water Resources**

The City of South Haven is blessed with both Lake Michigan and the Black River, which provide the bulk of natural resource recreational opportunities within the planning area. Swimming, fishing, boating, jet skiing, kite boarding, surfing, wind surfing, and visiting the beach are just a few of the recreational opportunities that the City's water-based facilities provide for not only the local residents, but for much of Southwest Michigan and the City's growing tourist trade.

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<sup>3</sup> *Michigan Department of Agriculture, Climatology Division, East Lansing, Michigan, 2003.*

South Haven city has approximately 2.75 miles of Lake Michigan frontage. Of this frontage the City owns over seven tenths of a mile. While North and South Beach provide the majority of public frontage on the lake, the City has eleven public access points to the lake dispersed throughout the City within the right-of-ways of public streets. Of those eleven access points, six are currently improved to provide access to Lake Michigan. Continual efforts are needed to protect these access sites.

The Black River meanders through the City providing a port for over 1,150 boat slips, three full service marinas with boat sales, and charter-fishing opportunities for the general public. In addition, the river provides launching facilities for trailerable boats. There is approximately 1.66 miles of river frontage that is public, most of which is downstream of the Dyckman Avenue Bridge over the Black River. With the completion of the Harborwalk, the public can enjoy a walk from the North Beach pier to South Beach pier. This walk is approximately two miles, and is provided through publicly-owned lands, easements through private property and access next to privately-owned river frontage. It provides excellent views of the river and its activities for the land-based public. The Black River is an extremely valuable natural and economic resource for the City.

#### **D. Vegetation and Soils<sup>4</sup>**

According to the Soil Survey of Van Buren County, Michigan as compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture/Soil Conservation Service, the soils and topographic conditions of South Haven are primarily, “Nearly level to hilly, somewhat poorly-drained and well-drained, loamy and sandy soils on till plains, moraines, and lake plains.”

More specifically, along the Lake Michigan coastline on the north side of the Black River, the City’s soils and topographic makeup is of sandy loam with a one to twelve (1-12%) slope running toward Lake Michigan. On the south side of the Black River along the Lake Michigan coastline, the soils are once again of sandy loam with a minimum of 12% inclining slope from the coastline. The area is within the high erosion area of the Shorelines Protection and Management Act.

Off the coastline in the southern sections of the City, the soil conditions are primarily Selfridge loamy sand with a very low slope of Urban land-berms coupled with no or very small slope. There are several ravines that run through the southern section of South Haven that provide much of the drainage for the area. In the northern section of the town, the soil conditions are comprised mostly of Selfridge loamy sand with little slope.

All of these conditions describe moderate or severe soil conditions for Recreational Development. Moderate conditions mean “that the limitations for

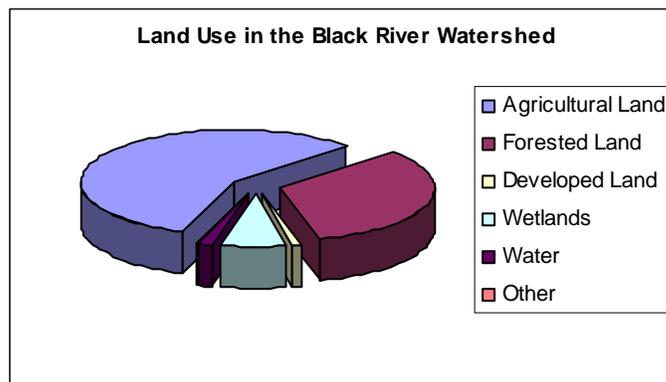
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<sup>4</sup> SOIL SURVEY OF VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN – United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. September 1986. Page 50.

development can be overcome or alleviated by planning, design or special maintenance.” Severe means “that soil properties are unfavorable and that limitations can be offset only by costly soil reclamation, special design, intensive maintenance, limited use, or by a combination of these measures.”<sup>5</sup>

## E. Environmental Issues<sup>6</sup>

The Black River Watershed encompasses approximately 183,490 acres, or 287 square miles in Allegan and Van Buren Counties in southwestern Michigan. 43.8% of the watershed lies in Allegan County, and 56.2% lies in Van Buren County. The Black River Watershed contains a variety of land use.



The Black River is intensively used for recreation, especially near South Haven with its new harbor facilities. Primary recreational uses are boating and fishing. The high sediment and nutrient loading from the Black River are adversely impacting the fishery in the lower portion of the river. Sediment and turbidity reduce the quality of the fish habitat. Turbidity also reduces the aesthetic appeal of the river. Opportunities for fishing are reduced when sediment deposition causes a decline in the number of sport fish, such as trout, salmon, walleye pike and perch.

Sedimentation in the Black River Watershed is likely primarily a result of bank erosion. While there are certainly other sources of sedimentation, the banks appear to be eroding in many locations. This can be a result of the land use along the stream bank or changes in hydrology.

Non-point source water quality problems existing in the watershed are caused from, but not limited to, the following three main sources:

1. Soil loss, erosion and sedimentation from agricultural land, stream bank, county drain, urban construction and roadside erosion.

<sup>5</sup> Soil Survey of Van Buren County, Michigan – United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. September 1986. Page 50.

<sup>6</sup> Black River Watershed Management Plan, April 2005, updated September 2009.

2. Nutrient loading is suspected from animal waste runoff, poor fertilizer management on cropland, urban lawn treatment and inadequate on-site septic systems.
3. Potential chemical contaminants, including pesticides from both residential and agricultural sources are suspected in surface waters.

The County Board recently instituted a ban on phosphorus within fertilizers to help preserve this County's great water resources.

### Low Water Levels

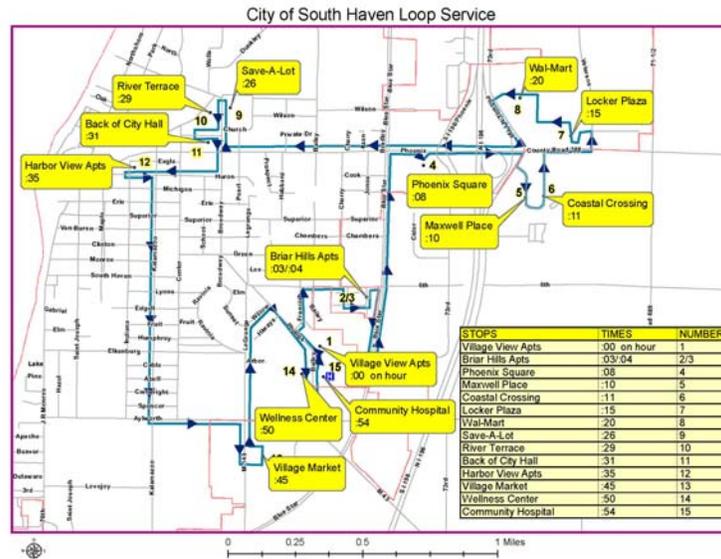
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which tracks Great Lakes ups and downs, recorded Michigan-Huron at 576.6 feet above sea level for October. That's an inch-and-a-half above the lowest point for that month since the agency began keeping records in 1918, and about 6 inches above the all-time low recorded in March 1964. All the lakes were below their long-term averages for the month (October 2012) and lower than a year ago because of an abnormal lack of snow last winter and the hot, dry summer. Low levels have been a recurring concern on most of the Great Lakes since a sudden drop-off in the late 1990s. They cause shallow water in rivers and marinas, dry up wetlands crucial for wildlife, and cause vegetation to grow on beaches. Local officials along the coasts are pleading for stepped-up dredging in shallow ports, but a tight budget limits what the Army Corps can do.

### **F. Transportation**

An important consideration in recreation planning is the network of transportation facilities that services and facilitates travel to the community. Means of transportation to the community are summarized below:

The City of South Haven is easily accessed by interstate expressways and state highways. I-196 (US 31), M-43, and M-140 all intersect at South Haven. The City can be accessed from three exits off I-196: Exits 18, 20, and 22. South Haven is only two hours from Chicago and within 45 minutes of the cities of Kalamazoo, Holland, and St. Joseph.

Since 1979, the Van Buren County Public Transit has been providing public transit service to the South Haven area. Currently, the service provides demand response, which allows door-to-door service to anyone within the South Haven area. They also offer a twenty-four hour call-ahead reservation service for those who need to be at a particular place at a scheduled time. In addition they have a fixed route (loop) that they provide to the South Haven area.



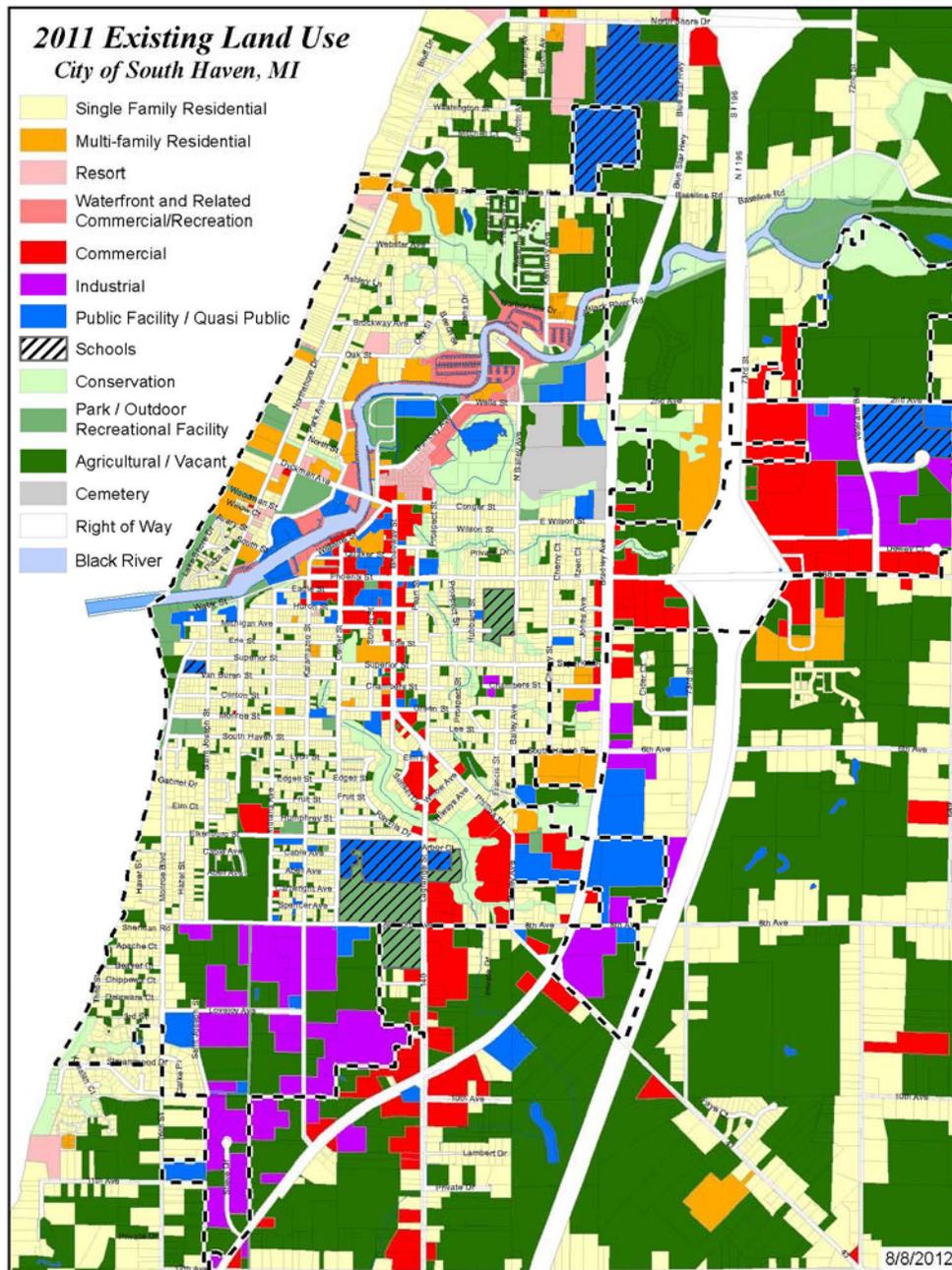
The City has a total of 229 municipal boat slips in the harbor which attract boaters from various locations.

South Haven Regional Airport, located on County Road 380, is four miles south of the City, located in South Haven Township. The airport offers two runways, including a 4,801 foot paved runway with pilot-controlled lighting, precision approach path indicator and instrument approach. The airport is maintained and operated year-round with no landing fees. Fuel is available along with a lighted runway, a PAPI System, and REIL System for instrument approach. Commercial air service is available through the Southwest Michigan Regional, Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International or Kent County International Airports, all within an hour drive.

Amtrak train service offers a stop in Bangor (10 minutes east of South Haven). Indian Trails Bus Lines provides daily bus service from South Haven and privately-owned taxi services and rental car facilities operate throughout the City.

## G. Land Use<sup>7</sup>

### City of South Haven



<sup>7</sup> City of South Haven Records, Planning Dept

South Haven is primarily a residentially-centered community with sufficient area for commercial and industrial growth. A breakdown of land use is as follows:

Existing Land Use 2011	Acres	% of City
Cemetery	30.8	1.4%
Commercial	191.0	8.6%
Conservation	147.9	6.7%
Industrial	299.2	13.5%
Multi-family Residential	152.1	6.9%
Park/Outdoor Recreation Facility	57.6	2.6%
Public Facility, Hospital	118.5	5.3%
Resort	23.5	1.1%
Right of Way	367.5	16.6%
River	36.1	1.6%
Schools	100.7	4.5%
Single Family Residential	643.7	29.0%
Waterfront and Related Commercial/Recreation	51.4	2.3%
Total	2220.0	100.0%

**City of South Haven Future land Use**

Future Land Use 2011	Acres	% of City
Cemetery	36.8	1.7%
Commercial	191.0	8.6%
Conservation	66.0	3.0%
Industrial	256.9	11.6%
Multi-family Residential	153.1	6.9%
Park/Outdoor Recreation Facility	63.6	2.9%
Public Facility, Hospital	59.8	2.7%
Resort	12.7	0.6%
Right of Way	469.3	21.1%
River	36.1	1.6%
Schools	73.0	3.3%
Single Family Residential	696.5	31.4%
Transition Area	16.9	0.8%
Waterfront and Related Commercial/Recreation	88.2	4.0%
Total	2220.0	100.0%

## **South Haven Township**

South Haven Township has approximately 11,000 acres of land area. As zoned, about 70% is residential, 22% agricultural/open space, and 8% industrial and commercial. As used, closer to 55% of the total area is still in agriculture, vacant or open space. Much of the commercially-zoned districts are still undeveloped or in residential use. Up to a quarter of the industrially-zoned land is actually used for residential purposes.

Zoning came late to South Haven Township (1990). Due to the uncontrolled nature of previous development, most zoning districts have pre-existing nonconforming uses. Development was stymied for many years due to the deep clay soils and sub soils which dominate the Township. The clay soils are typically unsuitable for septic systems. These soils also tend to pond water at the surface, creating drainage problems. Finally, the clay soils are so deep (up to 90 feet) that it is often impossible to find water for a well.

With the extension of public sewer and water services to the Township after 1995, large areas of the Township which were previously not suitable for development, due to septic system limitation or the inability to hit water with a private well, are now beginning to develop.

### **Agricultural**

The Agricultural zoning districts are now confined to the southwest four square miles of the Township. However, agricultural uses are still found in all areas east of I-196. West of I-196 agricultural uses are limited to the area along Blue Star Highway south of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and east of 77<sup>th</sup> Street. The main agricultural commodity is fruit, mainly blueberries. The Township offers u-pick blueberry farms, horse riding stables and many farm vegetables/fruit stands.

### **Residential**

There are a number of very old residential plats dating to before World War II. These are characterized by very small lots, which typically cannot support a septic system. Since 1996 the Township has approved 12 site condominiums, all adjacent to the new sewer and water lines. There have also been a few private roads developed with un-platted lots. These are not always dependent upon public utilities and thus have large one acre or larger lots. Virtually all of the Township's seasonal dwellings are west of I-196. Most seasonal units are south of the City along the lakeshore, but there are a few along the river between Blue Star Highway and I-196. The Township, due to its availability of rural vacant land, offers affordable housing units/apartments

**Commercial**

Commercial development is largely confined to the Phoenix Road and M-140 corridors. The Phoenix Road commercial area extends from just east of C.R. 689 to the city limits. The M-140 commercial area extends from I-196 to the city limits and spreads out along Blue Star Highway in both directions. Blue Star north of M-43 also has commercial development, which extends north to Phoenix.

**Industrial**

Industrial development is limited to two small areas along Blue Star Highway, one south of Phoenix and the other along Kalamazoo Street. There is also Industrial zoning at the airport. At this time the Township is partnering/ working with the city via “lending” for a period of time some of the Township’s industrial space for city use.

# **Administrative Structure**

## **Section 2**

## **Organizational Structure**

The City of South Haven, South Haven Township, South Haven Public Schools and the South Haven Area Recreation Authority each have their own structure for parks and recreation functions while still working cooperatively in many areas. The details of each are described below.

### **A. City of South Haven**

#### **Mayor/City Council/City Manager**

A City Manager/Council form of government governs the City of South Haven. The City Manager administers the day-to-day operations of the City. The mayor is elected to a two-year term and is a voting member of the seven person Council. Council members serve a four-year term. The City Council appoints a seven person Parks Commission, one of which is a council representative and a seven person Harbor Commission, one of which is a council representative, to serve as an advisory group.

#### **Parks Commission**

The Parks Commission was created in accordance with the provisions of State Legislation (Act 156 of 1917).The seven person board conducts monthly meetings for the purpose of making recommendations to the City Manager and or/parks superintendent and public officials of the City regarding the operation, maintenance, caretaking, rehabilitation, and capital expenditures for the city park facilities and property, including playgrounds, beaches and other recreational facilities. The Parks Commission also acts as the cemetery board of trustees. The Parks and Recreation Supervisor serves as a staff representative for the Parks Commission.

Any capital improvement involving the parks and beaches first goes through the Parks Commission, with the Parks Commission serving as an advisory board. They in turn make recommendations to City Council and parks staff regarding the operation, maintenance, caretaking, rehabilitation, and capital expenditures for the city park facilities and property, including playgrounds, beaches, and other recreational facilities. The Parks Commission also acts as the Cemetery Board of Trustees.

#### **Parks and Recreation Department**

The Parks and Recreation Department has no full-time employees. The department is overseen by the seasonal Parks and Recreation Supervisor and has eight additional seasonal employees.

The Riverfront concert series is another Parks and Recreation Department responsibility. This is a weekly summer event held on Thursdays and consists of fifteen different performers, locally sponsored and truly enjoyed by everyone.

All special event applications are processed through the Parks and Recreation Department so that the dates, locations and anticipated crowds can be entered onto a calendar. Each department head is given an opportunity to provide comments on every special event application so they will be prepared for the event.

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance of eleven public parks and nine public beach access sites. Currently, the City maintains these parks but does not offer any programmed activities. The Parks and Recreation Department works closely with the Public Works Department who clean sand from the parking lots and operate the beach cleaner. The Van Buren County Health Department conducts the water sampling test each Monday. In the event that the bacteria are elevated, the County Health Department would advise the City, and the City would take necessary steps to close the beach and prepare the news release.

### **Harbor Commission**

The Harbor Commission was created in accordance with City Ordinance Section 38-27. The duty of the Harbor Commission is to review and make recommendations regarding all development of waterfront properties in the City, to make recommendations regarding the management, operation, and maintenance of city owned and operated waterfront properties, to make recommendations regarding ordinances governing traffic and safety on waters within the city, and other duties as required by the City Code and Zoning Ordinance.

### **Marina Department**

The marina staff is responsible for the daily operations and the maintenance of all four city municipal marinas. Currently due to some staffing changes the department is overseen by the contracted marina manager and has ten additional seasonal city employees. At this time the city is researching what will be the best way to run the municipal marinas.

### **Volunteers**

The City has several local organizations that volunteer on a regular basis.

### **Relationships with other Agencies**

The city works very closely with several different agencies. Below is a list of many of the agencies that we have daily contact with, or maintain an ongoing relationship with.

#### **Local Agencies**

- a. Michigan Maritime Museum
- b. South Haven Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
- c. Chamber of Commerce
- d. South Haven Center for the Arts

- e. South Haven Public Schools
- f. PALS/Youth and Company
- g. Historical Association of South Haven
- h. Housing Commission
- i. Celery Pond Advocates
- j. The non-profit Organizations that sponsor special events such as Harborfest Committee, National Blueberry Committee, Fourth of July Committee, Steelheaders Association.

State and County Agencies

- a. Van Buren State Park
- b. Van Buren Marine Control Patrol
- c. Van Buren County Health Department
- d. Van Buren County Commission Board
- e. Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- f. Michigan Soils, Erosion and Sediment Control
- g. Michigan Waterways Commission
- h. Michigan Department of State
- i. Michigan State Police
- j. Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs

Federal Agencies

- a. United States Army Corp of Engineers
- b. United States Coast Guard
- c. United States Environmental Protection Agency

## **B. South Haven Township**

The Township Board makes all property acquisitions and maintenance decisions. The Township Planning Commission acting under authority of the Township Planning Act performs long-range planning. Parks and recreation planning is a function of a committee of the Planning Commission. The Township Board hires maintenance staff on a contractual basis.

Any park or recreation facility established within South Haven Township would have to meet the requirements of the Township's Zoning Ordinance. Public and non-profit facilities are special uses with conditions in the residential, agricultural, and resource development districts. Any facility, such as a ball field, would be required to submit a site plan to the planning commission for review to ensure adequate parking, screening, drainage and safe ingress/egress.

The Planning commission meets on a monthly basis. Special use site plans require a public hearing and generally require two to four months for approval. All plans are transmitted to:

- Van Buren County Drain Commission
- Van Buren County Road Commission
- South Haven Area Emergency Services
- A Civil Engineer hired by the Township to review plans
- If appropriated, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for impacts on floodplains, wetlands, sand dunes and high risk erosion areas

The Township relies heavily on volunteers for different projects with their parks.

### **Volunteers**

Garden Club

All special events are run by volunteers

Friends of Kal-Haven Trail

Friends of Bangor/South Haven Heritage Water Trail

Friends of North Point

Friends of Deerlick

### **Relationships with other Agencies**

The Township works very closely with several different agencies. Below is a list of many of those agencies that the Township has daily contact with or maintains an ongoing relationship with.

#### Local Agencies

- a. South Haven Convention and Visitors Bureau
- b. South Haven Public Schools
- c. Youth and Company
- d. COSY-Local Radio Station
- e. Housing Commission

- f. The non-profit organizations that sponsor special events such as Harborfest Committee, National Blueberry Committee, Fourth of July Committee, Steelheaders Association.

State and County Agencies

- g. Van Buren State Park
- h. Van Buren Marine Control Patrol
- i. Van Buren County Health Department
- j. Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- k. Michigan Soils, Erosion and Sediment Control
- l. Michigan Waterways Commission
- m. Michigan Department of State
- n. Michigan State Police
- o. Michigan State University Extension
- p. Van Buren County Drain Commissioner
- q. Van Buren County Road Commission
- r. Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- s. Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
- t. Van Buren County Commission Board

Federal Agencies

- u. United States Army Corp of Engineers
- v. United States Coast Guard
- w. United States Environmental Protection Agency

## **C. South Haven Public Schools**

### **School Administration Structure**

Board of Education (Seven members)

- The South Haven Public School District is served by a seven-member Board of Education. The Board elects annually a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three Trustees.
- The Board is responsible for selecting and appointing a Chief Executive Officer who serves as a Superintendent of Schools.
  - The Board meets as a body to:
    - Set or amend policies
    - Develop educational goals
    - Review and approve district budgets
    - Act on the recommendations of the Superintendent

Superintendent

Maintenance and Operations Supervisor

Business Manager Supervisor

Transportation Supervisor

Food Service Supervisor

Five Principals

One Assistant Principal

## **D. SHARA**

### **SHARA - South Haven Area Recreational Authority**

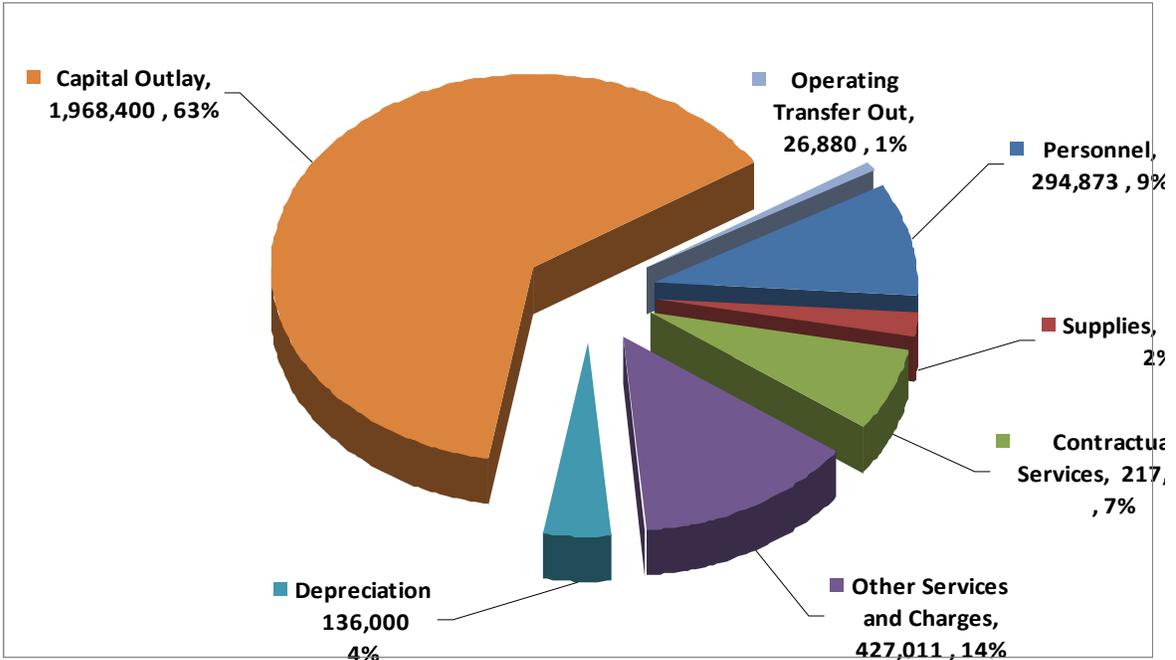
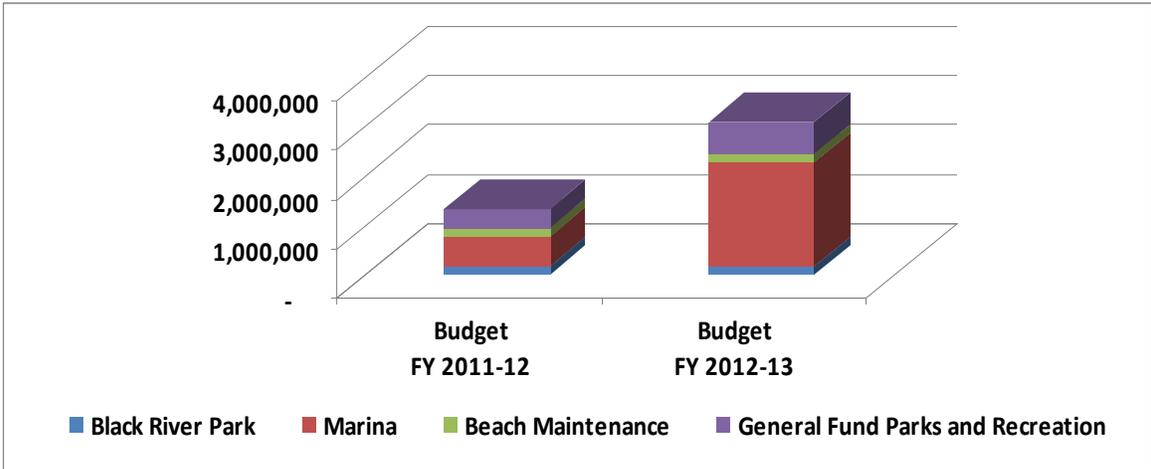
The SHARA is established to initially provide to the acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance and improvement of the land and facilities that may now or subsequently comprise the South Haven Area Recreational Park (SHARP). The SHARA is also established to acquire, construct, operate, maintain and improve public parks and other purposes as may from time to time be authorized by Act 321 all within a specified jurisdictional limits of the cities, townships and villages that may be part of the SHARA. However, if the SHARA wishes to acquire, construct, operate, maintain or improve a public park or public recreational facility other than the SHARP, it shall first obtain the approval of the SHARA board, the approval of the municipality in which the land comprising that park or recreational facility is located, and the approval of the owner(s) of the park or recreational facility. The SHARA board is made up of five members, two representatives of the City of South Haven, two representatives of the South Haven Township and one representative from the South Haven Public Schools.

# Funding

## A. City of South Haven

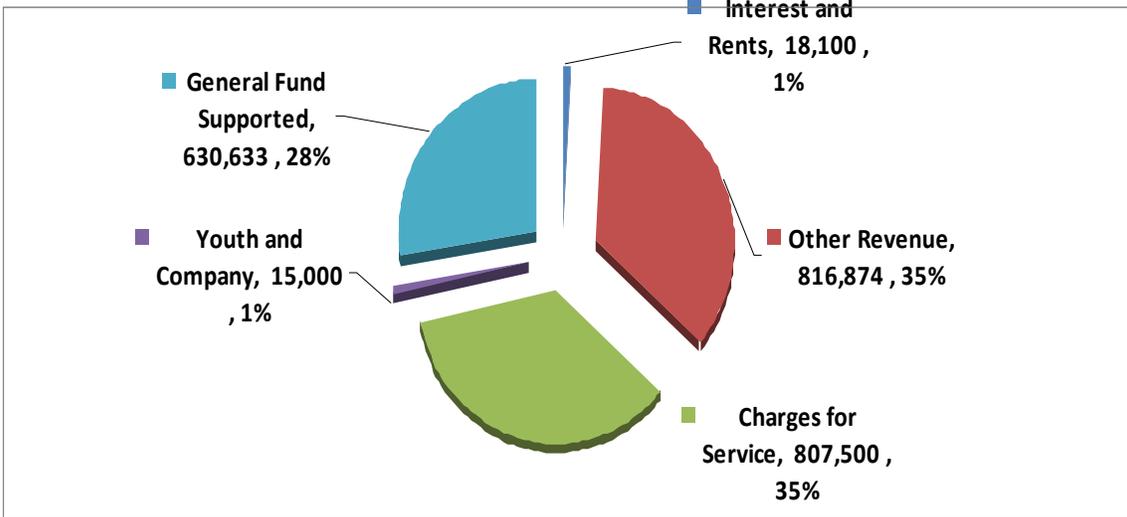
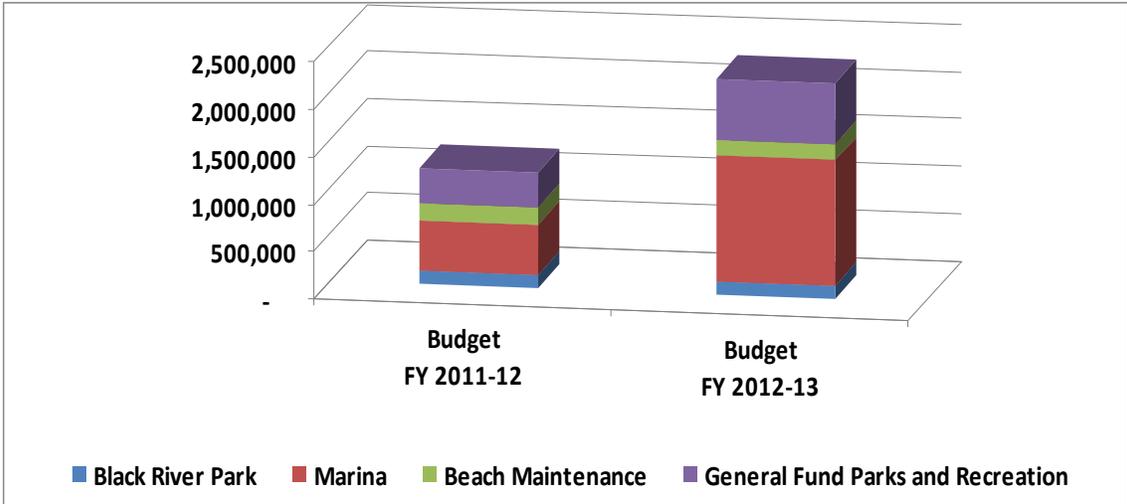
### City of South Haven Budgeted Expenditure Report for Recreational Activities

	Budget FY 2011-12	Budget FY 2012-13
<b>Personnel Costs</b>		
Black River Park	44,569	43,021
Marina	70,385	62,118
Beach Maintenance	66,191	53,776
General Fund Parks and Recreation	172,211	135,958
<b>Total Personnel Costs</b>	<b>353,356</b>	<b>294,873</b>
<b>Supplies</b>		
Black River Park	2,300	3,400
Marina	6,800	6,800
Beach Maintenance	11,150	11,373
General Fund Parks and Recreation	41,200	36,750
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>61,450</b>	<b>58,323</b>
<b>Contractual Services</b>		
Black River Park	25,700	26,500
Marina	84,100	91,000
Beach Maintenance	24,000	26,000
General Fund Parks and Recreation	85,403	74,375
<b>Total Contractual Services</b>	<b>219,203</b>	<b>217,875</b>
<b>Other Services and Charges</b>		
Black River Park	49,233	50,810
Marina	274,876	242,420
Beach Maintenance	73,084	75,231
General Fund Parks and Recreation	65,675	58,550
<b>Total Other Services and Charges</b>	<b>462,868</b>	<b>427,011</b>
<b>Capital Outlay</b>		
Black River Park	3,650	-
Marina	60,000	1,628,400
Beach Maintenance	-	-
General Fund Parks and Recreation	5,000	340,000
<b>Total Capital Outlay</b>	<b>68,650</b>	<b>1,968,400</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Black River Park	50,000	46,000
Marina	88,000	90,000
Beach Maintenance	-	-
<b>Total Depreciation</b>	<b>138,000</b>	<b>136,000</b>
<b>Operating Transfer Out</b>		
Black River Park	5,547	5,800
Marina	25,627	21,080
Beach Maintenance	-	-
<b>Total Operating Transfer Out</b>	<b>31,174</b>	<b>26,880</b>
<b>Summary by Activity</b>		
Black River Park	180,999	175,531
Marina	609,788	2,141,818
Beach Maintenance	174,425	166,380
General Fund Parks and Recreation	369,489	645,633
<b>Total Budgeted Expenditures</b>	<b>1,334,701</b>	<b>3,129,362</b>



City of South Haven  
 Budgeted Funding Report for Recreational Activities

	Budget FY 2011-12	Budget FY 2012-13
<b>Charges for Service</b>		
Black River Park	143,000	145,000
Marina	510,000	510,000
Beach Maintenance	152,000	152,500
<b>Total Charges for Service</b>	<b>805,000</b>	<b>807,500</b>
<b>Interest and Rents</b>		
Black River Park	500	500
Marina	10,000	10,000
Beach Maintenance	9,250	7,600
<b>Total Interest and Rents</b>	<b>19,750</b>	<b>18,100</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>		
Black River Park	3,000	3,000
Marina	11,194	798,874
Beach Maintenance	14,000	15,000
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>28,194</b>	<b>816,874</b>
<b>General Fund Supported</b>		
Parks Activity	350,086	630,633
Youth and Company	15,000	15,000
SHARA	4,403	-
<b>Total General Fund Supported</b>	<b>369,489</b>	<b>645,633</b>
<b>Summary by Activity</b>		
Black River Park	146,500	148,500
Marina	531,194	1,318,874
Beach Maintenance	175,250	175,100
General Fund Parks and Recreation	369,489	645,633
<b>Total Budgeted Funding</b>	<b>1,222,433</b>	<b>2,288,107</b>



**B. South Haven Township**

The South Haven Charter Township uses General Funds for operation/maintenance expenses for their parks.

## C. SHARA

**SOUTH HAVEN AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY  
ADOPTED BUDGET  
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012**

**REVENUES:**

CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN	\$1 Per Capita	\$ 4,400
SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TWP	\$1 Per Capita	\$ 3,983

TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 8,383</u>
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**EXPENSES:**

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS		\$ 5,000
INSURANCE		\$ 850
AUDIT		\$ 2,025
PROFESSIONAL FEES - CONSULTING	MCE	\$ 56,744
ANNUAL LEASE PAYMENT		\$ 1

TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 64,620</u>
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PLANNED USE OF RESERVES	\$ (56,237)
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# **Recreation Inventory, Maps and Accessibility Assessments**

## **Section 3**

## **A. City of South Haven**

The Recreation Inventory, Maps and Accessibility Assessments section for the City of South Haven is included as an attachment to this plan.

## **B. South Haven Township**

The Recreation Inventory, Maps and Accessibility Assessments section for the South Haven Township is found on the following pages.

In this section you will find the South Haven Township's Recreation Inventory, along with the accessibility assessment, an aerial shot of each site. A map of the area with the locations of all the sites has also been inserted into this section.

The accessibility assessment was done on the rating scale listed below:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design.



## **14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park**

### Location

At the end of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where it intersects with 77<sup>th</sup> Street.

Size 1.5 acres

### Park Type

Lake Michigan Beach

### Park Amenities

Signage with rules posted

### General Information

No entrance fee

Free parking in dirt ground parking lot – space for approximately 20 cars

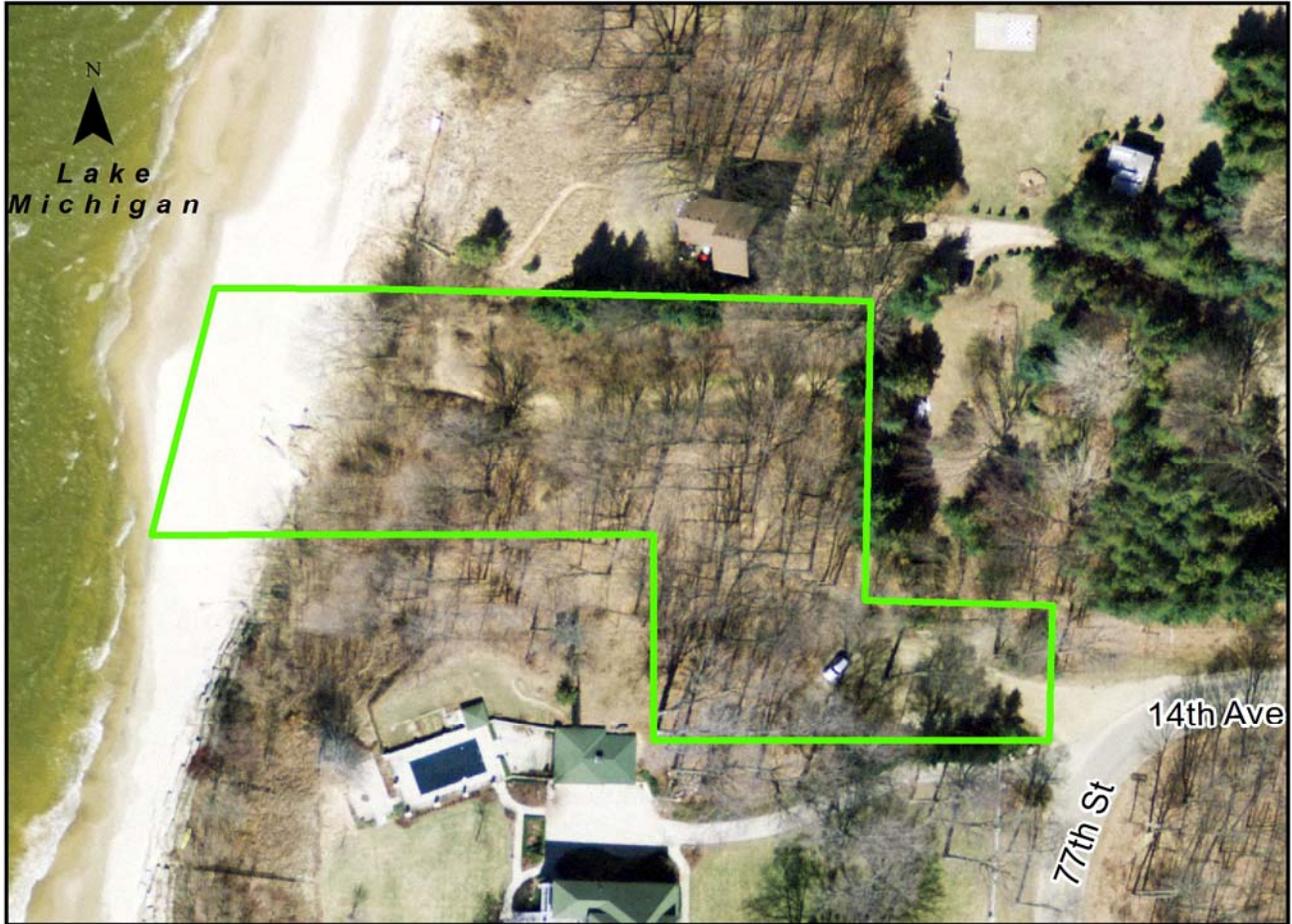
### Overview

Located on the end of a residential street, this park has been a Township Park for a number of years. The parking lot is inviting with its mature deciduous trees that shade on a hot, sunny day. A primitive trail leads to the top of a sand dune that overlooks Lake Michigan. The path down the dune is steep – requiring a certain level of physical fitness and coordination for the descent and ascent of the dune. The pathway is worn, exposing the roots of trees that help stabilize the dune, with shifting sands along the trail as it is utilized. The beach is approximately 132 feet in width having huge cement blocks placed at the north and south boundaries with lettering depicting the boundaries. The beach is sandy and rocky. It is frequented by rock hounds, as it is known for its variety of rocks and endless supply of them. The area at the top of the dune is grassy with deciduous trees, allowing enough room for a picnic and beautiful views of the sunset. This site is rustic. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park is within one mile of the Van Buren Trail and the bike path along Blue Star Highway.

### ADA Accessibility Rating

1= none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park Aerial



## **18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lake Michigan Access Site**

### Location

At the end of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Size 0.3 acres

### Park Type

Lake Michigan Beach Access

### Park Amenities

None

### General Information

No entrance fee

Free parking along the sides of the street

### Overview

This street right-of-way gives views and access to Lake Michigan. The slope is steep and sandy. The beach is sandy. Currently there are to be no “No Trespassing” signs posted at this access site as ordered by the Van Buren County Road Commission. There is signage concerning where to park along 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### ADA Accessibility Rating

1= none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Access Site Aerial



## **Black River Launch**

### Location

The corner of Baseline Road and Blue Star Memorial Highway

Size 6.0 acres

### Park Type

Kayak/canoe launch

### Park Amenities

None – this site is undeveloped

### General Information

No entrance fee

Parking is non-existent, although cars have parked in the field off Blue Star Memorial Highway

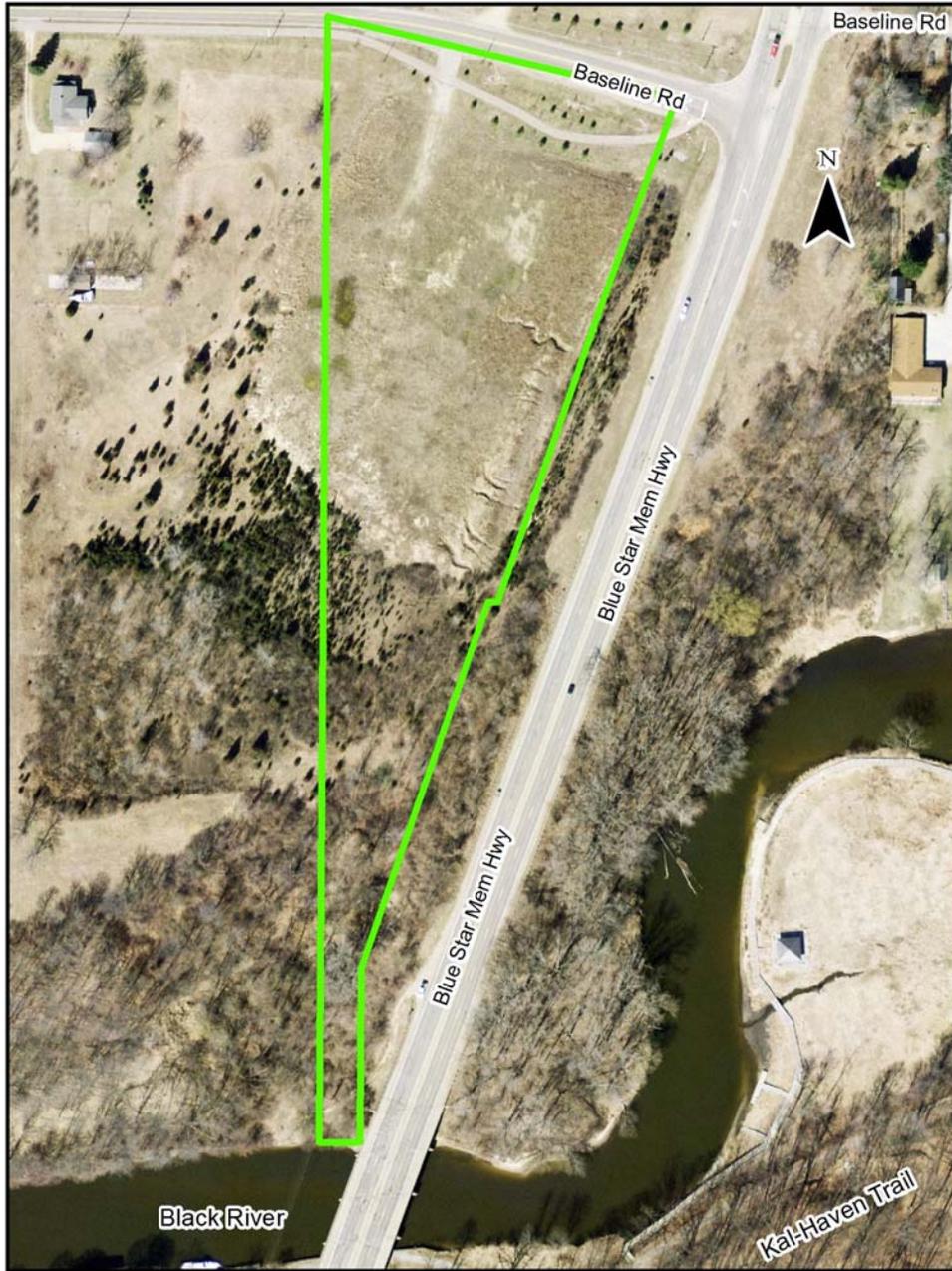
### Overview

Located off from Blue Star Memorial Highway, this site has been used for years as a kayak/canoe launch site to the Bangor/South Haven Heritage Water Trail. This six acre site is rustic and overgrown with a worn, rutted dirt car path from Blue Star Memorial Highway to the riverbank. The view from the river's edge is peaceful. One can view the highway bridge from the river's edge. Directly across from the proposed launch site one can view the Kal-Haven Trail as it enters into the City of South Haven. The gentle slope offers easy access to the river. Many have expressed interest in seeing this site developed as a kayak/canoe launch site.

### ADA Accessibility Rating

1= none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

# Black River Launch Aerial



## **Deerlick Creek Park**

### Location

At the end of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Size 2.1 acres

### Park Type

Lake Michigan Beach

### Park Amenities

Trash Receptacle (1) - Good Condition

### General Information

No entrance fee

Free parking on street

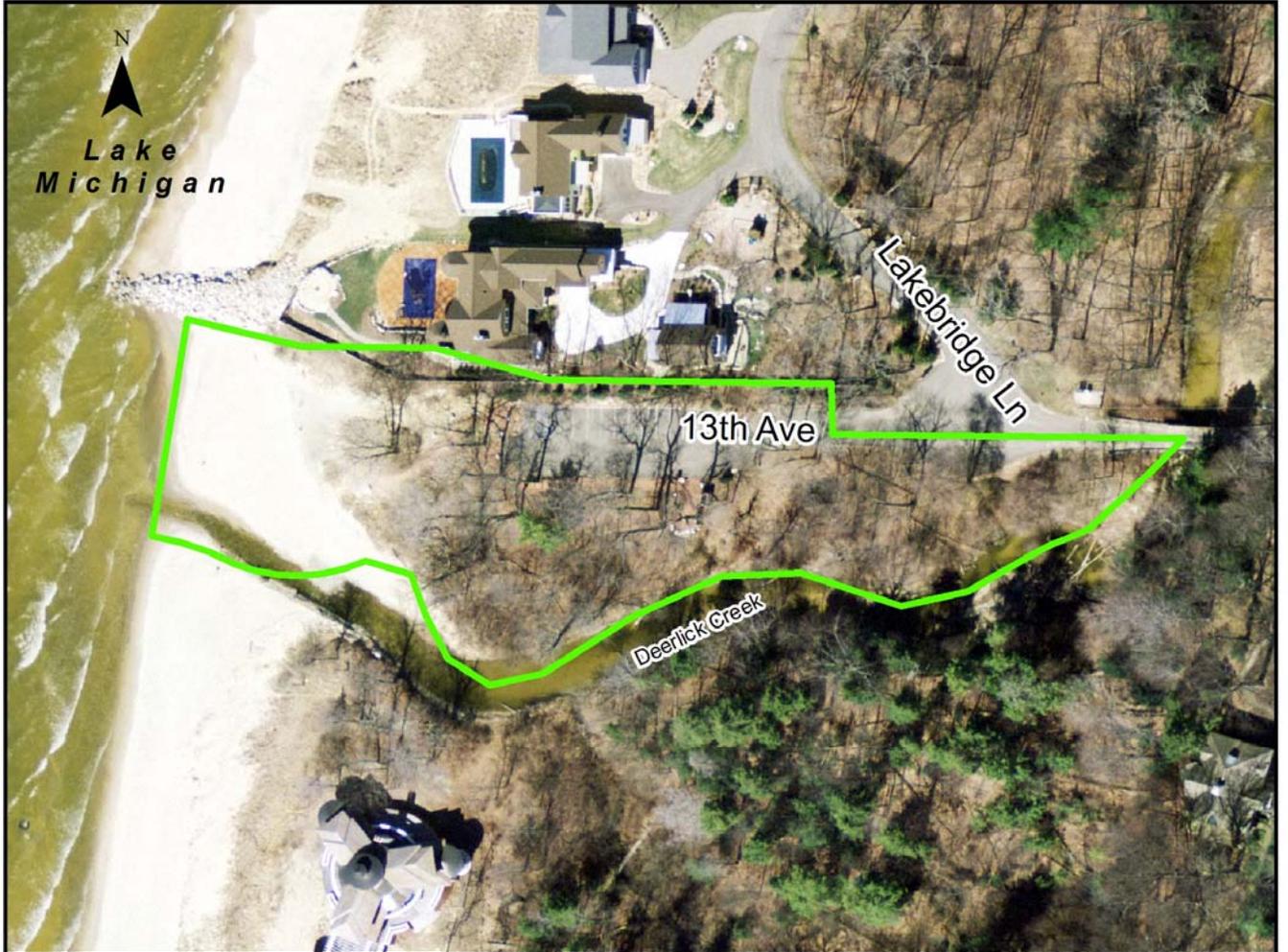
### Overview

Located on the end of a residential street, this park has been used for generations as a public beach. In 2007, after four years of input/help from the community, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, and various State agencies/officials, the Township was able to secure the needed funds, via grants and grassroots fundraisers, to ensure that this property would remain a public beach for all future generations. Funding to purchase Deerlick will be from the following sources: \$273,000 from South Haven Township (bank loan), \$18,000 (approximately) from the Friends of Deerlick, \$1 million DNR grant, \$111,000 Fisheries Grant. All of these funds are for land acquisition. A one lane bridge going over Deerlick Creek is at the entryway to the Park. Deerlick Creek Park has 172 feet of Lake Michigan frontage. Deerlick Creek, a designated trout and smelt dipping stream, runs from the north along the east edge of the property under the road right-of-way and along the south edge of the site approximately 700 feet until it empties into Lake Michigan. On the north edge of the property is a rock jetty. About 0.82 acres of wetland are on the site along with a large stand of deciduous trees and a sandy/rocky beach. Deerlick Creek Park is noted to be one of nine sites along the shores of Lake Michigan, for its variety and unique rocks. It is famous for its lightning stones (septarians). Off shore of Deerlick Creek Park is the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve (a portion of it), designated by the State of Michigan in 1993 with a shipwreck from 1887 (City of Green Bay) less than 50 feet off shore. Deerlick Creek Park is within one mile of the Van Buren Trail and the bike path along Blue Star Highway. At this time, Deerlick Creek Park is rustic. It offers beautiful views of the Lake from the parking area. The gentle slope allows for those with physical challenges or small children to access the beach and Lake.

### ADA Accessibility Rating

2= some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

Deerlick Creek Park Aerial



## **Evergreen Bluff**

### Location

At the end of Evergreen Bluff Drive

Size 1.3 acres

### Park Type

Lake Michigan Viewing Site

### Park Amenities

Community donated bench (1)

### General Information

No entrance fees

Free parking on street

### Overview

Evergreen Bluff is located at the end of Evergreen Bluff Drive. It consists of six connected home sites located in the Evergreen Bluff neighborhood. The site is located on a critical dune. Due to its fragile nature, its use as an access site to Lake Michigan is discouraged. The bluff has historically lost approximately seven feet per year to the Lake. The bluff has vegetation that has been cut back (not by the Township), presumably, to offer an unobstructed view of the lake. Wooden pallets are arranged (not by the Township) over natural springs emerging from the bluff to assist one along a pathway to the lake. The beach has cement blocks and large boulders that add to its rustic ambiance. The view of Lake Michigan from the top of the bluff is breath-taking as one can see the lighthouse and views north and south along the coastline. No parking signs are posted on the west side of the street. Removal/cutting of vegetation has been discouraged.

### ADA Accessibility Rating

1= none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

Evergreen Bluff Park Aerial



## **M-140 Nature Sanctuary and Van Buren Trail Parking**

### Location

22036 M-140 and adjoining property 22100 M-140.

Size 8.0 acres

### Park Type

Parking for Van Buren Trail and nature sanctuary

### Park Amenities

None

### General Information

No entrance fee

Free parking in driveway

### Overview

This is an eight acre site that is located on M-140. The front part of the property is mainly grass and the remainder of the property is thick, wooded and marshy. The Township acquired this property in September of 2008 so no improvements or changes have been made at this time. The west perimeter of this property borders the Van Buren Trail. The rich, untouched state of this property could lend itself to an educational/environmental outdoor classroom – with signage and nature paths.

### ADA Accessibility Rating

1= none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

# M-140 Nature Sanctuary and Van Buren Trail Parking Aerial



## **Monroe Blvd/76<sup>th</sup> Street bike path** (Proposed)

### Location

A bike path in the Township along the road –Monroe Blvd/76<sup>th</sup> St.

Size Not determined at this time – to extend from the City/Township boundary to Blue Star Memorial Highway

### Park Type

Bike path along a road

### Park Amenities

None

### General Information

Not in existence at this time – wanting to align with the City of South Haven's bike path

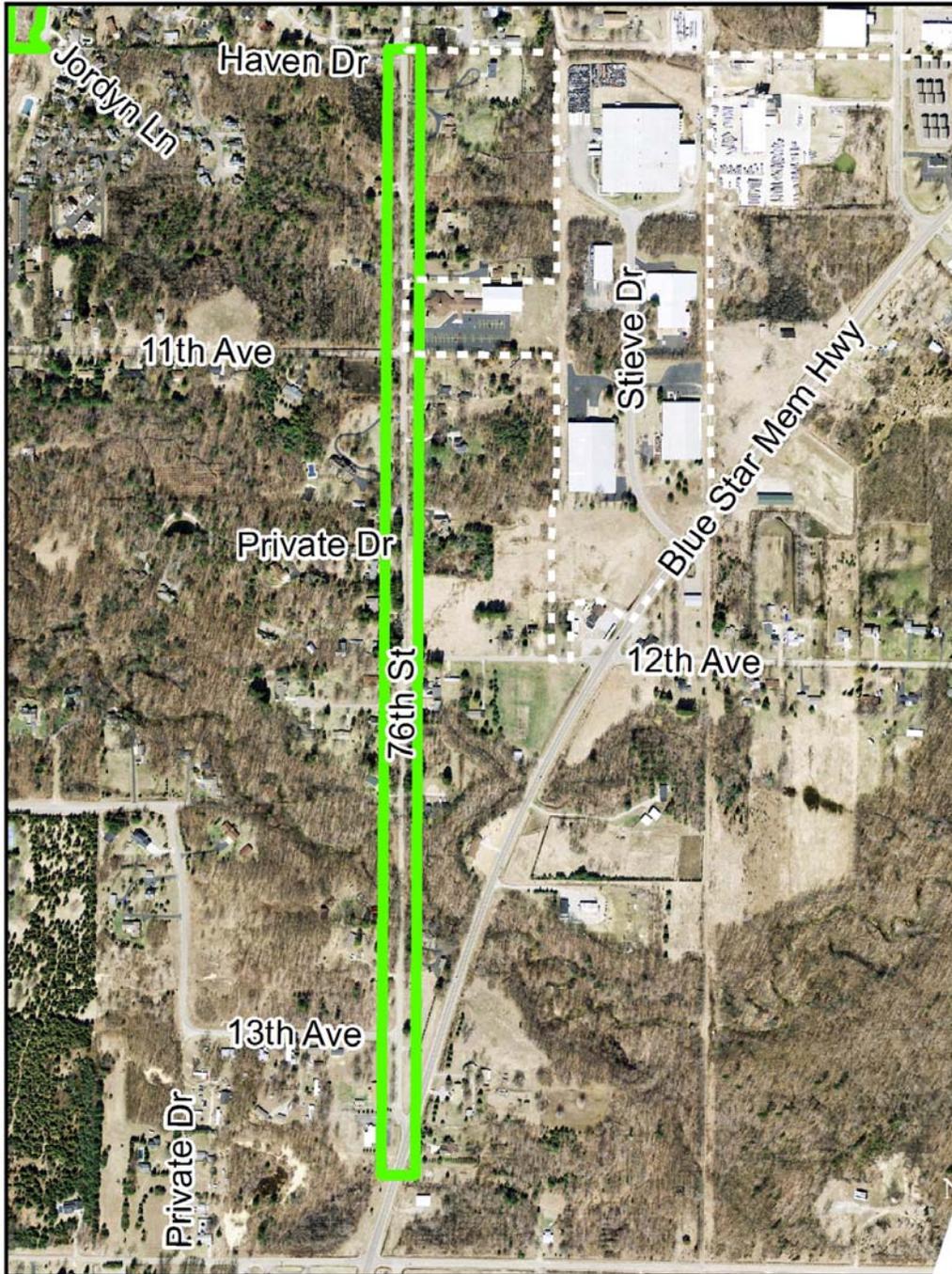
### Overview

South Haven and the Township are popular tourist destinations. Monroe Blvd/76<sup>th</sup> Street has numerous neighborhoods/condos. Many residents as well as tourists utilize Monroe Blvd/76<sup>th</sup> Street to access different destinations around the area. Currently Monroe Blvd/76<sup>th</sup> Street is a two way street having parking on one side, as well as sidewalks intermittently spaced within the City limits. The south side of the City limits, and the Township portion, (on Monroe Blvd/76<sup>th</sup> Street) offer no sidewalks and the road narrows with deep drainage ditches that prohibit safe parking/walking/biking. This does not deter people from parking, walking, or biking on this stretch of Monroe Blvd/76<sup>th</sup> Street while dodging vehicular traffic. Widening the road with a bike path would allow for pedestrian and bicycle transportation. This road is within a block of the Van Buren Trail and ends at the Blue Star Memorial Highway bike path. Widening the road for a bike/pedestrian pathway would also be in-line with the Michigan Department of Transportation initiative 'Safe Routes to School'.

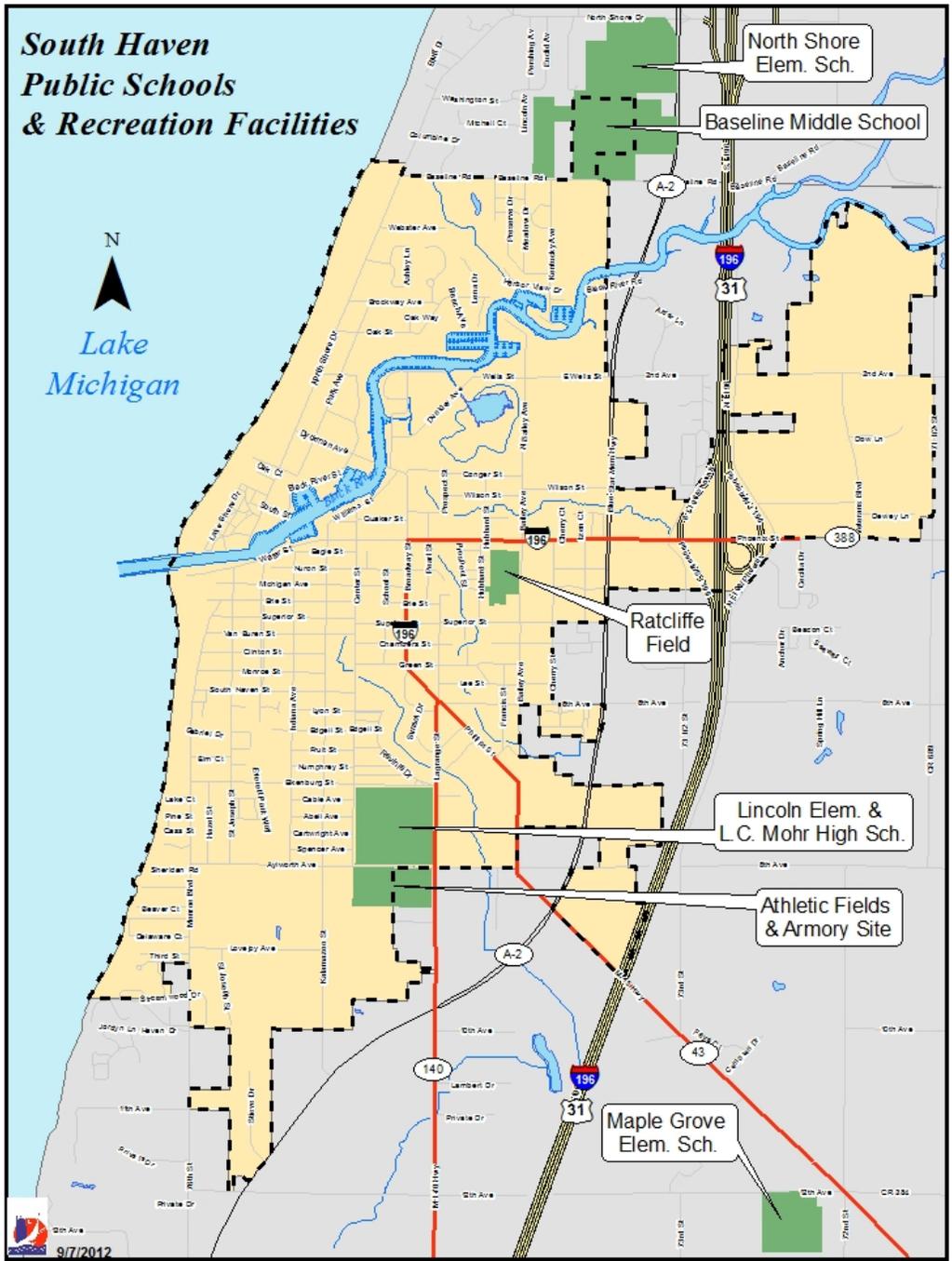
### ADA Accessibility Rating

Non-existent at this time

Monroe Blvd/76<sup>th</sup> Street Aerial



### C. South Haven Public Schools



The Athletic fields located at LC Mohr High School are located at the south central section of the City. The area provides the primary athletic recreation area for the City and surrounding townships. The approximate 20 acres of land provide four baseball diamonds and associated bleachers, dugouts, bathrooms and concession stand. The remaining areas provide for two football practice fields, five tennis courts and 1 soccer field. The entire area is heavily used for high school athletics and band practices, youth football practices, youth and community soccer practices and games and youth and community softball and baseball games. The high usage allows little time for the maintenance and recovery of the facilities and fields. The tennis courts are insufficient for a quality high school tennis program and have an inappropriate contour for proper court surfacing.

#### South Haven High School

The high school houses the City's swimming pool facilities. It is one of the community's favorite facilities, beginning at 11:00 AM and ending at 9:00 PM daily. The gym, when not used by the school, is utilized by the community.

#### Baseline Middle School

The middle school provides additional recreation facilities for the community with outdoor basketball courts, a softball diamond, and soccer/football field. The school also houses a full-length basketball court and adjacent locker rooms. The lack of additional facilities to support the school community places a tremendous demand on the existing courts and fields. Use of these facilities by external groups is by fee and community soccer and football programs, which at times means not open to the community. Recently the four tennis courts were closed due to surface conditions that caused safety concerns.

#### Ratcliffe Field

The public school's football stadium, an area of six acres of land located in the southeast section of town is used for competitive high school football, soccer, and Rocket football. A track is included here, along with a field house, bleachers, press box, concession stand and restrooms.

#### Nature Center

The South Haven Public Schools recently received a donation of twenty acres of land off 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Referred to as the McClendon Property, it has the potential to be developed into a school and community nature center. Although the potential has been discussed and some student groups have done some classroom work in this area, no specific program has been established.

## Armory

The armory and adjacent property offers almost 20 acres of open space and wood area. 10 acres is used for AYSO soccer fields and parking area. Recently several additional acres have been clear and addition parking area was added. Tri County Head Start operates a school readiness program on site. The Armory building is being utilized as a grounds, maintenance, and School District storage facility.

## Elementary Schools

There are three elementary schools in South Haven. All have playground facilities that may be used by the public. All three elementary schools have gyms that may be scheduled by the community at the end of the school day. The three elementary schools are either new or substantially remodeled. These buildings provide real potential for the South Haven area as all three gyms are spacious. North Shore elementary offers a soccer field that is used by school and community soccer programs.

## Listiak Auditorium

This facility seats approximately 575 people for various community performances. Our Town Players, a local theater group uses this facility throughout the year. The new auditorium was opened in September of 2006. It is an up-to-date facility that can accommodate plays and concerts.

## Baseline Middle School

Located on 20 acres of property in the north end of the City, it offers a combination football/soccer field, one small softball diamond, two outdoor basketball courts. The school building provides a full size gym with seating for 800 people. The cafeteria offers a small stage and an excellent location for community meetings.

South Haven has historically relied on the South Haven Public Schools to provide for athletic recreational space and facilities. While this approach was sufficient in the past, the community's utilization of these facilities far exceeds their ability to support programs and allow for even minimal maintenance. Additionally, the use of school facilities requires the operation and maintenance to be supported from the limited operating budget of the school system with some revenues obtained on a fee basis.

South Haven Public Schools has additional needs for athletic recreation that are not typically provided by school systems. These include winter activities such as skating, indoor soccer and tennis, cross country skiing, and multi-season activities such as jogging, walking, rollerblading, biking and weight training.

1. Soccer - South Haven Schools provide the only facilities in this area for soccer programs. At separate locations, there is one fully developed soccer field and one fully developed combination soccer and football field. These fields are used for High School Varsity and Junior Varsity practice in the fall for men and in the spring for women. The Schools utilize the football stadium for regulation High School Varsity and Junior Varsity soccer games. The facility is not available for community soccer programs during the fall and spring soccer seasons. The school allows local soccer programs to use an undeveloped area adjacent to the high school for additional field space. This area is equivalent to two full-size and two half-size fields. The area is poorly drained, not irrigated, and has no service facilities such as bathrooms or concessions. Parking is limited and traffic flow is uncontrolled. Youth soccer is provided by two distinct organizations to the City of South Haven, adjacent townships and other nearby communities such as Bangor and Coloma. The AYSO program provides open soccer for multiple age groups with a current enrollment of about 300 youth participants. The MYSA program provides a more dedicated and limited selection program with a current enrollment of 60 youth participants. Both provide fall and spring programs. The community does not provide organized adult soccer programs. There is a very active use of the facilities by the area Hispanic community on most evenings starting in the early spring and continuing through the fall. This usage is difficult to document, but is typically from 20 to 40 players, with families and other spectators and is found to be very active on all days of the week. One local adult Hispanic team is sponsored privately and competes in the Battle Creek area and regionally in interstate competition. South Haven has no facilities for indoor soccer. The nearest facilities are in Holland and in Kalamazoo. South Haven does participate in these winter leagues at both the youth and adult level.
  
2. Baseball/Softball – South Haven Schools provides the majority of facilities for baseball and softball. There are four developed fields at the High School to support the Varsity and Junior Varsity baseball and softball seasons. The facility is used for community programs in the spring and early summer months. Other fields are located at city facilities and at other school locations, but have very limited applications due to size or adjacent park facilities. The High School facility does provide for concessions and restrooms. However, these facilities are not adequate to support the number of persons that are at the site during the normal season. The structure is dated and the upper announcing/scorekeeping area is not accessible for physically challenged individuals. Youth baseball and softball is provided primarily from the local South Haven Junior Youth League organization and by the American Legion baseball program.

These organizations support almost 600 youth during the spring season. Generally, all available fields are utilized to implement scheduled games with no available sites for practice. Junior leagues play on the adjacent football/soccer practice field space. Adult organizations are not strongly active in softball or baseball. Generally, some churches do provide opportunities. Most adults play in other communities due to the lack of open facilities or supporting organizations

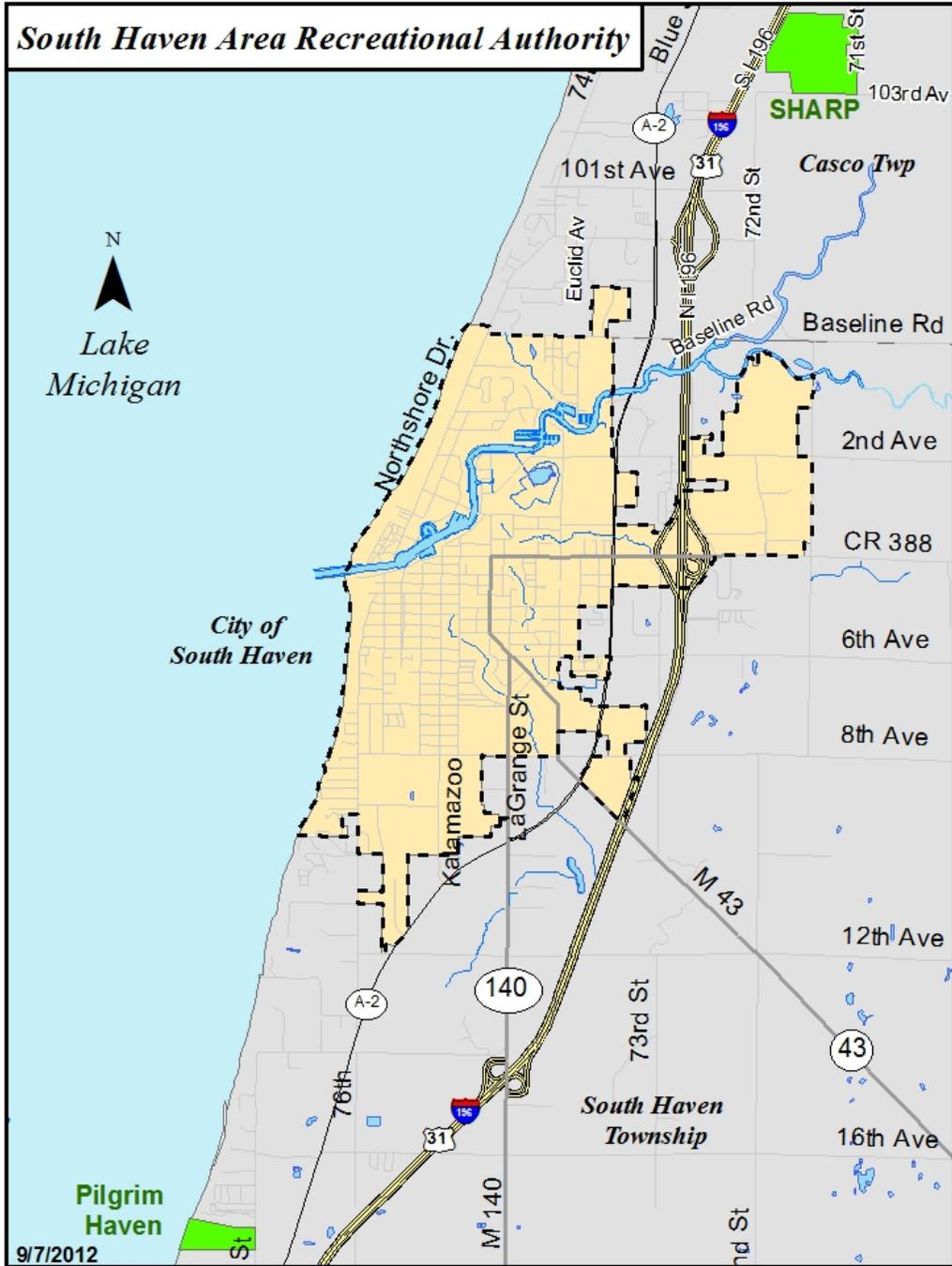
3. Football – South Haven Schools provide the only facilities for football programs. The practice fields are utilized concurrently for Varsity and Junior Varsity football and soccer practice as well as High School Marching Band practice. The Rocket Football program provides community youth football for the South Haven area. Current enrollment in this program is at 100 players and cheerleaders. Games may be played at the High School Stadium or at the combination football/soccer field at the Middle School. The Middle School facility does not provide concessions or restroom facilities. Practices occur at the High School facilities in an area that is concurrently used by youth soccer, High School football programs, and the High School marching band.
4. Tennis – South Haven Schools provides the only available tennis facilities in the community. There are five courts at the High School. At this time the four courts at Baseline Middle School are closed due to surface conditions. It is unlikely that the school will replace these courts in the near future. The High School facility is used for a summer instructional program provided by the High School tennis coach. The court was inappropriately designed for dual use as a winter time skating rink resulting in a difficult surface to maintain for tennis. The Middle School facility does not provide services such as restrooms, water or lights. It was open for recreational use during after-school periods. South Haven does not currently provide an adult recreational tennis program.
5. Basketball/Volleyball – South Haven Schools provides the facilities for indoor basketball and indoor volleyball for community recreation. The facilities are available on a fee basis. Beach volleyball is available in the waterfront parks and is very popular with summer visitors. Outdoor basketball courts are provided at a variety of locations on school and City property.
6. Swimming – The facility is open on a fee basis for community programs. The School provides all maintenance and supporting facilities.
7. Youth Services - Youth Development Company/PAL provides a safe place for youth to come and grow. The City on 76th has become 'the' place to be after school. Statistics show that the most dangerous times for crimes to be committed by and upon young people are between the hours of 3pm

and 6pm. They have educational tutorial programs along with dance, improv/drama, arts & crafts and all of our programs center around one common theme - mentoring. They offer a fun and enriching atmosphere where we reach the 'whole' child. Partnered with PAL (Police Activities League), Bangor Public Schools, Covert Public Schools, South Haven Public Schools, South Haven Center for the Arts, Van Buren Transit, First Baptist Church, Hope Reformed Church, St. Basil's School, and a host of other local organizations we provide much needed programs for area youth. Their staff mainly consists of high school and college students who receive extensive training to facilitate programs and enabling them to become marketable employees. Through YDC/PAL, students learn that their career and their future are guided by ethics and integrity. Since opening, they have report over 200 registered students and a daily attendance of over 60, 4th through 8th grade, students from South Haven, Bangor and Covert school districts. In addition to their after school programs, they also run a summer park program. Summer Fun in the Park runs 5 days a week for 6 weeks each summer and features a variety of high- to low-energy activities for children, including team building games, arts and crafts, music, skits, dance, community walks, and weekly field trips, and swimming at the high school. All children ages 4 to 13 are welcome to attend (mature 3 year-olds who are toilet trained are also welcome).

8. Storage – There is inadequate storage for athletic equipment. Because of the increase in activity at all sports levels, both youth groups and the school district have trouble storing equipment adequately. Therefore, equipment, supplies and materials often end their useful life earlier than expected.
9. Walking, jogging, and exercising – Other than the Kal-Haven Trail there is not really a place for people to exercise without being subjected to other activities. The development of a park, nature center or other facility that would allow older persons to be able to exercise out of doors in an environment that would promote these activities would help promote the community of South Haven.

**D. SHARA**

The Recreation Inventory, Maps and Accessibility Assessments section for SHARA is found on the following pages.



**SHARP**  
**South Haven Area Regional Park**  
**(future park)**

Location

103 & 71<sup>st</sup> St.

Size 96.05 acres

Park Type

Athletic Complex

Future Park Amenities

Soccer fields

Ball diamonds

Tennis courts

Walking trails

Concessions

Restrooms

Picnic areas

Overview

Existing parks and school ball fields have served the community well over the years. As participation grows in league sports the demand for additional field's increases and the existing fields which are experiencing excessive wear from overuse can no longer meet the current demand.

Hundreds of area children, teens and adults are involved in community athletic programs in South Haven and the surrounding townships. This park will meet the current and future needs of all the athletes in the region.

The following list is some of what will be done in the first phase of creating this park:

- Create/build road into park
- Build parking lot
- Have utilities installed
- Build concession stand
- Build one soccer field
- Build one baseball field

ADA Accessibility Rating

5 = the entire park will be developed/renovated using the principals of universal design.



## **Pilgrim Haven**

### Location

17540 77<sup>th</sup> St.

Size 29.28 acres

### Park Type

Community Park/ Lake Michigan Beach

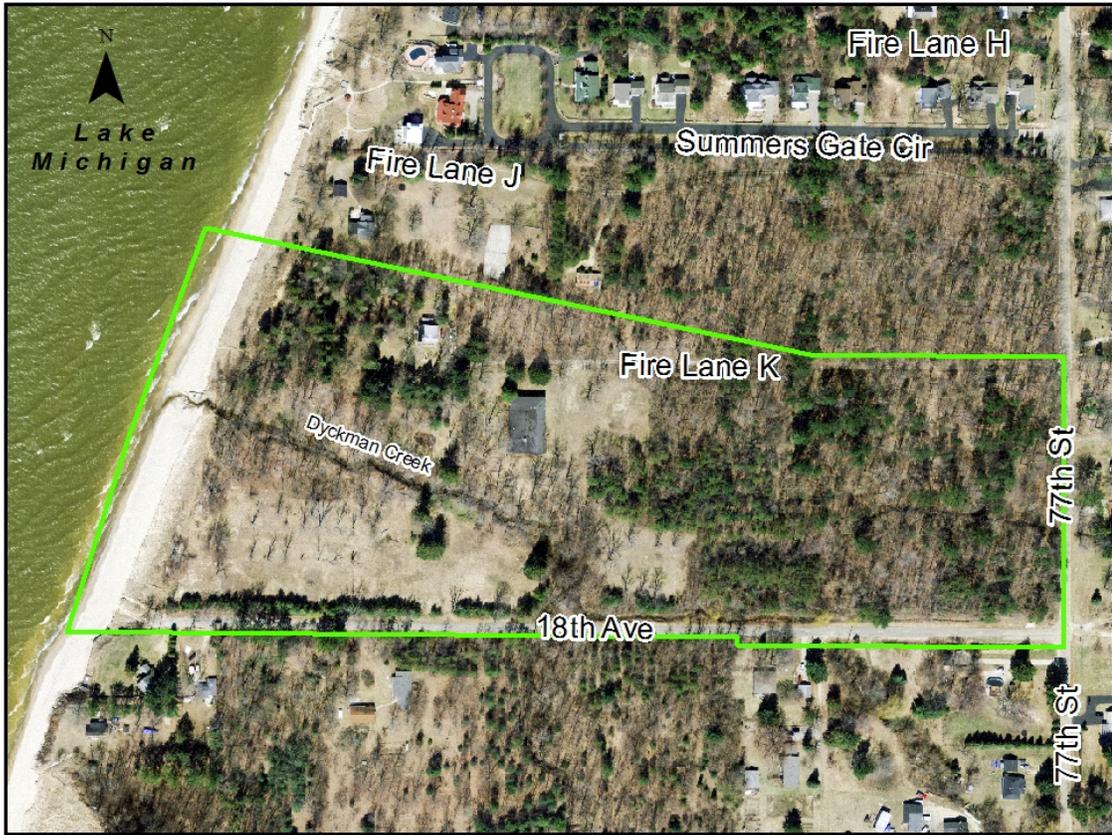
### Overview

The 26-acre Pilgrim Haven, owned by Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, includes Dyckman Creek and nearly 800 feet of beach frontage. The site operated as a camp for 70 years, initially as Camp Kiwanis Nawakwa and later as Pilgrim Haven under the ownership of Michigan United Church of Christ. Eventually the property will be open to the general public, but that can't happen until unsafe old camp structures are removed and other preparations are completed. After her death in 2010 Suzanne Upjohn DeLano Parish, who purchased the property in 1985, gave the land to the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy. The intent of her gift was to ensure that Pilgrim Haven remain a natural area to be shared and enjoyed by others. Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy has hosted two open house meeting related to the site, to gather input from the public on possible use of the site. The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy is now working with SHARA to develop and operate this park.

### ADA Accessibility Rating

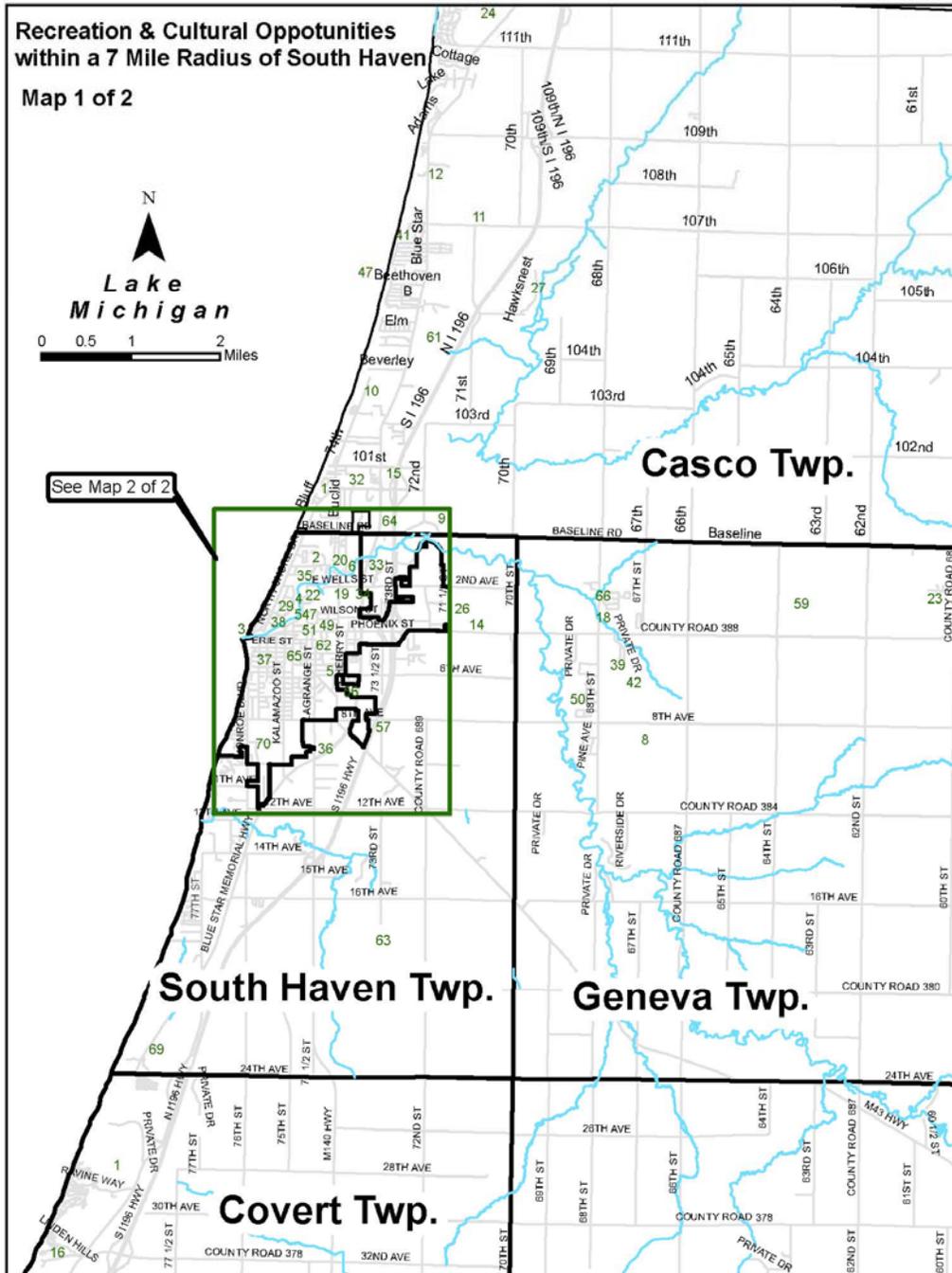
5 = the entire park will be developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

# Pilgrim Haven Aerial

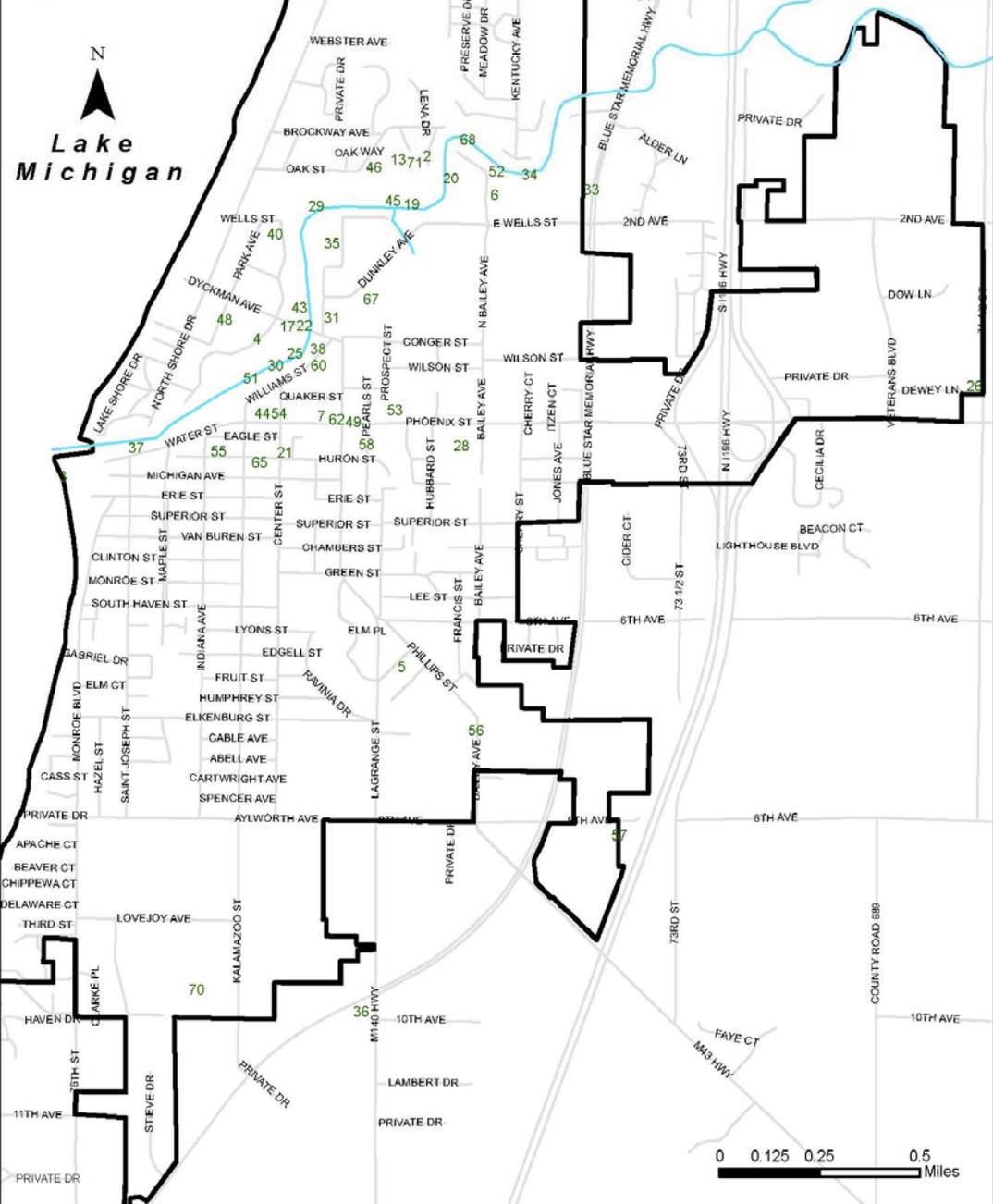


## E. Other Sources of Recreation Activities and Opportunities Near South Haven

### Organizations



**Recreation & Cultural Opportunities  
within a 7 Mile Radius of South Haven**  
Map 2 of 2



10/22/2012

#	Name	Type	Address	Website
1.	1st Street Recreational Lake Access	Park / Beach	1st Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.cascotownship.org">www.cascotownship.org</a>
2.	2 Strong Performance Charters	Charter Fishing	300 Oak St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.strongperformancecharters.com">www.strongperformancecharters.com</a>
3.	Adventure Water Sports	Rentals	1 Water St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.southhavenboatrentals.com">www.southhavenboatrentals.com</a>
4.	All Seasons Marine	Rentals	234 Black River St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.allseasonsmarineinc.com/publishsite/index.cfm">www.allseasonsmarineinc.com/publishsite/index.cfm</a>
5.	Anytime Fitness	Fitness	855 La Grange St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.anytimefitness.com/gyms/1638/South%20Haven-MI-49090">www.anytimefitness.com/gyms/1638/South%20Haven-MI-49090</a>
6.	Basin Park RV Park	Camping	875 E Wells St, South Haven, MI	N/A
7.	Beach Bum Rentals	Rentals	530 Phoenix St, South Haven, MI	N/A
8.	Beeches Golf Club	Golf Course	09601 68th St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.beechesgolfclub.com">www.beechesgolfclub.com</a>
9.	Campground	Camping	Kal-Haven Trail, South Haven, MI	N/A
10.	Camping	Camping	262 74th St, South Haven, MI	N/A
11.	Casco Township Hall (Future Park)	Park (Future)	7064 111th Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.cascotownship.org">www.cascotownship.org</a>
12.	Casco Township Nature Preserve	Park/ Beach	776 Blue Star Hwy, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.cascotownship.org">www.cascotownship.org</a>
13.	Cat's Meow Cruises	Charter Cruise	300 Oak St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.catsmeowcruises.com">www.catsmeowcruises.com</a>

14.	Cheerio Acres	Outdoor	71221 CR 388, South Haven, MI	N/A
15.	Cousins' RV Park	Camping	7317 North Shore Dr N, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.cousinssouthhaven.com">www.cousinssouthhaven.com</a>
16.	Covert Township Park	Camping	80559 32nd Ave, Covert MI	<a href="http://www.covertpark.com">www.covertpark.com</a>
17.	Elise J Tug Boat Rides	Charter Cruise	282 Dyckman Ave, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.jensencharters.com">www.jensencharters.com</a>
18.	Fideland Fun Park	Fun Activity	68099 CR 388, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.fideland.tripod.com/funpark">www.fideland.tripod.com/funpark</a>
19.	Finn Fighter	Charter Fishing	290 Oak St, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.finnfighter.com">www.finnfighter.com</a>
20.	Finsation Sport Fishing Charters	Charter Fishing	290 Oak St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.finsation.com">www.finsation.com</a>
21.	Foundry hall	Theater	422 Eagle St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.foundryhall.com">www.foundryhall.com</a>
22.	Friends Good Will Tall Ship	Charter Cruise	260 Dyckman Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org/friendsgoodwill">www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org/friendsgoodwill</a>
23.	Gingerman Raceway	Fun Activity	61414 CR 388, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.gingermanraceway.com">www.gingermanraceway.com</a>
24.	Glenn Shores G.C.	Golf Course	7097 Orchard Lake Dr, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.glennshores.com">www.glennshores.com</a>
25.	GypsySoul Sailboat Charters & Adventures	Charter Cruise	515 Williams St, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.gypsysoulcharter.com">www.gypsysoulcharter.com</a>
26.	Harbor Jet Skis @ Vanderzee Motorplex	Rental	1875 Phoenix St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.vanderzeemotorplex.com">www.vanderzeemotorplex.com</a>
27.	Hawkshead Links	Golf Course	523 Hawksnest Dr, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.hawksheadlinks.com">www.hawksheadlinks.com</a>

28.	Historical Association of South Haven - Hartman School	Historical	355 Hubbard St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.historyofsouthhaven.org">www.historyofsouthhaven.org</a>
29.	Hoggin Charters	Charter Fishing	298 Black River St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.hoggincharters.com">www.hoggincharters.com</a>
30.	Hotel Nichols (Bike Rental)	Rentals	201 Center St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.hotelnichols.com">www.hotelnichols.com</a>
31.	It II Do Charters	Charter Fishing	532 Dyckman Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.itildocharters.com">www.itildocharters.com</a>
32.	Jensen's Campground	Camping	7366 North Shore Dr N, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.cascotownship.org">www.cascotownship.org</a>
34.	Kal-Haven Trailhead	Trailhead	51 Bailey Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.vbco.org/government364491.asp">www.vbco.org/government364491.asp</a>
33.	Kal-Haven RV Park	Camping	1073 E Wells St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.kal-havenrvpark.jimdo.com/">www.kal-havenrvpark.jimdo.com/</a>
35.	Kayak-Kayak	Rentals	123 Dunkley Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.kayak-kayak.com">www.kayak-kayak.com</a>
36.	Lakeside Family Entertainment	Fun Activity	09921 Blue Star Hwy, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.lakesidebowl.com">www.lakesidebowl.com</a>
37.	Lighthouse's Dwelling	Museum	91 Michigan Ave, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org">www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org</a>
38.	Manistee Mama Fishing Charter	Charter Fishing	519 Williams St, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.manisteemamacharter.com">www.manisteemamacharter.com</a>
39.	Martin's Jet Ski Rental	Rentals	04891 68th St, South Haven MI	N/A
40.	Matthews Sportfishing Charters	Charter Fishing	292 Black River St, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.pylesporthole.com">www.pylesporthole.com</a>
41.	Miami Park Beach	Park / Beach	623 Lake Shore Dr, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.cascotownship.org">www.cascotownship.org</a>

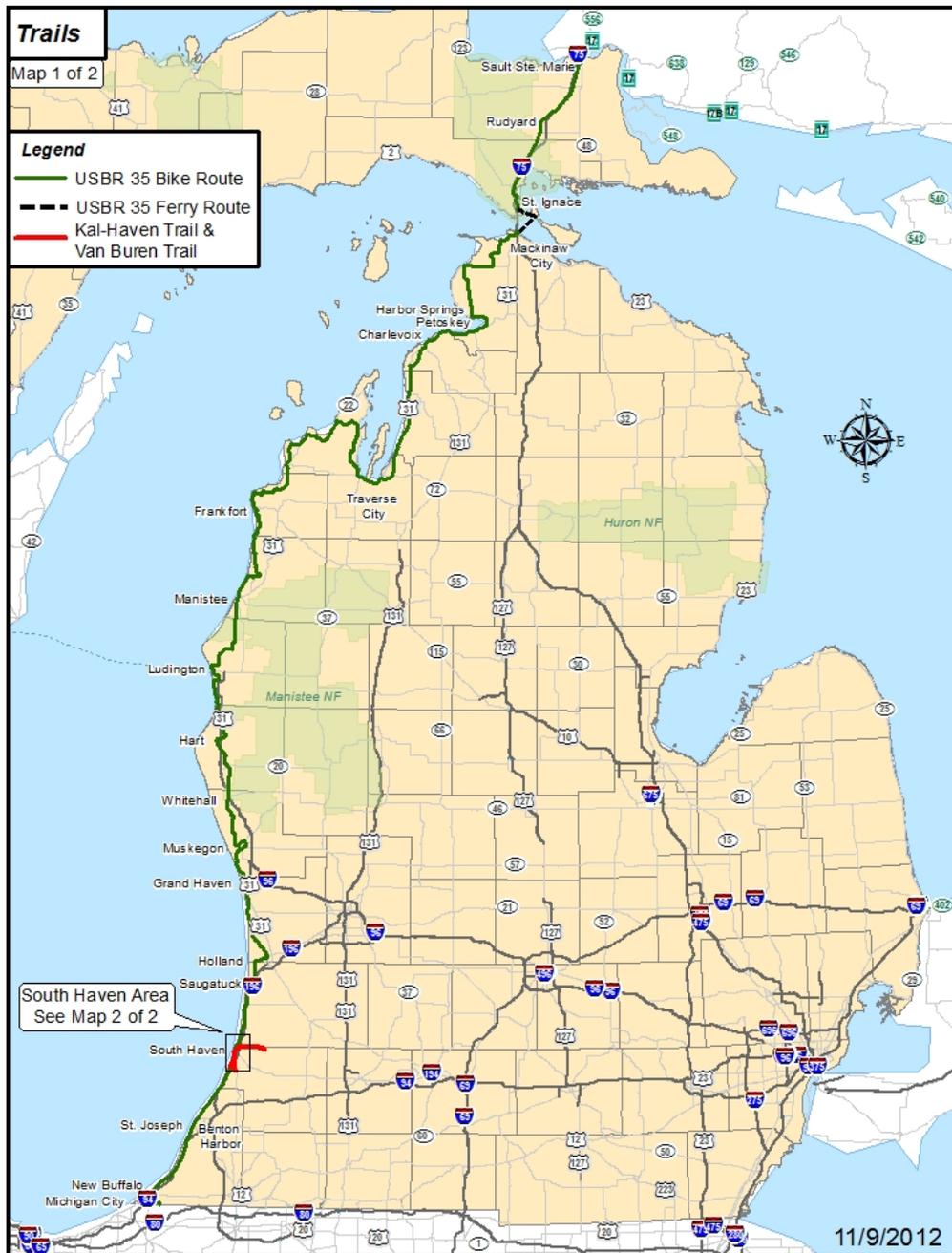
42.	Michigan Flywheelers Museum	Museum	06285 68th St, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.michiganflywheelers.org/">www.michiganflywheelers.org/</a>
43.	Michigan Maritime Museum	Museum	260 Dyckman Ave, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org">www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org</a>
44.	Michigan Theatre	Theater	210 Center St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.michigantheatre.mooretheatres.com">www.michigantheatre.mooretheatres.com</a>
45.	Miss Vicki Fishing Charters	Charter Fishing	290 Oak St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.missvickifishingcharters.com">www.missvickifishingcharters.com</a>
46.	Mr. Bill Charters	Charter Cruise / Fishing	280 Oak St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.mrbillcharters.com">www.mrbillcharters.com</a>
47.	Mt. Pleasant Beach	Park / Beach	B Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.cascotownship.org">www.cascotownship.org</a>
48.	Outpost Sports	Rentals	114 Dyckman Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.outpostsports.com">www.outpostsports.com</a>
49.	Rock 'n' Road Cycle	Rentals	315 Broadway St, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.rocknroadcyclesouthhaven.com">www.rocknroadcyclesouthhaven.com</a>
50.	Rustic River Campground	Camping	8th Ave west of Black River, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/RusticRiverCampground">www.facebook.com/RusticRiverCampground</a>
51.	Sailing South Haven	Charter Cruise	515 Williams St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.sailingsouthhaven.com">www.sailingsouthhaven.com</a>
52.	Salmon Nailer Charters	Charter Fishing	40 N Bailey Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.salmonnailer.com">www.salmonnailer.com</a>
53.	Scott Club	Historical	652 Phoenix St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.vbco.org/history0027.asp">www.vbco.org/history0027.asp</a>
54.	Sharkless	Rentals	518 Phoenix St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.sharkless.com">www.sharkless.com</a>
55.	Shoreline Dance Academy	Fitness	330 Kalamazoo St, South Haven, MI	N/A

56.	Shoreline Wellness Center	Fitness	950 Bailey Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.shorelinewellness.org">www.shorelinewellness.org</a>
57.	South Haven Bark Park	Dog Park	1250 8th Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.al-van.org">www.al-van.org</a>
58.	South Haven Center for the Arts	Museum	600 Phoenix St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.southhavenarts.org">www.southhavenarts.org</a>
59.	South Haven Family Campground	Camping	03403 64th St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.southhavenfamilycg.com">www.southhavenfamilycg.com</a>
60.	South Haven Fishing Charters	Charter Fishing	519 Williams St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.southhavenfishingcharters.com">www.southhavenfishingcharters.com</a>
61.	South Haven Golf Club	Golf Course	397 Blue Star Hwy, South Haven, MI	N/A
62.	South Haven Memorial Library	Library	314 Broadway St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.shmlibrary.org">www.shmlibrary.org</a>
63.	South Haven Regional Airport	Airport	73020 CR 380, South Haven, MI	N/A
64.	South Haven Twp Land	Park / Beach	Baseline Rd & Blue Star Memorial Hwy	<a href="http://www.southhaventwp.com">www.southhaventwp.com</a>
65.	South Haven Yoga Shala	Fitness	330 Kalamazoo St, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.southhavenyoga.com">www.southhavenyoga.com</a>
66.	Sunny Brook RV Resort	Camping	68300 CR 388, South Haven MI	<a href="http://www.sunnybrookrvresort.com">www.sunnybrookrvresort.com</a>
67.	The Depot RV Park	Camping	Dyckman Ave, South Haven, MI	N/A
68.	Two Marines and A Boat	Charter Fishing	12 N Bailey Ave, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.twomarinesandaboat.com">www.twomarinesandaboat.com</a>
69.	Van Buren State Park	Camping	23960 Ruggles Road, South Haven, MI	<a href="http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/details.aspx?id=502&amp;type=SPRK">www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/details.aspx?id=502&amp;type=SPRK</a>

70. Van Buren Trailhead      Trailhead      1449 St. Joseph St,  
 South Haven, MI      [www.vbco.org/natfeat2148358.asp](http://www.vbco.org/natfeat2148358.asp)

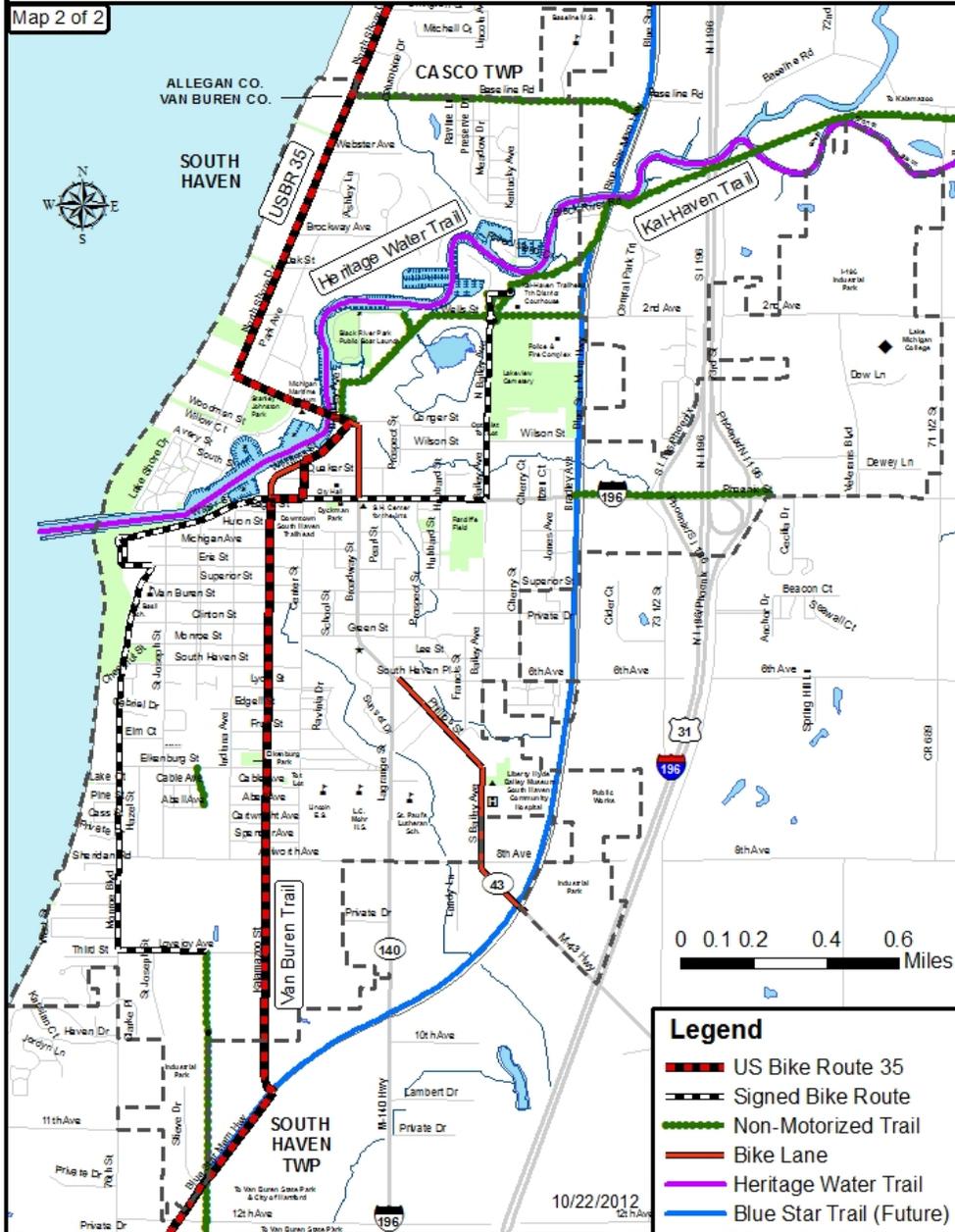
71. Water Waltz Charters      Charter Fishing      300 Oak St, South  
 Haven, MI      [www.waterwaltz.com](http://www.waterwaltz.com)

**Trails**



# South Haven Area Trail Infrastructure

Map 2 of 2



# **DNR Grant Inventory**

## **Section 4**

## DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

### A. City of South Haven

The City of South Haven has previously received several DNR recreational grants for park development, listed in Table 5-1, below. These grants came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (26), Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (TF), and the 1988 Recreation Bond Fund (BF). In Table 5-2 is a list of the Waterway Grants the City has received.

**Table 5-1**

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Scope</b>
26-00420	Black River Park	Development	Closed	Boat launch area, picnic Area, Playground equipment, Lighting, Site Improvements
BF93-158	South Beach/Riverfront Park	Development	Closed	Picnic Shelter, Lighting, Landscaping, Restroom Facilities
TF887	South Shore Recreational Area	Acquisition	Closed	
TF95-093	Dyckman & Packard Park	Development	Closed	Asphalt Parking Lot, Handicap Ramp constructed, Recreation Deck, Landscaping
TF10 -097	South Beach Improvements	Development	Active	Beach amenities, Playground Equipment, Accessible timber overlook, channel view parking area, Parking lot safety improvements/ expansion
TF11 -144	Elkenburg Park Improvements	Development	Pre-Appropriation	Restrooms/picnic shelter renovations, basketball courts, landscaping , parks amenities

**Table 5-2**

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Date</b>
North Side Municipal Marina	Eng. Agreement	eng. Survey	5/7/1962
North Side Municipal Marina	Eng. Agreement	eng. Survey	5/13/1968
North Side Municipal Marina	Agreement	p.l. & m.f., Trans. Sha-Dra	4/8/1969
North Side Municipal Marina	Supp. Agreement	con. & improv fac. (4/8/69)	5/6/1970
North Side Municipal Marina	Eng. Agreement	eng. Survey	10/5/1970
North Side Municipal Marina	(eng.) agreement	launching & parking fac.	10/19/1970
North Side Municipal Marina	Supp. Agreement	con. & improv fac. (4/8/69)	6/5/1972
North Side Municipal Marina	Supp. Agreement	con. & improv fac. (4/8/69)	11/20/1972
North Side Municipal Marina	Supp. Agreement	con. & improv fac. (4/8/69)	8/5/1974
North Side Municipal Marina	(eng.) agreement	eng. Survey	10/7/1974
North Side Municipal Marina	Supp. Agreement	road improvement (4/8/69)	11/4/1975
North Side Municipal Marina	Supp. Agreement	con. & improv fac. (4/8/69)	2/6/1978
North Side Municipal Marina	(eng.) agreement	upgrade facilities	9/16/1997
North Side Municipal Marina	Agreement	Emergency - Dredging	9/13/1999
North Side Municipal Marina	Agreement	construction/boat launch	10/4/1999
North Side Municipal Marina	Agreement	upgrade facilities	10/6/2003
North Side Municipal Marina	Engineering Study	New clubhouse facility	5/2008
Black River Park	Agreement	launching facilities	9/5/1972
Black River Park	Supplemental Agreement	road surfacing	12/16/1974
Black River Park	Supplemental Agreement	road surfacing	11/18/1975
Black River Park	Agreement	repairs/upgrading	3/7/1983
Black River Park	Engineering Study	repair of failed seawalls	6/17/1998
Black River Park	Engineering St.	repair of failed seawalls	10/4/1999

## B. South Haven Township

Below is a listing of the grants received by the township. Table 5-3 is a list of the grants the Township has received.

**Table 5-3**

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Scope</b>
06-210	Deerlick	Acquisition	closed	To acquire the land

# **Public Input and Planning Process**

## **Section 5**

## Public Input and Planning Process

### A. City of South Haven

The draft Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared by the Parks and Recreation staff. Complete inventories of the recreational facilities were completed prior to the development of the plan. The draft was first presented to City Council for authorization to distribute. After completion of an initial review and discussion with City Council, any requested changes were made, and the plan was presented to the Parks Commission Harbor Commission, the Planning Commission, and the SHARP Committee for comments. The draft was sent to South Haven Township, SHARA, and South Haven Public Schools for completion of their part of the plan. The plan was then made available for public review (**Appendix A** – Copy of the Notice of Availability for Public Review and Comment).

Publicly announced open meetings were held with the Parks Commission for public input. The public notice was published on the city website and in the South Haven Tribune. (**Appendix B** – Copy of the Notice for Public Meeting Held) Parks Commission will then make a recommendation to City Council regarding approval of the plan.

City Council then held a public hearing and made final plan adoption (**Appendix E**). A letter was also mailed to the Van Buren County Planning Department (**See Appendix G**) and the Southwestern Michigan Commission (**See Appendix H**)

The process of public hearing, review and approval proceeded as follows

1. City Council review, authorization to distribute: 10/01/12
2. Parks Commission review of Recreation Plan: 10/09/12
3. Harbor Commission review for comments: 10/16/12
4. SHARP review: 11/05/12
5. Planning Commission review for comments: 11/01/12
6. Parks Commission public hearing: (12/11/12) (See minutes/motions in **Appendix C**)
7. Parks Commission approval of Recreation Plan, recommendation to City Council: (12/11/12) (See minutes/motions in **Appendix D**)
8. South Haven City Council final review, public hearing and adoption of the plan: (??/??/??) (See Minutes in **Appendix E**) (See resolution in **Appendix F**)

## **B. South Haven Township**

The draft Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared by the Parks and Recreation Department staff and was distributed to the Township. City staff worked with the Township to edit/reformat the townships section of the plan.

The plan was presented to the Township Planning commission for review. The plan was then presented to the Township Board review and to begin the public hearing process. After the public hearing, the Township Board approved the plan.

The process of public hearing, review and approval proceeded as follows:

1. Planning Commission review for comments
2. Township review
3. Public Hearing at Township Board meeting (??/??/??) (See minutes in **Appendix I**)
4. Township Board final review and adoption of the plan (??/??/??) (See resolution in **Appendix J**)

## **C. South Haven Public Schools**

The draft Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared by the Parks and Recreation Department staff and was distributed to the School. City staff worked with the school to edit/reformat the schools section of the plan.

The public hearing was held in conjunction with the City's public hearing. The plan was then approved by the school board.

The process of public hearing, review and approval proceeded as follows

1. Public Hearing ??/??/?? ( see **Appendix ?**)
2. South Haven Public Schools final review and adoption of the plan: (??/??/??) (See minutes in **Appendix K**)

## **D. SHARA**

The draft Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared by the Parks and Recreation Department staff and was distributed to SHARA. City staff worked with SHARA to add theirs sections to the plan.

The process of public hearing, review and approval proceeded as follows

1. Public Hearing ??/??/?? ( see **Appendix ?**)
2. SHARA final review and adoption of the plan: (??/??/??) (See minutes in **Appendix L**)

# **Goals, Objectives, Capital Improvements and Action Program**

**Section 6**

## Goals, Objectives, Capital Improvements and Action Program

### A. City of South Haven

The goals, objectives and capital improvement portion of the plan provided for the current identified needs for which developing trends indicate an imminent need. This plan is not intended to be all inclusive, but used rather as a guide for recreation development. This recreation plan should remain somewhat flexible to account for changing lifestyles, increased leisure time and new ideas so that it will always be consistent with contemporary needs and strive to provide the best overall recreation opportunities available for South Haven residents and visitors.

The conclusions for the goals, objectives and capital improvements came from staff and the commissions identifying what was needed to best meet the needs of the community. Input was taken from other commissions and a public hearing. Their rationale for the project and action to be taken is also listed.

### Goals/Objectives

The major goal of the five-year capital improvement plan is to maintain existing facilities in a way that they meet the needs and expectations of the residents, while still providing a great recreational use for visitors. The improvement of all park land to accommodate a variety of uses that serve all age groups and levels of ability is extremely critical. Emphasis will be placed on upgrading all existing parks to current ADA and Play Equipment Safety Standards. Additional goals are listed below:

**Goal 1:** Provide leisure time activities with special consideration given to improving health and fitness.

Objective:

- a. Provide both passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the community.
- b. Add recreational facilities based upon recreation trends and input from the community.

**Goal 2:** Provide safe, broad community-based recreation opportunities that improve the overall quality-of-life for all South Haven area residents and tourists.

Objective:

- a. Continue to add amenities to the South Haven park facilities based upon community input and need.
- b. Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
- c. Insure that improvements and upgrades to park facilities are universally accessible.

**Goal 3:** Provide activities that allow children to learn through play. Through play children can develop positive social, physical, emotional, and imaginative skills.

Objective:

- a. Add a variety of equipment, each with a different skill level that:
  1. Allows children to develop these skills
  2. Allows them the ability to attempt higher skill levels as they grow older and develop these skills.

**Goal 4:** Provide non-motorized pathways for recreational and transportation use.

Objective:

- a. Expand the non-motorized pathways in the South Haven area with a focus upon connecting existing parks, neighborhoods and local destination points.

**Goal 5:** Develop recreation opportunities that focus upon and take advantage of South Haven area water resources.

Objective:

- a. Enhance fishing, canoeing and kayaking opportunities on the Black River
- b. Improve beach accesses to provide additional and better access to Lake Michigan

**Goal 6:** Create community awareness of all South Haven area recreational opportunities and promote them to residents and visitors.

Objective:

- a. Develop web based media to describe existing recreational opportunities with the City of South Haven, SHARA, and the South Haven Township.

**Goal 7:** Continue to embrace and enhance regional collaboration for recreational programs and facilities.

Objective:

- a. Continue to work with existing recreation partners in the community to provide programs, leagues, and special events.

**Goal 8:** Work with the various trail groups and other stakeholders to support and promote trails/ expand access to nature trails, bike paths, and natural areas/open space within close proximity to city residents.

Objective:

- a. Evaluate existing/planned trails, bike paths, and natural areas in the City to determine current conditions and to determine whether improvements to existing trails are feasible.
- b. Identify additional areas within or near City boundaries for trail and bike path development.
- c. Identify areas within the City for natural areas/open space and determine feasibility of acquisition.

- d. Continue development and improvement of both existing and future trailheads.
- e. Provide identifying signs throughout the City that assist users in identifying locations of trails, trailheads, and links to other facilities such as neighborhood parks.

**Goal 9:** Continue maintenance and improvements to existing neighborhood parks.

Objectives:

- a. Prioritize the replacement and maintenance of playground equipment for all users.
- b. Improve playground surfaces for safety and for access for all users.
- c. Add and improve site amenities at neighborhood parks such as picnic tables and grills.
- d. Continue to improve ADA approved accessibility at all neighborhood parks.
- e. Evaluate lighting and other security measures at neighborhood parks and along trails and bike paths.

Each fiscal year the City of South Haven's City Council puts together a list of priorities to be accomplished throughout that year. Following is an excerpt of the 2012/2013 FY City Council priorities that affect the parks and public spaces in the city:

Priority #3; Parks & Public Spaces

- *City Council will seek to improve, maintain, and seek funding opportunities for the city's parks and public facilities. The City Council will seek to develop new recreation opportunities within the city. The following tasks will be completed:*
  - *During the 2012-13 fiscal year Council will work with staff to complete the construction of the partially grant funded capital improvements to the South Beach Park.*
    - *Maintenance of the city's various beach access points will be a priority.*
  - *During the 2012-13 fiscal year Council will work with staff to construct the partially grant funded reconstruction of the Elkenburg Park.*
  - *During the 2012-13 fiscal year Council will work with staff to seek grant funds to assist with the planning and development of improvements in and near the Black River Park. Those improvements should allow greater access to the Black River and attempt to improve water quality.*
    - *City Council will seek to maintain the public infrastructure within the Dunkley Redevelopment Area.*
  - *During the 2012-13 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the regional community stakeholders to assist with planning and development of the SHARP project.*

- *Staff will continue to assist with the development of the South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA)*
- *During the 2012-13 fiscal year Council will work with staff, concerned volunteers, and impacted property owners/stakeholders to plan and construct a new skate park facility.*
- *During the 2012-13 fiscal year Council will explore new park and public space programs which enhance City revenue and provide greater management oversight.*
  - *The Council will explore park rental programs, updates to the beach parking program, and other revenue enhancements which could be used to benefit the City's parks and public spaces.*

### **Capital Improvements/Actions**

This capital improvement section identifies needs, wants and actions at specific city facilities that relate to the overall delivery of the park and recreation services. Following is the list of possible capital improvements and projects that city staff, the Parks Commission and the community have identified:

#### **Cable Street Tot Lot**

- Improve playground surfaces

**Rationale:** For safety and for access for all users.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budget with city funds

- Upgrade playground equipment to include transfer station

**Rationale:** to increase access for all users.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budget with city funds

- Add additional playground equipment

**Rationale:** To meet goal 3.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations, and budget with city funds.

### Dyckman Park

- Upgrade park to new master plan

**Rationale:** provides better accessibility and visibility of park, public restrooms and pavilion.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations, and budget with city funds.

### Elkenburg Park

- Improve playground surfaces

**Rationale:** For safety and for access for all users.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budget with city funds

- Replace existing playground equipment and place new equipment to meet National Playground Safety Institute Standards and to align with park master plan.

**Rationale:** The playground structures don't meet the National Playground Safety Institute Standards and need to be replaced to meet these standards

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations, and budget with city funds.

- Upgrade playground equipment to include transfer station

**Rationale:** to increase access for all users.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations, and budget with city funds.

- Add additional playground equipment

**Rationale:** To meet goal 3.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations, and budget with city funds.

## Kids Corner

- Replace existing playground equipment and place new equipment to meet National Playground Safety Institute Standards

**Rationale:** The playground structures don't meet the National Playground Safety Institute Standards and need to be replaced to meet these standards

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations, and budget with city funds.

- Improve accessibility into park

**Rationale:** makes parks more inviting and makes for safe routes into the park.

**Action:** Study best possible areas to provide accessibility into parks. When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budgeting with city funds and research grants.

- Fencing

**Rationale:** Provides a safe barrier between the park and the street.

**Action:** Work with city council, parks commission and local residents to agree on the type of fencing best suited for the area and budget to complete project with city funds, donations or grants.

- Add additional playground equipment

**Rationale:** To meet goal 3.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations, and budget with city funds.

- Update baseball field

**Rationale:** To make sure the city is able to continue having a spot where ball can be played.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, budget with city funds.

- Improve playground surfaces

**Rationale:** For safety and for access for all users.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budget with city funds

### Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum

**2012** – Estimated costs ~ \$15,000

- Finish Electrical and security wiring
- Finish Security System

**2013**– Estimated costs ~ \$35,000

- Remove existing paint on exterior (lead abatement) and repaint
- Install an ADA bathroom/remodel existing bathroom
- Improve living collections to better reflect our mission/LHB Jr.
- Finish porch railing
- Professionally clean the roof of the McNeill Room
- Repair and paint fences
- Remove outdoor lanterns

**2014**– Estimated costs ~ \$5,000

- Glaze windows
- Replace storm windows
- Add rain barrels (NPS Sustainability Recommendations)
- Pipe dehumidifier and air conditioning condensate to outside rain barrels

**2015**– Estimated costs ~ \$10,000

- Remove deadbolts from exterior doors, repair doors and install period knobs and bolts
- Rebuild basement stairs
- Excavate two feet of dirt from basement crawlspaces
- Shore up middle room (leisure) floor
- Remove carpeting from middle (leisure) room
- Replace bilco door with wooden door

**2016**– Estimated costs ~ \$20,000

- Run ducts and air condition the McNeill Room
- Add correct molding to front porch
- Move electric and gas meters to enclosure on north side of carriage barn
- Add kitchenette to McNeill Room

**2017**– Estimated costs ~ \$10,000

- Eliminate old kitchen and determine correct usage for space

## Optimist Tot Lot

- Replace existing playground equipment and place new equipment to meet National Playground Safety Institute Standards

**Rationale:** The playground structures don't meet the National Playground Safety Institute Standards and need to be replaced to meet these standards

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations, and budget with city funds.

- Replace bathroom facility with facility that meets ADA standards

**Rationale:** The current facility is very small and is not ADA accessible.

**Action:** Have a blueprint created and research grants, seek private donations and budget with city funds.

- Improve accessibility into park

**Rationale:** makes parks more inviting and makes for safe routes into the park.

**Action:** Study best possible areas to provide accessibility into parks. When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budgeting with city funds and research grants

- Fencing

**Rationale:** Provides a safe barrier between the park and the street.

**Action:** Work with city council, parks commission and local residents of the park to agree on the type of fencing best suited for the area and budget to complete project with city funds, donations or grants.

- Add additional playground equipment

**Rationale:** To meet goal 3.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations, and budget with city funds.

- Update baseball field

**Rationale:** to make sure the city is able to continue having a spot where ball can be played.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, budget with city funds.

- Improve playground surfaces

**Rationale:** For safety and for access for all users.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budget with city funds

### Riverfront Park

- Splash Pad

**Rationale:** A splash pad will create a safe environment where people may cool down, have fun and avoid Lake Michigan if the lake conditions are too rough.

**Action:** Have a blueprint created and research grants, seek private donations and budget with city funds.

### Stanley Johnston Park

- Replace existing play structures to meet National Playground Safety Institute Standards

**Rationale:** The play structures don't meet the National Playground Safety Institute Standards and need to be replaced to meet those standards.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with city funds.

- Add additional playground equipment

**Rationale:** To meet goal 3.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations, and budget with city funds.

- Update current infrastructure

**Rationale:** Infrastructure needs to be updated.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

- Increase bathroom facilities

**Rationale:** Not enough restrooms compared to the amount of users.

**Action:** Have a blueprint created, then budget for this project with City funds and look at donations from the Special Event sponsors that use this park for their event.

- Improve accessibility into park

**Rationale:** makes parks more inviting and makes for safe routes into the park.

**Action:** Study best possible areas to provide accessibility into parks. When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budgeting with city funds and research grants

- Upgrade Utilities (water & sewer)

**Rationale:** To make sure restrooms can keep up and handle high traffic of volume.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, budget with city funds.

- Improve playground surfaces

**Rationale:** For safety and for access for all users.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budget with city funds

#### Newcome Beach Access

- Have public walkway placed from road to stairs

**Rationale:** To make an easily identified access from the road to the stairs.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budgeting with city funds.

#### North Beach

- Replace existing handicap accessible walkway

**Rationale:** The City's current handicap accessible walkways are in poor condition.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

- Add accessible path to pier

**Rationale:** an accessible pathway can assist people, emergency vehicles and other equipment out onto the pier.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

- Replace concession stand/restrooms

**Rationale:** Existing facility is not in good condition.

**Action:** Have a blueprint created, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

- Repave parking lot/Lakeshore Dr.

**Rationale:** Road is in poor condition

**Action:** Coordinate with street plan, have a blueprint created, research grants, and seek private donations and budget with City funds.

- Improve accessibility into park

**Rationale:** makes parks more inviting and makes for safe routes into the park.

**Action:** Study best possible areas to provide accessibility into parks. When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budgeting with city funds and research grants

- Replace existing play structures to meet National Playground Safety Institute Standards

**Rationale:** The play structures don't meet the National Playground Safety Institute Standards and need to be replaced to meet those standards.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

### Packard Park Beach

- Reconstruct retaining wall and steps that lead to restroom
  - Convert steps into an ADA ramp.
  - Reconstruct/widen sidewalk from this new ramp to restroom
    - Extend this sidewalk to the North side of the park/parking lot

**Rationale:** Currently there is not ADA accessibility from parking lot to restroom facility.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with city funds.

- Add handicap accessible walkway to beach

**Rationale:** This will provide easier access to the beach/water

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with city funds.

- Parking lot reconstruction

**Rationale:** Parking lot is in poor shape.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budgeting with City funds.

- Upgrade Utilities (water & sewer)

**Rationale:** To enlarge restrooms in anticipation of high traffic volume.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, budget with city funds.

### South Beach

- Build concession stand

**Rationale:** To provide an additional customer service product for users.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with city funds.

- Update restroom facilities

**Rationale:** Currently the restrooms facilities are too small for the amount of users of South Beach

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with city funds.

- Update pavilion

**Rationale:** Currently the pavilion is too small for the amount of users of South Beach

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with city funds.

### HarborWalk

- Trail improvements
  - Area from North Shore Drive to South Street
  - Area crossing Dyckman Bridge
  - Enhance trail markers (i.e. signs, sidewalk markers)

**Rationale:** These improvements would make the trail more user-friendly.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

### Van Buren Trail

- Upgrade trail past trailhead into the city

**Rationale:** Meets goals 4 & 8

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

### Black River Park Marina

- Replace fish cleaning station with a larger capacity pump in order to accommodate all fish

**Rationale:** Current fish cleaning station does not accommodate large fish.

**Action:** Install larger capacity fish cleaning station, when ready to move forward with this project, proceed to budgeting with marina funds.

- Update east end of park to comply with master plan
  - Picnic area

- Fishing area
- Non motorized boat launch
- Parking
- Accessible route to river's edge

**Rationale:** To meet goal five

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

- Add "Dredge spoil loading area"

#### Museum Marina

- Build a roofed deck area

**Rationale:** To provide an area for marina users to sit

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

- Dredge

**Rationale:** To ensure all watercraft can make it into the slips.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

#### Northside Marina

- Dredge

**Rationale:** To ensure all watercraft can make it into the slips.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

#### Southside Municipal Marina

- Dredge

**Rationale:** To ensure all watercraft can make it into the slips.

**Action:** When ready to move forward with this project, research grants, seek private donations and budget with City funds.

- Upgrade electric pedestals
- Interior renovation
- Furniture replacement

### **Miscellaneous Areas**

#### Pedestrian, Bike and Paddle Plan

- The focus of this plan is to enhance the overall pedestrian, bicycling and paddling experience and to encourage healthy lifestyles benefiting from non-motorized transportation.
- The goal is to make the City of South Haven a location where it is possible for people to go through daily routines of work, shopping and recreation without being required to use a motor vehicle.
- The purpose of the paddle plan is to explore ways of making the Black River accessible and convenient for dinghies and paddlecraft.

#### Watering system for city trees

**Rationale:** To protect the city's investment into planting trees, during times of minimal or no rainfall, a system is needed to keep all trees watered, particularly the newly planted.

**Action:** To develop plan, obtain approval and implement.

## **B. South Haven Township**

### **Goals/Objectives**

The major goal of the five-year capital improvement plan is to maintain existing facilities in a way that they meet the needs and expectations of the residents, while still providing a great recreational use for visitors. The improvement of all park land to accommodate a variety of uses that serve all age groups and levels of ability is extremely critical. Additional goals are list below:

#### **Goal 1:** Improve non-motorized markings along county roads

##### Objectives

- a. Provide for Safe Routes to School
- b. Provide for tourist bike routes
- c. Provide connection to Pilgrim's Haven park

#### **Goal 2:** Improve M-140 (Coastal Crossings Annex) Park

##### Objectives

- a. Provide amenities for the Van Buren Trail
- b. Prevent this park from becoming a blight issue

#### **Goal 3:** Provide for another sports complex as population warrants

##### Objectives

- a. Locate additional sports facilities closer to center of population
- b. Provide for additional sports facilities as the population increases

### Capital Improvements/Actions

This capital improvement section identifies needs, wants and actions at specific township facilities that relate to the overall delivery of the park and recreation services. Following is the list of possible capital improvements and projects that staff, the Planning Commission and the community have identified:

#### 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park

- Maintenance

**Rationale:** potential legal issues

**Action:** on hold until legal issues are resolved

#### Deerlick Creek Park

- Maintenance

**Rationale:** Park is complete

**Action:** landscaping firm provided for in the budget

#### Evergreen Bluff Park

- Construct stairway

**Rationale:** Needed for access

**Action:** stairway construction

M-140 Nature Sanctuary and Van Buren Trail Parking

- Improvements for bicyclists

**Rationale:** There is a need for active use of this park

**Action:** a development plan is needed

## **C. SHARA: City of South Haven, South Haven Township, South Haven Public Schools**

### Goals/Objectives

The major goal of the five-year capital improvement plan is to maintain existing facilities in a way that they meet the needs and expectations of the residents, while still providing a great recreational use for visitors. The improvement of all park land to accommodate a variety of uses that serve all age groups and levels of ability is extremely critical. Additional goals are list below:

#### **Goal 1:**

##### Objectives

- a. ??
- b. ??
- c. ??

#### **Goal 2:**

##### Objectives

- a. ??
- b. ??
- c. ??

### Capital Improvements/Actions

This capital improvement section identifies needs, wants and actions of the SHARA facilities that relate to the overall delivery of park and recreation services. Following is the list of possible capital improvements and projects that township staff, the Parks Commission and the community have identified:

#### SHARP PARK

- To be Determined

##### **Rationale:**

##### **Action:**

#### Pilgrim Haven

- To be Determined

##### **Rationale:**

##### **Action:**

# **Capital Improvement Schedule**

**Section 7**

The City of South Haven hopes to initiate the following improvements to maintain existing facilities in a way that they meet the needs and expectations of the residents over the next five years. Estimated costs are included as a general reference. Many of the projects have not had preliminary plans or engineering completed and estimated costs are not available. For some of these projects, the estimated costs are based on other planning documents with similar projects. For other projects, the estimated costs are left blank because preliminary or conceptual plans or locations are needed to make an estimate. Actual costs could be more or less for a variety of reasons and these figures should only be used for general planning.

Following is the capital improvement schedule: **City of South Haven**

**Name of Park: *Cable Street Tot Lot***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Improve playground surfaces	2017	\$25,000 +	Grants, City Funds	Low
Upgrade playground equipment to include transfer station	2017	\$1500 - \$5000	Grants, City Funds	Low
Add additional playground equipment	2017	\$15,000 - \$20,000	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Low

**Name of Park: *Dyckman Park***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Upgrade park to new master plan	2014	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Medium

**Name of Park: *Elkenburg Park***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Improve playground surfaces	2015	\$30,000 +	Grants, City Funds	High
Replace existing playground equipment and place new	2015	\$25,000 +	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High

equipment to meet National Playground Safety Institute Standards and to align with park master plan.				
Upgrade playground equipment to include transfer station	2015	\$1500 - \$5000	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Add additional playground equipment	2015	\$25,000 +	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High

**Name of Park: *Kids Corner***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Replace existing playground equipment and place new equipment to meet National Playground Safety Institute Standards	2017	\$20,000 +	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Medium
Improve accessibility into park	2014	-	Grants, City Funds	High
Fencing	2014	\$12,000 - \$18,000	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Low
Add additional playground equipment	2017	\$20,000 +	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Low
Update baseball field	2013	\$5000	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Improve playground surfaces	2017	\$30,000 +	Grants, City Funds	Medium

**Name of Park: *Liberty Hyde Bailey***

<b>Description of Projects</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finish Electrical and security wiring</li> <li>• Finish Security</li> </ul>	2012	\$15,000.00	Grants, Donations, City/	Listed Highest to Lowest in

System			Museum Funds	Description box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove existing paint on exterior (lead abatement) and repaint</li> <li>• Install an ADA bathroom/remodel existing bathroom</li> <li>• Improve living collections to better reflect our mission/LHB Jr.</li> <li>• Finish porch railing</li> <li>• Professionally clean the roof of the McNeill Room</li> <li>• Repair and paint fences</li> <li>• Remove outdoor lanterns</li> </ul>	2013	\$35,000.00	Grants, Donations, City/ Museum Funds	Listed Highest to Lowest in Description box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glaze windows</li> <li>• Replace storm windows</li> <li>• Add rain barrels (NPS Sustainability Recommendations)</li> <li>• Pipe dehumidifier and air conditioning condensate to outside rain barrels</li> </ul>	2014	\$5000.00	Grants, Donations, City /Museum Funds	Listed Highest to Lowest in Description box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove deadbolts from exterior doors, repair doors and install period knobs and bolts</li> <li>• Rebuild basement stairs</li> <li>• Excavate two feet of dirt from basement crawlspaces</li> <li>• Shore up middle room (leisure) floor</li> <li>• Remove carpeting</li> </ul>	2015	\$10,000.00	Grants, Donations, City/ Museum Funds	Listed Highest to Lowest in Description box

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>from middle (leisure) room</li> <li>• Replace bilco door with wooden door</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run ducts and air condition the McNeill Room</li> <li>• Add correct molding to front porch</li> <li>• Move electric and gas meters to enclosure on north side of carriage barn</li> <li>• Add kitchenette to McNeill Room</li> </ul>	2016	\$20,000.00	Grants, Donations, City/ Museum Funds	Listed Highest to Lowest in Description box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate old kitchen and determine correct usage for space</li> </ul>	2017	\$10,000.00	Grants, Donations, City/ Museum Funds	Listed Highest to Lowest in Description box

**Name of Park: *Optimist Tot Lot***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Replace existing playground equipment and place new equipment to meet National Playground Safety Institute Standards	2013	\$10,000 +	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Replace bathroom facility with facility that meets ADA standards	2014	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Improve accessibility into park	2013	-	Grants, City Funds	High
Fencing	2013	\$16,000	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Add additional playground equipment	2013	\$20,000 +	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Medium

Update baseball field	2013	\$5000	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Improve playground surfaces	2017	\$25,000 +	Grants, City Funds	Low

**Name of Park: *Riverfront Park***

Description of Project	Projected Construction Year	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Source	Priority
Splash Pad	2015	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Medium

**Name of Park: *Stanley Johnston Park***

Description of Project	Projected Construction Year	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Source	Priority
Replace existing play structures to meet National Playground Safety Institute Standards	2017	\$10,000 +	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Low
Update current infrastructure	2017	-	Grants, City Funds	Low
Increase bathroom facilities	2017	-	Grants, City Funds	Low
Improve accessibility into park	2016	-	Grants, City Funds	Low
Upgrade Utilities (water & sewer)	2017	-	Grants, City Funds	Low
Add additional playground equipment	2017	\$20,000 +	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Low
Improve playground surfaces	2017	\$25,000 +	Grants, City Funds	Low

**Name of Park: *Newcome Beach Access***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Have public walkway placed from road to stairs	2016	-	Grants, City Funds	Low

**Name of Park: *North Beach***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Replace existing handicap accessible walkway	2015	-	Grants, City Funds	High
Replace concession stand/restrooms	2015	-	Grants, City Funds	High
Repave parking lot/Lakeshore Dr.	2015	-	Grants, City Funds	High
Improve accessibility into park	2015	-	Grants, City Funds	High
Replace existing play structures to meet National Playground Safety Institute Standards	2013	\$15,000 +	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Add accessible path to pier	2015	-	Grants, City Funds	High

**Name of Park: *Packard Park Beach***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Reconstruct retaining wall and steps that lead to restroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Make steps into an ADA ramp.</li> <li>➤ Reconstruct/widen sidewalk from this new ramp to restroom</li> <li>➤ Extend this sidewalk</li> </ul>	2016	-	Grants, City Funds	High

to the North side of the park/parking lot				
Add handicap accessible walkway to beach	2016	-	Grants, City Funds	High
Parking lot reconstruction	2016	-	Grants, City Funds	High
Upgrade Utilities (water & sewer)	2016	-	City Funds	High

**Name of Park: *South Beach***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Build concession stand	2013-2014	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Update restroom facilities	2013-2014	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Update pavilion	2013-2014	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High

**Name of Park: *Harborwalk***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Trail improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Area from North Shore Drive to South Street</li> <li>➤ Area crossing Dyckman Bridge</li> <li>➤ Enhance trail markers (i.e. signs, sidewalk markers)</li> </ul>	2017	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Medium

**Name of Park: *Van Buren Trail***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Upgrade trail past trailhead into the city	2013	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High

**Name of Park: *Black River Park Marina***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Replace fish cleaning station with a larger capacity pump in order to accommodate all fish	-	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Medium
Update east end of park to comply with master plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnic area</li> <li>• Fishing area</li> <li>• Non motorized boat launch</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Accessible route to river's edge</li> </ul>	2013	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Add "Dredge spoil loading area"	2013	-	City Funds	High

**Name of Park: *Museum Marina***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Build a roofed deck area	2014	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Dredge	2013	-	-	High

**Name of Park: *Northside Marina***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Dredge	2013	-	-	High

**Name of Park: *Southside Marina***

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Dredge	2013	-	-	High
Upgrade electric pedestals	-	-	City Funds	Medium
Interior renovation	-	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Medium
Furniture replacement	-	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Medium

**Miscellaneous Areas**

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Possible Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Pedestrian, Bike and Paddle Plan	-	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	High
Watering System for Trees	2015	-	Grants, Donations, City Funds	Low

Following is the capital improvement schedule:

**South Haven Township**

**Name of Park:** 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park

Description of Project	Projected Construction Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Priority
Maintenance	-	-	Township Funds	High

**Name of Park:** Deerlick Creek Park

Description of Project	Projected Construction Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Priority
Maintenance	-	-	Township Funds	High

**Name of Park:** Evergreen Bluff Park

Description of Project	Projected Construction Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Priority
Construct stairway	-	-	Grants, Donations, Township Funds	Low

**Name of Park:** M-140 Nature Sanctuary and Van Buren Trail Parking

Description of Project	Projected Construction Year	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Priority
Improvements for bicyclists	-	-	Grants, Donations, Township Funds	Medium

Following is the capital improvement schedule: **SHARA**

**Name of Park:** SHARP

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
TBD				

**Name of Park:** Pilgrim Haven

<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Projected Construction Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Priority</b>
TBD				

# Appendix

- Appendix A Copy of the Notice of Availability for Public Review and Comment
- Appendix B Copy of the Notice for Public Meeting Held
- Appendix C Parks Commission Minutes - Public Hearing and Review
- Appendix D Parks Commission Minutes – Approval of Plan, Recommendation to City Council for Adoption
- Appendix E City Council Minutes –Public Hearing and Adoption of Plan
- Appendix F City Council Resolution - Adoption of Plan
- Appendix G Copy of Letter to Van Buren County Planning Commission
- Appendix H Copy of Letter to Southwestern Michigan Commission
- Appendix I Township Board Meeting Minutes – Public Hearing
- Appendix J Township Board Resolution - Adoption of Plan
- Appendix K South Haven Public Schools Minutes - Adoption of Plan
- Appendix L SHARA Minutes - Adoption of Plan

# Appendix A – Copy of the Notice of Availability for Public Review and Comment

## Affidavit of Publication

State of Michigan  
County of Van Buren ) SS

TARA WILKINSON, being duly sworn and says that she is the advertising consultant of The South Haven Tribune, a newspaper published, printed and circulated in the County of Van Buren, State of Michigan; That the affixed printed notice has been printed and published in said newspaper 1 times. Same being on the following days, to wit:

11-4-12  
SH Tribune

Signature

*Tara*

Subscribed and sworn to me this

5 Day of Nov A.D. 20 12

*Jessica Inghram*  
NOTARY PUBLIC, Van Buren County, MI  
My commission expires 9-1-2016

Bill amount \_\_\_\_\_

The South Haven Tribune  
255 Center St.  
South Haven, MI 49090  
269-637-1104  
classifieds@southhaventribune.com

JESSICA INGRAHAM  
Notary Public, State of Michigan  
County of Van Buren  
My Commission Expires Sep. 01, 2016  
Acting in the County of Van Buren

CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN  
Van Buren and Allegan Counties

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of South Haven, SHARA, South Haven Township and the South Haven Public School's five year Recreation Plan draft is available for public review and comment. The plan can be viewed on the city's website [www.south-haven.com](http://www.south-haven.com) or at City Hall.

The five year recreational plan forms the road map for the decisions to be made in the next five years regarding the provisions of the parks, beaches and recreational land. This plan has to be submitted and accepted by the MDNR in order to be eligible for recreational grants.

A public hearing for review and comment of the plan will be scheduled at a later date. Concerns and comments are encouraged and comments can be made at a Parks Commission meeting or in writing to the City of South Haven's Parks and Recreation Supervisor.

Brandy Gildea  
Parks and Recreation Supervisor  
City of South Haven

# Appendix B - Copy of the Notice for Public Meeting Held

## Affidavit of Publication

State of Michigan

County of Van Buren ) SS

TARA WILKINSON, being duly sworn and says that she is the advertising consultant of The South Haven Tribune, a newspaper published, printed and circulated in the County of Van Buren, State of Michigan; That the affixed printed notice has been printed and published in said newspaper 1 times. Same being on the following days, to wit:

12-2-12

SH Tribune

Signature

*Tara Will*

Subscribed and sworn to me this

3 Day of Dec A.D. 20 12

*Jessica Ingraham*

NOTARY PUBLIC, Van Buren County, MI

My commission expires 9-1-2016

Bill amount \_\_\_\_\_

The South Haven Tribune

255 Center St.

South Haven, MI 49090

269-637-1104

classifieds@southhaventribune.com

CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN  
SOUTH HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SHARA  
Van Buren and Allegan Counties

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing for the City of South Haven, South Haven Public Schools and SHARA's five year Recreation Plan will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 during the Parks Commission meeting at City Hall.

The five year recreational plan forms the road map for the decisions to be made in the next five years regarding the provisions of the parks, beaches and recreational land. This plan has to be submitted and accepted by the MDNR in order to eligible for recreational grants.

Public participation is encouraged.

Brandy Gildea  
Parks and Recreation Supervisor  
City of South Haven

JESSICA INGRAHAM  
Notary Public, State of Michigan  
County of Van Buren  
My Commission Expires Sep. 01, 2016  
Acting in the County of Van Buren

# **Appendix C -**

**Parks Commission Minutes  
- Public Hearing and Review**

# **Appendix D -**

**Parks Commission Minutes  
– Approval of Plan,  
– Recommendation to City Council  
for Adoption**

# **Appendix E -**

**City Council Minutes  
-Public Hearing  
– Adoption of Plan**

# **Appendix F -**

**City Council Resolution  
- Adoption of Plan**

# **Appendix G -**

**Copy of Letter to Van Buren County  
Planning Commission**

# **Appendix H -**

**Copy of Letter to  
Southwestern Michigan Commission**

# **Appendix I -**

**Township Board Meeting Minutes  
– Public Hearing**

# **Appendix J -**

**Township Board Resolution  
- Adoption of Plan**

# **Appendix K -**

**South Haven Public Schools Minutes  
– Adoption of Plan**

# **Appendix L -**

**SHARA Minutes - Adoption of Plan**