

Recreation Authorities:

And Other Tools for Multi-jurisdictional Collaboration

Harry Burkholder, AICP
Community Planner II



Innovative ideas for sustainable communities since 1993

324 Munson Avenue
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-929-3771
burkholder@liaa.org

What we'll cover:

Part I.

Why are communities considering options for cooperation?

What are some of the barriers to cooperation?

What are some of the options for cooperation and what's right for your community?

Recreational Authority Act (Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.)

The millage option - can your community do it?

Part II.

Expert Panel Discussion - Learn from local leaders from across the state who have established a Recreation Authority

Part III.

Questions

Handouts provided

Why are communities considering options for cooperation?

Literature Touts the Value/Benefits of Recreation
(physical, social, quality of life, quality of place)

Michigan's Municipal Funding Crises

In every year since 2000, the State has not fully returned revenue sharing, as required by state statute

Six consecutive years of cuts have left local communities more than \$3 billion short of revenue sharing

Source: Michigan Municipal League

2009 *Harris Interactive* poll found current economic downturn spurred a sharp *increase* in public park and playground use

Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2008 - 2012

Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Survey Findings (Recreation Administrators of communities who have recreation plans filed with the state)

Suggested Initiatives for Michigan:

1. More funding
2. Cooperation/collaboration
3. More advertising/marketing

\$460 million needed for capital improvements - more than what's available

Survey Findings - Continued

Projected Funding Sources for Capital Improvements

- Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ will come from tax dollars
- Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ will come from grants (state and other)

Over the last five years, the proportion of agencies increasing their dependence on user fees, millages and private gifts increased for each type of government

Over next five years, most local units of government expect to further increase their dependency on user fees, millages, private gifts and volunteers and decrease their dependency on general fund dollars

Cooperation Is Essential!

What are some of the barriers to cooperation?

- History of past disputes
- Turf (tax base protection)
- Lack of incentives
- General resistance to change
- Gain is too far out in time (not in my term of office)
- Distrust
- Lack of shared vision
- Fear of losing control
- Fear of large government
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of leadership
- Unequal partners
- Elections
- Win-lose attitudes
- Where to start
- More work to do

Elected officials may fear a loss of citizen visibility
Service area may not be the same as election district

Overcoming the Barriers

We need to work across jurisdictions to better understand the potential benefits

- Financial benefits - economies of scale, less duplication, easier for economic development
- More effective management of natural resources, recreation, & commercial development
- Strengthens common heritage & helps preserve sense of place
- Plans are more defensible & better defended
- Residents expect governments to work together

**What are some of the options for cooperation
and
What's right for your community?**

Michigan Enabling Legislation for Joint Provision of Recreation

Act	Title	Government Units	Governing Body
1905 - PA 157	Township Parks and Places of Recreation	Townships	Board of Commissioners
1913 - PA 90	Parks, Zoological Gardens and Airports	Counties	County Park Trustees
1917 - PA 156	Recreation and Playgrounds	Cities, Villages, Townships, Counties and School Districts	Recreation Board
1929 - PA 312	Metropolitan District Act	Cities, Villages, Townships, Counties and Parts Thereof	Charter Commission
1965 - PA 261	County and Regional Parks	Counties	Parks and Recreation Commission
1989 - PA 292	Metropolitan Councils Act	Cities, Counties, Villages and Townships	Metropolitan Area Council
Part 721 of 1994 - PA 451	Michigan Trailways	Counties, Cities, Villages, and Townships	Michigan Trailway Management Council
1967 - PA 7	Urban Cooperation Act	Counties, Cities, Villages, and Townships	Recreation Board
2000 - PA 321	Recreational Authorities Act	Cities, Counties, Villages, Townships and Districts	Board of Directors

County and Regional Parks Act **[Public Act 261 of 1965]**

Allows a county (by resolution adopted by 2/3 vote of its board of commissioners) to establish a parks and recreation commission - to study and ascertain:

1. Park, preserve, parkway and recreation and other conservation facilities;
2. The need for such facilities and the extent to which needs are being currently met; and
3. and prepare and adopt a coordinated plan of areas and facilities to meet such needs.

County and Regional Parks Act **[Public Act 261 of 1965]**

Powers of Parks and Recreation Commission

Under Sections 46.355 - 46.367

The commission may plan, develop, preserve, administer, maintain, and operate parks and recreational places and construct/re-construct facilities

The commission may acquire property (by gift, purchase, lease, agreement and condemnation)

The commission may accept gifts, bequests, grants, contributions and appropriations

The commission may levy a tax (subject to vote of citizens), borrow money and issue bonds

The commission may charge and collect fees

Hire staff

County and Regional Parks Act [Public Act 261 of 1965]

Membership - Parks and Recreation Commission

Under Section 46.351

The Parks and Recreation Commission shall be made up of 10 members:

The chair of the county road commission or another road commissioner appointed by the road commission

The county drain commissioner or employee of the drain commission office

The county executive - if it is an elected position

or

The chair of the county planning commission (only for counties with a population of 1,000,000 or less)

Seven members appointed by the county board (at least one, but no more than three of whom shall be members of the county board of commissioners)

A neighborhood representative (only for counties with a population between 750,000 and 1,000,000)

County and Regional Parks Act
[Public Act 261 of 1965]

Joint Provisions

Under Section 46.352

The county board of commissioners of two or more contiguous counties, by resolution adopted by a 2/3 vote of the members of each board, may create a regional park and recreation commission

St Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission

Established in 1995

Manages county parks, non-motorized trails, specialized mobile recreation units for community events, and some special events

Funded by .5 mills (approximately \$3 million)

25% is distributed back to local units of government (based on population) for local parks and recreation facilities and programs

Millage passed several times - 73% approval in August

Wadams to Avoca Trail



Metropolitan District Act
[Public Act 312 of 1929: MCL 119.1 - 119.18]

Allows two or more municipalities to incorporate (by charter) into a metropolitan district or districts for the purpose of acquiring, owning, operating and maintaining parks

Metropolitan District Act
[Public Act 312 of 1929: MCL 119.1 - 119.18]

Powers of Metropolitan District

Under Section 119.4

The District may levy taxes in a sum not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the assessed value of all real and personal property in the district

The District may borrow and issue bonds on the credit of the district in a sum not to exceed 2% of the assessed value of all real and personal property

The District may collect rents and tolls

The District may establish a special assessment district

Metropolitan District Act
[Public Act 312 of 1929: MCL 119.1 - 119.18]

Powers of Metropolitan District

Under Section 119.4 - Continued

The District may acquire private property by purchase, gift or condemnation for public use

The District may acquire, by lease, purchase or otherwise and succeed to any or all of the rights, obligations and properties of the participating jurisdictions

The District may sell or lease lands

The District may pass and enforce laws, ordinances and regulations

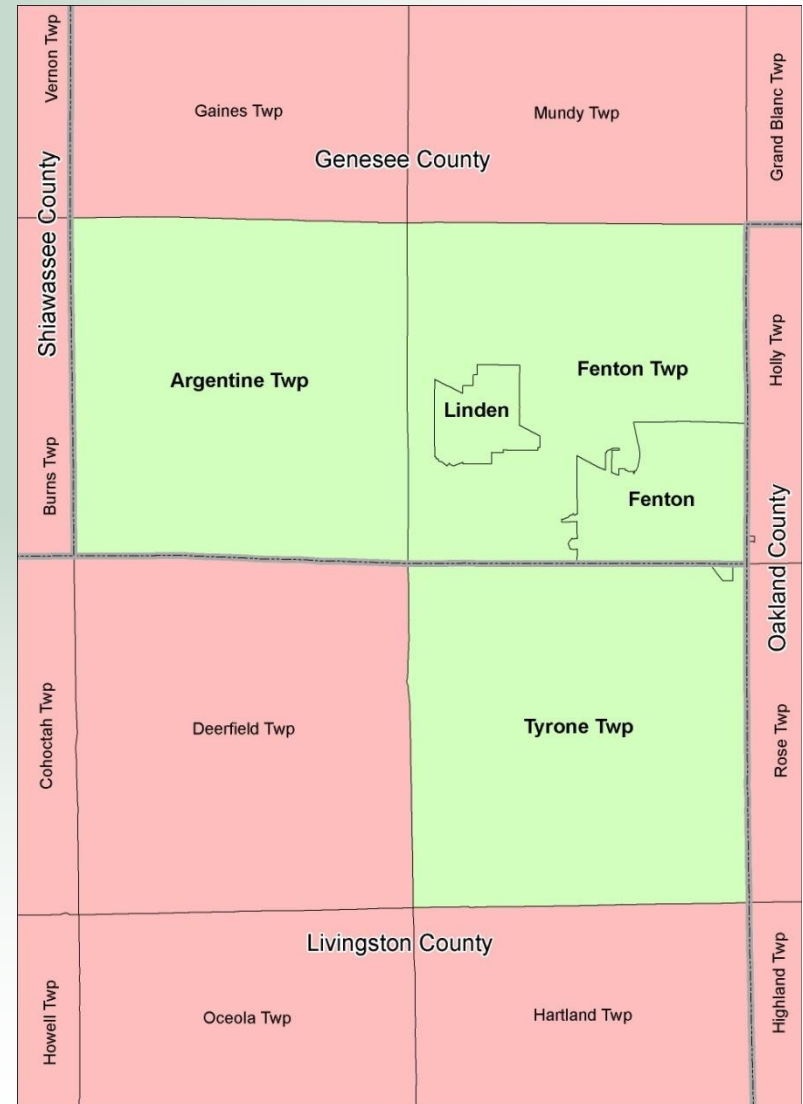
Southern Lakes Regional Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District

- City of Fenton
- City of Linden
- Fenton Township
- Argentine Township
- Tyrone Township

Approved a permanent .4 mills tax for the operation of a year-round Metropolitan Park and Recreation District

Works closely with local school districts and each participating municipalities

Hired a full-time director and support staff



Metropolitan District Act
[Public Act 312 of 1929: MCL 119.1 - 119.18]

Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities

- Simple Stipulations
- Joint Authority

Challenges

- Millage & Charter Approval
- Tax Environment
- Incorporating Schools

Urban Cooperation Act
[Public Act 7 of 1967: MCL 124.501 - 512]

Powers of Urban Cooperation Act

Permits, “public agencies” (including school districts) of the state to exercise jointly

A joint exercise of power pursuant to this act is made by contract or contracts in the form of an interlocal agreement, which may provide the purpose, function, organization, funding, allocation of resources, and other specifics for the new arrangement

Two or more local governmental units that levy a property tax may enter into an inter-local agreement to share the revenue derived from the tax

Lowell Area Recreation Authority

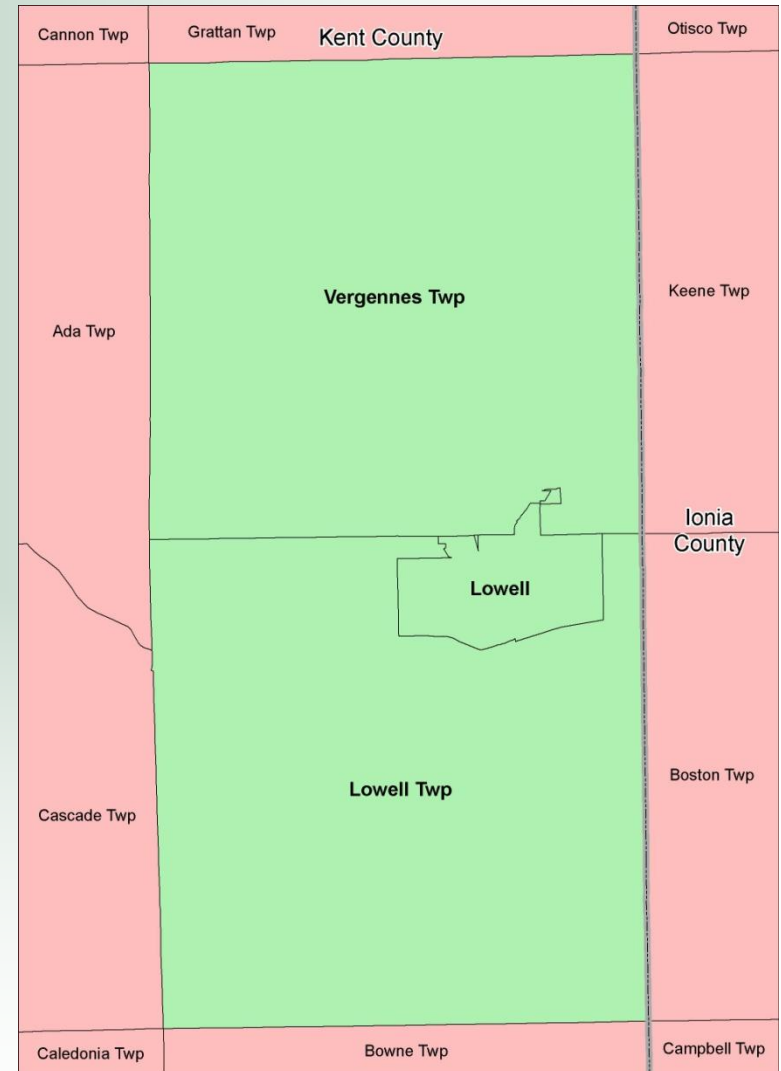
- City of Lowell
- Lowell Charter Township
- Vergennes Township

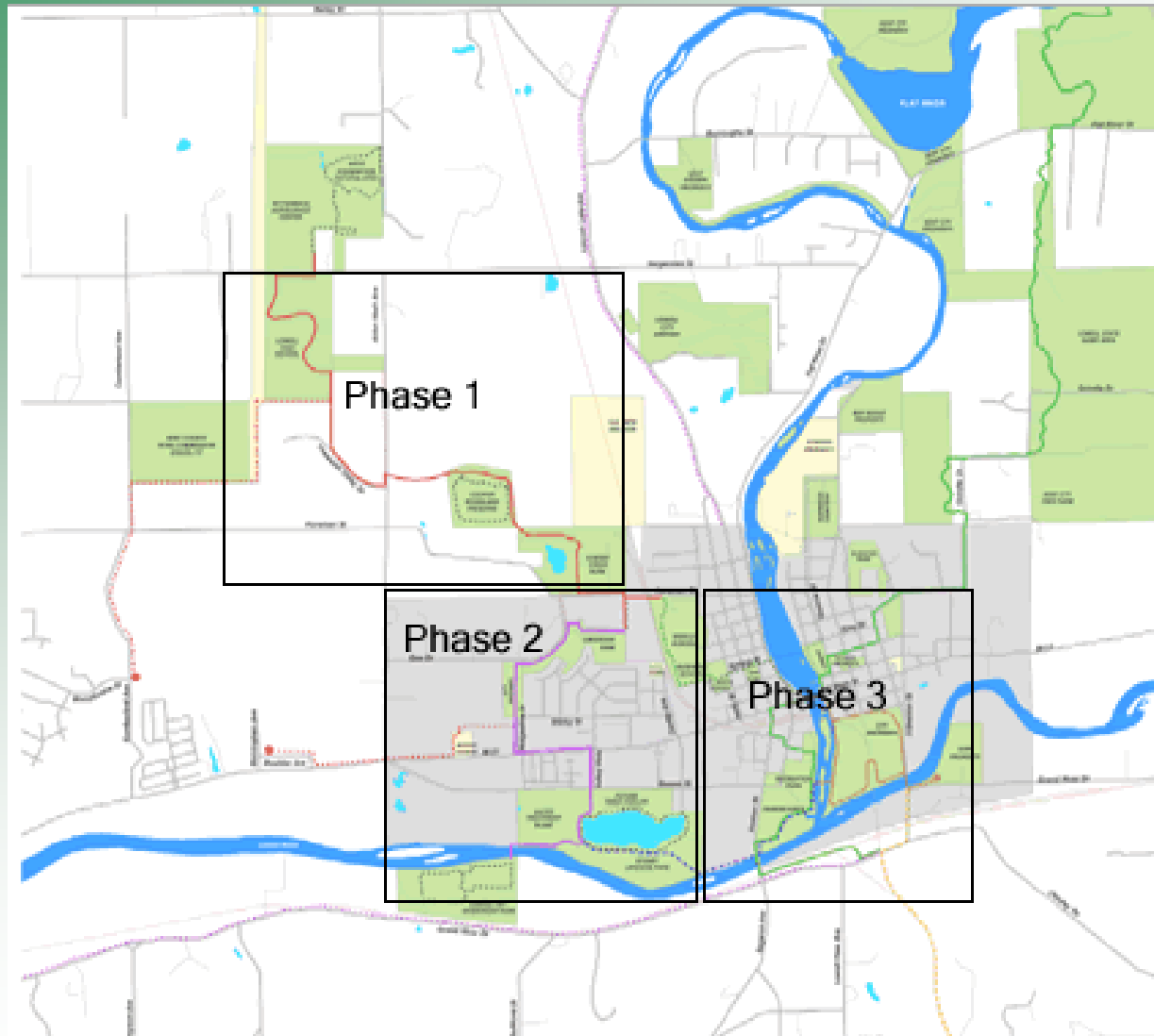
Established to help develop a new non-motorized trailway connecting the three municipalities

Under the inter-local agreement, the Authority can purchase and acquire property, build and operate trails, hire employees and seek and accept funding (e.g. state and federal grants, private donations)

The Authority does not have the power to issue bonds or levy a tax under its own name

Directed by a seven member board consisting of officials from both township boards, the city council a residents from the community





Urban Cooperation Act
[Public Act 7 of 1967: MCL 124.501 - 512]

Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities

- Straight Forward Stipulations
- Joint Authority
- Very Flexible
- Can Except Grants
- Can Include Schools

Challenges

- Tax Environment
- Millage Approval

Recreation and Playgrounds Act **[Public Act 156 Of 1917]**

Allows any city, village, county, township or school district (separately or in cooperation) to operate a system of recreation and playgrounds; acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings and other recreational facilities; employ a superintendent; vote and expand funds

A school district, may vote a tax to provide funds for operation

Local municipality or school district may delegate the operation of the system to a recreation board and appropriate money to the board

Any municipal corporation or board given charge of the recreation system is authorized to conduct its activities on: (1) property under its custody and management; (2) other public property, under the custody of other municipal corporations or boards; and (3) private property (w/consent of property owners)

Greater Romeo-Washington-Bruce Parks and Recreation Commission

- Washington Township
- Bruce Township
- Romeo Community Schools

Created in 1983 to conduct and supervise public parks, athletic fields, recreation centers and other recreation centers...conduct any wholesale and constructive form of recreation and public service designed to enhance the standard of living and the leisure time of adults.

Originally funded through federal and state revenue sharing

Community approved a .75 mill in 1986 (and successive millage renewals)

Village of Romeo withdrew

Four commissioners - one at large member

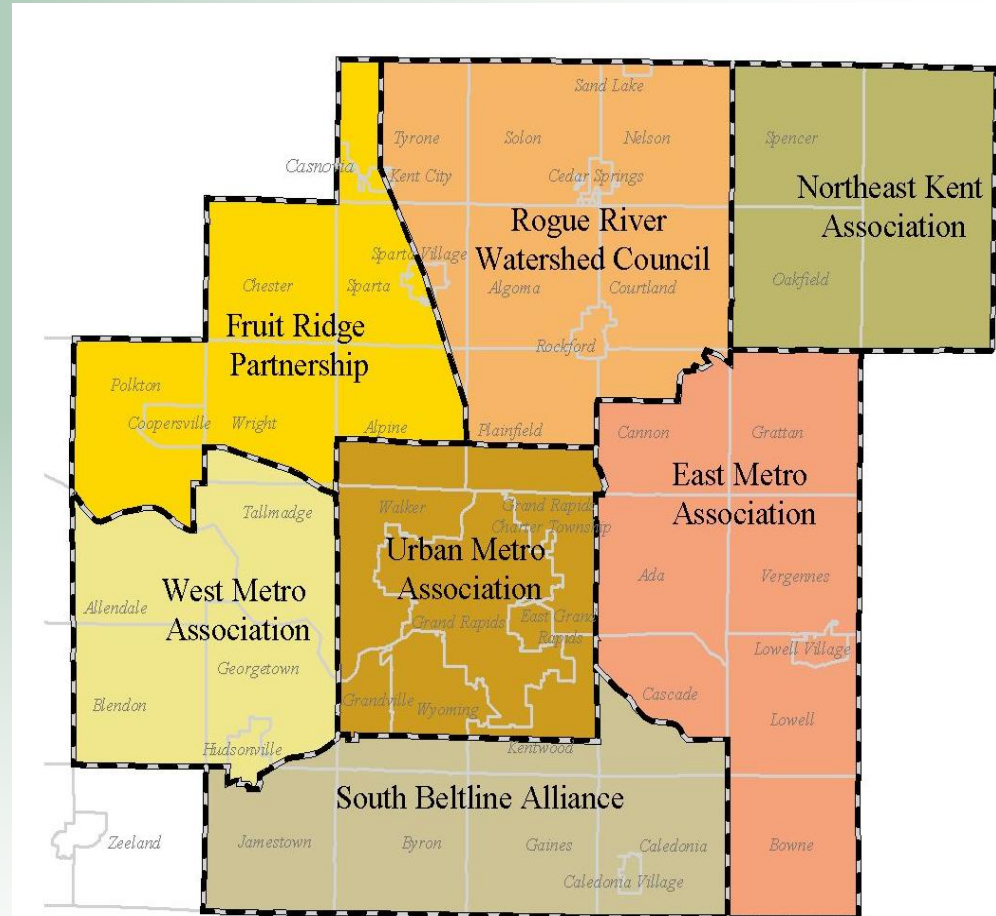
Works closely with community schools - use same facilities

Metropolitan Councils Act
[Public Act 292 of 1989: MCL 124.651 - 685]

Allows 2 or more local governmental units in a metropolitan area to form a metropolitan area council and plan, promote, finance, issue bonds for, acquire, improve, enlarge, extend, own, construct, replace, or contract for public improvements and services including but not limited to recreational facilities

The *Grand Valley Metropolitan Council* (Grand Rapids) is:
membership-based alliance
dues-paying governmental units

The Council:
allocates transportation planning funds
aspires to “plan for the growth and development ...
maintain and improve the quality of life
extensive regional planning effort called the “Blueprint”
provides its members a collection of services, including the GIS agency known as REGIS



SubRegional Planning Associations

Grand Valley Metro Council



0 2 4 6 Miles



Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Allows two or more municipalities and/or districts to establish a ***Recreation Authority*** for the acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance or improvement of:

1. Swimming Pool
2. Recreation Center
3. Museum
4. Auditorium
5. Historical Farm
6. Conference Center
7. Park

Definition of “Park”

1. Recreation Purposes - Including but not limited to: landscaped tracts; picnic grounds; playgrounds; athletic fields; camps; campgrounds; zoological and botanical gardens; living historical farms; boating, hunting, fishing and birding areas; swimming areas; and foot, bicycle and bridle paths
2. Open or scenic space
3. Environmental, conservation, nature or wildlife areas

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

What About Programming?

Act 321 does not explicitly allow for the provision of recreational programming

However, a number of the current Recreation Authorities provide for a wide range of recreation programs under the guise of the “operation” definition

The sponsor of Act 321 believes the Act can provide for recreational programming

Consult your municipal attorney

Authority	Year	Participating Municipalities	Nature of Effort
Southeast Livingston County Recreation Authority (SELCRA)	2001	City of Brighton & Brighton, Green Oak Townships	Future park/recreation facilities
Crossroads Area Recreation Authority (CARA)	2003	City of Reed City & Lincoln, Richmond Townships	Trail Development
City of Traverse City/Charter Township of Garfield Recreational Authority	2003	City of Traverse City & Charter Township of Garfield	The purchase and maintenance of land and buildings for open space
City of Charlevoix, Township of Hayes, Township of Charlevoix Recreational Authority	2004	City of Charlevoix & Hayes, Charlevoix Townships	Community swimming pool
Flushing Area Parks and Recreation Authority	2006	City of Flushing & Flushing Charter Township	Future park/recreation facilities
Newaygo Community Recreational Authority	2006	City of Newaygo & Brooks, Garfield Townships	Future park/recreation facilities
Howell Area Recreation Authority	2006	City of Howell & Oceola, Marion, Genoa Townships	Future park/recreation facilities
South Lyon Area Recreation Authority	2007	City of South Lyon, Lyon Charter Township and portions of Green Oak Charter Township	Future park/recreation facilities
Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority	2007	Marquette Area (3 cities, 4 townships)	Iron Ore Heritage Area - Trail
Tahquamenon Area Recreation Authority	2008	Luce County, Village of Newberry & McMillan, Pentland Townships	Community Center
Northwest Ottawa Recreation Authority (NORA)	2009	City of Grand Haven, City of Ferrysburg, & Grand Haven Charter, Robinson Townships	Future park/recreation facilities.
Headwaters Recreation Authority	2010	City of Hillsdale, Village of Jonesville, & Hillsdale, Fayette Townships	Non-Motorized Pathways

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

How Has It Worked?

Recreation Authorities in the northern portions of Michigan tend to support single items, open space and trail development

Recreation Authorities in the southern portions of Michigan tend to support park departments and recreation programming

A singular focus can help direct community funding and support *and* allow local municipalities to focus on broad recreational services (especially if the municipality already has a plan filed with the DNR) -

Be careful of duplicative & competitive grant applications - plan ahead

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Establishing A Recreation Authority

Articles of Incorporation must include a number of parameters:

1. The name of the Authority
2. The names of the participating municipalities
3. The purpose for which the Authority is established
4. A description of the territory of the Authority
5. Characteristics of the Board (e.g. number of members, qualifications, method of selection, terms of office and terms of filling vacancies)
6. The procedures and requirements for a municipality to join and withdraw from the Authority

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

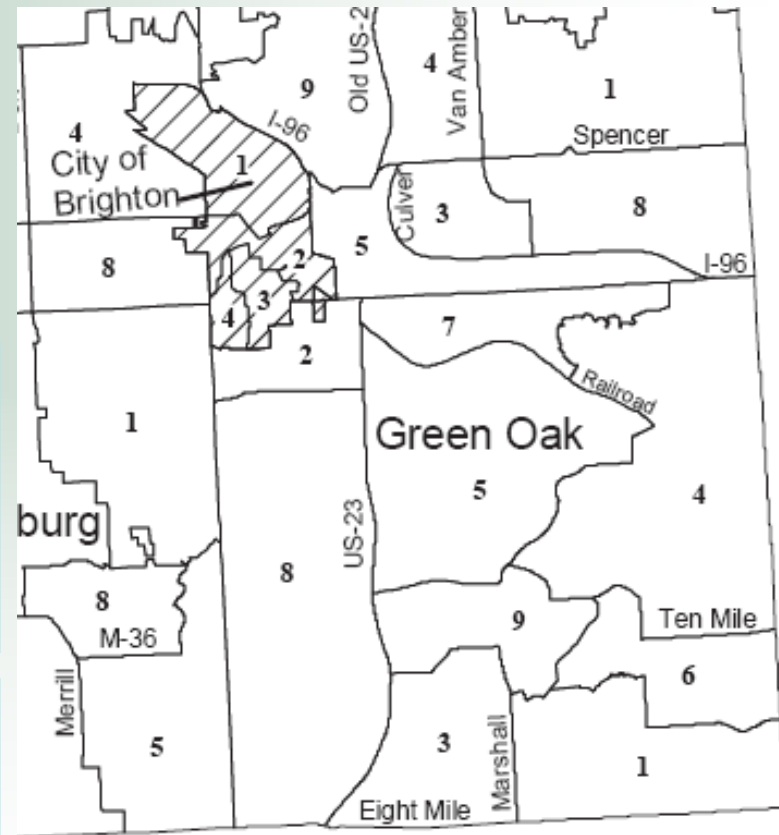
Territory of the Authority: All property situated within and outside the corporate boundaries of the participating municipalities - as long as they are owned by one of the participating municipalities.

District(s): “A portion of a municipality having boundaries coterminous with those of a precinct used for general elections.”

Example

In Green Oak Charter Township, (Livingston County) Precincts 1, 4 and 6 are part of the South Lyon Area Recreation Authority and other portions are part of the Southeastern Livingston County Recreation Authority

Portions of the Howell Area Parks Recreation Authority have precincts that align with the Howell Area School District



Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Powers of Recreational Authority

The ***Authority*** may apply for & accept grants, hire employees & professional services, maintain property, assess fees, receive revenue, and enter into contracts.

The ***Authority*** may acquire and hold real and personal property inside or outside the territory of the Authority through purchase, lease, land contract, installment contracts, bequest and other means.

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Powers of Recreational Authority (Continued)

Under Sec. 11, the ***Authority*** may levy of up to 1 mill for not more than 20 years on all taxable property within the territory of the ***Authority*** only with approval of the majority of electors in each of the participating municipalities of the authority.

Sec. 21 - 23 permits the ***Authority*** to borrow funds and manage indebtedness (not to exceed 2 mills of the taxable value), including the issuance of general obligation bonds - upon the approval of a majority of the electors in each of the participating municipalities.

Millage proposal at statewide or primary election

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

The Millage Option - a Mixed Bag

Traverse City/Charter Township of Garfield Recreation Authority - 2006

Approved a .27 General Obligation Bond for 20 years to purchase 3 large properties

Approved a .10 Operational Millage for 20 years

Charlevoix Recreational Authority - 2004

Approved a .30 Millage to operate a community swimming pool for 10 years

Iron Ore Heritage Recreational Authority - 2008

Rejected (by just 2 of the 10 jurisdictions) a .20 Millage for 6 years to improve the 48-mile *Iron Ore Heritage Trail* - Approved in 2010 for reconstituted Auth.

Howell Area Parks and Recreation Authority - 2006

Rejected a 1 Millage for 20 years for general recreation purposes

Newaygo Community Recreational Authority

Township officials explicitly stated at time of adoption they would withdraw if a millage proposal was moved forward

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Membership Provisions - Governing Board

Only Stipulation: The Recreation Authority Board must be comprised of an odd number of board members

Example

If an equal number of board members have been appointed from each participating municipality, the last (odd) member is often appointed by either another local government, school board or organization closely associated with the goals and mission of the Authority

Typically required to be either an elected or appointed official and registered voter

Typically serve two-year, staggered terms

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Membership Provisions - Governing Board (continued)

Board members shall not receive compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred while carrying out official duties

The Board may establish formal by-laws - in most instances the Articles of Incorporation suffice

The Board shall select a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer (who may not be a member of the board)

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Withdraw Provisions

A municipality can withdraw from the Recreation Authority by adopting a formal resolution - unless a millage has been levied

Any participating municipality that withdraws from the Recreation Authority is liable for a proportion of the debt and liabilities incurred while participating

Any property owned by the Authority that lies within a municipality that has withdrawn from the Authority shall remain in the Authority

In some cases, the Articles of Incorporation require that a certified copy of the formal resolution must be presented to the Board of the Authority at least 3 to 12 months prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Dissolution Provisions

Not explicitly required in the Act

A municipality can withdraw from the Recreation Authority by formal resolution - unless a millage has been levied

In general, the Authority can be dissolved by a concurring resolution in each municipality

Example

Howell Area Parks Recreation Authority: Included stipulations which stated that in the event the millage didn't pass, the Authority would dissolve (later amended)

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Upon Dissolution

All debts must be paid

Assets and land shall revert back to the originating municipality

Any funds obtained via a levy or property purchased by such funds shall be assigned by the participating municipalities for public purposes

Land acquired or developed with grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund must be maintained in perpetuity and will be maintained by the municipality in which they are located

Example

Tahquamenon Area Recreation Authority: Did not include a reversion clause in their Articles for MNRTF funds and was not recognized by the DNR

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Joining Provisions

Amended articles must be approved by the municipality wishing to joint the Authority and each participating jurisdiction

During the period in which a property tax has been levied, a majority of the electors wishing to join the Authority must approve the tax

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Budget Provisions

Only stipulation is that the Authority must conduct an annual audit

Budget depends on the scope of the Authority

Small contributions from each participating jurisdiction can pay for small construction projects, marketing materials and/or grant writing assistance

Budget can consist of a equal contribution from each jurisdiction or based on a formula

Example

Newaygo Area Recreation Authority: Budget is based on a formula that factors a base contribution, the population of each jurisdiction and the taxable value of each participating municipality

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Launching The Authority

Regularly update your legislative body during the drafting process

Have a municipal attorney review the Articles of Incorporation - share legal services

Publish the Articles of Incorporation in the Newspaper - Beware of Publishing Costs

The Articles must be adopted by the legislative body of each participating municipality - The Authority becomes effective when the last participating municipality adopts the Articles and files a copy with the Secretary of State, Office of the Great Seal. Authority is considered a “Michigan Municipal Corporation - tax exempt

File with the IRS to get Employee Identification Number (EIN)

The Authority is subject to the Open Meetings Act (1976 PA 267), and the Freedom of Information Act (1976 PA 442)

Example

Howell Area Recreation Authority: Mailed *draft* Articles to the DNRE to make sure they would be eligible for grant funding

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Senate Bill 222

Sponsor: Sen. John Gleason 27th District - Western Genesee County

An amendment to include “School Districts” as a participating entity

- School Districts have facilities
- However, in many instances, school districts cradle the line between communities
- Opposed by the State Chamber of Commerce because of taxing authority

History

Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs
recommended the Bill with Immediate Effect (IE)

Pass by the Senate

Pass by the House without (IE)

Back to the Senate - now must pass it again with
(IE), requires 2/3 majority (2009)

Despite rescinding opposition by Chamber & late-night haggling, no action taken -
likely re-introduced in 2011

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

The Millage Challenge

In 2008, about 75% of recreation proposals passed in Michigan

Not the same story in 2009 - recreation expansion has been funded almost entirely with foundation grants and private donations. Nationally, just a little more than half of the conservation finance measures passed (70% in 2008)

In the 2010 August primary, voters approved 86% of the 623 overall ballot initiatives that affected how much they would pay in taxes or fees and 96% of the requests to renew or restore rates that had been reduced by Headlee

(Approved initiatives for recreation in Oakland, St. Clair and Saginaw Counties - Springfield Township - City of Lansing)

What Helps

- Previous collaboration
- Preserving something that already exists
- Know what your buying
- Location

Resources

The Trust for Public Land (TPL): *Conservation Finance Handbook*

Between 1996 - 2002 TPL assisted in the passage of local and state measures that set aside more than \$25 billion for parks and open space

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

The Millage Challenge

TPL's Recommendations

1. Conduct a feasibility assessment - next step should be based on the assessment

Demographics: growth rates, population distribution, ethnicity, education level

Economics: economic growth, un-employment, income trends

Quality of life issues: growth, environmental & land use issues

Investigate Finance Options and Crunch the Numbers

Research Legal Constraints: filing requirements, who is responsible

Analyze Previous Election Results

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

The Millage Challenge

2. Measure Public Opinion

Interview community leaders

Conduct a survey(s) - can help define ballot language

Threshold Question - Can you win?

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

The Millage Challenge

3. Designing a winning measure

Broad-based goals should be reflected in the ballot language

Priorities should be tied to scientific analysis and experts

Determine effective ballot title and wording

Ballot language is the last thing voter sees before decision

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

The Millage Challenge

4. Running a successful campaign

The design of a measure that is compelling, affordable and accountable

Make sure all activities of the campaign are legal

Once the measure is designed, a good campaign must be conducted to build broad support from community leaders and organizations and to communicate (media) the key benefits of the measure to undecided voters

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

City of Traverse City/Charter Township of Garfield Recreation Authority (2006)

- Approved a .27 General Obligation Bond for 20 years to purchase three large properties
- Approved a .10 Operational Millage for 20 years
- \$50,000 campaign with \$33,000 in in-kind donations

Campaign was led by the *Friends for Recreation Lands* - interested citizens, open space advocates and members of the business community

Conducted a survey about what appealed to voters, that helped to shape the ballot language

Organized and well-funded millage campaign

Publicity: radio, mailers, advertisements, web-site, yard signs

Iron Ore Heritage Recreational Authority (2008)

Rejected (by just 2 of the 10 jurisdictions) a .20 Millage for 6 years to improve the 48-mile *Iron Ore Heritage Trail*

Proposal was overwhelmingly supported, but defeated in two of the least populated municipalities by just 38 votes

Recreational Authorities Act

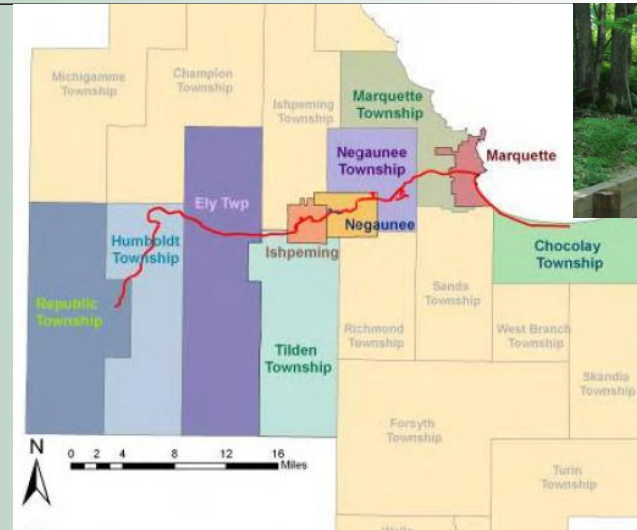
[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

The Grant Challenge

Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority

3 Cities & 4 Townships

Iron Ore Heritage Trail: 48-mile non-motorized trail (and motorized)



2008: City of Ishpeming, on behalf of the Authority secured a \$354,800 DNRE Trust Fund Grant and \$118,000 MDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant

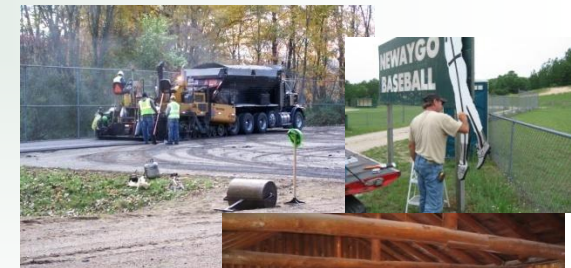
2009: Authority secured a \$15,000 DNRE Trust Fund Grant

2010: Marquette County, on behalf of the Authority applied for a \$740,000 MDOT Grant
Authority awarded \$460,000 DNRE Trust Fund Grant

Newaygo Community Recreation Authority - 2006

City of Newaygo, Brooks Township and Garfield Township

Secured over \$309,500 in grant funding from the *Fremont Area Community Foundation* to improve a number of facilities



OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION BOND PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the Recreational Authority of Traverse City and the Garfield Township **to purchase and improve land to preserve open space and scenic views of the Bay and protect wildlife habitat and natural areas.** Properties to be purchased include the West Bay Waterfront property, the Barns at the Commons, and the property next to Hickory Hill. **State law requires an annual independent audit of the Recreational Authority.**

This proposal, if approved by the voters, will only be effective if both it and the Open Space and natural Area Millage Proposal pass.

Shall the City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield Recreational Authority formed by the City of Traverse City and the Charter Township of Garfield borrow the sum of not to exceed Six Million Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$6,650,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds for all or a portion of that amount, payable in not to exceed twenty years from the date of issuance for **the purpose of open space and scenic view preservation and wildlife habitat and natural areas protection by purchasing and improving land for public parks including West Bay Waterfront property, the Barns at the Commons, and the property next to Hickory Hills?**

The estimated millage to be levied in 2004 is 0.27 mill (\$0.27 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 0.27 mill (\$0.27 per \$1,000 of taxable value). **This is expected to result in an increase of \$13.50 in the tax levied on property valued at \$100,000 for a period of 20 years.**

OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREA MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the Recreational Authority of Traverse City and Garfield Township to maintain natural areas, wildlife habitat, public parks, and open space. The proposal would levy a property tax of up to 0.1 mill that would **cost the owner of a home with a value of \$100,000 \$5.00 per year**. State law required an annual independent audit of the Recreational Authority.

This proposal, if approved by the voters, will only be effective if both it and the Open Space and natural Area Millage Proposal pass.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the City of Traverse and the Charter Township of Garfield Recreational Authority. Be increased by up to 0.1 mil (\$0.10 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of twenty (20) years, as a new millage for the purpose of protecting natural areas, wildlife habitat, and open space by acquiring, maintaining and improving public parks?

It is estimated that 0.1 mill will raise Approximately \$125,000 when first levied in 2004.

Recreational Authorities Act

[Public Act 321 of 2000: MCL 123.1131 et seq.]

Getting Started - What's First?

Draft a plan *then* create the Authority

Create the Authority *then* draft the plan

Step I. Local officials meet to discuss and assess whether or not they work together

- Consider staff requirements
- Available resources
- Costs of planning process

Step II. Appoint a steering committee

Step III. Initiate the community planning process

Thank You

Panel