

Section III

Master Plan

A Public Input

B Vision Statement

C Goals and Objectives

D Design Alternatives

E. Final Design

III MASTER PLAN

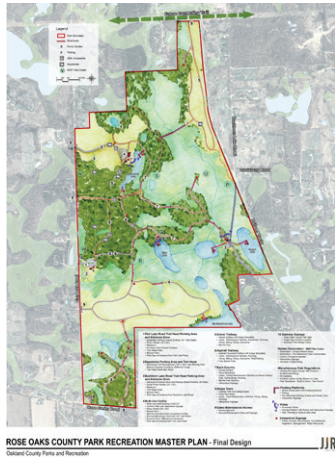
This section of the report describes the last three phases of the design process and includes public input, design alternatives evaluation and Final Design.

The data collection and analysis discussed in the previous section identified the opportunities and constraints of the site. The public input process identified the direction and focus of critical design features, and the design alternatives evaluation sorted through the physical layout of the critical design features. The culmination of these phases of the design process is the Master Plan. The Master Plan includes the Final Design illustrative graphic and support narrative. The estimating and phasing strategy are identified under Section IV and suggest a logical sequence for the implementation of the Master Plan.

A PUBLIC INPUT

Public input during the design process is an important component of all recreation master plans. Specific to this Master Plan, input was provided and documented for several sources, including:

- MNFI Site Tour – May 2006
- Public Forum – August 15, 2006
- Neighborhood Surveys – November 2006
- County-Wide Public Interest Survey Results – January 2007
- Rose Township Board of Trustees Presentation – April 11, 2007
- 30-Day Public Comment Period – April 2007
- Public Hearing – June 2007



MNFI Mission

"To deliver the highest quality information that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity, especially rare and declining plants and animals, and the diversity of ecosystems native to Michigan."

MNFI Site Tour

The planning process for Rose Oaks County Park began in 2004 with the MNFI staff conducting an ecological survey of the park. In early May 2006, OCPR, in conjunction with MNFI, conducted a site tour of the park. This tour was held at the beginning of the design process with the intent of reviewing the recently completed natural features inventory. The tour was attended by approximately 20 interested area residents. MNFI biologists led the group through several unique areas of the site and provided valuable insight about the uniqueness of the park as it pertains to geology and vegetation, and how the plant communities have evolved since pre-settlement times.

The recommendations provided in the MNFI report (*Natural Features Inventory and Management Recommendations*) are the basis for the landscape restoration suggestions and some of the interpretive opportunities identified in this Master Plan.



Public Forum Top 6 Voting

- **Horse Trails**
- **Hiking/Cross-Country Skiing**
- **Interpretive Trails**
- **Nature Center**
- **Canoeing**
- **Bike Trail**

Public Forum and Neighborhood Survey

On August 15, 2006, OCPR staff and JJR design professionals hosted a two-hour public forum at the Rose Township Hall, which was attended by approximately 50 participants from Rose Township and the nearby Village of Holly. The purpose of the forum was to generate ideas for the Master Plan by requesting that the participants identify and vote on a variety of recreational opportunities that currently exist or could be developed at the park.

Two information stations were established, and the participants were requested to visit both before casting their votes. One station was designed to educate the guests about the park environment and the existing recreation facilities. The second station was designed to help the guests generate ideas about potential recreational opportunities at the park. At this station, ideas were recorded and guests were provided with up to ten opportunities to vote on the ideas. The guests were also provided with a brief survey and were requested to provide a response after visiting the two stations. Following the public forum, OCPR initiated a neighborhood mailer of the survey, and 38 responses were received.



County-Wide Public Interest Survey Results

- *Walking, biking and nature trails were identified as the greatest need and importance in the county.*
- *A picnic area and shelter building ranked next in the categories of need and importance.*
- *Maintaining high quality recreation facilities and providing for safe and secure facilities are important functions of OCPR.*
- *Acquiring open space and leaving it undeveloped is a very high priority for the residents.*
- *Available funding should take a balanced approach to allocation resources for parks, trails and recreation facilities. Resources for existing park upgrades and new open space acquisitions were nearly ranked equally with trail and pathway development as the most important park upgrade. Water- and land-based forms of recreation were also ranked high on the list of financial priorities.*

Summary of Voting and Survey

Based on the combined public forum votes and neighborhood survey responses, several common themes have emerged. In general, there is a strong desire to maintain the natural character of the park in the form of preserving its wildlife and rustic character. The forms of preferred recreation opportunities reinforce this desire. Items such as horse trails, hiking, interpretive signage, fishing, wildlife viewing, interpretive opportunities and hunting are types of recreation uses that can be considered compatible with maintaining the site's wildlife populations and rustic character.

There is also a strong concurrence of opinion regarding the use of Big School Lot Lake (the largest lake in the park). This pertains to restricting most types of water-related uses originating from park property. Approximately one-third of the meeting participants live within this lakeside development south of the park and expressed concern regarding additional uses of the lake originating from the park property. This type of response is not surprising.

County-Wide Public Interest Survey Results – January 2007

During the fall of 2006, OCPR conducted a community attitude and interest survey for the Oakland County Parks system. More than 600 residents were randomly surveyed about park usage and satisfaction. Conclusions drawn from the survey have very similar parallels to the conclusions of the public forum and neighborhood survey.

Rose Township Board of Trustees Presentation – April 11, 2007

OCPR staff presented the Concept Design to the Rose Township Board of Trustees for its consideration. Staff described the local comments and the regional interests that the concept addressed. Staff also noted general improvements that would be considered to meet some of these recreational interests and described means by which public review of the final Master Plan would be promoted.

30-Day Public Comment Period – April 2007

Refer to Appendix H for a synopsis of the 30-day public comment period.

Public Hearing – June 2007

To be completed

B VISION STATEMENT

The Master Plan vision is to develop a strategy to guide future park development in a context that respects the environmental sensitivity of the site while providing all residents of Oakland County with recreational, leisure and learning experiences; open spaces; facilities; and professional staff and fiscal management. The goals and objectives represent a summary of strategies to be implemented that will help to achieve this vision.



C GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As a result of the public input process, considerations of the *2007 Oakland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, and discussions with OCPR, the following goals and objectives have been identified and will be the framework for the development of the Master Plan.

**2007 Oakland County
Parks and Recreation
Master Plan – Goals and
Objectives**

- *To acquire, preserve and manage parkland and natural resources.*
- *To provide outstanding facilities and programs.*
- *To provide the highest quality recreational and educational services.*
- *To increase coordination between and among various recreation providers in Oakland County and to become a recreation facilitator and coordinator.*
- *To sustain the financial stability and viability of the parks system.*

1 Goal: Provide facilities and expand upon the recreation experiences while retaining the park's natural character.

Objectives:

- Provide for a variety of four-season passive recreational opportunities including, but not limited to: hiking trails, horse trails, boardwalks, fishing, non-motorized boating, geocaching, wildlife viewing, picnicking and cross-country skiing on non-groomed trails.
- Provide a self-guided interpretive program that informs the park visitor of the unique site resources. The program would provide ecological and management information that would enable the visitors to understand the principles of habitat restoration and environmental stewardship, and learn about the plants and animals that coexist at the park.
- Discourage intensive recreation uses such as mountain biking and motorized boating.
- Upgrade trail surfaces commensurate with the level of activities proposed for the trail types.
- Provide for ADA accessibility within the site's trail system.
- Develop organized parking areas for vehicles and horse trailers within level, open field areas where impacts to the site are minimized.



2 Goal: Promote water and wetland-related recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

- Provide sustainable fishing opportunities at lakes and ponds most accessible by adjacent road systems.
- Identify locations for trails, boardwalks and fishing platforms for improved access that minimizes impacts to the resource.
- Limit boating access to select locations for non-motorized canoes and kayaks.





3 Goal: Provide environmental education opportunities.

Objectives:

- Develop a self-guided interpretive program that educates the park visitor on the unique natural resources of the site. The program would provide ecological and management information that would enable the visitors to understand the principles of habitat restoration and environmental stewardship, and learn about the plants and animals that coexist at the park.
- Establish a volunteer program for the park that emphasizes habitat restoration as referenced in the MNFI *Natural Features Inventory and Management Recommendations* document. The volunteer program could also include a variety of activities that relate to plant and animal identification, and participation in site tours and lectures.
- Construct a small multi-purpose structure that would host satellite and stewardship programs, and contain exhibit space and maintenance equipment storage.
- Provide staff to manage the multi-purpose structure and administer programming on environmental stewardship and habitat restoration.



4 Goal: Protect and promote the diversity of plant communities.

Objectives:

- Utilize the MNFI *Natural Features Inventory and Management Recommendations* as a guide for the implementation of management strategies for restoration purposes.
- Develop a self-guided interpretive program that educates the park visitor on the unique resources.
- Limit improvements to low impact uses adjacent to and within sensitive plant communities.
- Establish a volunteer program for the park with emphasis on habitat restoration.



Design Criteria

- *Trails*
- *Equestrian Trails*
- *Trail Heads*
- *Water Access and Use*
- *Structures*
- *Interpretive Opportunities*
- *Maintenance and Security*
- *Vista Development*
- *Habitat Restoration*

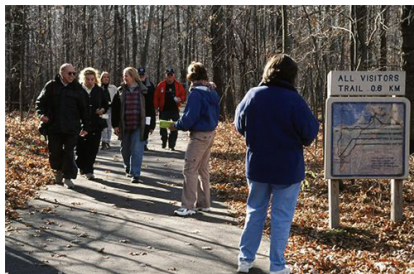
D DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

In February 2007, a design workshop was conducted with park staff to review the public input, discuss goals and objectives, identify existing and proposed park features to be integrated into the plan, and develop a Concept Design that would be refined into the Final Design. During the workshop, the participants reviewed the criteria listed below and explored various functional arrangements.

The design criteria identified and integrated into the Concept Design are as follows.

Trails

- Proposed trail development will mostly follow existing trails, but will be upgraded to include gravel surfacing and asphalt pavement with grass shoulders. OCPR is currently developing standards for trail design that will be integrated into the Master Plan. Permitted uses will be identified for each trail type and will be appropriately signed.
- New trails will only be extended to complete loops at dead ends or will be adjusted to reduce slopes (ADA access) and potential erosion problems.
- Boardwalks will be added in a variety of locations, will connect new trails with existing, and will be used to cross wetlands and water courses.
- Some redundant trail segments will be deleted.



Equestrian Trails



- On shared-use trails, signage will direct riders to the mowed grass shoulders.
- Horse trails are extensive on both sides of the site and could be linked by a foot trail connector along the ITC transmission line on the east side of the creek and wetland boardwalk (as allowed). Horses may be initially discouraged from crossing boardwalks and using the back-country trails until the impact of regular equestrian use of the gravel trailways and equine single track is evaluated.
- A horse staging/parking area will be identified adjacent to the existing Fish Lake Road parking area. It will include hitching posts and water from the existing well. Depending on the extent of cooperation from the riding community, OCPR will monitor rider impacts and expand or reduce the equestrian trail system.

Trail Heads

- Two trail heads will be identified. One will be at the existing Fish Lake Road parking area, and the second will be on Buckhorn Lake Road across from Cogger Lake. A boardwalk will cross the wetland to provide a link to both trail heads.
- At each trail head, improvements may include a picnic shelter, restrooms and an expanded parking area.

Water Access and Use



- Only non-motorized boats will be allowed in the park. Non-motorized boats comprise small row boats, canoes and kayaks, which park users may bring into the park on a carry-in basis only. No boat launches will be provided.
- There will be no dredging to improve boat access between lakes.
- Fishing will be permitted on all lakes.
- Fishing platforms will be provided at Cogger Lake, the unnamed pond directly west of Cogger Lake, Esler Lake, Big School Lot Lake and Richardson Lake.

Structures



- Two picnic shelters with a rustic design will be considered. Each picnic shelter site could include restrooms, a drinking fountain and grills. Structures would be situated at the trail head parking areas.
- A new multi-use facility could be constructed on the site overlooking Richardson Lake. Uses would include restrooms, picnic, exhibits and meeting space.

Interpretive Programs, Signage and Wayfinding

- A signage program will be developed throughout the park for environmental education and trail orientation.
- Kiosks will be sited at each trail head area and will include a park map for use on the self-guided walking tour.
- Standard county signage will be used as trail markers, gateway signs and to post user restrictions.

Maintenance and Security

- Maintenance access will continue to be provided from the boundary roads to facilitate park operation and care. Each location will be gated with signage posted.
- Park operations will be dawn to dusk.
- Regular police patrols will augment park staff patrols to provide greater security and oversight.

Vista Development



- At least three locations will provide opportunities for scenic views of the site. Programming for these areas should consider benches, interpretive signage and ADA accessibility.

Habitat Restoration



- OCPR will consider the implementation of a long-term habitat restoration program. The program is currently being developed, but will eventually include volunteers and staff to restore plant communities, remove exotic species and enhance wildlife habitat. An exotic species removal effort as part of OCPR's ongoing Natural Resources Stewardship Program was initiated in the spring of 2007. Approximately 6-7 acres of sensitive habitat along Richardson Lake was burned, and stewardship staff will be manually removing woody shrub growth throughout the next year.

Mountain Biking

- Mountain biking is not a proposed use due to the environmental sensitivity of the site and close proximity to other recreational lands that offer mountain biking trails.

Hunting

- Only archery hunting will be permitted. OCPR staff has proposed offering open archery deer hunting at Rose Oaks County Park. The hunt would be consistent with the priorities of the trust fund that assisted in the purchase of Rose Oaks County Park. Hunters must purchase an annual park pass or day-use pass. Hunting will be subject to guidelines of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). No additional restrictions, licenses or fees would be required by OCPR. Safety zones would be established to promote best hunting practices and appropriate use of the park during hunting season.

Camping

- Camping is not a proposed use.

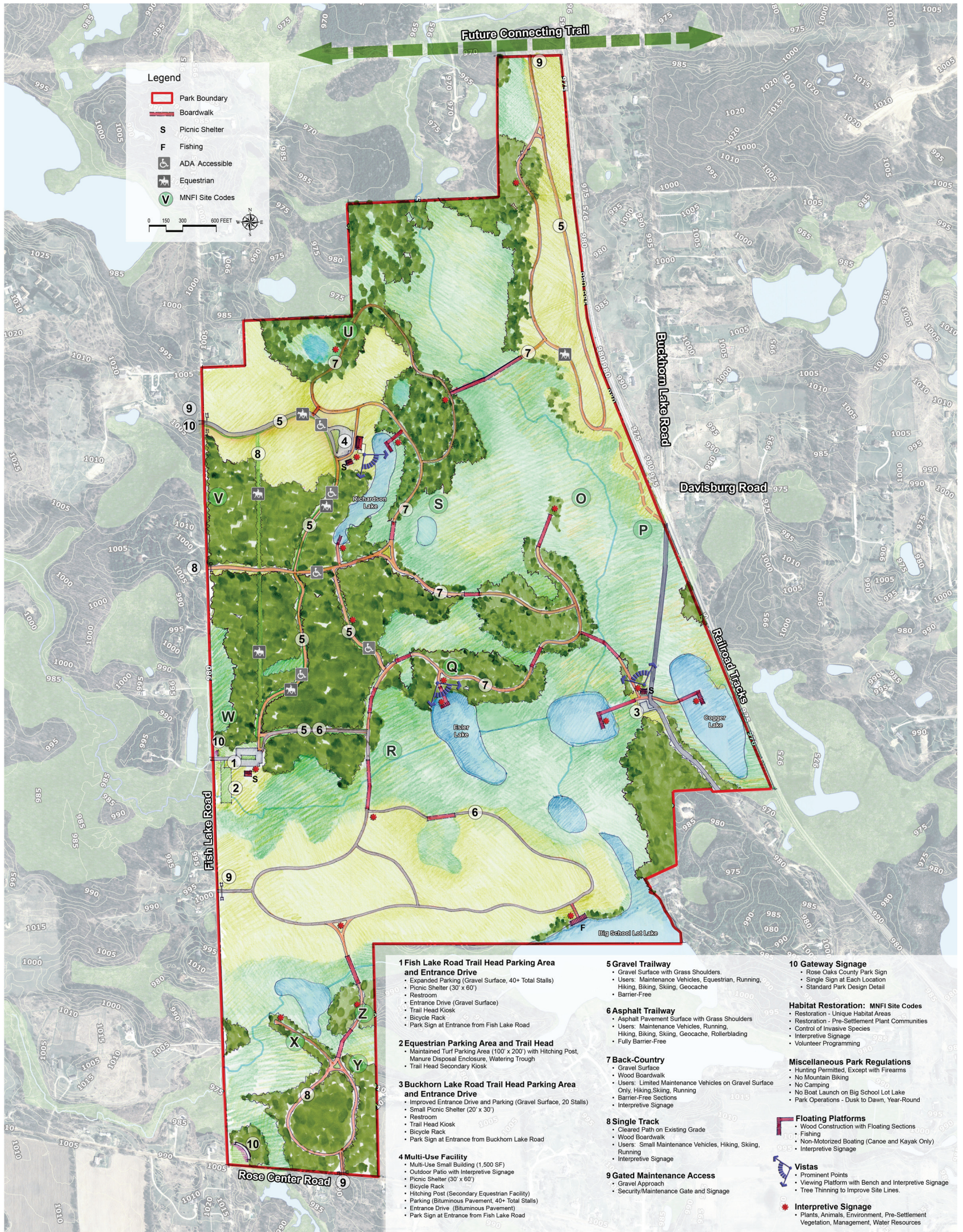
E FINAL DESIGN

The Master Plan represents the long-term vision of OCPR and is intended to serve as a framework for future improvements. It reflects input from Rose Township and Oakland County residents, and discussions between Rose Township officials and Oakland County staff within the Planning Department and OCPR. Like all master plans, it should be considered a flexible document that is subject to change as park improvements are implemented and user needs change.

Categories of improvements are summarized as follows (figure 9, Final Design):

- Fish Lake Road Trail Head Parking Area and Entrance Drive
- Equestrian Parking Area and Trail Head
- Buckhorn Lake Road Trail Head Parking Area and Entrance Drive
- Multi-Use Facility
- Shared-Use Trail System
- Floating Platforms
- Vistas
- Gated Maintenance Access
- Gateway Signage
- Interpretive Signage
- Habitat Restoration
- Miscellaneous Park Regulations

The remainder of this section identifies the major design features and narrative of each category.



ROSE OAKS COUNTY PARK RECREATION MASTER PLAN - Final Design

Oakland County Parks and Recreation

Figure 9 – Final Design



***Fish Lake Road Trail Head
Parking Area and Entrance
Drive***

- ***Improved Parking
(Gravel Surface, 40+
Total Stalls)***
- ***Entrance Drive (Gravel
Surface)***
- ***Trail Head Kiosk***
- ***Bicycle Rack***
- ***Park Sign at Entrance
from Fish Lake Road***
- ***Picnic Shelter: 30' x 60'
(Future Opportunity)***
- ***Restrooms (Future
Opportunity)***

Fish Lake Road Trail Head Parking Area and Entrance Drive

This existing park entrance and parking area will be expanded to improve vehicular circulation and additional parking (up to 40 vehicles), and will be graded to provide bio-filtration retention swales for stormwater management of parking area runoff. The entrance drive will be 22 feet wide, and both the parking area and drive will be gravel surface. At the intersection with Fish Lake Road, site lines will be improved by grading and small tree removal, and a new park sign will be installed. The park sign will be a standard Oakland County Parks gateway sign.

Perimeter low profile fencing will be installed around the parking area perimeter to prevent vehicular access onto the pathway system. A standard park gate for maintenance access will also be provided.

Also planned for future improvement of the trail head area will be a picnic shelter and restrooms designed to reflect a rustic architectural style. The restrooms will contain flush toilets, a leachate field and light fixtures. The existing well will serve as the water source for the restroom, site drinking fountain and the watering trough described below under Equestrian Parking Area and Trail Head. Until such improvements are implemented, interim measures will include portable toilet facilities and a hand pump.

Other site amenities will include a bicycle rack and trail head kiosk equipped with trail maps, park regulations, information on the county-wide park system and interpretive displays.



Equestrian Parking Area and Trail Head



The equestrian trail system throughout the township is an expanding system that includes public, semi-public and private trails that are mostly linked via rural connector roads. The horse trailer parking and riding trail head is situated adjacent to the Fish Lake Road trail head parking area. The parking area will be graded to improve drainage, constructed of a compactable gravel/topsoil mix and seeded with grass species. Parking will be informal with signage, and will accommodate up to ten vehicles with trailers. Other site amenities will include hitching posts, a water trough and an enclosed manure bin.

A trail head kiosk will be provided to orient riders to the regional connecting trail system that can be accessed from the park, and display park regulations and interpretive information.

Buckhorn Lake Road Trail Head Parking Area and Entrance Drive

- ***Improved Entrance Drive and Parking (Gravel Surface, 20 Stalls)***
- ***Trail Head Kiosk***
- ***Bicycle Rack***
- ***Park Sign at Entrance from Buckhorn Lake Road***
- ***Small Picnic Shelter: 20' x 30' (Future Opportunity)***
- ***Restrooms (Future Opportunity)***

Buckhorn Lake Road Trail Head Parking Area and Entrance Drive

Improvements at this location will be similar to those described above except that this location will serve as a secondary trail head. The site is limited in space and is the location of the existing unimproved parking area between Cogger Lake (east) and an unnamed pond (west). The trail head will include a short gravel drive and improved parking with bio-retention stormwater swales, perimeter fencing, and a park gateway sign. The site provides opportunities for the future addition of a small picnic shelter, restrooms with flush toilets, leachate field, light fixtures and a trail head kiosk.

An observation platform could be provided at the upland point on the north edge of this site (see Vistas description).

Multi-Use Facility

- ***Paved Entrance Drive***
- ***Outdoor Patio with Interpretive Signage (Future Opportunity)***
- ***Picnic Shelter: 30' x 60', (Future Opportunity)***
- ***Bicycle Rack***
- ***Hitching Post (Secondary Equestrian Facility)***
- ***Park Sign at Entrance from Fish Lake Road***
- ***Multi-Use Small Building: 1,500 sf, (Future Opportunity)***
- ***Outdoor Patio with Interpretive Signage (Future Opportunity)***

Multi-Use Facility

At an undetermined time in the future, a four-season, small multi-use structure and associated site improvements could be installed in the proximity of the vista overlook at Richardson Lake.



The structure will be constructed of materials that reflect green technologies (LEED certified), will be compatible in style with the site picnic shelters and restrooms, and will be equipped with essential utilities (HVAC, water and electric). The structure may accommodate a variety of uses including restrooms, office, classroom space for environmental education, exhibit space, equipment storage for routine park maintenance and volunteer coordination.

Support facilities will include an outdoor overlook with benches, a new asphalt entrance drive (22 feet wide) from Fish Lake Road, an asphalt parking area for up to 40 vehicles, a bicycle rack, a second park entrance sign at Fish Lake Road, a picnic shelter, interpretive signage and a trail head kiosk.

The parking area will be graded to provide bio-filtration retention swales for stormwater management of parking area runoff. A perimeter fencing plan will be developed around the parking area to prevent vehicular access onto the pathway system. A standard park gate for maintenance access will also be provided.

While no equestrian trailer parking will be included, a bridle path will provide access to a grassy area near the parking area that will include a watering trough, hitching post and enclosed manure bin.

Shared-Use Trail System

The Master Plan identifies four levels of trails that are categorized and designed based on a variety of user experiences, barrier-free access, topography, impacts to existing vegetation and interpretive opportunities. Design cross-sections will be based on the most current County Design and Maintenance Standards, and illustrations for each trail type is included below.

Mountain biking will not be encouraged because of potential use conflicts and the close proximity to other recreational facilities that provide for this activity

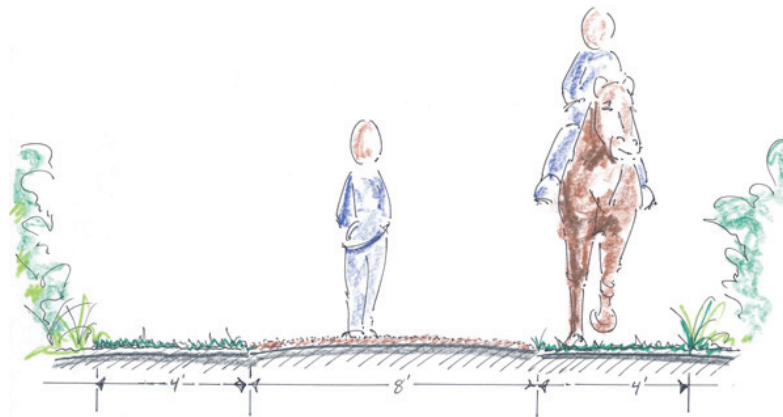
Wherever possible, barrier-free access is provided except in locations where path slopes exceed 5 percent. Refer to the Final Design (figure 9) for these locations.

Gravel Trailway

- *Gravel Surface with Grass Shoulders*
- *Users: Maintenance and Security Vehicles, Equestrian, Wheelchairs, Joggers, Hikers, Geocaching, Skiers, Runners*
- *Barrier-Free Access*

Gravel Trailway

This trail system provides the greatest variety of user groups. The trail will be an 8-foot-wide gravel surface with 4-foot-wide grass shoulders on both sides.

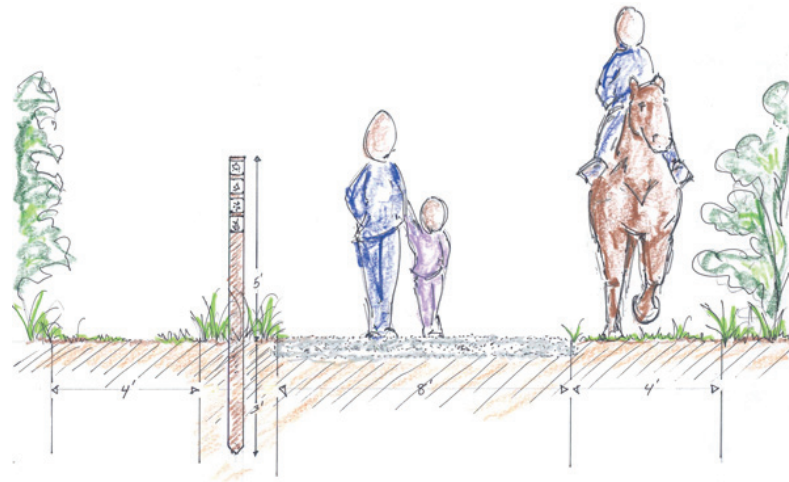


Minor trail realignments and/or earthwork will be required in certain areas to grade the trail surface at slopes less than 5 percent, making this path barrier free. Pedestrians and equestrians will share the path, and it will be signed appropriately to direct equestrian use onto the grass shoulders only. Destination points along this path will include the Esler Lake and Richardson Lake overlooks, and the future multi-use facility.

This loop trail will originate at the bridle trail head and trail head parking area. Pedestrians will have the opportunity to access the other paths along this trail, and horseback riders can enter or leave the park along the path segment that will serve as the future entry drive to the multi-use event facility from Fish Lake Road. An additional bridle path only segment will occur along the existing overhead electric lines and could be an unimproved path. A second loop path is also proposed on the east side of the park and could be accessible from the ITC transmission corridor to the north and from Buckhorn Lake Road to the south.

Other uses of this trail will include recreational walking, wheelchair travel, hiking, geocaching, running, skiing, and park maintenance and security vehicle travel.

Low profile signage will be positioned at each path intersection that shows symbols of permitted uses. Interpretive sign panels will also be provided based on points of interest along the path.



Asphalt Trailway

- ***Asphalt Pavement Surface with Grass Shoulders***
- ***Users: Maintenance and Security Vehicles, Wheelchairs, Runners, Walkers, Rollerbladers, Bikers, Strollers, Skiers, Geocaching (Equestrians Allowed on Mowed Shoulders)***
- ***Barrier-Free Access***

Asphalt Trailway

The cross-section of this path will be identical to the shared-use trail identified above, except that the surface will be asphalt pavement.



Minor trail realignments and/or earthwork will be required in certain area to grade the trail surface at slopes less than 5 percent, making this path entirely barrier free.

This loop path will be 1.9 miles long, originate at the Fish Lake Road trail head and meander in an east/west orientation with Big School Lot Lake as the destination point.

Other uses of this path will include recreational walking, strollers, rollerblading, geocaching, skiing, and park maintenance and security vehicle travel (equestrians allowed on mowed shoulders).

Low profile signage will be placed at each path intersection that shows symbols of permitted uses. Interpretive sign panels will also be provided based on points of interest along the path.

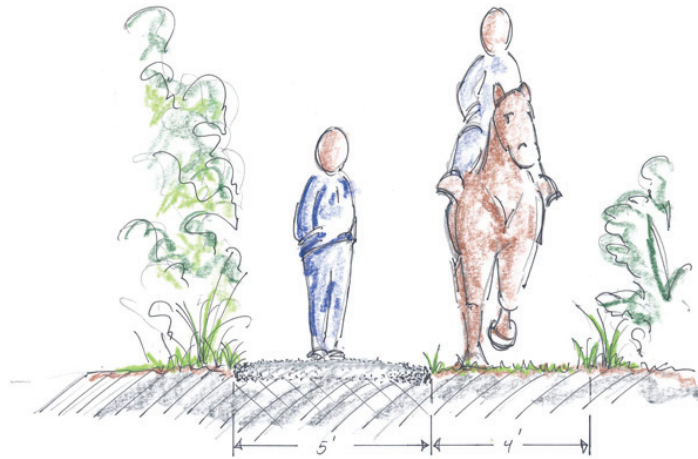
Back-Country

- ***Gravel Surface***
- ***Wood Boardwalk***
- ***Users: Limited Maintenance and Security Vehicles (on Gravel Surface Only), Hikers, Skiers, Runners***
- ***Barrier-Free sections***
- ***Interpretive Signage***

Back-Country

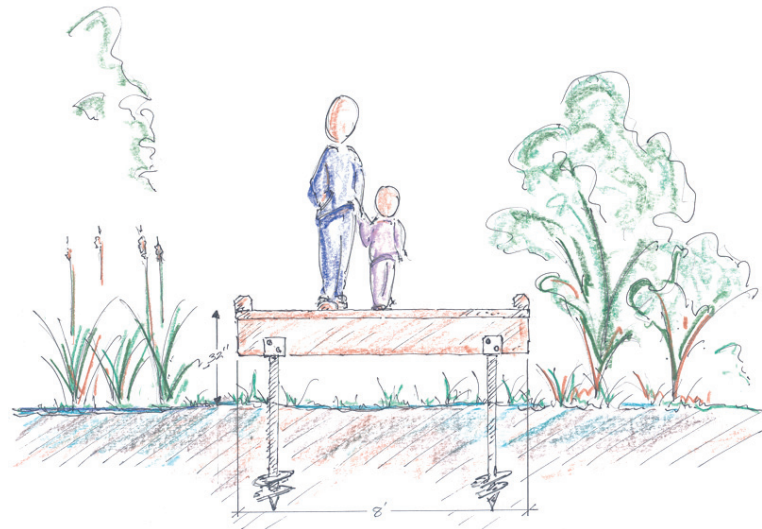
This trail system is the most extensive in the park and is intended to be more suited to the user as a nature trail with interpretive signage and wildlife viewing. Geocaching will be discouraged from using this path type. The proposed use by equestrians will be evaluated based on the impact that the horses have on other trails within the park.

Overall, this trail type will provide up to 3.8 miles of path and will be located within the most sensitive areas of the park. Maintenance and security vehicles will have limited access. The trail will include both gravel and wood surfaces. In upland areas of the park, the path will be 8 feet wide without shoulders.



Grading will be minimized to the greatest extent possible; minor trail segments will be realigned to minimize steep slopes and potential erosion issues; and several path segments will not have barrier-free access due to slope constraints.

In wetland areas, boardwalks will be used, and foundations will be augured steel posts to minimize earth disturbances. Boardwalks will be provided in 8-foot widths, and railing will only be added where height restrictions or open water require safety barriers.



The trail can be accessed from the Fish Lake Road or Buckhorn Lake Road trail heads and parking areas. Several loops are provided throughout the park. Trail experiences vary throughout this path type, and access is provided to vistas, lakes, unique plant communities and over wetlands.

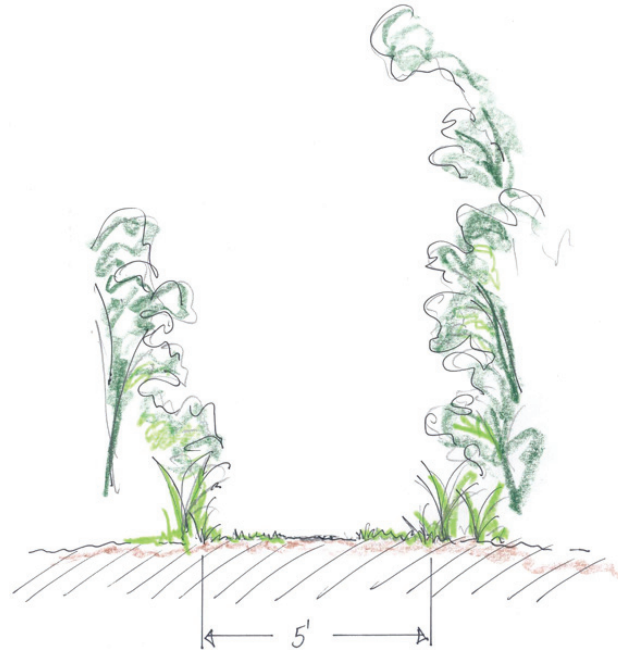
Low profile signage will be installed at each path intersection that shows symbols of permitted uses. Interpretive sign panels will also be provided based on points of interest along the path.

Single Track

- **Cleared Path on Existing Grade**
- **Wood Boardwalk**
- **Users: Small Maintenance and Security Vehicles, Hikers, Skiers and Equestrians (As Allowed)**

Single Track

This trail system is limited to the south end of the park, and like the back-country trail, is intended to be more suited to the user as a nature trail with interpretive signage and wildlife viewing. Geocaching will be discouraged on this path type.



Overall, this trail type will provide up to 0.8 miles of path and will be located within some of the most sensitive areas of the park. Maintenance and security vehicles will have limited access. The design will only entail the clearing of vegetation and obstacles to provide a 5-foot-wide trail. No grading or gravel surfacing is proposed unless maintenance becomes an issue and more permanent stabilization measures are required. Barrier-free access will not be provided. This trail type will also be used for the equestrian trail segment that follows the overhead lines heading north from the equestrian parking area. In wetland areas, boardwalks will be used, and foundations will be augured steel posts to minimize earth disturbances. Boardwalks will be similar in construction to those described in the back-country trail narrative, except that they will be 5 feet wide. Railing will only be added where height restrictions or open water require safety barriers.

The path will only be accessible from the asphalt trailway intersection. Trail experiences vary throughout this path type and access will be provided to vistas, small ponds, unique plant communities and wetlands.

Low profile signage will be positioned at each path intersection that shows symbols of permitted uses. Interpretive sign panels will also be provided based on points of interest along the path.

Floating Platforms

- *Wood Construction with Floating Sections*
- *Fishing*
- *Non-Motorized Boating (Canoe and Kayak Only)*
- *Interpretive Signage*

Floating Platforms



Floating platforms are proposed for five of the largest water bodies in the park. These platforms will provide carry-in, non-motorized boating and fishing opportunities that currently do not exist. The platforms will be L-shaped, designed to be barrier free (10 feet wide), constructed of wood with concealed floatation materials, and anchored to land and/or boardwalks with a ramp section that pivots with seasonal water fluctuations. Accessible railing for fishing and gates for canoe/kayak access will be provided at each location. Lengths will vary based on water

depth and soil composition. The proposed trail system will provide access to each water body, and vehicular access will not be provided unless arranged by park staff to assist the disabled.

Boating access will not be provided at the Big School Lot Lake platform. This platform will be used for fishing and wildlife viewing only.

Fishing opportunities exist in many of the park's ponds and lakes. The proposed floating platforms will enable access to these water bodies by all age groups. A catch and release program will be encouraged to maintain stable fish populations. The park staff will also work closely with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to monitor the park's water bodies for water quality and exotic species.

Interpretive signage will be provided at each location to educate the users on aquatic resources, waterfowl and other related topics.

Vistas

- *Prominent Points*
- *Viewing Platform with Bench and Interpretive Signage*
- *Tree Thinning to Improve Site Lines*

Vistas

Vistas are those locations that provide opportunities to take advantage of panoramic views or of specific site features such as landforms, water bodies, wildlife or other unique site features.



The Master Plan identifies at least three opportunities for vista development and includes elevated wood platform viewing areas at the Buckhorn Lake Road trail head, the overlook on the east side of Richardson Lake and the overlook on the north side on Esler Lake.

The Buckhorn Lake Road trail head vista is oriented northward and provides expansive views of the site to the open areas of the wetlands and Buckhorn Creek. An accessible elevated wood platform with benches and interpretive signage will provide visitors an opportunity to observe wildlife and learn about the park's expansive wetland system.

The remaining two vistas are situated at prominent high points in the site that provide overlook opportunities of water and distant views. At these locations, understory clearing will be necessary, and site improvements will be limited to a grass or gravel area, railing, benches and interpretive signage.

The vista located at the future multi-use facility will be integrated into the site design when this structure and related site improvements are implemented.

Gated Maintenance Access

- ***Gravel Approach***
- ***Security/Maintenance Gate and Signage***

Gated Maintenance Access

The existing gated access points are situated around the perimeter of the site and will be used by park staff to conduct maintenance and for periodic security access into the site. It is not anticipated that these access points will be developed for emergency vehicle access, since the trail system and trail head parking will provide this access. Access points are identified on the Final Design (figure 9) at a total of four locations and include Fish Lake Road (two), Rose Center Road (one) and Buckhorn Lake Road (one) at the existing easement onto the Camp Has-O-Rec site.

Improvements will be limited to a standard low profile gate that will be locked at all times, security signage and gravel approach improvements in the road right-of-ways.

Gateway Signage

- ***Standard Oakland County Parks Sign for “Rose Oaks County Park”***
- ***Single Sign at Each Location***
- ***Standard Park Design Detail***

Gateway Signage

Gateway signs are standard at Oakland County Parks. Signs can be constructed of stone veneer and a composite wood sign panel or vandal resistant metal mounted on wood posts. The panel will be modified to include the name “Rose Oaks County Park.” The Final Design (figure 9) identifies three locations for Rose Oaks County Park signs. Two of the three locations are at the entrances to the trail head parking areas on Fish Lake Road and Buckhorn Lake Road. The third location is at the corner of Rose Center Road and Fish Lake Road. When the multi-use event facility and entrance drive is constructed, the gateway sign at the existing trail head drive will be relocated.



Interpretive Signage

- *Natural Resource Protection*
- *Natural Systems Restoration – Historical and Present*
- *MNFI Natural Features Inventory and Maintenance Recommendations*
- *Flora/Fauna (Plants, Waterfowl, Beaver, Etc.)*

Interpretive Signage

An interpretive signage program for the entire park is intended to provide park users with a variety of educational experiences. The signage program will address a variety of topics, including: natural system protection; unique habitat and plant communities (MNFI *Natural Features Inventory and Management Recommendations*); information on restoration programs at the site; and other special features pertaining to soils, geology, animals, birds and plants.



The interpretive program will be designed as self-guiding. The trail head kiosks (see trail head programming above) will orient trail users to the park and will contain a brochure identifying the locations of the displays. At each interpretive node, a durable, weather- and vandal-resistant panel will be designed and installed with text and images to describe the specific topics.

The programs and displays will require development by the park staff and can also include walking tours facilitated by park staff and volunteers.



Habitat Restoration

- **Restoration – Unique Habitat Areas**
- **Restoration – Pre-Settlement Plant Communities**
- **Control of Invasive Species**
- **Interpretive Signage**
- **Volunteer Programming**

Habitat Restoration

The habitat restoration program includes a variety of concepts that will be implemented, predominately by volunteers under the direction of park staff. The restoration recommendations identified in the MNFI *Natural Features Inventory and Management Recommendations* document will serve as the framework for site restorations. A volunteer program will be developed for the park, critical habitat restoration strategies implemented, and funding provided for the long-term implementation and ongoing maintenance of these programs. Interpretive signage panels (see above) will also be installed to inform park users of the programs and their benefits.



Special areas that could be targeted for long-term restoration and maintenance strategies are as follows (identified by the MNFI codes):

Wet-Mesic Prairie (O): As a site of statewide significance, this small area should be treated as a high priority under this program. Prescribed burning, exotic species controls and woody species controls are the major restoration measures. Other non-forested wetlands within the park that would benefit from the same management practices include Buckhorn Road Sedge Meadow (P), Esler Lake Wetland (R), Richardson Lake East Shore (T), Beaver Dam Wet-Mesic Prairie (X) and Beaver Pond Wet Meadow (Y).

Fish Lake Road Bog (V): This unique bog ecosystem is small, isolated, and represents a unique habitat and species assemblage. Restoration measures are limited to invasive species control of evergreen trees and should be considered a high priority.

Oak Woodlands: Both the Esler Lake Woodland (Q) and White Oak Knoll (Z) represent pre-settlement remnant oak barrens and dry-mesic southern forest communities. These areas occur on rolling topography, and would provide open views into the park and improve wildlife habitat once prescribed burning and exotic species control is implemented to remove much of the understory vegetation.

Forested Wetlands add significantly to the species and habitat diversity of the site and include Wild Rice Pond (S), Golden Pond Swamp (U) and Fish Lake Road Tamaracks (W). Maintenance and monitoring of these plant communities will require the control of exotic invasive species and the removal of tree species not typically found in these communities.

Miscellaneous Park Regulations

- **Hunting Permitted – Archery Only**
- **No Mountain Biking**
- **No Camping**
- **No Boating Launch on Big School Lot Lake**
- **Park Operations – Dawn to Dusk, Year-Round**

Miscellaneous Park Regulations

For reasons associated with safety, security, resource protection and private property interests, certain regulations will be implemented at the park.

Hunting

Hunting will be regulated by State of Michigan hunting laws, with the exception of firearms, which will not be permitted. Hunting will have seasonal and daytime limitations, and will not require special permits from Oakland County or OCPR. Initial hunts will focus on the deer hunting experience. OCPR staff will work with MDNR biologists to explore small game archery hunting, including turkey.

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking will not be encouraged because of potential use conflicts and the close proximity to other recreational facilities that provide for this activity.

Camping

Camping is provided at a nearby private campground and is not a part of current or future park programming.

Boating Restrictions

Only non-motorized boats will be allowed in the park. Non-motorized boats comprise small row boats, canoes and kayaks, which park users may bring into the park on a carry-in basis only. No boat launches will be provided.

Park Operations

The park will be open year-round, and hours of operations will be from dawn to dusk. Entrance gates will be closed daily. Daily or annual vehicular access permits are required for Oakland County Parks. Use of picnic shelters will occur on a first-come basis. There is no fee for walk-up use of the shelters, but they can be reserved for an additional fee. User fees beyond vehicle permits or for picnic shelter reservations will not be assessed to park users. Trails, perimeter roads and trail head parking will be routinely patrolled by park staff.

