

# 2013 CITY OF GLADSTONE RECREATION PLAN



The Channel Light House  
2010

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Year-round  
Playground

# City of Gladstone

Located in the beautiful Upper Peninsula of Michigan

## Gladstone Recreation Plan Introduction

This 2012 plan was developed by the Gladstone Recreation Board and the Parks and Recreation Department as an update to the 2007 Recreation Plan. The plan incorporates the 2010 census, public hearings, public participation through the Gladstone Community Development, newspaper articles requesting public input and City Commission meetings. Gladstone's original Recreation Plan was drafted in 1970 and has been subsequently updated as required.

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## **RECREATION AND COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

The City of Gladstone through its various boards and staff has recognized the role recreation plays in the development of the community as well as the quality of life. Through our industrial development efforts, we have established that people are placing a high value on outdoor activities such as fishing, swimming, walking, jogging, rollerblading, skateboarding and biking. In the winter these equate to ice fishing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross country skiing, skating and Nordic activities. The abundance and quality of such activities is a key factor in the decision process of many industrialists to locate in Gladstone.

Through our City Planning Commission, Recreation Board, and Civic Groups we identified that the emphasis on these types of activities is closely linked to our cultural heritage of Northern Europe and Scandinavia. Consequently, the availability of such activities plays a strong part in what we consider a high quality of life. Similarly, we find a strong support for parks that have flower gardens, strolling areas and quiet places that are common in Europe. It is through such activities that people find the opportunity to socialize, which in turn leads to their strong identity with our community. This strong sense of community resulting from social interaction and culture is very pervasive in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

When we consider health trends that place a high emphasis on simple exercise, fresh air and a clean environment we afford an individual the opportunity to commune with nature, and experience the true quality of life our community has to offer.

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Through our comprehensive plan we have taken our heritage, our culture, our social ambiance and our continued need to entice industrial development and apply them to our vision of our recreation plan.

### **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to provide safe, efficient, quality recreational opportunities and the best possible quality of life in our community. We see ourselves achieving this by involving our citizens and maximizing our natural resources. To never settle for past accomplishments, always striving for improvement.

### **Vision**

Due to the wide range of ages in our community our vision must not be limited. It must include quiet places of reflection, parks filled with flowers for families to have quality time, programs and activities that excite and entertain the restless teen, harbor and campground that invite travelers. Our vision has the community united through partnerships that include business, churches, schools, and clubs. Park and recreation and individuals all working together to create a caring small town atmosphere with progressive ideas.

Although we embrace the gift of four seasons, these seasons bring with them new and challenging recreational demands. Thus our facilities must accommodate variable amounts of activities and whenever possible they must change as do the seasons. Our vision is a community involved and taking pride in the beauty they create. Providing opportunities to promote a healthy lifestyle through recreation Programs, which flourish through volunteerism and a community pride this which starts at an early age, continues to adulthood and is reflected in our twilight.

## **Recreation Goals**

The goals the Parks and Recreation department are closely related to the city's master plan that calls for developments in the park and recreation area. City planners have the foresight to recognize the continued need to maintain and expand as needed in the areas of programs and modernization of facilities. The Parks department plans to capitalize on the abundance of natural and human resources that Gladstone possesses.

While modernizing we will comply with the intent and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

We have adopted an aggressive three-step action plan:

1. Identify deficiencies in our parks, recreation facilities and recreational programming.
2. Continue implementation of the modifications of existing Parks and Recreation Structures within a reasonable effort, and to comply with the ADA standards when new facilities are added.
3. Have an open door policy when programming and organizing recreational activities to include opportunities for persons of all ability levels.

Gladstone is unique for a community our size because of the number of recreation opportunities we offer such as our Sport Park complex, guarded beach, harbor, skate park, bike paths and campground. These facilities continue to be improved and expanded.

Innovative thinking and follow through have made several new facilities a reality. In the last five years, we have added a fishing pier, a fish cleaning station and a light house. We will continue to use this kind of innovative thinking and follow through for future facilities and improvements such as an amphitheater, harbor improvements and many additional elements to our sports park.

Gladstone also understands the need to protect the safety of our citizens. A major walking and biking trail system has been established with a policy in place to ensure any improvements to the roadway along this system will have a minimum width to conform to the needs of our population that require a non-motorized path. This trail system connects the bisected parts of our city to downtown. It has and will continue to receive a high priority.

Despite connecting the city with a non-motorized pathway, we still see the value of neighborhood parks and playgrounds. We are making a continuing effort to update neighborhood playgrounds to provide an opportunity for outdoor recreation for the whole family close to home at no cost.

**COMMUNITY DATA:**

**Population**

For any planning endeavor, careful attention must be given to the analysis of population trends and projections. Such analysis is necessary to determine existing or future needs based on the characteristics of the areas population. Population analysis assists in determining the need for local capitol improvements and related expenditures. Our recreation plan has kept population trends in mind throughout our planning process.

The City of Gladstone has had a fluctuating population within the past several decades. Between 1960 and 1970 the population of the city decreased by only 30 persons. Changes in the next decade from 1970 to 1980 were more drastic; Gladstone’s population declined by 13.4 percent or 704 persons during the time period. The city population again stabilized in the 1980’s and gained 32 persons between 1980 and 1990, with a 1990 census population count of 4569. According to 2000 census, the population rose to 5032. The population has since declined according to the 2010 census by 59 persons to 4973.

Gladstone has new and inviting concepts to attract industry and tourism to our area. Many of these concepts depend on our continuing development of recreational facilities and programs that are conducive to a high quality of life to Gladstone.

The population of Delta County increased by 2771 persons between 1960 and 2010. The growth has occurred in the rural areas of the county as opposed to its urban locations.

	<u>Population Trends</u>	
	<u>Delta County</u>	<u>City of Gladstone</u>
1940	34037	4972
1950	32913	4831
1960	34298	5267
1970`	35294	5237
1980	38947	4533
1990	37780	4565
2000	38520	5032
2010	37069	4973

**Population by Race (2010 Census)**

White	4,744
African American	11
Asian	16
American Indian and Alaska Native	96
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	0
Other	14
Identified by two or more	92

**Population by Sex/Age (2010 Census)**

Male	2,371
Female	2,602
Under 18	1,129
18 & over	3,844
20 - 24	202
25 - 34	530
35 - 49	926
50 - 64	1,019
65 & over	1,049

*The median age of all the Gladstone residents is 40.5*

**Economy**

The City of Gladstone is an integral part of the Escanaba/Gladstone urban center. Many city residents work in Escanaba and the surrounding area. The city has two industrial parks, one, which is full while the other, offers potential for business and relocations.

Occupations within the city are focused around service jobs and machinery-related positions. The manufacturing industry within the city has been attracted by the abundant natural resources that surround the city and Delta County.

Northern Michigan Veneers, (60 employees) produces spliced hardwood veneers and plywood

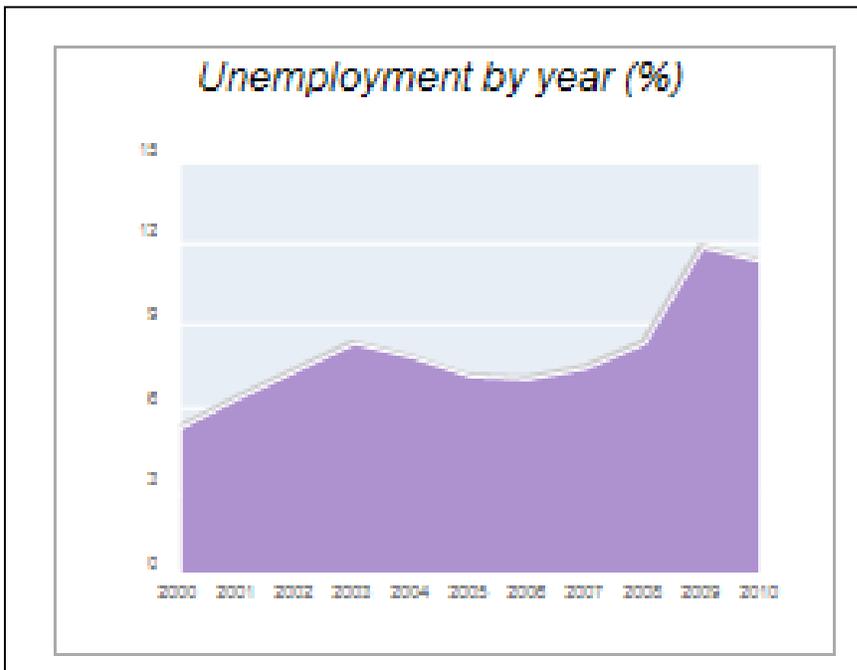
First Bank (52 employees) full service bank

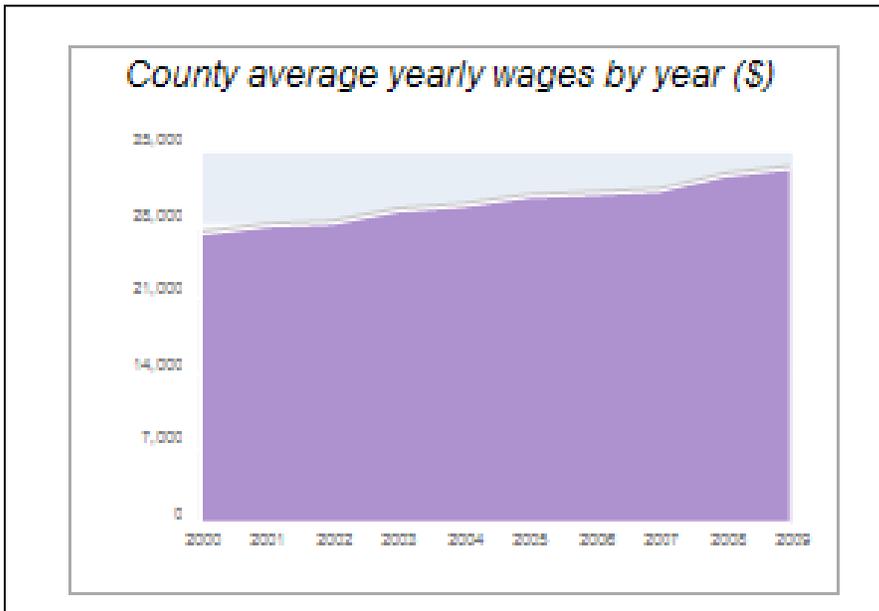
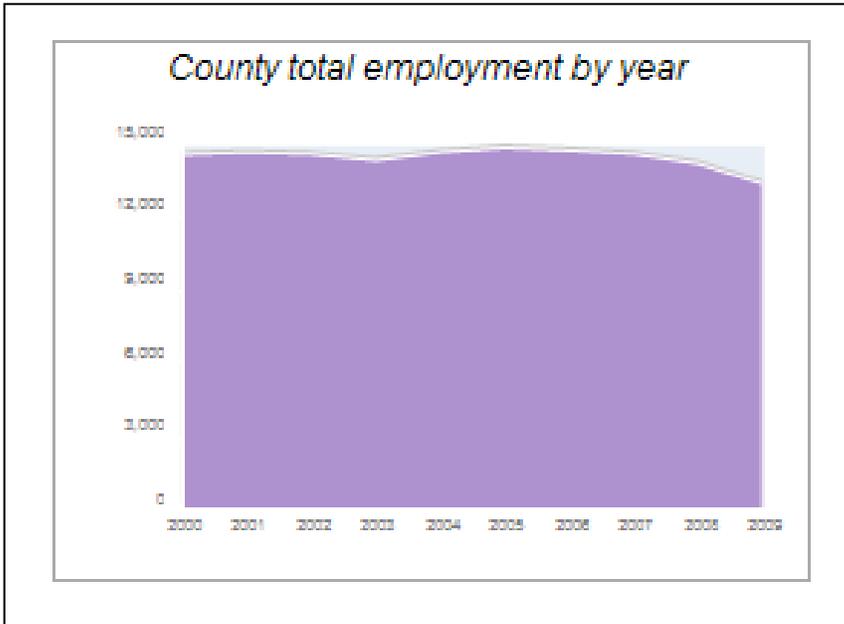
United States Forest Service, (46 employees) houses the supervisory group for the Hiawatha National Forest

Pardon (20 employees) Machine shop

Public education is a major employer within the city. Gladstone Area High School relocated on the bluff in a new facility that covers 40 acres with an approximate cost of 14.5 million dollars. The Gladstone Areas Schools employ one hundred forty four (144) persons. The City of Gladstone employs thirty six (36) full time employees and fifty nine (59) seasonal employees.

Average annual per capita personal income, for Delta County, in 2009 was \$33,266. These are the latest figures available.





The state, including Delta County, have been experiencing economic challenges. Delta County has still shown strong employment in areas of construction and accommodation/food service. We are still attracting more tourism due to better marketing and improved facilities.

## **Soils**

The movement of glaciers over bedrock originated the soil of today. The dominant soil type found within the Gladstone city limits is the Rubicon association. This soil type is found in the entire western and southern portions of the city. This soil association is characterized as nearly level to very steep, well-drained sandy soil with coarse-textured subsoil. It has moderate limitations for recreational use because of its coarse texture. Within the northeast section of the city is found the Tawas-Carbondale-Roscommon association. This soil association is characterized as nearly level very poorly drained organic soils and poorly drained sandy soils with coarse textured subsoil. Due to wetness and organic nature, this soil association has severe limitations for recreational use.

## **Climate**

During the months of May through October, the prevailing wind is from the south and the lake breeze is a moderate influence on temperature; summer months are very comfortable. During the winter months from November through April, the prevailing wind is from the north or northwest with the temperature being less modified by the lakes than the summer months.

## **Transportation and Land Use**

The City of Gladstone's current land use pattern had evolved over many years of development. Historically, intense industrial uses sprang up along the water's edge, taking advantage of the transportation opportunities the water resource offered. Other industries followed utilizing railroad for its transportation. A common City motto was "Where the rails meet the water". Inland a commercial business center developed in the heart of the city, and then was followed by residential homes. Further business developments such as hotels, eateries, gas stations and other service businesses have moved along US-2 highway, benefiting from higher traffic and increased visibility.

New construction in the 70's and 80 exploded. Scattered multi-family dwellings were built on available land throughout the older parts of the city, in the midst of single-family neighborhoods, and next to industry. Significant new development occurred on the bluff in the west half of Gladstone. With the need to accommodate senior citizens housing needs, a retirement village was created. The need for affordable housing was filled with a 57 space, single-family apartment complex. The property behind these developments was sculpted into a 120-acre golf course.

The northwest corner of the city was developed into a 220-acre industrial park along with elementary and high school facilities. Residential housing in the south bluff area has high property values. Plenty of vacant land remains in the city for future growth.

The city, in cooperation with the Michigan State housing Authority, is doing their part to improve existing streets and structures. Grants have been utilized for rented and owner occupied properties to update and improve structures within the city limits. In addition MSHDA helped to fund our 10<sup>th</sup> Street project which has added a tremendous amount of curb appeal as well as infrastructure improvements to the city. The Community Development department has provided needed repairs to existing Habitat Homes throughout the city over a five year period. Currently

Community Development is working with MSHDA to create affordable housing above retail establishments in the downtown district. In addition to the housing development many downtown businesses have taken advantage of local DDA façade funds and have made substantial improvements to the downtown.

With the downturn in the economy residential development has seen an all time low. Where we used to see a family outgrow a home and develop a new one, we now see more remodeling and/or additions on existing homes. We have also seen tremendous growth in the development of garages, porches, sheds and other improvements on existing residential lots over the past three years. Only recently are we starting to see the trend for brand new development occurring in the residential areas. The City has suffered in new residential growth but not so in other areas. A new US Forest Service Building, Grace Church Addition, School Improvements and St. Vincent DePaul addition has maintained the development outside of the residential areas during the downed economy. Future commercial and industrial development is demonstrating potential to be very promising in the near future

Gladstone offers good highway connections to other communities throughout Upper Peninsula. US-2 a major east/west artery, runs through the city, in addition M-35, a state (north/south) highway connects Marquette to the north and Menominee to the south. There are about 276 miles of local streets in the city providing access from each residence to major traffic carriers.

The Canadian National Railroad runs parallel to Highway US-2, a four-lane highway. *The highway and railroad* corridor divides the city in half and acts as a strong physical geographical barrier to pedestrian traffic from one side of the city to the other. This has made it more challenging for the northwest user group to take full advantages of facilities and programs due to hazard of crossing this corridor. The northwest represents 50% of the landmass and is rapidly becoming a major population center. The city is investigating methods of crossing over the corridor by use of a pedestrian walkway. Through grants from the Health Department, many walkways have been put in place on the southeast side of this corridor to connect with a future pedestrian crossing.

## **Administration and Management**

The Gladstone recreation board is a seven-person committee appointed by the Gladstone City Commission. The board meets monthly in open meetings.

The Recreation Board has the continuing function of developing programs and plans for the Gladstone Parks and Recreation Department. The recreation board administers the city recreation plan assuring that the short and long-term objectives are periodically reviewed, and limited available funds are expended in such ways as to produce maximum benefits in terms of total community service.

The Recreation Board adopts policies governing the use and development of new and existing facilities, acquisition of new sites and the administration of programs. The Board studies and recommends the expenditures of funds for facility improvements and program provisions. Emphasis is placed on utilization of both public and private sources to maximize the development of well-balanced and functional parks and recreation programs. The Gladstone Recreation Board serves in an advisory capacity to the Gladstone City Commission. Requests made directly to the

City Commission concerning Parks and Recreation are often referred to the Recreation Board for study and recommendations.

The City of Gladstone fiscal years run from April 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. The Gladstone City Commission sets annual budget allotment for the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks and Recreation program is funded with a combination of city general fund revenue and user fees. A combination of general fund revenue, revenue sharing funds, state or federal grants, and/or contributions from individuals and service organizations accomplished past development projects.

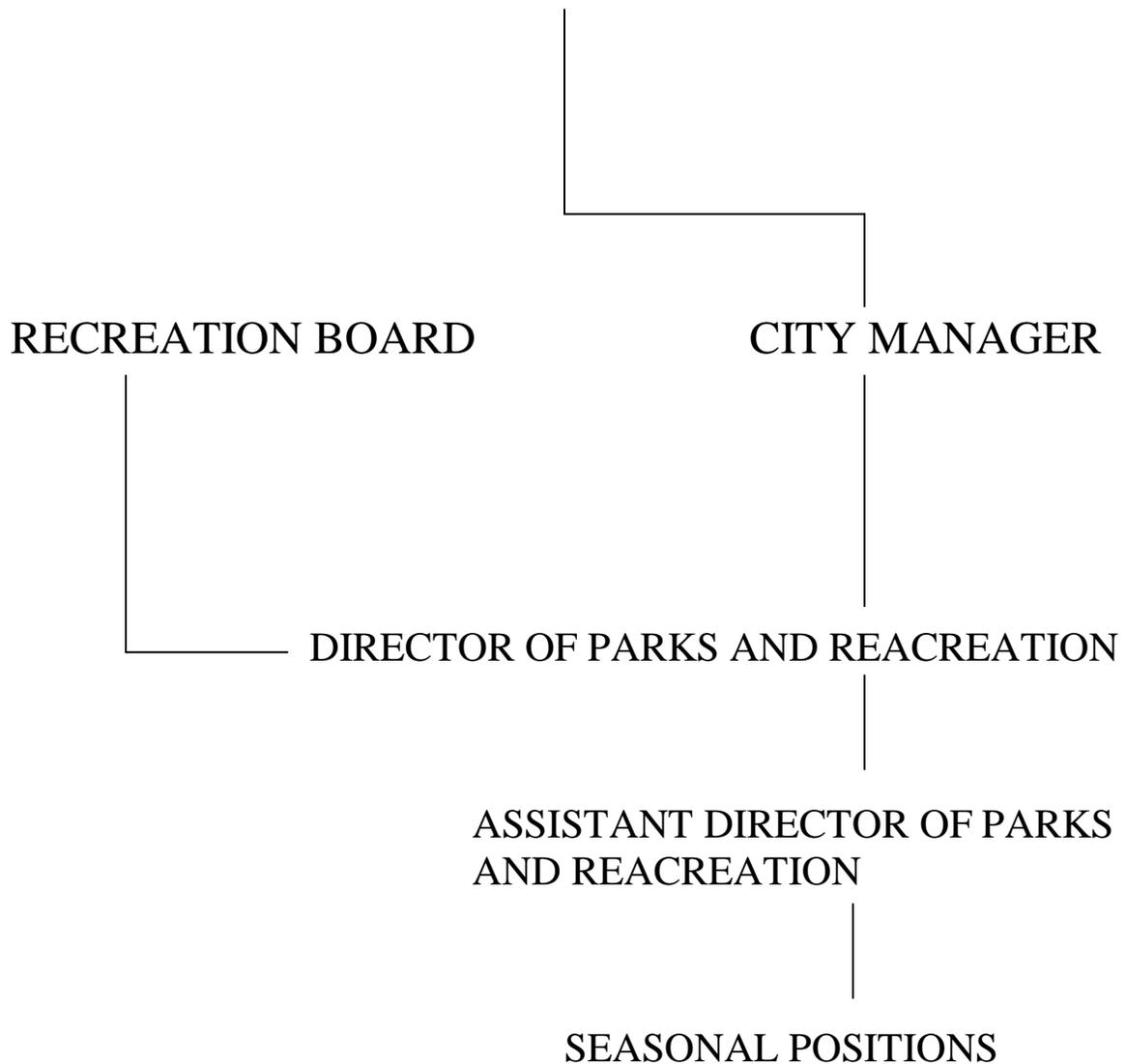
The City of Gladstone has emphasized facility development and updating in recent years. Consequently, the budget for the Gladstone Park and Recreation Department had gone through a period of continual growth. With the current economic climate any growth in budget was put on hold in the fiscal year of 2009. As the economy recovers, that growth appears to be resuming. Capital improvement funds generally come from outside sources such as grants, local service Groups and Special Programming.

Daily operations of the Parks and Recreation Department are the responsibility of the Director under the general direction of the City Manager. The Parks and Recreation Director serves as the liaison to the Recreation Board. The director supervises and manages the operation of the department. It is the duty of the Director to plan, coordinate functions and activates, and enforces policies. Further, it is the Directors responsibility to administer personnel and to perform financial and public relation duties. The number of part-time employees fluctuates on the season and activities.

Volunteers are used whenever possible. We have a strong relationship with the schools and their clubs i.e.: Key Club, Natural Helpers and Honor Roll students help out with our events. We also are fortunate to have a Community Service Work Van and individuals that average 200 hour of community service annually. The Scouting club are essential to annually clean-ups and Eagle Scouts projects.

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

## CITY COMMISSION



## **Recreation Open Space and Facility Development Standards**

To determine what type of recreation facilities should be developed for the size and quantity of open space in a given community, it is necessary to follow guidelines or standards for parks, open space, recreation areas or recreation facility development. Standards however are not specifically applicable to a given community and are only intended to serve as a guide as each community's needs slightly differ. Therefore, the needs and deficiencies are identified through the opinions of citizens, the Gladstone Recreation Advisory Board, the Gladstone Recreation Department and the City Council.

The standards and facility development guidelines identifies in the section are taken from:

Community Recreation Planning, 1989, Phillip Wells, Planning Program Manager, MDNR Parks and Recreation Division, Page 15-19

Source Material for MDNR Community Recreation Planning, recreation and facility development standards are:

Roger A. Lancaster, Ed. 198. Recreation and Park Open Space Standards and Guidelines, Alexandria, Virginia: NRPA Page 56-57 and page 60-61; and MDNR 1986, Building Michigan's Recreation Future, Appendix B, Pages 100-101

## **Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Open Space**

This classification system is intended to serve as a guide to planning- not as an absolute blueprint. Sometimes more than one component may occur within the same site, particularly with respect to special uses within a regional park. Planners of park and recreation systems should be careful to provide adequate land for each functional component if this occurs.

NPRA suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a "core" system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open spaces per 1000 persons. The size and amount of "adjunct" parklands will vary from community to community, but must be taken into account when considering a total, well-rounded system of parks and recreation areas.

## **City of Gladstone Recreation**

The City of Gladstone sits along the shores of the Little Bay de Noc. As such, it enjoys a close relationship with water through its shoreline parks and water-oriented facilities.

An important criterion from a recreational planning standpoint is that the city provides a broad range of recreational opportunities to its citizens. Diverse facilities ensure residents of all ages and lifestyles fulfill their recreational needs. The basic types of recreation areas that pertain to the City of Gladstone are mini-parks, neighborhood playgrounds, community parks and regional parks.

Mini-parks are small areas that provide the kind of recreational safe and simple facilities for children of preschool age. These areas should be adequately dispersed so children are not required to cross a major street to reach them. For older children and young adults, a neighborhood playground provides open space for informal games and activities. These areas are often adjoining a public school site.

Community parks provide the kinds of recreational facilities that are usually unfeasible at the neighborhood park level. Used by large numbers of people, they are designed and developed for diversified uses such as picnic facilities, boating and day camping. A regional park serves people throughout the region within an hour's travel time. Typical facilities include campgrounds, harbors, scenic drives, and winter sports areas.

### **Existing Recreation Facilities**

At present, the City of Gladstone owns and maintains 12 park and recreation facilities totaling over 1000 acres. In addition, there are four facilities available for recreational purposes through the Gladstone Area Public Schools. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources also has one recreation site within the city.

The city has several neighborhood playgrounds. The fifth street playground provides such facilities as swings, slides, teeter-totters and a basketball court. The east Buckeye is a neighborhood playground with playground equipment such as swings, slides and a multipurpose open field. The third neighborhood playground within the city is west Buckeye playground. This site containing a composite play structure, basketball court, and a tire swing. Wintergreen Woods Playground serves the low-income housing site at the far north edge of town and contains a composite play structure, swings and a basketball court.

A 2.7 acres community playfield/Pfotenhauer Park is also located in the city. It contains one-open playing field that doubles as an ice rink, six tennis courts, two additional tennis courts that double as basketball courts, a small pavilion and a small recreation building that doubles as a warming hut for winter skating.

There are seven facilities classified as regional parks in Gladstone. Van Cleve Park, containing about 62 acres, is located along the shoreline of Little Bay de Noc. Facilities provided here include picnic areas, tot lot, multipurpose open field, restrooms and swimming beach. Kid's kingdom playground, consists of 14,000 square feet of various climbing and swinging apparatus's. The pavilion and beach house are new in this location. Volunteers built the pavilion and Roberts Leathers – Kids Kingdom playground possible while the beach house become ad reality through a CMI grant. City park is also located on the shores of the bay and is 23-acre site which provides facilities that include picnic areas, pavilion, multi-purpose open field,

softball, restrooms, basketball court, horseshoe pits and shore fishing. The Gladstone harbor has a small boat launch site, which was reconstructed in the fall of 2001. The harbor was dredged to 8-feet below low water datum in the spring of 2001. The harbor has picnic facilities along with restrooms and showers. The harbor has 39 slips. An engineering study was completed in April of 2007. This plan has provided the City of Gladstone a master plan for all future expansions and improvements. From this plan, and through grants from Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Great Lakes Fisheries and Trust, the 10<sup>th</sup> street fishing pier was completed in 2007. This 200 foot lighted and railed addition provides ADA fishing access to the bountiful waters of Little Bay de Noc and replaced the existing point which was built in the 1800's. In the summer of 2010 the second phase of this master plan was completed with the addition of a new fish cleaning station, restrooms and a light house. This portion of the project was possible through grants from CMI, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Great Lakes Fisheries and Trust. The Gladstone Yacht Club is a private social club with a liquor license located on this site. The club has many activities throughout the year and it is open to members and transient boaters.

The Gladstone Bay Campground is located along the shores of the bay, west of Saunders Point and contains about 40 acres. The campground offers camping sites, swimming, picnicking, as well as playground equipment. The campground has received numerous updates in 2006 that included a \$350,000.00 restroom/shower/office facility and site work. Utility updates were completed in 2007. The campground offers 62 modernized sites ranging from full service to basic tenting.

The North Bluff Sports Park is located along North Bluff Drive and is about 200 acres some of the facilities offered are downhill skiing, tubing, terrain Garden Snowboarding Park, and cross country ski trails in the winter. Three baseball fields and concession/restroom are heavily used.

The Gladstone Golf Course, located north of the city, contains about 210 acres and provides an 18-hole golf course with driving range, multi-purpose open field area, and cross country skiing trails in the winter.

Four recreational facilities are offered through the Gladstone Area Public School. They consist of neighborhood playgrounds and community play field. The neighborhood playgrounds are connected with Cameron school, Middle school and the High school. These school facilities offer playground equipment; basketball courts tennis courts, multi-purpose rooms and open field.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides one fishing access site; it is located in the Kipling area. In addition, the Armory offers an indoor basketball court and gym for recreational purposes.

Van Cleve Park is the new home of a state of art Skateboard Park. This facility is open year round as weather permits and is available at no cost to users.

The City of Gladstone is very fortunate to have such an abundance of open space to serve its population, the county and visitors to the area.

**TYPE OF FACILITY**

**NAME / ACCESSIBILITY**

Neighborhood

**1. West Buckeye Playground**  
1.6 playground acres, 1 basketball court  
, 1 composite play structure, 1  
Tire swing ( Accessibility Rate #2)

**2. East Buckeye Playground**  
5.2 playground acres, 5 swings, 1 tornado  
slide, 2 teeter-totters and an open field  
( Accessibility Rate #2)

**3. 5th street Playground**  
2.7 Playground acres, 1 basketball, 1  
merry-go-round, 2 baby swings, 1 jungle  
gym, 4 swings and 2 slides  
( Accessibility Rate #2)

**4. Wintergreen Woods**  
1-acre playground, 4 swings, basketball court,  
composite play structure, and picnic tables  
( Accessibility Rate #2)

Community

**5. Pfothhauer Park**  
2.7 acres, field, 1 summer recreation  
building/ice rink warming facility, 6 tennis  
courts, 2 basketball courts that can be converted  
to tennis courts, a small pavilion and an open  
play field that doubles as an ice rink.  
( Accessibility Rate #3)

**6. Delta Avenue Pocket Park**  
.2-acre pocket park in the downtown business  
section. Benches, paved walkway and art  
display. ( Accessibility Rate #3)

Regional

**7. City Park**  
23-acres, 2000 feet park and water frontage  
1 pavilion, 1 basketball court, 1 Softball field, 1  
restroom facility, 1 pram storage building, 4  
horseshoe courts and numerous picnic sites with  
tables, 2 large grills and 1-20 car parking lot.  
( Accessibility Rate #2)

**8. Gladstone Bay Campground**  
40-acres, 3,000 feet shoreline, 1 restroom/

shower facility, 62 sites, 26 full hookup, 24 electric, 12 tent sites, 4 swings, 2 teeter-totters, 1500 feet of private beach, and horseshoe pits. ( Accessibilty Rate #3)

#### **9. Gladstone Golf Course**

18-hole Special Use course and clubhouse  
( Accessibilty Rate #2)

#### **10. Fishing Pier**

200 feet of lighted ADA accessible fishing pier, 1-20 car paved parking lot, 1 modern restroom and fish cleaning station, 1 lighthouse.  
( Accessibilty Rate #3)

#### **11. Sports Park Facility**

200 acres, 1 downhill skiing area 110 vertical drop, 3 rope tows, 2 wire rope tows, 1 tubing area, 1 terrain garden with half pipe and rails, 1 multipurpose lodge with licensed kitchen, 2 little league field's, 1 lighted baseball field, 1 combination restroom, concession and support facility, 1-50 car parking lot, 2-30 car parking lots. ( Accessibilty Rate #2)

#### **12. Van Cleve Park**

62 acres, 1 beach house, 1 restroom facility paved parking lots 85 car total, 2 sand volleyball courts, 1-20 station fitness course, 8 swings, 2 teeter-totters, 1 slide and tot lot consisting of jungle gym, 3 spring animals, junior slide, 1 merry-go-round, 3 baby swings. 1, water slide, numerous picnic areas, tables and benches. Kids Kingdom 1400 sq ft playground equipment, 1 pavilion, 1 gazebo, 1 Skate Park and paved non motorized trail. ( Accessibilty Rate #2)

### Regional Special Use

#### **13. Harbor**

18 docks 36 slips. 1 pump out facility, 1 combination harbormaster/restroom/shower facility, 1 wall-side gas dock facility, 1 small boat launch 2 piers, 1 large outdoor grill, 7 small grills, 55car/trailor parking lot, 1 mast hoist and 1-30 car parking lot. ( Accessibilty Rate #2)



Kids Kingdom



Gazebo on Island



Boardwalk



Pram Lessons

## AREA RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Summer

Kids Kingdom (Robert Leathers Playground)  
Central Playground (organized summer youth activities)

Tennis

Sand Volleyball

Outdoor Basketball

Horseshoe Pits

Pram Lessons

Guarded Beach (slide, swim instructions)

Ball fields (youth and adult programs)

Boardwalk

Boating

Fishing

Golfing

Camping

Swimming

### Winter

Snow tubing, skiing, snowboarding

Cross country skiing

Snowmobiling

Ice skating-supervised facility with warming house

Ice fishing



Peanut League



Fun at the Recreation Building



Slide at the municipal beach



Tubing at  
the Ski Park



Spider Sand  
Sculpture

## **ANNUAL EVENTS**

*"Crazy Daze" sidewalk sales downtown Gladstone*

*City of Gladstone 4th of July Celebration*

*Free Summer Concerts in the Park*

*Farmers Market*

Parade through downtown Gladstone to Van Cleve Park

5-mile race

Music

Numerous park activities concluding with fireworks

display

*Jaycee's Duck Races*

*Summer National Acclaimed Fishing Tournaments*

*Sand Sculpture Contest*

*Old Fashion Christmas including the lighting of the City  
of Gladstone Christmas tree and Van Cleve Park  
displays*

*Ski Swap at Ski Park*

*Cardboard Classics*

-  
**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**Short Term Improvement Schedule**  
**Less than Five Years**

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Signage at Park	1,500.	2013	Mary Cretens
Pond and pump at Sports Park	36,000.	2013	General Fund
Irrigation to ball fields	36,000.	2013	Local Funding
Beach Foyer	17,000	2013	General Fund
Interpretive Signage Lighthouse	5,000	2013	General Fund
Master Plan Sports Park	15,000	2013	General Fund
Pavilion and Climbing Equipment for Buckeye	15,000	2013	General Fund
Picnic Table and Trash Receptacles	8,000	2013	General Fund
Dune Wall and Patio at Beach	20,000	2014	General Fund
Ticket Machine at Boat Launch	3,000	2014	General Fund
Deck at the Beach	10,000	2014	General Fund
Fitness Trail Improvements	7,000	2014	Community
Harbor Docks (phase one)	350,000	2014	Waterways, General Fund
Lagoon Dyke/Dredging	12,000	2014	General Fund
Play Equipment Campground	5,000	2014	General Fund
Replacement of the Groomer	65,000	2014	General Fund
Ball Fields Pavilion, Restroom, Concession and Fields	300,000	2015	MNRTF, General Fund
Campground Play Equipment	15,000	2015	General Fund
Climbing Equipment at Tot Lot	10,000	2015	General Fund
Pond and Pump at Sports Park	25,000	2015	MNRTF, General Fund
Signage for Parks	6,000	2015	General Fund
Additional Sites at Campground	25,000	2016	General Fund
Harbor Docks (phase two)	300,000	2016	Waterways, General Fund
Pavilion at Campground	20,000	2016	General Fund

## **Five-Year Implementation Plan**

**2013**

### **Signage for Parks**

The City as a whole has adopted uniform signage. We are updating all of our facility signs to include parks and playgrounds. The funding will come from the Dr. Mary Cretens Fund.

### **Irrigation Pump and Pond**

In order to have a water supply for both snow making and irrigation of the ball fields we have set in place a plan to build a reservoir and reinstate our pump to provide high volumes of water. The ability to have a source of cold water under pressure will allow for snow making at relatively high temperatures. The use of the reservoir during the summer months will provide adequate amounts of water for irrigation to our ball fields. This will be funded through our General Fund and user fees.

### **Irrigation to ball fields**

We will be able to use the water reservoir to provide water to ball fields. The cost will cover the materials and construction of the piping under the road and reduce the pressure to allow for sprinkler system to run. We are applying for Hannahville 2% money

**2014**

### **Bury Utilities at Bay Shore**

We will be running new electrical service and transformers to replace the over head wiring that is located at Bay Shore Field. Van Cleve Park is beautiful without the over head wiring and Bay Shore field is the last area in the park that has overhead wiring. This will be paid for through the Cretens funds.

## **Additional Sites at Gladstone Bay Campground**

The Gladstone Bay Campground has grown in popularity over the years, due in part to its pristine location, and in part to the renovations that have been made over the years. To capitalize on its popularity additional sites will be necessary. This project involves landscaping and utility work. Grant funding will be sought with general fund dollars as a match.

## **Picnic Tables and Trash Receptacles**

A continuing schedule is in place to replace picnic tables and trash receptacles at both the campground and throughout our parks and playgrounds. Currently we are about half way to our goal of replacement with a uniform table and will start with trash receptacles. The trash receptacles will have both trash and recycled cans. These funds will be made available through the Cretens Fund.

## **Rebuild Cannon Field and Improve Howes Ball fields Sports Park Ball Diamonds, Concession and Pavilion**

For a small town in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, baseball and softball are huge here. We have had tremendously successful programs throughout the years. This has been in part due to the generations of community support for the sports and in part due to the luxury of having the facilities to play them on. The time has come to update our Sports Park Complex. The buildings are falling apart and the fields are poorly constructed and laid out both from a maintenance/irrigation standpoint and from user/spectator standpoint. Parking is inadequate and confusing. With the addition of new programs in the city, the field schedules are becoming extremely congested and additional playing space is required. We are also seeking to renovate two of the existing fields.

## **Basket Ball Court at East Side Play ground**

The East-side area has numerous family dwellings and has requested adding a Basketball area. This type of exercise is highly used in our area and we would like to support the exercise it encourages. This would be funded through the Cretens Fund

## **Campground See-Saws**

Replacing the See-Saws with spring loaded equipment will help will injuries. This will be funded through the Cretens Fund.

## **Disk Golf**

The large area atop the bluff allows for a 18 hole Disk Golf facility. The winds the naturally occur the face of the hill will give an opportunity to have an unusual course. This will be funded through Disk Golf Association and MNRTF.

## **Snow Guns**

To make snow more efficiently and a better quality of snow we would like to add two Polecats which are 60% more efficient than what we currently have. These would be funded through User Fees and foundation grants.

## **Non- Motorized Path from Gladstone to P.5 Road**

This Path will run alongside US 2 & 41 Highway. It will be on the lakeside to capitalize on the beauty of Little Bay de Noc and spectacular views it has to offer year round. This trail way connectivity is an important part the states wide trail system. This will be funded through TAP/MDNR/GLFT

**2015**

## **Purchase Jones Property**

This 500 feet of lake frontage is directly adjacent to Van Cleve Park and is the venue for our fitness trail and is perfect for a quiet green space within the city. Current we lease property for 1 dollar a year from the Radoff family and have first right of refusal. When this property is available it has been set as a high priority to purchase it Funding sources would be LWCF and local match

## **Ticket Machine at Boat Launch**

To better serve our boating and fishing community an automated ticket machine would be beneficial. The new machine would make the user experience simpler, simplify the landscape and provide complete security for the user fees.

## **Beach Dune Wall and Patio**

We live on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan. As such we take great pride in our shoreline, maintaining and preserving it for all to enjoy. Our guarded public beach is something the entire community enjoys. Over recent years, after we landscaped the area around the public beach, nature has played off our hand and made it so you can no longer see our shoreline from

Lakeshore Drive or our beach house. In order to reclaim this we hope to add a retaining wall sufficient to keep the sand where it belongs, yet allow views of the shore and easier maintenance. Along with this, we would like to build a sun deck or patio with sufficient tables for concessions between the beach house and the proposed wall.

### **Add Tubing Runs**

In the Master Plan for the Sports Park it was identified that two additional tubing runs would satisfy the need that occurs during our winter ski season. This will fund funded through grants and donations.

### **Pavilion Campground**

A small covered pavilion is need to picnic. This shelter would serve both the campers and would be rented out for public use. This would be funded through grants and local monies.

### **Asphalt Repair at Skate Park/Boat Launch**

Maintenance to our roadway through Van Cleve Park is needed. Asphalt is currently being used and we feel it is the best service for the area. This would be funded through grants and General Fund.

### **Amenities at Ball Fields**

#### **Sports Park Ball Diamonds, Concession and Pavilion**

For a small town in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, baseball and softball are huge here. We have had tremendously successful programs throughout the years. This has been in part due to the generations of community support for the sports and in part due to the luxury of having the facilities to play them on. The time has come to update our Sports Park Complex. The buildings are falling apart and the fields are poorly constructed and laid out both from a maintenance/irrigation standpoint and from user/spectator standpoint. Parking is inadequate and confusing. With the addition of new programs in the city, the field schedules are becoming extremely congested and additional playing space is required. We are also seeking to renovate two of the existing fields.

### **Replacement of the Ski Hill Groomer**

The current groomer is a 1976 DMC with a 16-foot tiller and three-way plow. We re-built the frame of this machine once and mended it many times. All components on this machine are in a constant state of repair. The steel has outlived its useful life and there are fatigue cracks throughout the machine that constantly need welding. We estimate a used groomer will cost in the neighborhood of \$65,000. Funds for this will be sought through granting agencies coinciding with the overhaul of the entire Ski Park or the funds will need to be budgeted for through the General Fund.

## **Lagoon Dike/ Dredging**

The lagoon in Van Cleve Park was constructed to help control storm water. The lagoon stretches from the harbor down along our bike path and Lake Shore Drive toward the beach house. There is an island with a gazebo and a walking bridge at the far end. Near the harbor there is another walking bridge that completes the park walking loop. The lagoon is beautiful all throughout the seasons but is also functional in that it provides natural filtration of a portion of our cities storm sewers prior to the runoff reaching Lake Michigan. The Lagoon is currently suffering from low lake levels and sediment buildup, making it extremely shallow. This project would entail building a temporary dike, pumping the water out and dredging the lagoon deeper. An additional phase would add pumps that would keep the water moving and re-route the harbor storm sewer into the lagoon. The result would be better natural water filtration, less algae buildup and water depth that never puts the island in jeopardy of becoming a peninsula.

**2016**

### **Harbor Docks (phase two)**

During this phase, the remaining three docks that are 30 plus years old will be replaced with a finger pier that adds a couple additional slips. At this time the fuel docks will be replaced and the Harbor master building and shower house replaced. The bulkheads will be addressed. The Harbor Entrance will be widened and dredged. The funding for this project will be sought from the MDNR Waterways Commission with General Fund matches.

### **Over pass Hwy 41**

The city is bisected by Hwy 41 which creates a need for a safe and convenient way to cross. An over/under pass would fill this need. Funding would be significant and multiple sources are needed we will continue to search for fund as it becomes available.

### **Sports Park Building**

The Sports Park Building serves a dual purpose. It is rented for banquets and meeting during the off season and a ski chalet during ski season. It is relatively small and extremely in need of replacement. We are planning on the three story building to allow for year round banquets and also serve as a ski chalet. The views from the building are the best in the area and although the building is in rough shape it continues to be rented. An updated building would be an asset to the entire community and Delta County.

**LONG TERM**

2018---

**Projects**

**Funding**

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**1-Roadways/Parking Lots at Sports Park  
Sports Park Ball Diamonds, Concession and Pavilion**

**MNRTF/Local**

**2-Warming Hut Tubing**

**MNRTF/Local**

**3-Break Wall by Pram**

**Waterways/GLFT**

**4-Summer Tubing**

**MNRTF/Local**

**5-Zip-Line**

**MNRTF/Local**



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## **AKNOWLEDGMENTS**

### **Gladstone Recreation Board**

Russ Hall  
Gary Stevenson  
Anne Pfothenhauer  
Roger Humpula  
Caroline Kennedy  
Robert Bosk  
Judy Keim

### **Gladstone City Commission**

Darin Hunter  
Joe Maki  
Mathew Gay  
Dave Olson  
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