



Parks & Recreation Plan 2024–2028

Village of Byron, Burns Township, Michigan

Draft Issued: December 14, 2023
Final Plan Adopted: January 29, 2024



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Community Description

History and Natural Features

The Village of Byron, established in 1836, is located in Burns Township, east of Lansing, Michigan in the southeast corner of Shiawassee County (see Figure 1).

The two main roads in the Village are Maple Street, running east and west, and Saginaw Street, running north and south. The Shiawassee River, a sizeable river that stretches a total length of 110 miles, runs through the center of the Village. The river plays a large role in recreation for Village residents. Activities such as fishing, canoeing, and kayaking are popular recreation-based hobbies. A section of the river in Shiawassee County is

designated a National Water Trail by the National Park Service as well as a Michigan State Water Trail.

A 2017 community survey, according to the Village Master Plan, showed that a large percentage of residents want to see more parks “cohesive with the ... river and millpond” in the Village. The millpond, located east of Saginaw Street and southeast of downtown, gets its name from the fine flour mill which was established around the same time as the Village itself. According to the Village Master Plan, flour was transported on the Shiawassee River by a large side-wheeled steamboat.



Figure 1 Village of Byron Location

Demographics

The Village of Byron is a small community of less than 1,000 residents; the Village Master Plan states that the population in 2016 was 581 people. Although the master plan predicted an increase of 14% by 2040, so far that has not been the case. In fact, the population actually fell further to 545 people in 2020. Recent data, however, show that the community is starting to grow again and that the total population in 2022 was 604 (American Community Survey, 2022).

In 2016, according to the latest Master Plan, the population was relatively young, with people ages 0 to 19 making up the greatest percentage

(37%). At that time, the Village was made up of only 8% seniors aged 65 and over. In 2022, the percentage of seniors more than doubled to 17% while the percentage of young people fell 15% to approximately 22% of the total population (American Community Survey, 2022) as shown in Table 1. This shift from a largely young to an increasing population of retirees should be considered when planning for future parks and recreation needs.

Table 1 Byron Age Distribution in 2019 and 2022

Age Category (in years)	2019	2022
	Percentage of Total Population (%)	Percentage of Total Population (%)
0-19	37	22
20-44	30	29
45-64	25	27
65+	8	17

Community Description

Seasonal Residents

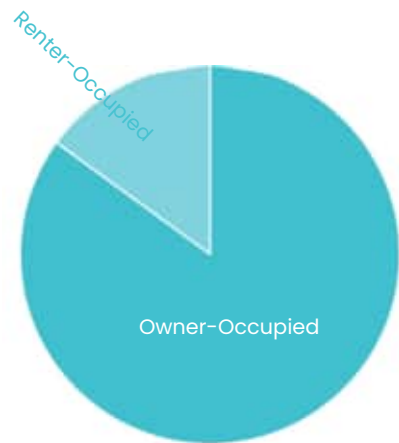
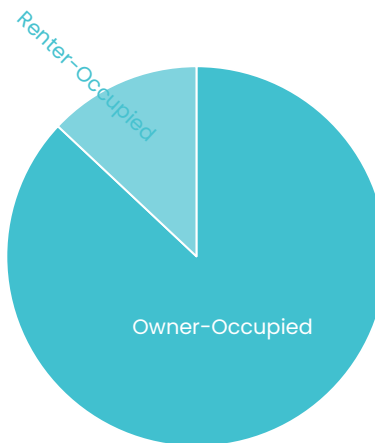
Another important factor to consider is the percentage of seasonal residents in a community.

In the Village of Byron in 2010, most of the homes (87%) were owner-occupied, with the number of rentals and vacant homes making up the

balance. In 2022 these percentages were close to the same at 85% and 15% respectively (American Community Survey, 2022). These data suggest that the community is made up primarily of year-round residents and that there is not a high proportion of vacation or rental homes.

Table 2 Housing Units in Byron

	2010	2022
	Percentage of Total Housing Units (%)	Percentage of Total Housing Units (%)
Owner-occupied	87	85
Renter-occupied	13	15



Alternative Transportation

The Village of Byron has a demonstrated commitment to alternative modes of transportation, such as walking and bicycling. Approximately 90% of the Village has sidewalks.

The community, through its Downtown Development Authority (DDA), is also increasing the availability of safe bicycle routes in the Village and developing a non-motorized pathways plan. This document could resemble the bicycling route plan created by Shiawassee County to link county parks for bicyclists (see Appendix).

The Village is also working to increase the number of walkable and bikeable destinations, such as essential services and restaurants, in their historic downtown. This will reduce the number of required car trips out of the Village and improve quality of life for residents.



Administrative Structure

Recreation Authority and Budget

The Village has a small population and staff with no budget for parks and recreation. Therefore, Byron leaders rely on collaboration with other local groups to provide recreation programming for the community.

Currently, the Council and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) are working together to establish a Recreation Authority that would oversee implementation of a pocket park on Village-owned property next to the municipal building downtown.

Although the property at Sesquicentennial Park is owned and maintained by the school district, the Recreation Authority, under both the Village Council and School Board, would also direct future improvements there. Should the Village of Byron wish to purchase additional land for parks and recreation in the future, the Village Council would commit those funds. The Council would also accept grants on behalf of the community.

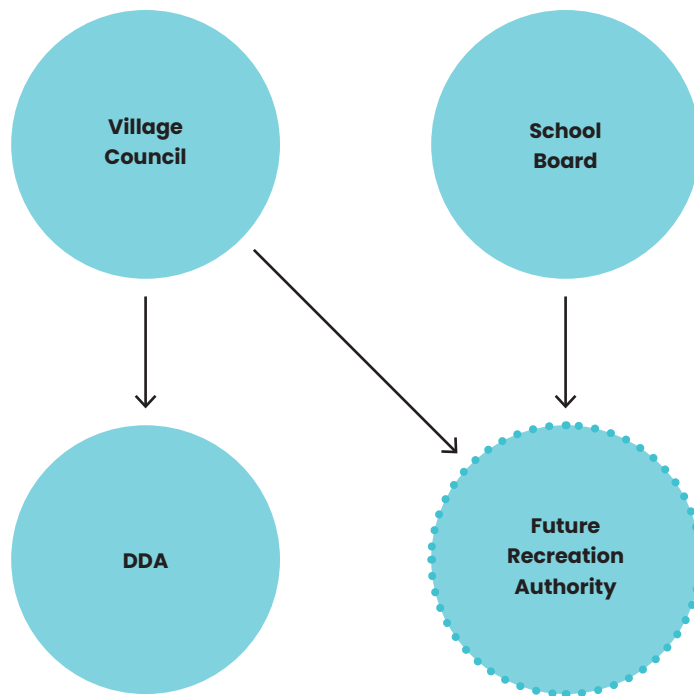


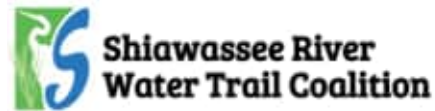
Figure 2 Organizational Chart

Funding Sources and Partnerships

Possible funding sources for parks and recreation include grants, donations, and millages. Most respondents to the 2019 Master Plan survey showed support for a millage to pay for recreational activities.

The survey also showed strong support for improving existing parks. For parks projects along the Shiawassee River, the Village could include non-profit conservation groups, such as Friends

of the Shiawassee River, the Shiawassee River Coalition, and the Shiawassee Conservation District in funding outreach efforts. The Shiawassee Family YMCA Soil to Spoon Program is another potential source of funding listed in the Village Master Plan. Other potential partners include the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership, the local Masons and the Boy and Girl Scouts troops. DDA funds could be used for parks within the downtown area, such as the proposed pocket park.



Recreation Inventory

Recreation facilities in the Village of Byron include:

- Willow Brook Golf Course
- Byron Sesquicentennial Park
- Kayak/Canoe Launch at Byron High School
- Byron Elementary School
- All Starz Cheerleading

Nearby, residents also have access to:

- Eagle’s Cove RV Resort
- Myers Lake Camping and Cabins





Methods and Inventory

C2AE, the consultant for Village of Byron, used online maps and county GIS to compile the list of recreational sites within the Village and close by.

The list is shown in Table 1 and a map of parks in the Village is shown in Figure 3. Currently the designated recreational sites in the Village are on property owned by the school system. Sesquicentennial Park, a popular community

gathering spot, is school-owned property and is maintained by the school district. The Village, school district and DDA work together to provide for recreation in Byron and have open lines of communication. In addition to school property, Willow Brook Golf Course is another important recreational asset in Byron and is open to the public.

Table 3 Parks and Recreation Facilities in Byron

Recreation Site	Location	Size	Purpose and Service Area
Willow Brook Golf Course	311 Maple St, Byron, MI 48418	113 acres; includes area outside the Village limits	Public golf course serving the Village of Byron and surrounding area.
Byron Sesquicentennial Park	312 W. Maple St, Byron, MI 48418	22 acres	Public park serving the community. Facilities include a pavilion and basketball court.
			
Kayak/Canoe Launch at Byron High School	Adjacent to the high school baseball fields	<1 acre	Kayak/canoe launch site on the Shiawassee River.
Byron Elementary School	312 W. Maple St, Byron, MI 48418	7.5 acres	Open space and playgrounds abutting the Shiawassee River.
All Starz Cheerleading	306 Hamilton, Byron, MI 48418	<1 acre	Privately owned sports club.



BYRON MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

SESQUICENTENNIAL PARK

BYRON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BYRON SCHOOLS

WILLOWROOK GOLF CLUB

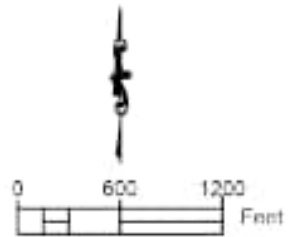


Figure 3 Recreation Inventory Map

Recreation Inventory

Location Maps

The Recreation Inventory Map, Figure 3, depicts the location of recreation sites within Byron. Much of the current recreation space is located on school grounds. A “walkability” map is attached at the end of this document. “Walkability” is defined as a 0.25 mile radius around each recreation facility or park. This area is considered “walkable” for most people. As shown on the Walkability Map, Figure 4, much of the Village is within walking distance

of existing recreation facilities, including the concentration of homes around the elementary school and on west Maple Street. In the future, the Village plans to make even more space accessible along the Shiawassee River, including a boardwalk to connect the proposed pocket park with Sesquicentennial Park. A public boat launch on the Mill Pond is also in the planning stages.

Existing Grant-Assisted Parks

Currently, the Village of Byron has not used grant funding for any parks. In 2023, they received a \$25,000 grant from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative to build a fishing pier along

the Shiawassee River. The community plans to combine these with future grant money in order to maximize their impact.



Figure 4 Walkability Map

Recreation Inventory

Accessibility Assessment

The Village consultant, C2AE, conducted an assessment of the only existing recreation facility, Sesquicentennial Park. Using the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design as a reference, C2AE determined the site's ranking is 1 since it does not meet accessibility guidelines. In order to meet ADA standards, a site must provide an accessible route to all accessible features, such as play structures and trash receptacles. Parking spaces and sidewalks must meet maximum slope requirements in order to be considered accessible to wheelchair users.

The site includes one accessible parking space, which meets the requirement. However, the designated parking space is too steep, with a cross slope of over 4 percent (the maximum allowed cross slope is 2 percent). There is no accessible route from the parking space to any features on the site, such as the playground or pavilion. In addition, the existing sidewalk is uneven with a change in level of more than one-half inch, which is considered a tripping hazard. This makes the sidewalk a danger even for vision-impaired people or those using canes.

Table 4 Accessibility Assessment

Feature	Compliant	Notes	Changes Needed
Parking	N	Cross-slope is too high	Replace the paving to meet the maximum allowed cross-slope.
Route to Pavilion and Playground	N	Tripping hazard present; surface not accessible; exceeds maximum slope	Provide an ADA-compliant route that is firm, stable and slip-resistant and that meets the requirement for maximum slope of 5%. If that slope cannot be achieved, a ramp may be used if it does not surpass 8% and a maximum rise of 30 inches. If the rise is greater than 6 inches, handrails are required.

Photos of Accessibility Assessment at Sesquicentennial Park:





The Planning Process

In the latest Village Master Plan, the goal of establishing a central downtown district that will act as the commercial core to Burns Township and the surrounding townships is key.

The Master Plan notes the importance of increasing commercial destinations downtown to draw users and enhance tourism. The Village recognizes the importance of preserving the natural features, especially along the Shiawassee River and millpond, while promoting their use for recreational activities. The Village's goal is to encourage recreation as well as the health of water bodies, mature vegetation, and wetlands.

Seeing a need for parks and recreation improvements to enhance their downtown development activities and provide more recreational amenities for residents, the Village Council is actively working to acquire funding. C2AE compared the existing recreation sites in the Village to typical park metrics and found that for a village of this size, it is not unusual to have few, if any, public parks. For example, the 2023 Agency Performance Review, by the National

Recreation and Park Association, cites that typically communities have 2,287 people per park and 3,759 residents per playground. The national average of 10.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents on average is exceeded in Byron, but none of the land is owned by the Village.

In addition, the Council reviewed the Burns Township and Shiawassee County planning documents. To promote regional planning, the Council reached out to Byron Schools, Burns Township, and the County to ask for input and information about current planning and projects in and around the Village of Byron. The County has a paddle guide for canoers and kayakers, that shows put-in and take-out locations as well as distances for paddle trips along the Shiawassee River (see Appendix). The "Bicycling About County Parks", developed alongside the 2020 County parks and recreation plan, shows recommended routes for bicyclists to travel between Shiawassee County parks.

Shiawassee River

Paddling Trips from Byron to Chesaning

A Country Scenic River Experience

There are 15 access sites on the trail that paddlers navigate site-to-site or combine for longer outings. Efficient motor vehicle or bicycle ferrying recommendations are on the reverse side. In planning a trip in low waters (navigability) or higher waters (safety), paddlers may check https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/lv?site_no=04144500 or Google "Shiawassee River Water Gauge" to more easily access that site. The gauge is fairly reflective of conditions from Byron to Chesaning and at 2 feet elevation or lower readings, the river may be too shallow in some segments.

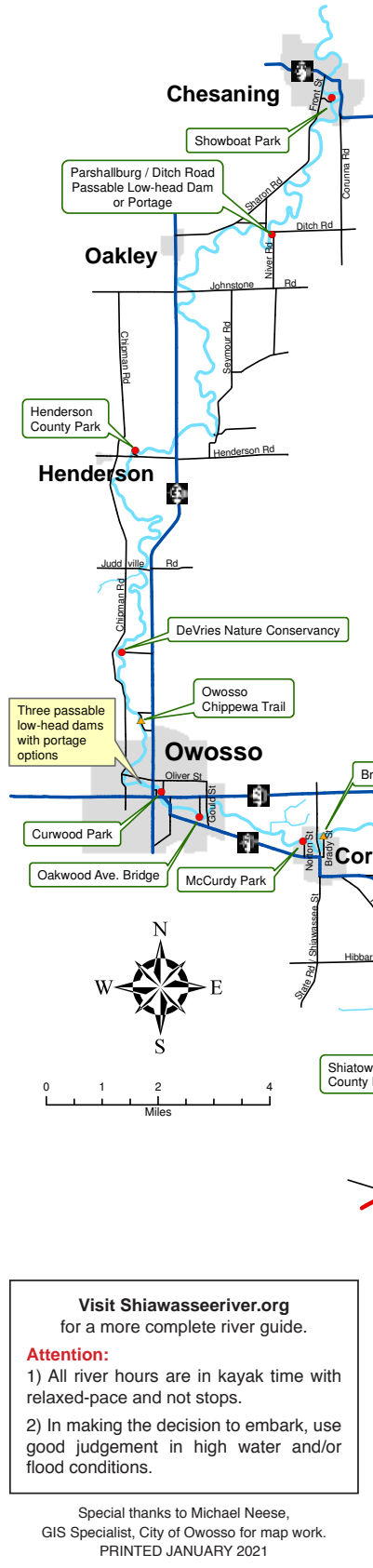


CHART OF ACCESS POINTS Distances and Times			
Access Site	Distance	Cumulative River Miles	Paddle Time
From Byron Athletic Field	0	0	Start
To Walnut Hills Campground*	4.8 Miles	4.8 Miles	2 Hours
To Geek Rd. County Park	7.0 Miles	11.8 Miles	2 Hours
To Shiatown County Park	6.2 Miles	18.0 Miles	1 Hr. 45 Min.
To Vernon Village	3.0 Miles	21.0 Miles	45 Minutes
To Lytle Rd. County Park	4.8 Miles	25.8 Miles	1 Hr. 45 Min.
To Corunna/Brady Street	3.1 Miles	28.9 Miles	1 Hour
To Corunna/McCurdy Park	0.8 Miles	29.7 Miles	25 Minutes
To Owosso Oakwood Ave Bridge	2.4 Miles	32.1 Miles	45 Minutes
To Owosso Curwood Park (Dwtn)	0.9 Miles	33.0 Miles	20 Minutes
To Owosso Chippewa Trail**	2.0 Miles	35.2 Miles	35 Minutes
To DeVries Nature Conservancy	1.7 Miles	36.9 Miles	35 Minutes
To Henderson County Park	6.3 Miles	43.2 Miles	1 Hr. 45 Min.
To Parshallburg at Ditch Road	9.0 Miles	52.2 Miles	2 Hrs. 45 Min.
To Chesaning/Showboat Park	4.4 Miles	56.6 Miles	1 Hr. 15 Min.

*Private With \$1 Vehicle Fee for Paddlers/Seasonal Availability
 **Previously Identified as "Harmon Patridge Park"

ACCESS SITES

- Site with available restroom, pit toilet, or porta potty on site or in vicinity
- ▲ Site with no available toilets

Visit ShiawasseeRiver.org for a more complete river guide.

Attention:

- 1) All river hours are in kayak time with relaxed-pace and not stops.
- 2) In making the decision to embark, use good judgement in high water and/or flood conditions.

Special thanks to Michael Neese, GIS Specialist, City of Owosso for map work.
 PRINTED JANUARY 2021

Figure 5 Friends of the Shiawassee River Paddle Guide

Public Input

Early in the process the Village Council made the public aware of their intention to develop a plan for parks and recreation through the Village website and a flyer circulated throughout the community (see Appendix). The public were invited to give input at a design workshop held by the Village Council and their consultant, C2AE, on December 13, 2023. Approximately 15 community members attended the meeting and completed the survey. The sign-in sheet, survey and goals are included in the Appendix.

After compiling the information and data gained at the workshop and developing a draft of the parks and recreation plan, it was made available for public review on the Village website and at the municipal building for 30 days.

Following the 30-day review period, the Village Council again sought the public's input through an advertised public hearing, held at a special meeting on January 29, 2024. Comments received at the public hearing were selectively incorporated into the plan and are attached to the end of this document.



Figure 6 Public Meeting Advertisement Flyer

Goals and Objectives

According to the survey completed with the latest Byron Master Plan, most respondents felt neutral to dissatisfied with parks and recreation offerings. The survey also showed strong interest in improving parks, along with strong interest in walking, running, fishing, and paddling. As noted in the County Master Plan goals, it is important to consider not only recreation but also protection of natural resources, in planning for recreation areas. The Village places high importance on protecting the water quality of the Shiawassee River and Mill Pond, as well as the adjacent wetland and floodplain areas. Such areas should be accessed for recreation in non-invasive ways, such as boardwalks, leaving as much natural vegetation as possible in order to maintain their integrity.

Goal 1: Encourage community connections and tourism downtown.

- Objective 1: Create gathering areas suitable for all seasons downtown.
- Objective 1a: Increase the number and diversity of walkable and bikeable destinations downtown.
- Objective 1b: Provide event space and music venues in downtown planning efforts.

Goal 2: Increase visibility of and access to the Shiawassee River, especially near the commercial district.

- Objective 2: Include the proposed boardwalk along the river in current planning, such as for the pocket park.
- Objective 2a: Construct an access point for fishing and small watercraft near the downtown.

Goal 3: Encourage alternative transportation, such as walking and bicycling, and connections with trails and paths surrounding the Village.

- Objective 3: Provide sidewalks or bicycle paths in all new development projects.
- Objective 3a: Maintain existing sidewalks and bicycle routes in good condition to encourage alternative modes of transportation.
- Objective 3b: Create a map of bicycle routes within the Village.

- Objective 3c: Consider existing routes outside the Village limits when planning future paths and routes.

Goal 4: Ensure that existing and new developments meet ADA standards.

- Objective 4: Incorporate ADA accessible design standards into all planning efforts..

Goal 5: Encourage cooperation between the school district, library, civic organizations, and businesses in providing recreational facilities and programming.

- Objective 5: Notify and invite participation from the school district, library, civic organizations and businesses in recreation design and planning projects.

Goal 6: Make natural resource protection integral to all planning efforts in order to protect ecosystem services.

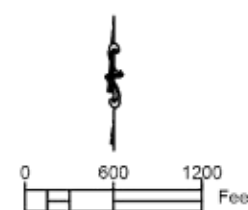
- Objective 6: Create a boardwalk along the Shiawassee River to connect the proposed pocket park next to the municipal building with the Sesquicentennial Park while causing minimal disruption to the river habitat.

Goal 7: Increase public access to the mill pond.

- Objective 7: Reopen the public access point for small watercraft.
- Objective 7a: Implement a plan to ensure equal access for all community members and reduce the likelihood of vandalism.

Action Plan

- Set up a Recreation Authority that includes representatives of both the School District and Village.
- Prioritize access to the millpond as one of the first Recreation Authority projects.
- Finalize the design for a new pocket park along the river next to the municipal building.
- Begin creating a map of bicycle routes in the Village.
- Require that all new developments meet ADA standards.
- Encourage members of local civic organizations and volunteer groups to get involved in parks and recreation planning, under the direction of the Recreation Authority and DDA.
- Appoint a small group of interested residents to search for and evaluate potential funding opportunities.
- Support Lion Bear Ventures in developing grant proposals for the Village.



(866) 454-3923 | WWW.C2AE.COM

RECREATION INVENTORY MAP
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN
VILLAGE OF BYRON, MICHIGAN



0.25 MILE
WALKABLE
DISTANCE



(866) 454-3923 | WWW.C2AE.COM

WALKABILITY MAP
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN
VILLAGE OF BYRON, MICHIGAN

Village of Byron Parks Planning
Public Input Questionnaire
12/13/23

1. Do you think Village of Byron should fund parks and recreation development?

Yes No

2. What priorities should Village of Byron focus on? Rank 1-5, with 1 being the most important.

Trails 2
Natural Areas/Open Space 4
Riverfront 1
Parks/Playgrounds 3
Land Acquisition for Parks 5

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you or other members of your household visited Village of Byron parks?

Less than once a month
1-3 times a month ___
Once a week ___
1-3 times a week ___

4. How would you rate the condition of the current Village of Byron parks?

Poor
Fair ___
Good ___
Excellent ___

5. What other park amenities and activities would you like to see as part of Village of Byron parks?
List all that apply.

place for music
shade rink
walking trail

Village of Byron Parks Planning
Public Input Questionnaire
12/13/23

1. Do you think Village of Byron should fund parks and recreation development?

Yes No

2. What priorities should Village of Byron focus on? Rank 1-5, with 1 being the most important.

Trails 5

Natural Areas/Open Space 3

Riverfront 1

Parks/Playgrounds 2

Land Acquisition for Parks 4

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you or other members of your household visited Village of Byron parks?

Less than once a month K

1-3 times a month ___

Once a week ___

1-3 times a week ___

4. How would you rate the condition of the current Village of Byron parks?

Poor

Fair ___

Good ___

Excellent ___

5. What other park amenities and activities would you like to see as part of Village of Byron parks?
List all that apply.

Music in a park
Activities in town

Village of Byron Parks Planning
Public Input Questionnaire
12/13/23

1. Do you think Village of Byron should fund parks and recreation development?

Yes No

2. What priorities should Village of Byron focus on? Rank 1-5, with 1 being the most important.

Trails 2

Natural Areas/Open Space 4

Riverfront 1

Parks/Playgrounds 3

Land Acquisition for Parks 5

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you or other members of your household visited Village of Byron parks?

Less than once a month

1-3 times a month

Once a week

1-3 times a week

4. How would you rate the condition of the current Village of Byron parks?

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

5. What other park amenities and activities would you like to see as part of Village of Byron parks?
List all that apply.

Bathrooms
fishing docks
roller ice rink

Village of Byron Parks Planning
Public Input Questionnaire
12/13/23

1. Do you think Village of Byron should fund parks and recreation development?

Yes No

2. What priorities should Village of Byron focus on? Rank 1-5, with 1 being the most important.

- Trails 2 *walking + Biking*
- Natural Areas/Open Space 4
- Riverfront 3
- Parks/Playgrounds 1
- Land Acquisition for Parks 5

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you or other members of your household visited Village of Byron parks?

- Less than once a month
- 1-3 times a month
- Once a week
- 1-3 times a week

4. How would you rate the condition of the current Village of Byron parks?

- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent

5. What other park amenities and activities would you like to see as part of Village of Byron parks?
List all that apply.

*Restrooms at the parks and walking trails,
Boat ramp at the millpond,*

Village of Byron Parks Planning
Public Input Questionnaire
12/13/23

1. Do you think Village of Byron should fund parks and recreation development?

Yes No

2. What priorities should Village of Byron focus on? Rank 1-5, with 1 being the most important.

Trails 2

Natural Areas/Open Space 3

Riverfront 1

Parks/Playgrounds 4

Land Acquisition for Parks 5

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you or other members of your household visited Village of Byron parks?

Less than once a month

1-3 times a month

Once a week

1-3 times a week

4. How would you rate the condition of the current Village of Byron parks?

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

5. What other park amenities and activities would you like to see as part of Village of Byron parks?

List all that apply.

• PUTT-PUTT GOLF?

• SOMETHING UNIQUE TO BYRON

NOT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE

• Bike/Bike trails

• COMMUNITY EVENTS / SPACE FOR EVENTS

• TRACK FOR PULLING SKIERS behind motorcycles

Village of Byron Parks Planning
Public Input Questionnaire
12/13/23

1. Do you think Village of Byron should fund parks and recreation development?

Yes X No ___

2. What priorities should Village of Byron focus on? Rank 1-5, with 1 being the most important.

Trails 4

Natural Areas/Open Space 5

Riverfront 3

Parks/Playgrounds 1

Land Acquisition for Parks 2

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you or other members of your household visited Village of Byron parks?

Less than once a month X

1-3 times a month ___

Once a week ___

1-3 times a week ___

4. How would you rate the condition of the current Village of Byron parks?

Poor X

Fair ___

Good ___

Excellent ___

5. What other park amenities and activities would you like to see as part of Village of Byron parks?
List all that apply.

- Playground Equipment
- Trails
- Exercise - Outdoor
- Millpond Access to Public
-

Village of Byron Parks Planning
Public Input Questionnaire
12/13/23

Help

1. Do you think Village of Byron should fund parks and recreation development?

Yes ___ No ___

2. What priorities should Village of Byron focus on? Rank 1 -5, with 1 being the most important.

Trails ___2___
Natural Areas/Open Space ___3___
Riverfront ___1___
Parks/Playgrounds ___1___
Land Acquisition for Parks ___5___

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you or other members of your household visited Village of Byron parks?

Less than once a month ___
1-3 times a month ___
Once a week ___
1-3 times a week ___

4. How would you rate the condition of the current Village of Byron parks?

Poor ___
Fair ___
Good ___
Excellent ___

5. What other park amenities and activities would you like to see as part of Village of Byron parks?
List all that apply.

Village of Byron Parks Planning
Public Input Questionnaire
12/13/23

1. Do you think Village of Byron should fund parks and recreation development?

Yes ___ No ___

2. What priorities should Village of Byron focus on? Rank 1-5, with 1 being the most important.

Trails _____

Natural Areas/Open Space

Riverfront

Parks/Playgrounds

Land Acquisition for Parks _____

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you or other members of your household visited Village of Byron parks?

Less than once a month

1-3 times a month _____

Once a week _____

1-3 times a week _____

only because there are none

4. How would you rate the condition of the current Village of Byron parks?

Very Poor

Fair _____

Good _____

Excellent _____

5. What other park amenities and activities would you like to see as part of Village of Byron parks?
List all that apply. *would like to see the existing park*

upgraded + used

Village of Byron Parks Planning
Public Input Questionnaire
12/13/23

1. Do you think Village of Byron should ^{Help} fund parks and recreation development?

Yes No

2. What priorities should Village of Byron focus on? Rank 1 -5, with 1 being the most important.

Trails

Natural Areas/Open Space

Riverfront

Parks/Playgrounds

Land Acquisition for Parks

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you or other members of your household visited Village of Byron parks?

Less than once a month

1-3 times a month

Once a week

1-3 times a week

4. How would you rate the condition of the current Village of Byron parks?

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

5. What other park amenities and activities would you like to see as part of Village of Byron parks?
List all that apply.

Live music
Play Equipment
Bathrooms

Village of Byron Parks Planning
Public Input Questionnaire
12/13/23

1. Do you think Village of Byron should fund parks and recreation development?

Yes No

2. What priorities should Village of Byron focus on? Rank 1-5, with 1 being the most important.

Trails 3

Natural Areas/Open Space 5

Riverfront 1

Parks/Playgrounds 2

Land Acquisition for Parks 4

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you or other members of your household visited Village of Byron parks?

Less than once a month

1-3 times a month

Once a week

1-3 times a week

4. How would you rate the condition of the current Village of Byron parks?

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

5. What other park amenities and activities would you like to see as part of Village of Byron parks?
List all that apply.

all talked about,

Village of Byron Parks Planning
Public Input Questionnaire
12/13/23

1. Do you think Village of Byron should fund parks and recreation development?

Yes No ___

2. What priorities should Village of Byron focus on? Rank 1-5, with 1 being the most important.

Trails 4

Natural Areas/Open Space 2

Riverfront 3

Parks/Playgrounds 1

Land Acquisition for Parks 5

3. In the past 12 months, how often have you or other members of your household visited Village of Byron parks?

Less than once a month

1-3 times a month ___

Once a week ___

1-3 times a week ___

4. How would you rate the condition of the current Village of Byron parks?

Poor At the School

Fair ___

Good ___

Excellent ___

5. What other park amenities and activities would you like to see as part of Village of Byron parks?
List all that apply.

Family Area



Village of Byron

COMMUNITY INPUT

⋮⋮⋮ **NEEDED** ⋮⋮⋮


The Village of Byron is creating a Parks and Recreation Plan and needs your input. Please join us!

**Parks And Rec
Planning Meeting**

December 13, 2023
6:00 PM

Byron Municipal Building
146 S. Saginaw Street

 810-266-5090

 www.facebook.com/ByronDDA

GOALS:

- Bring Community Together
 - Family Fun Day
 - Live Music
- Walking/Biking Trails
- Playgrounds
- Bathrooms
- Highlight River/Mill Pond
- Music in the Park
- Stage/Music
- Incorporate Existing Park
- Public Access to Mill Pond
- New Businesses/Hardware
- Poor Quality Existing Parks
- Dog Park
- All Ages/All Seasons
- Community Center
- Mason's Breakfast
- Library
- Pickle Ball
- Basketball
- Sledding
- Splash Pad/Water Park
- Ice Rink/Rollerskating
- BMX Track
- Fireworks
- Car Shows
- Farmer's Market
- Friends of Parks
- Water Quality Improvement at Mill Pond

POCKET PARK:

- Electronic Sign
- Gateway to River
- Seating Area/Benches
- Overlook
- Walkway
- Trees
- Lighting
- Live Music
- Bathrooms
- Low Maintenance Plants



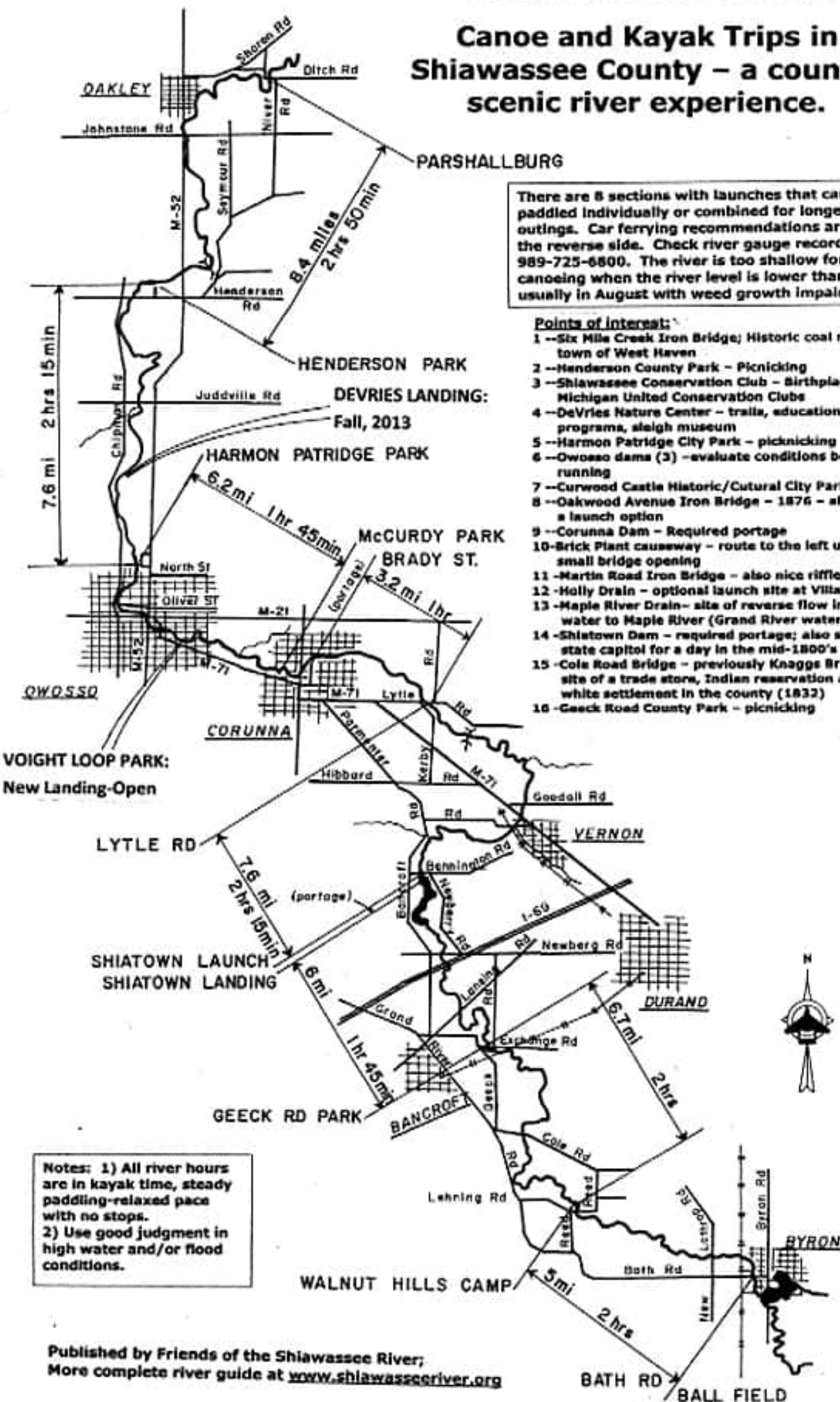
Byron Parks Planning Public Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Purpose:	Information/Public Input	Date:	Wednesday, December 13, 2023
Location:	Village of Byron	Project#	23-0274
Name	Phone (Area Code & No.)	Email	Address (Optional)
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SHIAWASSEE RIVER

Canoe and Kayak Trips in Shiawassee County – a country scenic river experience.



BICYCLING ABOUT SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PARKS

RECREATIONAL AND CONNECTIVITY ROUTES

Introduction. This guide is a companion document to the 2016-2020 Shiawassee County Park Recreation and Open Space Plan. There are details about routes for road biking to and from County Parks. The ordinary rider safety precautions apply for country road cycling where there are no dedicated bike lanes or wider pavement roadways. Many of these roads have 24' pavement widths with narrow gravel shoulders. For the selected routes, that condition is offset by relatively lower traffic volumes. The routes suggested here are deemed appropriate for bicyclists 12 and over in age. The recreational benefits to that experience level offers rewarding and healthful outings as part of a park visit or transportation link to other open space areas.

Connectivity in this context means destination bicycle routes between county, state or local parks. Mileage information is provided. Recreation loop routes are bike loops starting and ending at a county park. The recreation routes are relatively shorter and designed intentionally as a supplemental park activity to a county park visit. Below, each park is featured with a number of bicycling options. It is recommended that, after review, revisions over time, and actual trial runs, that the eventual recommended routes are posted on an informational sign at the parking areas of the parks and the park system website.

Kerby Road Park Bicycling. Located near State Highway M-21, no routes advise use of that highway except for a few suggested crossings. There are two (2) recreational loop routes and three (3) connectivity routes. Ambitious bikers could add other destinations to the connectivity routes; the three listed in this plan have proximity to destinations where other routes might begin.

Kerby Recreational Loop Ride #1: *Country Scenic Loop north—Length is 6.2 miles*

North on N. Kerby Road at Park Entrance to Copas Road;
West on Copas Road to Notnagle Road;
North on Notnagle Road to Wilkinson Road;
East on Wilkinson Road to N. Geeck Road;
South on N. Geeck Road to Shipman Road;
Southwest on Shipman Road to Kerby Park.



Kerby Recreational Loop Ride #2: Country Scenic Loop south—Length is 7.8 miles
 Northwest on Shipman Road from Park Entrance to Gilna Road;
 South on Gilna Road (proceed across M-21) to Serr Road;
 East on Serr Road to S. Geeck Road;
 South on S. Geeck Road to Lytle Road;
 East on Lytle Road (intermediate stop at Lytle Rd. Park) to Kerby Road;
 North on Kerby Road to Serr Road;
 East on Serr Road to Gilna Road;
 North on Gilna Road to Shipman Road;
 Southwest on Gilna Road to Kerby Park.



Kerby Connectivity Destination Route #1: *Corunna's McCurdy Park (with link to Owosso Curwood Castle Park) Distance to Corunna is 3.31 miles*

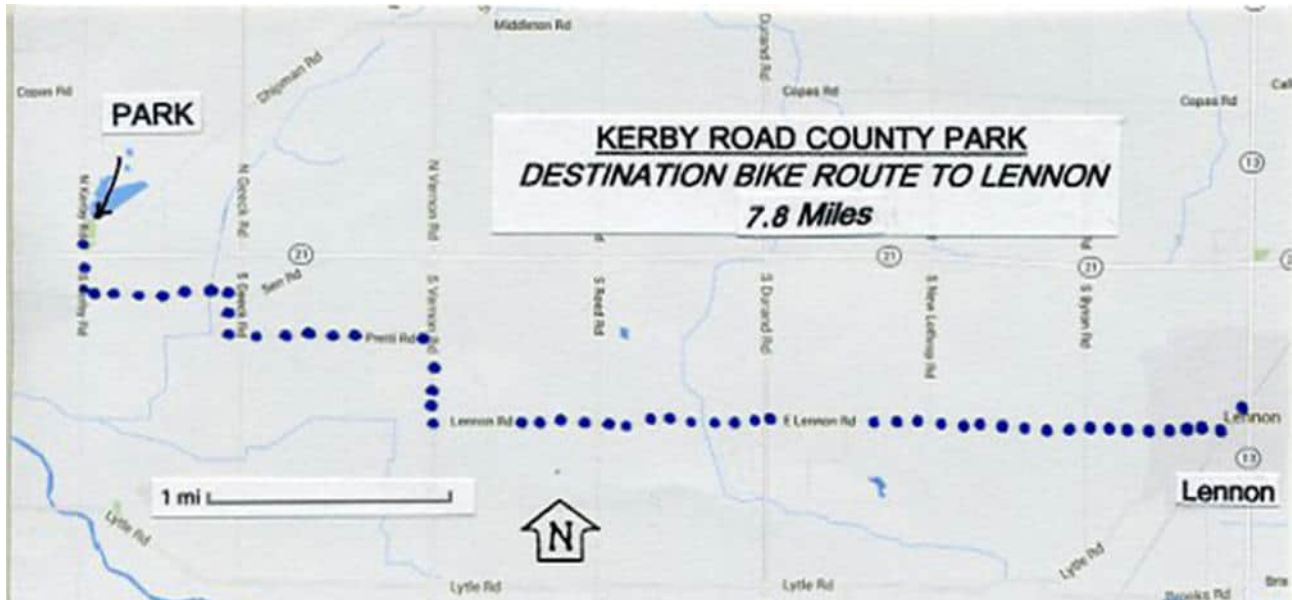
South on Kerby Road from Park Entrance (a crossing at M-21) & onto Serr Rd;
 East on Serr Road to N. Shiawassee Street in Corunna;
 South on Shiawassee Street's dedicated lane or sidewalk to Pine Street;
 East on Pine Street to Magnolia Street ;
 South on Magnolia Street to Ferry Street;
 East on Ferry Street to McCurdy Park footbridge. Optional Extension Ride:
 West on James Miner Trail to Owosso's Curwood Castle Park (+ 3.4 miles).

Kerby Park Connectivity Destination Route #1 (continued):



Kerby Connectivity Destination Route #2: Kerby Rd. Park to Village of Lennon at County Line and M-13) Distance is 7.9 miles

- South on Kerby Road to Serr Road;
- East on Serr Road to Geeck Road;
- South on Geeck Road to Petti Road;
- East on Petti Road to Vernon Road;
- South on Vernon Road to Lennon Road;
- East on Lennon Road to the Village (this section is 5 miles long).



Kerby Connectivity Destination Route #3: *Kerby Road County Park to Lytle Road County Park;*
Distance is 1.6 miles

South on Kerby Road to Lytle Road and coincidental park entrance drive.

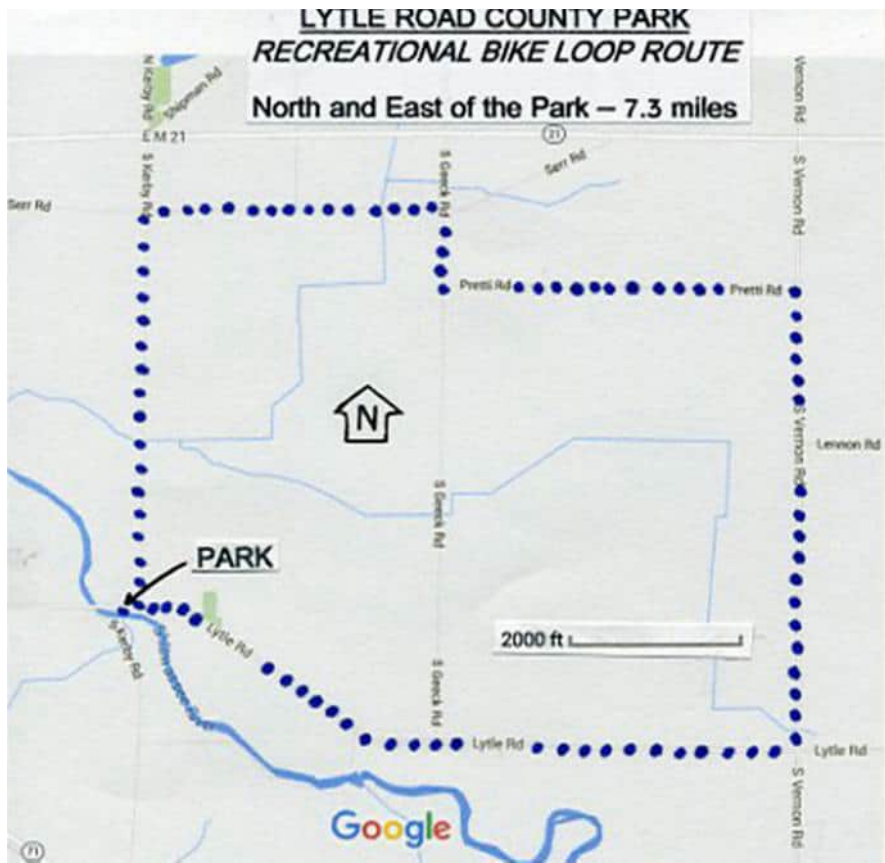


Lytle Road Park Bicycling. Lytle Road Park is on the Shiawassee River. The connection to Kerby Road Park is a single roadway described above for the Kerby Road Park Destination Route #3. Other routes offer connectivity travel links to Lennon, Corunna, Durand, and Shiatown Park. One recreational loop route is offered.

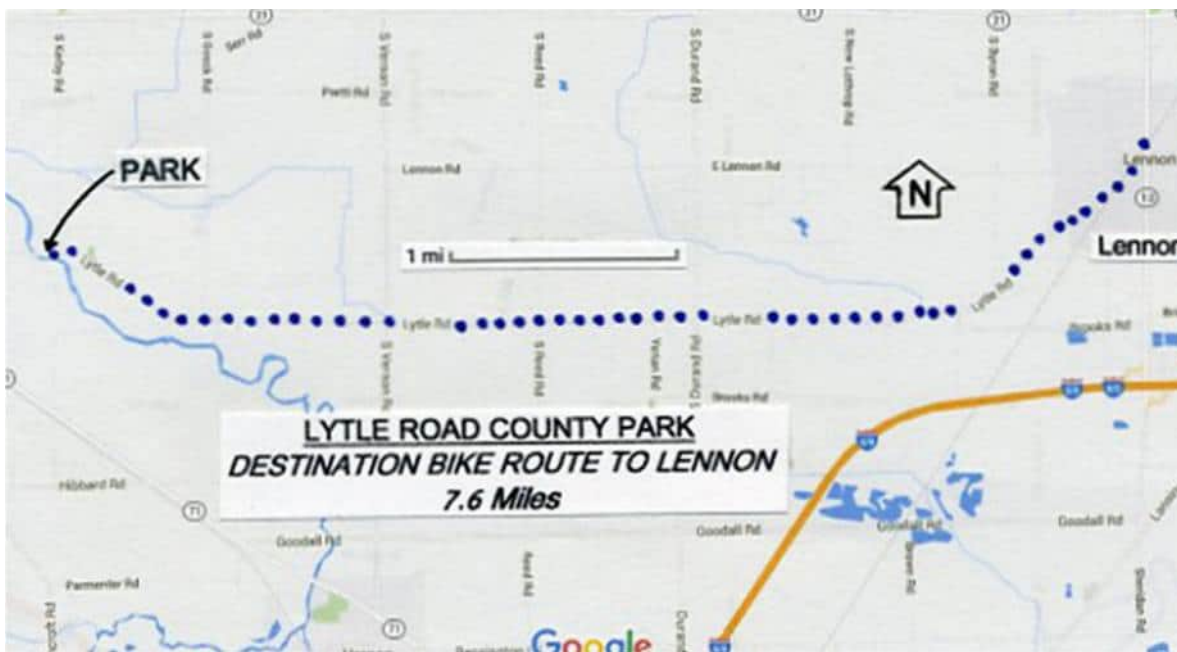
Lytle Recreational Loop Ride #1: *Country Scenic Loop North and East; Length is 7.3 miles.*

North on Kerby Road to Serr Road;
East on Serr Road to Geeck Road;
South on Geeck Road to Pretti Road;
East on Pretti Road to Vernon Road;
South on Vernon Road to Lytle Road;
West on Lytle Road back to Kerby Road Park.

Lytle Road Park Recreational Bike Route #1 (continued)



Lytle Road Connectivity Destination Route #1: *To Village of Lennon and County Line; 7.6 miles.*
East on Lytle Road to Village of Lennon and County Line at M-13.



Lytle Road Park Connectivity Destination Route #2: To Downtown Durand, Union Station Museum, & Amtrak Station; Distance is 8.4 miles

East on Lytle Road to Vernon Road;
South on Vernon Road to Vernon Village at Bennington Road;
Continue South on Vernon Road to Newburg Road;
East on Newburg Road to Downtown Durand.



Lytle Road Park Connectivity Destination Route #3: To Down'tn Corunna and McCurdy Park; Distance is 3 miles.

West on Lytle Road to State Hwy M-71 junction;
Continue West on M-71 to Dutcher Street;
North on Dutcher Street to E. McArthur Street;
West on McArthur Street to Shiawassee Street and downtown Corunna;
Continue West on McArthur Street to Norton Street;
North on Norton Street, crossing M-71 to the Park;
(Extension Route to Owosso's Curwood Castle Park via James Miner Trail an additional 3.4 miles).

Lytle Road Park Connectivity Route #3 (continued)



Lytle Park Connectivity Destination Route #4: To Shiatown Park (also canoe landing); 4 miles.

West on Lytle Road from Park & canoe landing to Kerby Road;
 South on Kerby Road to M-71 crossing and onto Hibbard Road;
 West on Hibbard Road to Parmenter Road;
 South on Parmenter Road to junction with Bancroft Road;
 Continue South on Bancroft Road to Bennington Road and Shiatown Park.



Shiatown County Park Bicycling. Shiatown Park is on the River and is among the most historic places in the County. Many routes are possible both for recreational rides and connections to other open spaces and communities with open spaces and cultural features. The connectivity route to Lytle Rd Park, the downstream canoe landing, is provided immediately above in the Lytle Road Park section.

Shiatown Recreational Loop Route #1: *Country Scenic Loop East of Park; Length is 5 miles.*

North from Newberry Rd Parking Lot to Bennington Road;
 East on Bennington Road to Vernon Road in Vernon Village;
 South on Vernon Road to Garrison Road;
 West on Garrison Road to Newberry Road;
 N/NW on Newberry Road to Parking Lot;
 (Optional longer ride, S on Vernon Road to Newberg Road, thence W to Newberry Rd, thence NW to Parking Lot).



Shiatown Recreational Loop Route #2: *Country Scenic Loop West of Park; Length is 5 miles.*

North from Newberry Rd. Parking Lot to Bennington Road;
 West on Bennington Road to Bancroft Road;
 South on Bancroft Road to Bennington Road;
 West on Bennington Road to Scribner Road;
 South on Scribner Road to Garrison Road.
 East on Garrison Road to Braid Road;
 N/NE on Braid Road to Bennington Road;
 East on Bennington Road to West Park Parking Lot or onto Newberry Road Parking Lot.

Shiatown Recreational Loop Route #2 (continued)



Shiatown Connectivity Destination Route #1: *To Village of Vernon's Downtown; 2.2 miles*
North from Parking Lot on Newberry Road to Bennington Road;
East on Bennington Road to Downtown Vernon.



Shiatown Connectivity Destination Route #2: *To City of Durand's Downtown; 5.3 miles.*

S/SE from Parking Lot on Newberry Road to Newberg Road;
East on Newberg Road to Saginaw Street in Downtown Durand.



Shiatown Connectivity Destination Route #3: *From Shiatown Park's Canoe Launch to Geeck Road County Park's Canoe Launch; Distance is 4.3 miles.*

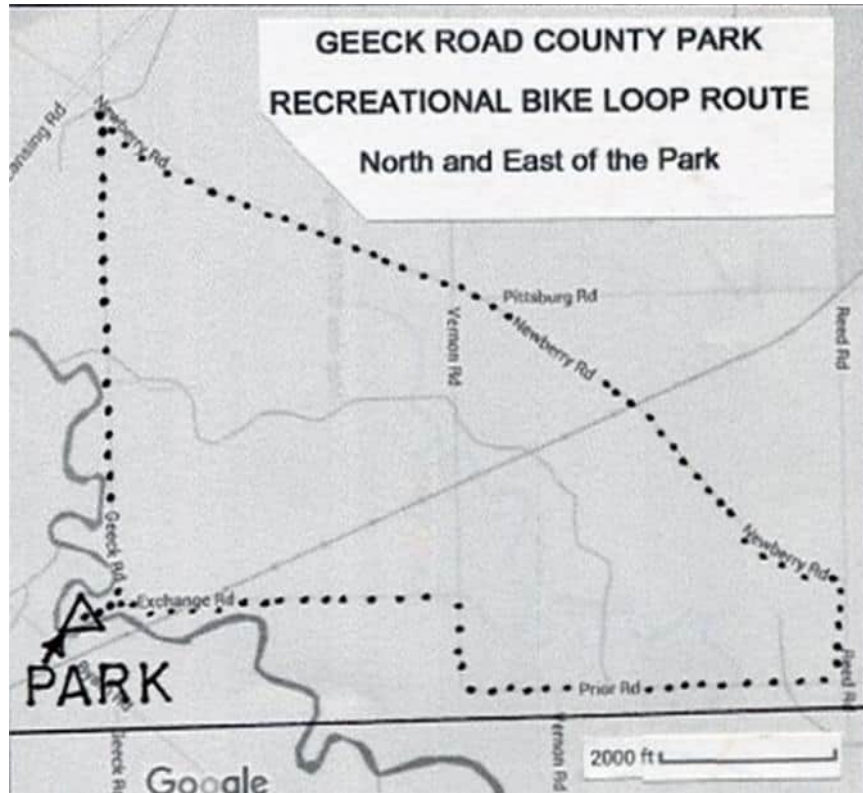
East on Bennington Road from Canoe Launch to Newberry Road;
S/SE on Newberry Road to Newburg Road;
East on Newburg Road to Geeck Road; South on Geeck Rd to Exchange Rd;
West on Exchange Road to Geeck Rd Park and Canoe Launch.



Geeck Road County Park Bicycling. See connectivity route #10 above to find directions to the canoe launch at Shiatown. Geeck Road Park's launch is also related to Walnut Hills Campground upstream and is described at the Connectivity Route #4 below.

Geeck Recreational Loop Route #1: *Country Scenic Loop North/East of the Park; Length is 6 miles.*

- East from Park on Exchange Road to Geeck Road;
- North on Geeck Road to Newberry Road;
- Southeast on Newberry Road to Reed Road;
- South on Reed Road to Prior Road;
- West on Prior Road to Vernon Road;
- North on Vernon Road to Exchange Road;
- West on Exchange Road to Park.



Geeck Recreational Loop Route #2: *Country Scenic Loop South of the Park; Length is 5.5 miles.*

- West on Exchange Road from Park to Byam Road;
- South on Byam Road to Geeck Road;
- South on Geeck Road to Cole Road;
- East on Cole Road to Miller Road;
- East/NE on Miller Road to Vernon Road;
- North on Vernon Road to Prior Road;
- West on Prior Road to Vernon Road;
- North on Vernon Road to Exchange Road;
- West on Exchange Road to Park.

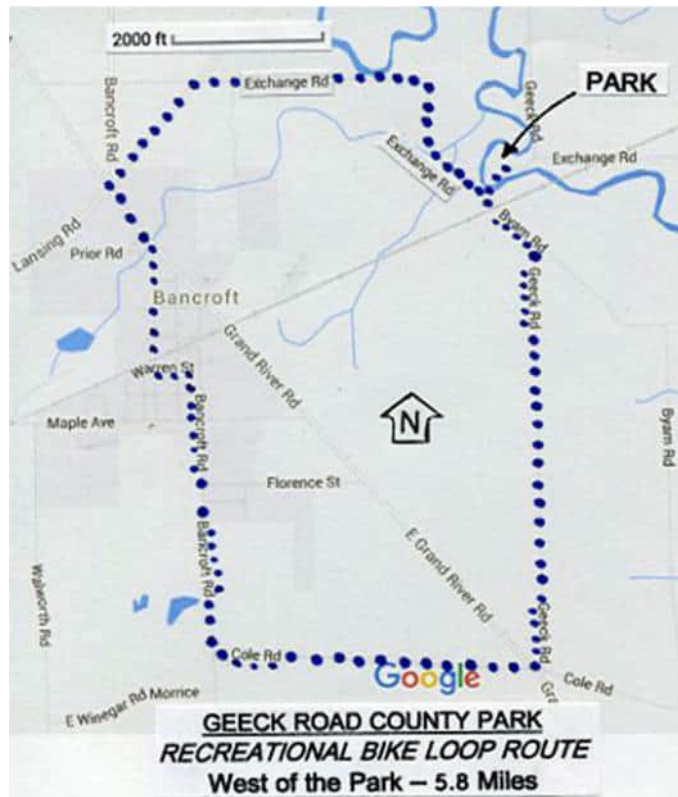
Geeck Recreational Loop Route #2 (continued)



Geeck Recreational Loop Route #3: *Country Scenic Loop West of the Park; Length is 5.8 miles.*

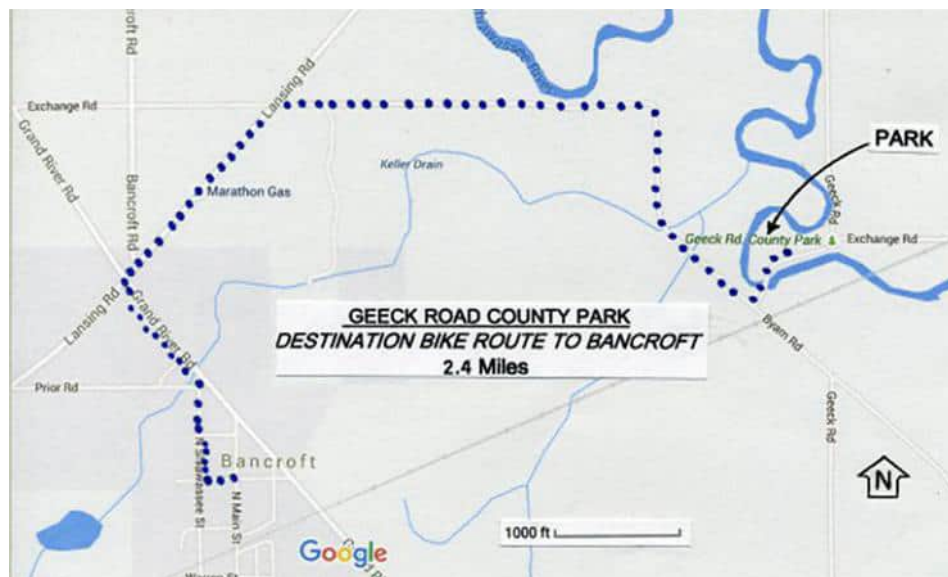
West on Exchange Road from Park to Intersection with Byam Road;
South on Byam Road to Geeck Road;
South on Geeck Road to Cole Road;
West on Cole Road to Bancroft Road;
North on Bancroft Road to Village, then on to Warren Street;
West on Warren Street to N. Shiawassee Street in Village;
North on N. Shiawassee Street to Grand River Road in Village;
NW on Grand River Road to Lansing Road (Five Points);
NE on Lansing Road to Exchange Road;
East on Exchange Road where Exchange turns South at YMCA Camp;
South on Exchange Road to where Exchange Road turns East;
East on Exchange Road to Park.

Geeck Recreational Loop Route #3 (continued)



Geeck Connectivity Destination Route #1: *West To Convenience Store on Lansing Road and Village of Bancroft; Distance is 1.6 miles to 'Five Points' store & 2.4 miles to Village center.*

- West on Exchange Road to intersection with Byam Road;
- North on Exchange Road to YMCA camp and where Exchange Rd turns west;
- West on Exchange Road to Lansing Road;
- SW on Lansing Road to convenience store at 'Five Points' and Grand River Rd;
- SE on Grand River Rd to N. Shiawassee St;
- South on N. Shiawassee St. to Warren St.; E on Warren St. to Vill. Center



Geeck Connectivity Destination Route #2: *East to City of Durand and its downtown; 4.5 miles.:*

East from Park drive entrance on Exchange Road to Geeck Road;
North on Geeck Road to Newburg Road;
East on Newburg Road to N. Saginaw Street and downtown Durand
(also Railroad Museum and Amtrak Station).



Geeck Connectivity Destination Route #3: *Southeast to Village of Byron; Distance is 7.6 miles.*

West on Exchange Rd from Park to Byam Road;
South on Byam Road to Cole Road;
East/Southeast on Cole Road to Reed Road;
South on Reed Road to Lahring Road;
East on Lahring Road and N. Saginaw Street in the Village;
South on N. Saginaw Street to Village center at Bath Road/Maple Street
(This route ends across the river from the Byron Schools canoe launch).

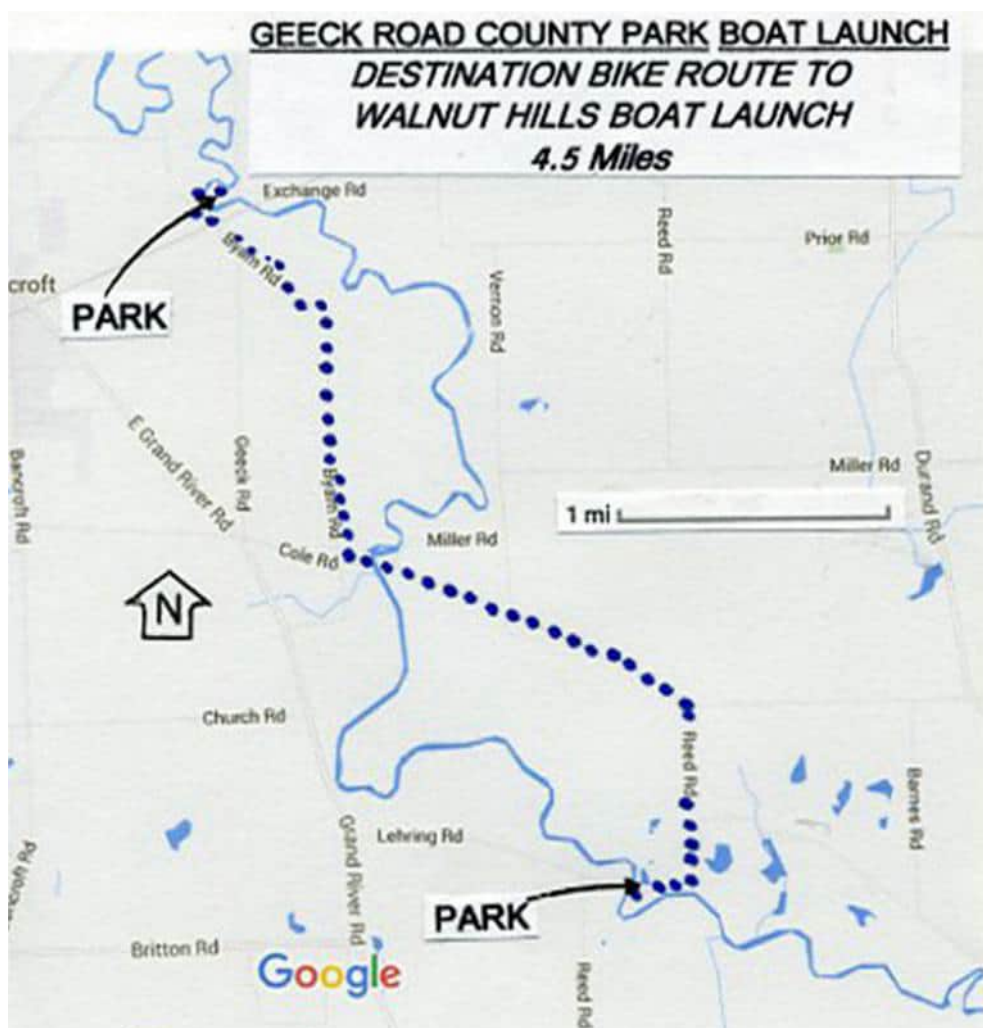
Geek Connectivity Destination Route #3 (continued)



Geek Connectivity Destination Route #4: From Geek Road Park Canoe Launch to Walnut Hills Campground Canoe Launch (public); Distance is 4.5 miles.

- West on Exchange Road at Park to Byam Road;
- South on Byam Road to Cole Road;
- East/Southeast on Cole Road to Reed Road;
- South on Reed Road to end of Reed Road at Lahring Road;
- West on Lahring Road to Walnut Hills Campground.

Geeck Connectivity Destination Route #4 (continued)

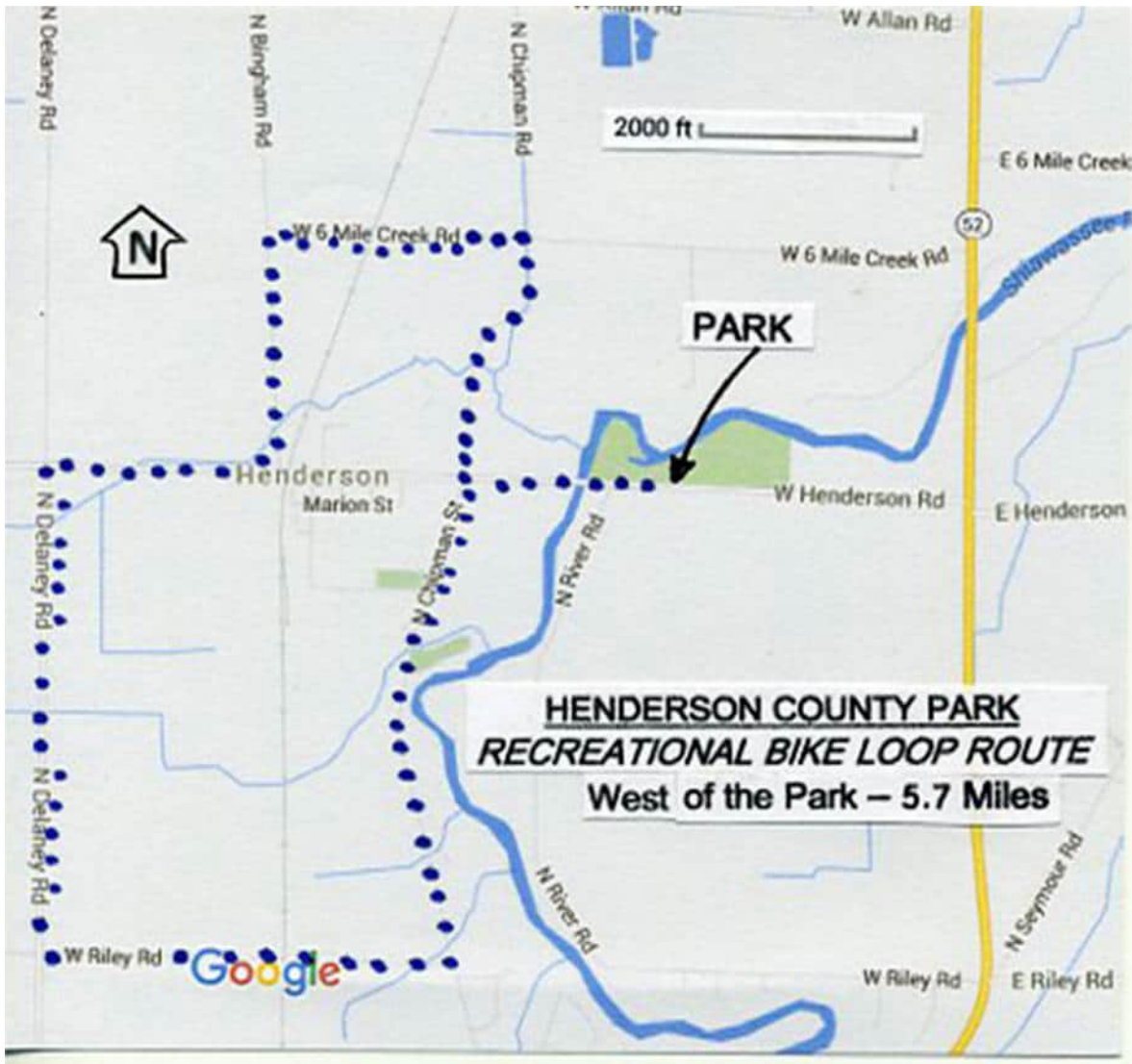


Henderson County Park Bicycling. Bicycling to and from Henderson Park offers the most route choices in the County Park system, especially the Connectivity Routes. Henderson Park is also a canoe launch site; therefore two of the Connectivity Routes connect to canoe launches/landings north and downstream to Parshallburg (east of Oakley) and south and upstream to Harmon Patridge Park in Owosso. An intermediate canoe landing with nature study, trails and a spacious wooden riverside dock is at DeVries Nature Conservancy.

Henderson Recreational Loop Route #1: *Country Scenic Loop West and North of Park; 5.7 miles.*

West on Henderson Park to Chipman Road;
South on Chipman Road to Riley Road;
West on Riley Road to Delaney Road;
North on Delaney Road to Henderson Road;
East on Henderson Road to Bingham Road;
North on Bingham Road to 6 Mile Creek Road;
East on 6 Mile Creek Road to Chipman Road;
South on Chipman Road to Henderson Road;
East on Henderson Road to Park Entrance.

Henderson Recreational Loop Route #1 (continued)



Henderson Recreational Loop Route #2: *Country Scenic Circle Route Around the Park; Length is 6.4 miles.*

NOTE: THIS TRAIL SECTION IS NOT OPERATIONAL UNTIL 6 MILE CREEK BRIDGE REOPENS

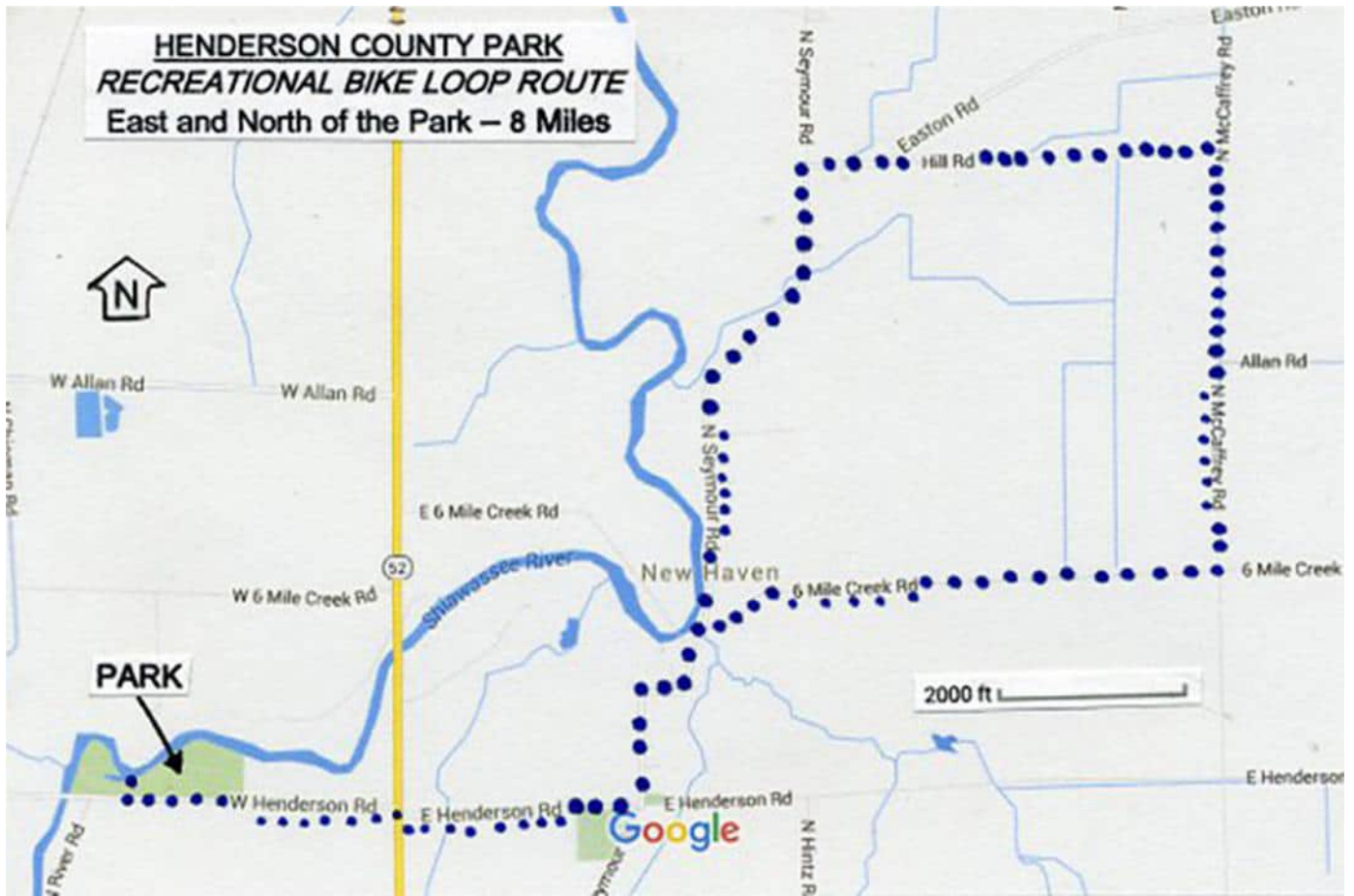
- West on Henderson Road from Park entrance to River Road;
- South on River Road to Riley Road;
- East on Riley Road (also across M-52) to Seymour Road;
- Northeast on Seymour Road to 6 Mile Creek Road;
- West on Six Mile Creek Road (also crossing iron bridge) to State Hwy M-52;
- South on State Hwy M-52 900 feet to Six Mile Creek Road;
- West on Six Mile Creek Road to Chipman Road;
- South on Chipman Road to Henderson Road;
- East on Henderson Road to Park Entrance.

Henderson Recreation Loop Route #2 (cont'd) NOTE: THIS ROUTE IS NOT OPERATIONAL UNTIL 6 MILE CREEK BRIDGE REOPENS



Henderson Recreational Loop Route #3: Country Scenic Loop East and North of Park; 8 miles.
East on Henderson Road from Park Entrance, across M-52, onto Seymour Rd;
North on Seymour Road to Easton Road;
East on Easton Road to merge with Hill Road;
East on Hill Road to McGaffrey Road;
South on McGaffrey Road to 6 Mile Creek Road;
West on 6 Mile Creek Road to Seymour Road;
South on Seymour Road to Henderson Road;
West on Henderson Road, across M-52, and onto Henderson Park Entrance.

Henderson Recreational Loop Route #3 (continued)



Henderson Connectivity Destination Routes #1 & 2 (one map):

Route #1: *Henderson Park to Downtown Owosso and James Miner Bikeway; Distance is 7 miles.*

West on Henderson Road from Park Entrance to Chipman Road;
South on Chipman Road to Oliver Street in the City of Owosso;
East on Oliver Street, across M-52, and onto Pine Street;
South on Pine Street to Williams Street;
East on Williams Street 150' to Entrance of James Miner Bikeway and
North line of Downtown Owosso.

Henderson Connectivity Destination Routes #1 &2 (continued)

Route #2: *To Harmon Patridge Park and Launch; 7.7 Miles.*

East on Henderson Road to Hintz Road;

South on Hintz Road to Wildermuth Road;

West on Wildermuth Road to Hickory Road;

South on Hickory Road to Wilkinson Road;

West on Wilkinson Road to Harmon Patridge Park North End;

South on Pathway to park exit and proceed south on Chippewa Lane to Launch.



Henderson Connectivity Destination Routes #3, #4 & #5 (one map):

Route #3: *Henderson Park to the Village of Oakley; 5.4 miles.*

West on Henderson Road at Park Entrance to Chipman Road;
 North on Chipman Road to Johnstone Road;
 East on Johnstone Road 150 feet to Fordney Road;
 North on Fordney Road to Ridge Road;
 East on Ridge Road to State Hwy M-52 and Village of Oakley center.

Route #4: Henderson Park to Parshallburg Paddleboat Landing; 6.2 miles

East on Henderson Road to Seymour Road;
North on Seymour Road to Johnstone Road;
Note: On Seymour Road at 6 Mile Creek Road is Historic West Haven.
East on Johnstone Road to Niver Road;
North on Niver Road and West on Ditch Road to Park.

Route #5: Henderson Park to Pine Grove Park; 4.4 miles.

West on Henderson Road to Chipman Road;
North on Chipman Road to Johnstone Road;
East on Johnstone Road to Park.



Henderson Connectivity Destination Route #6: Henderson Park to Devries Nature Conservancy; Distance is 4.3 miles.

West on Henderson Road from Park Entrance to Chipman Road;
South on Chipman Road to Juddville Road;
East on Juddville Road to State Hwy M-52;
South on M-52 to Devries Entrance Driveway (signed);
Note: This is also a canoe landing site.



Pine Grove County Park Bicycling Routes.

This Park is on the County line and Connectivity Destination Routes are used to bike to Henderson Park, Oakley and Chesaning. Recreational Loop Routes also go to Parshalburg together with a country scenic loop ride based on 6 Mile Creek and the historic unincorporated settlement of New Haven. Riding recommendations on State Highway M-52 are included in some routes where the highway has 4'+ bike lanes.

Pine Grove Recreational Loop Route #1: *Pine Grove Park South and West; Length is 9 miles.*

NOTE: THIS ROUTE IS NOT OPERATIONAL UNTIL 6 MILE CREEK RD BRIDGE REOPENS.

North from Park Pavilion to Johnstone Road;
 East on Johnstone Road to Seymour Road;
 South on Seymour Road to 6 Mile Creek Road;
 West on 6 Mile Creek Road to State Hwy M-52;
 North on St Hwy M-52 to Allan Road;
 West on Allan Road to Chipman Road;
 North on Chipman Road to Johnstone Road;

Johnstone Road, across M-52, to Park Driveway;
South on Park Driveway to Picnic Pavilion.



Pine Grove Recreational Loop Route #2: *Pine Grove Park East and North Loop; Length is 7.2 miles.*
North on M-52, through Oakley & to Sharon Road;
Northeast on Sharon Road to merge with Ditch Road;
East on Ditch Road to Niver Road;
South on Niver Road to Havanna Road;
West on Havanna Road to Frandsche Road;
South on Frandsche Road to Johnstone Road;
West on Johnstone Road to Pine Grove Park Driveway.



Pine Grove Connectivity Destination Routes #1 & #2:

Route #1 to Oakley: *Pine Grove Park to Oakley Village Center; 1 mile.*

North from Pine Grove Park Pavilion to Johnstone Road/M-52;
North on M-52 to 2nd Street in downtown Oakley Village.

Route #2 to Chesaning: *Pine Grove Park to Chesaning's Downtown, Saginaw County Fairgrounds and Showboat Park; Distance to Downtown Chesaning is 6.2 miles.*

North from Pine Grove Park Pavilion to Johnstone Rd/M-52;
North on M-52 to Sharon Road;
Northeast on Sharon Road to Frandsche Road;
North on Frandsche Road to Peet Road;
East on Peet Road 3200 feet to Saginaw County Fairgrounds;
East on Peet Road from Fairgrounds to Front Street;
North 2000 feet on Front Street to Showboat Park Entrance and canoe landing (Parshallburg landing is upstream from here);
North on Front Street from Showboat Park Entrance to Broad Street in downtown Chesaning.

Pine Grove Connectivity Destination Routes #1 & #2 (continued)



Pine Grove Connectivity Destination Route #3: Pine Grove County Park to Henderson County Park;
Distance is 4.4 miles.

West on Johnstone Park from north driveway entrance to park to Chipman Road;
South on Chipman Road to Henderson Road;
East on Henderson Road to Henderson Park Entrance Drive.



[End of County Bike Route Atlas]