



# Appendix B

*Public Input Documentation*

## **Saginaw County Wants Community Input for Recreation Plan**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

December 9, 2008

Saginaw County – The Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission wants to hear from the community about its parks and recreation facilities at a Community Input Open House held on Thursday, December 18 at the Saginaw County Governmental Center in Room LL006 from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Saginaw County residents are invited to stop by for a few moments to give their ideas on how the parks system can be improved.

Saginaw County is in the process of updating its five year recreation plan. When completed, the plan will provide direction for the Parks and Recreation Commission and it will establish grant eligibility with the Michigan Department of National Resources. For more information about the plan or to offer input, visit <http://SaginawCountyRecPlan.wordpress.com>. END

Contact: John Schmude, Director, Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission  
Phone: (989) 790-5280

Welcome to

# SAGINAW COUNTY



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- 2009 Saginaw County Boater Safety Classes
- Parks Recreation Plan
- Saginaw County Recreation Plan - Online Survey
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# Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission

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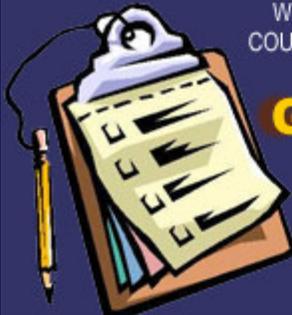
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## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING INFORMATION



WHAT DO YOU THINK SAGINAW COUNTY PARKS COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE DOING IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

**GIVE YOUR INPUT**

TAKE A QUICK SURVEY

**5 YEAR PLAN SURVEY**

VISIT OUR **BLOG**

INTERESTED IN A SUMMER POSITION WITH SAGINAW COUNTY PARKS? CHECK OUT THE EMPLOYMENT PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR AVAILABLE POSITIONS.




**Say...**  **CHEESE**

Click on the camera to see photos taken in our parks or at our events.



## The Saginaw News

### METRO BRIEFS

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

#### Saginaw News

##### Park plans forming

Want a new trail to ride your bike on? Or a spinning merry go-round at a Saginaw County park?

The County Parks and Recreation Department will ask for public opinion at an open house from 4:30 p.m to 6:30 p.m. Thursday on what to include in a five-year plan.

The session is in Room LL006 in the Saginaw County Governmental Center, 122 N. Michigan.

Officials will use suggestions to ask for money from the state Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund, said John Schmude, director of the County Parks and Recreation Department.

To offer input, also log onto <http://SaginawCountyRecPlan.wordpress.com>.

##### Three bow out

The Saginaw County Board of Commissioners said goodbye to three longtime commissioners.

Republican Commissioners Raymond F. Bartels, a 16-year incumbent, and Thomas A. Basil Sr., an 18-year veteran, along with Democrat Todd M. Hare, who served 14 years, took their final bows Tuesday.

Bartels and Basil, both of Saginaw Township, lost re-election bids to Democrats Judith A. Lincoln and John McColgan Jr., respectively.

Hare, of Saginaw, chose not to run for re-election. Commissioner Michael Hanley, a former Democratic state lawmaker and past Saginaw City Council leader, will replace him.

##### County supports DDA

Saginaw County will give Thomas Township \$3,100 in the first year of a 10-year plan to boost its downtown development authority. The DDA will received about \$40,000 over the term of the contract, the Board of Commissioners decided Tuesday.

At the same time, the county opted out of the authority's tax capture powers which would have cost taxpayers more, County Controller Marc A. McGill has said.

The Thomas DDA levies a 2-mill property tax that excludes farmland and owner-occupied single-family homes. The money is slated for corridor improvements in the years ahead.



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### SAGINAW VIDEO

## Opinions sought on Saginaw County parks plan

by The Saginaw News

Friday December 26, 2008, 11:30 PM

Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission planners are seeking public input as the panel updates its five-year recreation plan.

To comment on any of the county's six parks, go to [www.saginawcounty.com/parks](http://www.saginawcounty.com/parks), or write to members at Saginaw County Parks, County Governmental Center, 111 S. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602.

The six county parks are William H. Haithco Recreation Area, Imerman Memorial Park, Price Nature Center, Ringwood Forest, Veteran's Memorial Park and the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail.

### Dow Corning scales back operations

MIDLAND -- Dow Corning Corp. officials say many of their corporate services are closed until Monday, Jan. 5 -- with only "sensitive and time-sensitive" work to continue -- which will reduce staffing and save on heating and lighting.

One closure includes the corporate center's cafeteria because of the number of employees off spending time with their families.

### Huron County register of deeds retires

BAD AXE -- Huron County Register of Deeds Fran Holdwick, who started as a "floater" in 1978 in the courthouse, retired Friday.

Holdwick worked her way from clerk in the Register of Deeds Office, deputy register of deeds, appointed register of deeds upon the death of then-Register of Deeds Lorraine Maurer, and then won election to the post.

She ran unopposed that year -- and for each election in the following three decades.

### New Huron County sheriff takes oath of office

BAD AXE -- Kelly J. Hanson has taken the oath of office for Huron County sheriff.

Hanson succeeds Sheriff Kent D. Tibbits, who served for two terms. His first day is Thursday. His undersheriff is Detective Sgt. Ronald A. Roberts, who has served with the department for 34 years.

### Midland family starts scholarship for EMTs

MIDLAND -- The family of a 21-year-old Midland woman who died as a result of a car crash has established a scholarship through Mobile Medical Response to help students pay for emergency medical technician training.

Malissa Mercer died June 8. She trained as an EMT at Bay Regional Medical Center and started working at MMR in the fall of 2006.

The Mercer family donated \$5,000 to start the scholarship. MMR will use part of the proceeds from its annual golf outing to continue funding the scholarship.

### Tuscola County tallies recycled tires

CARO -- Tuscola County Recycling Facility officials say the facility has collected 1,129,140 pounds of tires since 1998. That translates into about 34,873 tires.

Facility crews have accepted tires year round only since 2004. Previously, it was on an annual basis.

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### COMMENTS (1)

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Posted by **TEAMTECH1** on [12/27/08 at 9:21AM](#)

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- [Rohm & Haas says Dow Chemical deal still in effect 12/29/2008, 7:45 a.m. EST](#)

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**EMAIL NEWSLETTER**

Dear Saginaw County Parks,

I am responding to the invitation written in the Saginaw News to submit ideas for changes/improvements to the Saginaw County Parks.

1) Offer annual parks tag of say \$20 like the State of Michigan does for its state parks or for those that may be only a one time visit a daily rate. This would be for Halthco Park only. Or I would by a annual tag to know I could go to any park in the county anytime, even though I rarely use it. A seasonal tag would encourage others to go more often too. I really don't understand your reasoning for charging a fee to use Immerman Park, its been the county tax payers money that funded the development of the free land given to the county by the Immerman family to memorialize their son. I have read the \$30 amount then free, my first thought was this really is not an offer at all and I don't believe many people remember to ask for the season pass offer after the \$30 quota. Not a good idea, good marketing always must be a win - win situation. I remember Immerman Parks growing up as a kid was always packed with families full of children for family reunions and Boy Scouts camping over night, since your implementation of a fee for use rarely do I see the park full anymore. So this leads me to ask where the money is coming from to pay your employees? I would pay a \$20 annual fee or a special millage to use the parks without a fee for use, your \$30 then fee is out of line with the state parks.

2) Strobel Road parking lot and all of the rail trail needs solar lighting for those people (especially women) getting caught on the return trip in the darkness of evening. Bathrooms (at least out houses with sterile hand wash) are needed in this parking lot also. The same needs to be included for the St Charles end of the trail.

I think we as citizens of Saginaw County must understand how fortunate we all are to have such a wonderful county park system that we do. It has been such a joy to know they are there when we need to get away. Thank you!

Happy Holidays,

Curt L. Tucker  
Saginaw

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by Peter Luke

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- [Carter still worst... by chiefirish](#)
- [I have a t-shirt, that... by jobe](#)
- [I have one that says. by Nebnak](#)

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# Saginaw County Recreation Plan

## Open House Input

December 18, 2008

- The rail trail is one of the better things in Saginaw County.
- Rail trail needs more connectors.
- Sidewalks are bad in Saginaw Charter Township.
- Older people are using rail trail.
- Rail trail not used to full potential.
- Pere Marquette and Saginaw Valley Rail Trail – On top, regarding trail quality.
- Saginaw Valley Rail Trail is a friendly trail.
- Need at restroom at Stroebel Road entrance.
- Good wildlife viewing along Saginaw Valley Rail Trail.
- The rail trail is safe.
- The County and the City of Saginaw should collaborate.
- Would the County assist with Anderson Enrichment and City?
- Consider organized “County” sports leagues.
- Millage and allocation toward City population?
- Concern about playtime and children activities.
- Extend rail trail from St. Charles to Chesaning (MDOT owns the ROW near town, and portion of rail line is still used for rail car storage).
- Is there a role for County Parks in the City of Saginaw? Consideration of future millage dollars?
- Are there transportation options (STARS?) for facilitating City users to get to the County Parks?
- Would like to see a dog park in each of the County Parks, which will help with word of mouth promotion.
- Would like to see a shooting range in Ringwood Forest.
- Consider a RV overnight campground at Vets Park on M-13.

# Saginaw County Recreation Plan

Public Input Open House – Saginaw County Governmental Center – 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 18, 2008

## Please Sign In

Name & Affiliation	Contact Info/Phone	E-mail Address
Alan Bean, Spicer Group	754-4717	alanb@spicergroup.com
John Schumde - SCRC	790-5281	jschumde@saginawcounty.com
Kermit Diggs	790-3359	
Louis Schipper	845-6423	
Bob Corerin	845-6414	
Breithel, Brad, Dock	989-792-1006	breithelbrad@dock.com
Joyce Harum	989-980-9951	jwharum350@yahoo.com
Bill Schreiber	989-771-2013	weschreiber@susu.edu
Tonya Huber		
Michelle Goist		
Rob Eccers		

# Saginaw County Recreation Plan

## We need your input!



The Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission is developing a recreation plan to address operations, activities, and improvements for the next five years. We would like input from residents to gather ideas, hear comments, and listen to suggestions about recreational programs, facilities, and parks in Saginaw County.

Please stop in at your convenience to talk with recreation planners and community leaders. **It won't take long, just 5 to 10 minutes of your time.** We want to hear your ideas and suggestions!

## Public Input Opportunity

Thursday, December 18, 2008

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

## Saginaw County Governmental Center

111 S. Michigan, Saginaw  
Conference Room LL006



## Saginaw County Parks

William H. Haithco Recreation Area  
Ringwood Forest

Imerman Memorial Park  
Saginaw Valley Rail Trail

Price Nature Center  
Veterans Memorial Park

If you cannot attend this open house and have suggestions on how to improve Saginaw County's parks, please contact Alan Bean, Planner, Spicer Group, 230 South Washington Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan, 48607. For more information, please visit the Saginaw County Recreation Plan online at:

[SaginawCountyRecPlan.wordpress.com](http://SaginawCountyRecPlan.wordpress.com)

## Bean, Alan R.

---

**From:** Saginaw County Parks & Rec [parks@saginawcounty.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 19, 2008 8:05 AM  
**To:** Bean, Alan R.  
**Subject:** FW: Please Take Our Quick Survey

Alan,

I sent out a request for people on our email list to take our survey and this person replied via email. As discussed, I am forwarding his response to you.

Thanks, Michelle

-----Original Message-----

From: Donald Brady [mailto:dbrady6135@gmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 10:28 PM  
To: parks@saginawcounty.com  
Subject: Re: Please Take Our Quick Survey

Dear Michelle,

You caught me off guard so my immediate thought and concern is for the Rail to Trail project. I think we have a major concern to get the Rail to Trail completed from Bay City's Trail through Chesaning. This project has really impressed me with all it's activity for bikers, runners, walkers, Equine, and in the winter for cross country skiers. This project can connect the Ohio border to the Upper Peninsula. Thank you for contacting me on this concern for our parks and recreation.

Sincerely, Don Brady

On Tue, Dec 16, 2008 at 12:51 PM, Saginaw County Parks <parks@saginawcounty.com> wrote:

> We want to hear your ideas and suggestions!  
>  
> Dear Don,  
> The Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission is developing a  
> recreation plan to address operations, activities, and improvements  
> for  
> the  
> next five years. Please take a minute and complete our online survey.  
> We would like input from residents to gather ideas and suggestions  
> about recreational programs, facilities and parks in Saginaw County.  
>  
> Please forward this email to anyone who you think may like to share  
> their opinion.  
>  
> Thank you in advance for your participation.  
> Sincerely,  
>  
> Michelle Goist, Office Manager  
> Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission Forward email This email  
> was sent to dbrady6135@gmail.com by parks@saginawcounty.com.  
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> Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission | 111 S. Michigan Ave. |  
> Saginaw | MI | 48602

**Bean, Alan R.**

---

**From:** Saginaw County Parks & Rec [parks@saginawcounty.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 02, 2009 8:25 AM  
**To:** Bean, Alan R.  
**Subject:** FW: Suggestions

---

**From:** Mary Ahrens [mailto:mary-ahrens@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 23, 2008 7:00 PM  
**To:** parks@saginawcounty.com  
**Subject:** Suggestions

Hello,

I have a suggestion for the Saginaw Township to St. Charles Rail Trail. Could you put a side walk in between Gratiot and Center and the start of the rail trail? Then I wouldn't have to drive there.

Love the Rail Trails! Keep it up.

Mary Ahrens

**Bean, Alan R.**

---

**From:** Saginaw County Parks & Rec [parks@saginawcounty.com]

**Sent:** Friday, January 02, 2009 8:23 AM

**To:** Bean, Alan R.

**Subject:** FW: Saginaw County Parks

---

**From:** Curt Tucker [mailto:curt@teamtechmotorsports.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, December 27, 2008 9:20 AM

**To:** parks@saginawcounty.com

**Subject:** Saginaw County Parks

Dear Saginaw County Parks,

I am responding to the invitation written in the Saginaw News to submit ideas for changes/improvements to the Saginaw County Parks.

1) Offer annual parks tag of say \$20 like the State of Michigan does for its state parks or for those that may be only a one time visit a daily rate. This would be for Haithco Park only. Or I would by a annual tag to know I could go to any park in the county anytime, even though I rarely use it. A seasonal tag would encourage others to go more often too. I really don't understand

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to the county by the Immerman family to memorialize their son. I have read the \$30 amount then free, my first thought was this really is not an offer at all and I don't believe many people remember to ask for the season pass offer after the \$30 quota. Not a good idea, good marketing always must be a win - win situation. I remember Immerman Parks growing up as a kid was always packed with families full of children for family reunions and Boy Scouts camping over night, since your implementation of a fee for use rarely do I see the park full anymore. So this leads me to ask where the money is coming from to pay your employees? I would pay a \$20 annual fee or a special millage to use the parks without a fee for use, your \$30 then fee is out of line with the state parks.

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I think we as citizens of Saginaw County must understand how fortunate we all are to have such a wonderful county park system that we do. It has been such a joy to know they are there when we need to get away. Thank you!

Happy Holidays,

**Curt L. Tucker**, AT, BS-NMU

President

**TEAMTECH** Motorsports Safety, Inc.

6285 Bay Road

Saginaw, Michigan 48604

Tel: 989.792.4880

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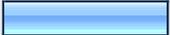
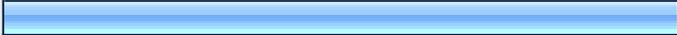
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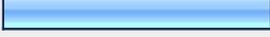
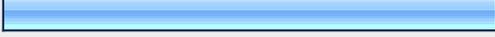
1 Cor: 9:24 - Race to Win!

# Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Survey

1. How many times have you or your family used a Saginaw County park in the past year?			Response Percent	Response Count
Never			2.2%	4
<b>1 - 3 times</b>			<b>33.7%</b>	<b>60</b>
4 - 9 times			27.0%	48
10 - 15 times			17.4%	31
More than 15 times			19.7%	35
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>178</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

2. Which of the following Saginaw County parks have you visited in the past year? (Check all that apply.)			Response Percent	Response Count
William H. Haithco Recreation Area			41.3%	71
Imerman Memorial Park			45.3%	78
Price Nature Center			18.0%	31
Ringwood Forest			13.4%	23
<b>Saginaw Valley Rail Trail</b>			<b>74.4%</b>	<b>128</b>
Veterans Memorial Park			7.0%	12
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>172</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>6</b>

**3. Why do you and/or your family visit Saginaw County parks? (Check all that apply.)**

		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>Fitness and exercise (walking, hiking, bicycling)</b>		<b>81.7%</b>	<b>143</b>
Participate in a game with friends or with a league		8.0%	14
Watch a game or a league sporting event		9.1%	16
Casual/informal use (swim, picnic, geocaching, playground)		29.1%	51
To enjoy nature		54.3%	95
To attend a Parks and Recreation Department program		19.4%	34
Other (please specify):		17.7%	31
	<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>175</b>
	<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>3</b>

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**Why do you and/or your family visit Saginaw County parks? (Check all that apply.)**

#	Response Date	Other (please specify):
1.	12/16/2008 8:32:00 PM	Lion's Club functions
2.	12/16/2008 8:45:00 PM	We go to the Dog Park at Immerman Park.
3.	12/17/2008 1:12:00 AM	xc skiing
4.	12/17/2008 12:51:00 PM	Fishing, canoeing
5.	12/18/2008 12:39:00 AM	Use Dog Park at Immerman
6.	12/18/2008 1:24:00 AM	fishing and canoeing
7.	12/23/2008 8:41:00 AM	riding bikes
8.	12/29/2008 8:09:00 PM	We bike to St. Charles to eat lunch and bike back to VanWormer Rd.
9.	12/29/2008 8:29:00 PM	Dog area.
10.	1/2/2009 2:13:00 PM	Fishing & Access Rivers
11.	1/2/2009 2:47:00 PM	We love the programs at Haithco. We'd like to go to Imerman but it's kind of far from Birch Run.
12.	1/2/2009 9:16:00 PM	for the DOGS
13.	1/2/2009 9:27:00 PM	Roller Hockey, exercise the dogs
14.	1/2/2009 10:37:00 PM	Work
15.	1/3/2009 3:39:00 PM	taking pictures!
16.	1/3/2009 3:45:00 PM	Horse Riding
17.	1/4/2009 3:38:00 AM	I work at Haithco over the summer as a lifeguard
18.	1/5/2009 7:19:00 PM	Walk the dog
19.	1/7/2009 7:27:00 PM	Volunteering
20.	1/7/2009 7:27:00 PM	family functions
21.	1/7/2009 7:30:00 PM	swimming
22.	1/7/2009 7:51:00 PM	class picnic
23.	1/7/2009 7:58:00 PM	other activities sponsored by other agencies
24.	1/7/2009 8:30:00 PM	Senior Picnic
25.	1/7/2009 8:36:00 PM	take dog to dog park
26.	1/7/2009 8:38:00 PM	birthday party
27.	1/8/2009 5:40:00 PM	dog rescue group/work with the county/bark park
28.	1/8/2009 5:55:00 PM	Exercise our dog
29.	1/9/2009 7:41:00 PM	playground
30.	1/11/2009 7:34:00 PM	fish
31.	1/12/2009 11:24:00 AM	cross country skiing at Imerman

4. What additional facilities/amenities would you like to see added to Saginaw County parks? (Check all that apply.)

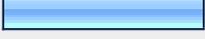
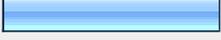
	Imerman Memorial Park	William H. Haithco Recreation Area	Price Nature Center	Ringwood Forest	Veterans Memorial Park	Saginaw Valley Rail Trail	Response Count
Splash Park	50.0% (22)	<b>68.2% (30)</b>	2.3% (1)	2.3% (1)	4.5% (2)	6.8% (3)	44
More Park Land	29.4% (10)	29.4% (10)	23.5% (8)	17.6% (6)	11.8% (4)	<b>73.5% (25)</b>	34
Walking/Biking Paths	<b>50.0% (30)</b>	33.3% (20)	26.7% (16)	23.3% (14)	16.7% (10)	43.3% (26)	60
Pavilions/Picnic Areas	23.7% (9)	39.5% (15)	21.1% (8)	21.1% (8)	21.1% (8)	<b>73.7% (28)</b>	38
Ball Diamonds	<b>62.5% (5)</b>	<b>62.5% (5)</b>	12.5% (1)	12.5% (1)	25.0% (2)	12.5% (1)	8
Playgrounds	47.1% (8)	<b>64.7% (11)</b>	35.3% (6)	29.4% (5)	29.4% (5)	29.4% (5)	17
Skate Park	<b>75.0% (24)</b>	46.9% (15)	6.3% (2)	3.1% (1)	12.5% (4)	9.4% (3)	32
Basketball Courts	36.4% (4)	<b>72.7% (8)</b>	9.1% (1)	18.2% (2)	27.3% (3)	9.1% (1)	11
Dog Park	37.0% (10)	<b>70.4% (19)</b>	33.3% (9)	44.4% (12)	37.0% (10)	40.7% (11)	27
Drinking Fountains	27.5% (14)	23.5% (12)	23.5% (12)	21.6% (11)	21.6% (11)	<b>88.2% (45)</b>	51
Restrooms	26.9% (14)	23.1% (12)	21.2% (11)	17.3% (9)	19.2% (10)	<b>78.8% (41)</b>	52
Disc Golf	<b>79.2% (19)</b>	58.3% (14)	25.0% (6)	25.0% (6)	29.2% (7)	8.3% (2)	24
Canoe/Kayak Rental	<b>64.7% (22)</b>	26.5% (9)	8.8% (3)	8.8% (3)	5.9% (2)	20.6% (7)	34
Other (please specify amenity and at which park):							21
<b>answered question</b>							<b>144</b>
<b>skipped question</b>							<b>34</b>

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**What additional facilities/amenities would you like to see added to Saginaw County parks? (Check all that apply.)**

#	Response Date	Other (please specify amenity and at which park):
1.	12/16/2008 8:32:00 PM	Groomed cross country ski trails Imerman Park
2.	12/16/2008 10:08:00 PM	More shelters along rail-trail in case of bad weather.
3.	12/17/2008 12:03:00 PM	More then the one located on Swan Creek Rd
4.	12/17/2008 12:51:00 PM	More sitting benches at the Rail Trail; more security at Price
5.	12/18/2008 1:24:00 AM	Haithco - more docks and fishing platforms; Sag Valley Rail Trail - more benches a rustic campground would be amazing! We drive 1-2 hours to camp. clean water
6.	12/22/2008 8:05:00 PM	- We also drive 1-2 hours to canoe as the water here nasty. Mountain biking trails!
7.	12/22/2008 8:20:00 PM	observation tower at saginaw rail/trail in St. Charles
8.	12/29/2008 8:21:00 PM	tennis, soccur, and any disability accessible facilities
9.	1/5/2009 1:32:00 PM	Plow the Rail Trail during the winter months.
10.	1/5/2009 2:02:00 PM	I would like to see the trail expanded and to run north to the Midland trail system.
11.	1/5/2009 7:10:00 PM	Larger swim area at Haithco
12.	1/5/2009 8:57:00 PM	Safety phones alsong rail trail for emergencies, perhaps security at rail trail
13.	1/6/2009 12:05:00 AM	Clear the rail trail in the winter for continued walking and exercise.
14.	1/6/2009 1:38:00 AM	cross country skiing grooming on the rail trail and ringwood forest
15.	1/7/2009 7:27:00 PM	imerman could put another pavillion up front and in the back
16.	1/7/2009 8:37:00 PM	a community center similar to Midland County would be really nice! Indoor walking.
17.	1/7/2009 8:52:00 PM	a small dog park area separate from the large dog park area
18.	1/7/2009 9:21:00 PM	a skate park for the young kids should be added
19.	1/8/2009 1:07:00 PM	&quot;Loops&quot; on the Rail Trail so you didn't have to go down the trail and then just turn around and take the same route back to your car.
20.	1/8/2009 6:59:00 PM	trails for people in wheelchairs
21.	1/10/2009 5:53:00 PM	VENDING MACHINES THAT WORK

**5. What types of recreational programs or activities would you like to see added in Saginaw County parks? (Check all that apply.)**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Adult Programs		40.7%	50
Teen Programs		27.6%	34
Childrens Programs		39.8%	49
Athletic Leagues		22.0%	27
<b>Nature/Outdoor Classes and Programs</b>		<b>58.5%</b>	<b>72</b>
Activities for Special Needs Children		23.6%	29
Other (please specify):		8.1%	10
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>123</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>55</b>

**6. Please evaluate the following aspects of Saginaw County Parks and Recreation.**

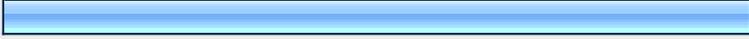
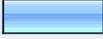
	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	Response Count	
Quality of Programs	23.9% (34)	<b>37.3% (53)</b>	35.9% (51)	2.8% (4)	0.0% (0)	142	
Quallity/Friendliness of Staff	38.6% (56)	<b>40.7% (59)</b>	20.0% (29)	0.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	145	
Variety of Facilities/Amenities	29.1% (44)	<b>42.4% (64)</b>	23.2% (35)	5.3% (8)	0.0% (0)	151	
Maintenance and Appearance	37.7% (60)	<b>47.2% (75)</b>	13.8% (22)	0.6% (1)	0.6% (1)	159	
Safety and Security	23.7% (36)	<b>44.1% (67)</b>	28.3% (43)	2.6% (4)	1.3% (2)	152	
						<b>answered question</b>	<b>159</b>
						<b>skipped question</b>	<b>19</b>

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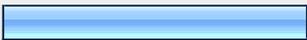
**What types of recreational programs or activities would you like to see added in Saginaw County parks? (Check all that apply.)**

#	Response Date	Other (please specify):
1.	12/16/2008 6:26:00 PM	Senior Citizen programs
2.	12/22/2008 8:05:00 PM	campgrounds! Leave no trace classes on preserving the outdoors.
3.	12/29/2008 8:09:00 PM	fitness parks for seniors
4.	1/2/2009 2:02:00 PM	fitness course
5.	1/2/2009 2:13:00 PM	We would not support Athletic Leagues at County Parks as they would be a duplicate of what so many parks programs provide already.
6.	1/2/2009 7:31:00 PM	youth soccer, bicycle activities
7.	1/2/2009 7:53:00 PM	Maybe some sort of way to track fitness goals-like a "club" or something like the Mackinaw giveaway last year. Maybe even a race on the rail trail.
8.	1/7/2009 8:30:00 PM	Intergenerational
9.	1/8/2009 1:07:00 PM	I would most likely not use any of the programs but think it could be a very good thing for people of poor economic status.
10.	1/14/2009 8:08:00 PM	They had open water swims at Haithco and I would like to see those continued and extended.

7. If there is a person with a disability in your family, please indicate which of the following would make the Saginaw County parks more user-friendly for you and your family member. (Check all that apply.)

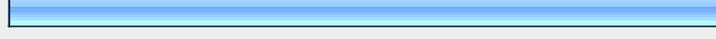
		Response Percent	Response Count
No one with a disability in our family		82.4%	98
Flatter, easier grades		10.1%	12
Accessible playgrounds		3.4%	4
Accessibile parking		7.6%	9
Accessible waterfront access		5.9%	7
Accessible restrooms		10.9%	13
Paved trails		8.4%	10
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>119</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>59</b>

8. Saginaw County's parks are primarily supported by a voter-approved 0.1618 mill tax levy. This equals approximately \$12 annually on a home with a \$75,000 taxable value. This tax levy will be up for renewal in 2010. How do you feel about this tax levy which supports your Saginaw County parks?

		Response Percent	Response Count
I feel this levy is very fair. I will support its renewal in 2010.		63.4%	109
I would like to see Saginaw County enhance and improve its parks. I would support an increase in this tax levy.		33.1%	57
I will not support any renewal or increase in the Saginaw County parks tax levy.		3.5%	6
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>172</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>6</b>

9. What do you like best about Saginaw County Parks and Recreation?		
		Response Count
		85
<i>answered question</i>		85
<i>skipped question</i>		93

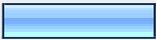
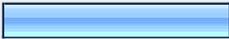
10. What is one thing you would do to improve Saginaw County Parks and Recreation?		
		Response Count
		86
<i>answered question</i>		86
<i>skipped question</i>		92

11. How many years have you lived in Saginaw County?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 1		1.7%	3
1 to 4		2.3%	4
5 to 10		4.1%	7
11 to 19		13.4%	23
Over 20		78.5%	135
		<i>answered question</i>	172
		<i>skipped question</i>	6

**12. How many people live in your household?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		11.4%	20
2		39.2%	69
<b>3-5</b>		<b>47.2%</b>	<b>83</b>
6 or more		2.3%	4
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>176</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>

**13. What is your age?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
under 18		0.0%	0
18-29		10.7%	19
30-39		16.4%	29
40-49		24.9%	44
<b>50-64</b>		<b>41.2%</b>	<b>73</b>
65 and older		6.8%	12
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>177</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>

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### What do you like best about Saginaw County Parks and Recreation?

#	Response Date	Response Text
1.	12/16/2008 6:05:00 PM	Facilities
2.	12/16/2008 6:26:00 PM	Easty to access from just about anywhere
3.	12/16/2008 8:15:00 PM	Closeness to home.
4.	12/16/2008 8:26:00 PM	Kids' programs
5.	12/16/2008 8:45:00 PM	The trails at Immerman park
6.	12/16/2008 9:32:00 PM	More outdoor activities for adults like a runners club, trail club. Also, more activities for adults to do with their children.
7.	12/16/2008 9:41:00 PM	Gives people something to do
8.	12/16/2008 10:08:00 PM	I use the rail-trail mostly.
9.	12/16/2008 10:21:00 PM	children's programs
10.	12/17/2008 1:12:00 AM	Well run, many programs. We use the Rail Trail a lot.
11.	12/17/2008 1:52:00 AM	The atmosphere surrounding the parks, & the events that are held
12.	12/17/2008 12:15:00 PM	Some of the playgrounds are great. Also, my experiences with the softball fields (with exception to Veterans Memorial Park) have been great.
13.	12/17/2008 12:48:00 PM	there is more than one to choose from and they all are different from the other is some way.
14.	12/17/2008 12:51:00 PM	Low cost for the yearly permit
15.	12/17/2008 1:00:00 PM	Accessibility
16.	12/17/2008 1:24:00 PM	I like the rail trail the best. I feel safe riding my bike there alone, I think it is a good location and would like to see the trail length increase in the future.
17.	12/17/2008 1:29:00 PM	The variety amenities offered at several different parks.
18.	12/17/2008 3:13:00 PM	Well maintained.
19.	12/17/2008 4:35:00 PM	The locations and the least amount of disruption to nature.
20.	12/17/2008 4:57:00 PM	preserving natural areas & creating trails
21.	12/18/2008 1:24:00 AM	Affordable cost for permits and accessibility.
22.	12/18/2008 2:34:00 AM	Tey have great programs for kids. They are very inexpensive to do.
23.	12/18/2008 1:37:00 PM	Easy accessibility and variety of activities
24.	12/18/2008 9:39:00 PM	That you can bike for miles north as much as you want! The benches along the trail are really good & for the most part spaced appropriately - Thanks!
25.	12/20/2008 1:38:00 AM	rails to trails
26.	12/22/2008 8:05:00 PM	Most are located on or near water. They are easily accessible to everyone regardless of where they live.
27.	12/22/2008 8:20:00 PM	The walking and biking trails
28.	12/23/2008 8:41:00 AM	clean, wooded area, very inviting
29.	12/23/2008 12:07:00 PM	The trail and great walking trails in other parks. The staff really work hard on creating great experiences for visitors.
30.	12/27/2008 3:31:00 PM	accessability
31.	12/28/2008 7:50:00 PM	That they are usually clean
32.	12/29/2008 8:09:00 PM	Rail trail
33.	12/29/2008 8:21:00 PM	you care and are doing the best job with what you have been supplied
34.	12/30/2008 8:59:00 PM	Rail trail-would like to see an extension of the rail trail to Chesaning from the St. Charles area
35.	1/2/2009 2:02:00 PM	Convenient- clean
36.	1/2/2009 2:13:00 PM	They provide access and an atmosphear that local municipal parks don't. They are in great County locations for County residents.

I like the programs at Haithco. We do the fishing day and we went to camp last

- 37.1/2/2009 2:47:00 PM summer. We also go to Haithco to swim on our own. We aspire to do the Saginaw Rail Trail with our bikes but don't really know where it is or anything about it so we usually end up going to Midland to bike at the Tridge.
- 38.1/2/2009 2:52:00 PM Well maintained
- 39.1/2/2009 4:19:00 PM You keep trying to improve! Good Job!
- 40.1/2/2009 6:15:00 PM A clean park with a friendly staff that my family and dog can enjoy.
- 41.1/2/2009 7:31:00 PM Staff and grounds
- 42.1/2/2009 7:53:00 PM close proximity to home. I love the rail trail.
- 43.1/2/2009 9:27:00 PM It's a place to take the dogs, play roller hockey and hike through the woods.
- 44.1/4/2009 3:38:00 AM I think it gives a nice, decent place for people of all ages to enjoy during the summer months.
- 45.1/4/2009 6:37:00 PM Well-maintained, clean, friendly staff, beautiful outdoors, lots of things to do, not too crowded.
- 46.1/5/2009 1:32:00 PM Ability to enjoy nature by hiking and exercising.
- 47.1/5/2009 2:02:00 PM The trail system and the accessible playgrounds.
- 48.1/5/2009 4:58:00 PM Trail is very accessable
- 49.1/5/2009 5:52:00 PM Imerman Park is our favorite because of the playgrounds, trails and definitely the location.
- 50.1/5/2009 5:53:00 PM Biking Trails
- 51.1/5/2009 8:41:00 PM The railtrail and the chance to lose ones self in thought.
- 52.1/5/2009 8:57:00 PM Parks are convenient
- 53.1/5/2009 11:51:00 PM Nothing. I do not go unless I have to. I am to afraid to go any more.
- 54.1/6/2009 1:38:00 AM I use the Rail Trail daily. I'd like to see it expanded.
- 55.1/6/2009 4:14:00 PM Easy access
- 56.1/7/2009 7:15:00 PM So many people enjoy the rail trail. It is usually very busy and shows a need for more bike paths. It would be nice to have bike lanes from the neighborhoods to get to the trail so that a trailer hitch and vehicle were not necessary.
- 57.1/7/2009 7:19:00 PM The fact that I can go there any time and not be bothered. Not a lot of people all crowded in one park.
- 58.1/7/2009 7:25:00 PM I like they have several different locations around the county.
- 59.1/7/2009 7:25:00 PM numbers
- 60.1/7/2009 7:28:00 PM haithco is close by
- 61.1/7/2009 7:30:00 PM location
- 62.1/7/2009 7:34:00 PM The rail trail
- 63.1/7/2009 7:38:00 PM YOU HAVE MANY PARKS SPREAD ALL OVER THE COUNTY, WITH A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES.
- 64.1/7/2009 7:51:00 PM locations, near to neighborhoods
- 65.1/7/2009 8:22:00 PM The programs are wonderful for all ages.  
I like the fact that one does not have to leave Saginaw County to enjoy outside recreational/ fitness, and nature activities. We are very fortunate to have the facilities we have, although I wish the Pk entrance fee could be lower for cars but I realize that you have to pay for maintenance and staffing. Can you purchase a individual/family pass at the beginning of the Season that would be discounted? I think the programing/events are very well planned and offer just a variety of topics for everyone to be able to enjoy. You're doing a super job with the budget that you have but I hope you can somehow lessen fees on maybe certain days for those folks who are out of a job, can also enjoy our county parks.
- 66.1/7/2009 8:30:00 PM
- 67.1/7/2009 8:37:00 PM Location
- 68.1/7/2009 10:11:00 PM Parks are important to the quality of life in any community. I am glad we have them and hope people use them regularly.

69.1/8/2009 1:07:00 PM They are very reasonably priced. Most residence of the County can utilize the park system.

70.1/8/2009 2:46:00 PM locations

71.1/8/2009 4:48:00 PM location,cleanliness

72.1/8/2009 6:04:00 PM variety

73.1/8/2009 6:59:00 PM variety of habitat and varied locations in County

74.1/8/2009 8:12:00 PM I frequently use the rail trail accessing it from Thomas Twp. This is a wonderful trail. I also love the Ringwood Forest and wish it could be expanded. it is especially beautiful in the fall.

75.1/8/2009 8:35:00 PM Rail trail allows for biking/rollerblading/walking- meets wants and needs of all family members while we are there.

76.1/9/2009 3:07:00 PM That the rail trail is kept up so well and clean - there is much effort put into it.

77.1/9/2009 4:16:00 PM Well-maintained

78.1/9/2009 4:31:00 PM The rail trail.

79.1/9/2009 7:10:00 PM Availability hours, nature trails, programs

80.1/10/2009 5:53:00 PM CLEANLINESS,AND ACCESS

81.1/11/2009 6:42:00 PM the Rail Trail in James, Thomas and Swan Creek Twps.

82.1/12/2009 1:51:00 PM The rail trail is awesome. I hope there are more opportunities to expand and to provide for maintenance, as needed.

83.1/12/2009 1:55:00 PM Rail Trail

84.1/12/2009 6:48:00 PM I love the walking paths!

85.1/13/2009 7:58:00 PM The Rail Trail is fantastic!

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### What is one thing you would do to improve Saginaw County Parks and Recreation?

#	Response Date	Response Text
1.	12/16/2008 6:05:00 PM	Do away with park entry fees
2.	12/16/2008 8:15:00 PM	Use service clubs (Kiwanis, Lions, etc.) for help maintaining the grounds.
3.	12/16/2008 8:26:00 PM	Make sure trails and children's areas in Ringwood are kept clear of poison ivy and overgrowth of woody plants.
4.	12/16/2008 8:45:00 PM	More accessible restrooms that are kept up for public use.
5.	12/16/2008 9:32:00 PM	Communication. I tghink your email process makes it more efficeint but it still could be better.
6.	12/16/2008 9:41:00 PM	Add on to the rails to trail all the way to Chesaning
7.	12/16/2008 11:59:00 PM	A county park on the east side of Saginaw County (Frankenmuth area)
8.	12/17/2008 1:12:00 AM	I think parks are well run and maintained. If anything, try to connect the Rail Trail to other routes or make it longer.
9.	12/17/2008 1:52:00 AM	I am quite satisfied as is.
10.	12/17/2008 12:03:00 PM	Porta Johns at the beginning of the rail trail and maybe one at the end
11.	12/17/2008 12:15:00 PM	Veterans Memorial Park, in my opinion, is a waste of taxpayer money.
12.	12/17/2008 12:48:00 PM	with the shortage of money there isn't much the County can do, but if there is one thing, either improve what we have, i.e. redo parking areas, make necessary repairs or just upgrade the appearance. Or after this survey, if there is an item the majority feels would be a nice enhancement, then do that.
13.	12/17/2008 12:51:00 PM	More security during the open hours at all locations, especially the nature trails
14.	12/17/2008 1:00:00 PM	More restrooms & drinking fountains (even pet drinking fountains).
15.	12/17/2008 1:24:00 PM	I would like to see some kind of security at Price Nature Center. I grew up in that area and would go there in a group to mountain bike and run the trails. I really like the trails for running and mtn. biking but I do feel unsafe there and have for many years. I see supicious cars there with people just sitting in them that are not dressed to use a nature trail. I would go there more often if I felt safer. All the other parks that I have been to in Saginaw County over the years I have felt safe.
16.	12/17/2008 1:29:00 PM	Continue to update/maintain the facilities.
17.	12/17/2008 3:13:00 PM	Connect them to trail systems county-wide.
18.	12/17/2008 4:35:00 PM	A skate park for teens at Imerman Park.
19.	12/17/2008 4:57:00 PM	lead the expansion of the trails sytem around the whole county, acquire more property in different areas of the county, establish a 'water trail' on the Tittabawassee, Cass, Shiawassee and/or Bad Rivers
20.	12/18/2008 12:39:00 AM	There should be no entrance fee at Immerman
21.	12/18/2008 1:24:00 AM	Better security especially on the nature trails.
22.	12/18/2008 2:34:00 AM	Spray ground in one of the parks.
23.	12/18/2008 1:37:00 PM	More events
24.	12/18/2008 9:39:00 PM	I would like to see Chesaning connect to the St. Charles trail Clean up the water! It is a turn off when I go to a nature trail and see posting regarding Dioxins. Also, rustic camping is a must, do you even know where the nearest rustic campground is? I am sooooo tired of driving to Gaylord, Traverse City, or Oscoda to enjoy a canoe trip or a night in my tent. My husband and I drive to Midland to Mountain bike, we could use a good trail system.
25.	12/22/2008 8:05:00 PM	
26.	12/22/2008 8:20:00 PM	Increase the number of trails
27.	12/23/2008 8:41:00 AM	a bathroom along the way
28.	12/23/2008 12:07:00 PM	More collaborative approach with surrounding counties in planning future trails and non-motorized transportation. Focus in only within Saginaw County.
29.	12/27/2008 3:31:00 PM	more walking and biking paths

- 30.12/28/2008 1:19:00 AM Extend the RailTrail towards Chesaning.
- 31.12/28/2008 7:50:00 PM there are more parks in the northern Saginaw Co. area than there are in the southern Saginaw Co. area
- 32.12/29/2008 8:09:00 PM extend rail trail
- 33.12/29/2008 8:21:00 PM provide more resources
- 34.12/30/2008 8:59:00 PM Consider turning the old water tower in St. Charles into a viewing tower-it would be a tremendous attraction
- 35.12/31/2008 7:31:00 PM Lock gates EVERY night at Ringwood Forest.
- 36.1/2/2009 2:02:00 PM Advertise that they are available and encourage increased use by the public
- 37.1/2/2009 2:13:00 PM Increase the ties to nature.
- 38.1/2/2009 2:41:00 PM Increase the rail trail system by expanding into outlying areas  
Maybe do more things like they have at Chippewa Nature Center. Could you do something with maple syrup? The only places around here that do a pancake breakfast are Chippewa (and they're not doing it this year b/c of renovations) and For-Mar down in Burton.
- 39.1/2/2009 2:47:00 PM
- 40.1/2/2009 2:52:00 PM Security
- 41.1/2/2009 4:19:00 PM Advertising children programs, keep them off the street.
- 42.1/2/2009 6:15:00 PM Better drinking fountains.
- 43.1/2/2009 7:31:00 PM additional passive grounds, bicycles trails and community athletic activities
- 44.1/2/2009 7:53:00 PM I wish we could afford more security. It is sometimes "creepy" to be on the rail trail alone.
- 45.1/2/2009 9:27:00 PM Unlock the hockey nets quicker upon request.
- 46.1/2/2009 10:37:00 PM Costly
- 47.1/3/2009 3:45:00 PM Fill in some low spots on the horse trail. It is unuseable in the spring or after a rain. If you need help ask the horse people.
- 48.1/4/2009 3:38:00 AM n/a
- 49.1/4/2009 6:37:00 PM Do away with Vet's Park. It is NASTY.
- 50.1/5/2009 1:32:00 PM Plow the Rail Trail during the winter months.
- 51.1/5/2009 2:02:00 PM More accessible playgrounds. Expanding the trail system to run north, through Thomas Township to connect to the midland system.
- 52.1/5/2009 4:58:00 PM Add new trails
- 53.1/5/2009 5:52:00 PM Continue to maintain and improve the appearance so people WANT to spend time there...keep playground equipment safe and maintain a presence of security at the playgrounds whether that is staff who stay or people who patrol.
- 54.1/5/2009 5:53:00 PM Continue to add to walking and biking trails.
- 55.1/5/2009 7:10:00 PM Advertize events via low cost media such as websites or email. Consider brochure for DOT welcome center(s).
- 56.1/5/2009 8:41:00 PM Get rid of morons and their stupid surveys.
- 57.1/5/2009 8:57:00 PM More safety features. It is a shame that a female need be afraid to use the rail trail for walking or biking by herself during DAYLIGHT hours at the risk of being assaulted.
- 58.1/5/2009 11:51:00 PM MOre Security.
- 59.1/6/2009 12:05:00 AM Provide more variety, such as hills for sledding, possibly a toboggan run at one of the parks or/and ice skating areas. More areas that families can use.  
I have been on the Rail Trail and at Ringwood Forest by myself and did not feel safe. At Ringwood there were several cars driving in to use the restroom. That seems strange. On the trail I had 2 car tires slashed at Lumberman's Park parking area. On the trail there are sometimes "shady" looking characters just hanging out. Could there be some kind of patrol? I like it when the park workers are active. I feel safer then. They are always so friendly.
- 60.1/6/2009 1:38:00 AM

- 61.1/6/2009 4:14:00 PM Attract more people
- 62.1/7/2009 7:15:00 PM Expand bike trails
- 63.1/7/2009 7:19:00 PM have some adult programs in the evening for people who work 8 to 5 cannot attend during the day.
- 64.1/7/2009 7:25:00 PM I would like to see a splash park or skate park added to one of the park locations.
- 65.1/7/2009 7:25:00 PM more activities and open longer and staffed
- 66.1/7/2009 7:28:00 PM I think the parking fees are getting pricey. I would use HAITHCO EVEN MORE IF IT WASN'T FOR the parking fee. How about an anual sticker like the state parks.
- 67.1/7/2009 7:38:00 PM YOU'LL DO A VERY GOOD JOB. MAYBE LOCATE A FEW OF THESE PARKS RIGHT OUT SIDE MY BACK DOOR ? NO ? OH, WELL.
- 68.1/7/2009 7:51:00 PM I live very close to Haithco and I would love to walk every day around the lake, I think some type of yearly walking pass would really allow me and others to use Haithco for walking. The car fee is too much to come and walk daily.
- 69.1/7/2009 7:58:00 PM Discounted rates for employees
- 70.1/7/2009 8:22:00 PM Let County employees or departments utilize the parks without fee.
- 71.1/7/2009 8:30:00 PM Have the handicap parking closer to the picnic area, or at least have it paved at Haithico :)
- 72.1/7/2009 8:36:00 PM I would add restrooms (porta johns would do) along the rail trail. The distance between restrooms is too great.
- 73.1/7/2009 8:37:00 PM You do a great job. Thank you
- 74.1/7/2009 10:11:00 PM One time I was at Haithco Park and was disappointed you could not complete a circle around the lake on foot. I don't know if it's still like that. I think it was because of the apartments that are on the west side of the lake. It would be nice to circle the lake when walking.
- 75.1/8/2009 1:07:00 PM Just by the very nature of rail trails or nature parks, there is a security problem. The very people who would do harm to others know this. I do not know what the answer to this problem would be, but I do feel it poses a problem. A lone person can easily become an easy target from another person hiding along a trail. I try to go with another.
- 76.1/8/2009 1:16:00 PM i'd like to see the rail trail extended closer to my home. or a park that i can walk to.
- 77.1/8/2009 2:46:00 PM Remove the fee to use the Imerman. At a time when families need a place to go, paying the fee is unfair. To say that you can use other parks is a poor argument. Get rid of the fee!!!
- 78.1/8/2009 5:55:00 PM Lengthen the Rail Trail
- 79.1/8/2009 6:59:00 PM trails for wheelchairs
- 80.1/8/2009 8:12:00 PM Come up with more recreational opportunities along the river (eg, kayak) and more areas for ice skating.
- 81.1/8/2009 8:35:00 PM More sites where we could join onto the rail trail
- 82.1/10/2009 5:53:00 PM LONGER RAIL TRAIL
- 83.1/11/2009 6:42:00 PM add on to the current rail trails between Thomas and Saginaw Twp.
- 84.1/12/2009 1:55:00 PM Additional bike and walking trails
- 85.1/13/2009 7:58:00 PM Please work to connect to the other rail trails.
- 86.1/14/2009 8:08:00 PM More activities so they get more use.

# Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Survey

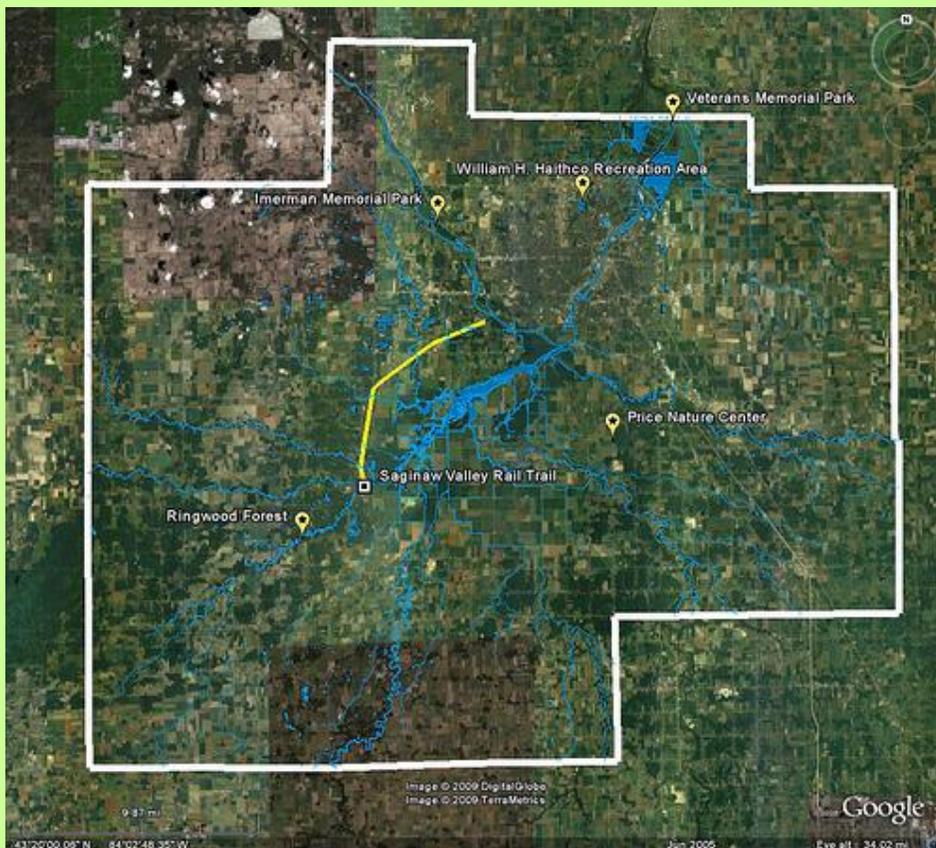
## Welcome Page



Saginaw County is updating its Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We need your input regarding recreational facilities and programming in Saginaw County. Please take a few moments to complete the following opinion survey for your household. The survey is brief and should take you about 5 minutes to complete.

For your information, Saginaw County owns and operates six parks (see map at right):

- 1) William H. Haithco Recreation Area
- 2) Imerman Memorial Park
- 3) Price Nature Center
- 4) Ringwood Forest
- 5) Saginaw Valley Rail Trail
- 6) Veterans Memorial Park



1. How many times have you or your family used a Saginaw County park in the past year?

- Never       1 - 3 times       4 - 9 times       10 - 15 times       More than 15 times

# Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Survey

2. Which of the following Saginaw County parks have you visited in the past year? (Check all that apply.)

- William H. Haithco Recreation Area
- Saginaw Valley Rail Trail
- Price Nature Center
- Ringwood Forest
- Veterans Memorial Park
- Imerman Memorial Park

3. Why do you and/or your family visit Saginaw County parks? (Check all that apply.)

- Fitness and exercise (walking, hiking, bicycling)
- Participate in a game with friends or with a league
- Watch a game or a league sporting event
- Casual/informal use (swim, picnic, geocaching, playground)
- To enjoy nature
- To attend a Parks and Recreation Department program
- Other (please specify):

*Imerman Park*



# Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Survey

4. What additional facilities/amenities would you like to see added to Saginaw County parks? (Check all that apply.)

	Imerman Memorial Park	William H. Haithco Recreation Area	Price Nature Center	Ringwood Forest	Veterans Memorial Park	Saginaw Valley Rail Trail
Splash Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More Park Land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking/Biking Paths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pavilions/Picnic Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ball Diamonds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skate Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking Fountains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disc Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canoe/Kayak Rental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify amenity and at which park):

5. What types of recreational programs or activities would you like to see added in Saginaw County parks? (Check all that apply.)

- Adult Programs
- Athletic Leagues
- Teen Programs
- Nature/Outdoor Classes and Programs
- Childrens Programs
- Activities for Special Needs Children

Other (please specify):

6. Please evaluate the following aspects of Saginaw County Parks and Recreation.

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor
Quality of Programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Variety of Facilities/Amenities	<input type="radio"/>				
Safety and Security	<input type="radio"/>				
Maintenance and Appearance	<input type="radio"/>				
Quallity/Friendliness of Staff	<input type="radio"/>				

# Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Survey

7. If there is a person with a disability in your family, please indicate which of the following would make the Saginaw County parks more user-friendly for you and your family member. (Check all that apply.)

- No one with a disability in our family
- Accessible waterfront access
- Flatter, easier grades
- Accessible restrooms
- Accessible playgrounds
- Paved trails
- Accessible parking

8. Saginaw County's parks are primarily supported by a voter-approved 0.1618 mill tax levy. This equals approximately \$12 annually on a home with a \$75,000 taxable value. This tax levy will be up for renewal in 2010. How do you feel about this tax levy which supports your Saginaw County parks?

- I feel this levy is very fair. I will support its renewal in 2010.
- I would like to see Saginaw County enhance and improve its parks. I would support an increase in this tax levy.
- I will not support any renewal or increase in the Saginaw County parks tax levy.

9. What do you like best about Saginaw County Parks and Recreation?

10. What is one thing you would do to improve Saginaw County Parks and Recreation?

11. How many years have you lived in Saginaw County?

- Less than 1
- 1 to 4
- 5 to 10
- 11 to 19
- Over 20

12. How many people live in your household?

- 1
- 2
- 3-5
- 6 or more

13. What is your age?

- under 18
- 18-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-64
- 65 and older

# Saginaw County Recreation Plan

[FRONT PAGE](#)

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[MAPS OF PARKS](#)

[ABOUT THE PLAN](#)



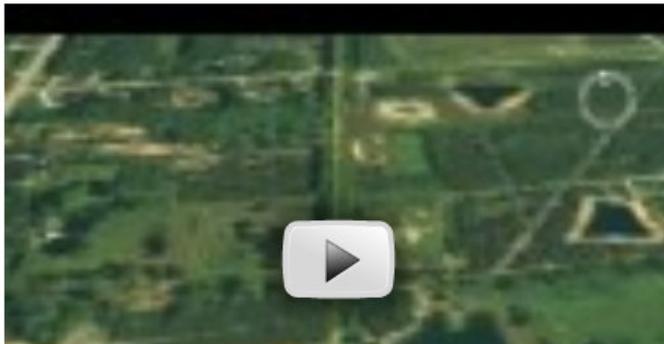
[The Start of a New Plan](#) →

## Virtual Bike Ride: Saginaw Valley Rail Trail

10/22/2008 · 14 Comments

Watch a two minute tour of the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail! It's like you are in the sky, flying over your fellow bike riders, power walkers, and joggers for almost 10 miles.

Well... sort of. Actually, it's just aerial imagery from Google Earth. Watch as you ride over neighborhoods, wooded areas, and farm fields, starting at Lumberjack Park in St. Charles and finishing at Stroebel Road in James Township.



**YOUR INPUT IS REQUESTED!**

**Click here  
and take a survey**



### COUNTY PARKS

- [Inerman Memorial Park](#)
- [William H. Haithco Recreation Area](#)
- [Price Nature Center](#)
- [Ringwood Forest](#)
- [Veterans Memorial Park](#)
- [Saginaw Valley Rail Trail](#)

# Saginaw County Recreation Plan

- [Front Page](#)
- [Share Your Comments](#)
- [Maps of Parks](#)
- [About the Plan](#)



## Share Your Comments

Providing electronic comments and feedback about the Saginaw County Recreation Plan is easy! Your comments can be submitted via the form at the bottom of each post or page by clicking the appropriate link. All electronic comments are reviewed by the Administrator before they are posted. **Anonymous postings are permitted.** If you prefer to submit a comment without it being posted to this website, please say so and the Administrator will honor your request.



### [45 Comments](#)

45 responses so far ↓

- **Lisa** // [12/11/2008 at 2:50 pm](#)

I think that the rail trail should be extended to Chesaning because it gives kids and teenagers healthy things to do in their spare time. My sisters and I love to go to the rail trail in St. Charles to walk, ride bikes, and rollerblade but we can't always take the time to drive all of the way to St. Charles. With the rail trail extended to Chesaning would be able to get their faster and spend more time walking than in the car.  
Thank you!

- **Angie M** // [12/11/2008 at 7:10 pm](#)

I have walked the Rail Trail in St. Charles many times and it is so relaxing to walk and enjoy nature without worrying about traffic. It would be wonderful for the people of Chesaning to enjoy the same luxury. Our families, young and old, could walk and bike the trail. We are looking forward to the day that the Rail Trail is extended from St. Charles to Chesaning.

- **Nola M** // [12/11/2008 at 9:38 pm](#)

I am VERY much in favor of an extention of the rail trail to Chesaning. I think it would be HUGELY beneficial to this area. I would very much appreciate access to a SAFE place to exercise outside in the fresh air. I would use it regularly.

- **John R** // [12/11/2008 at 10:26 pm](#)

Regarding a rail trail into Chesaning: It is my understanding that hunting will be prohibited on private property along any rail trail that would be created between Chesaning and St. Charles. If this is correct I strongly oppose the trail! I would appreciate an answer.

Thank you.

- **Robert B** // [12/12/2008 at 7:19 am](#)

After watching your video on the Saginaw Valley Rail Trails you must extend the trails into Chesaning. The tourism dollars it would generate for Chesaning and Saginaw would be very beneficial for both parties. I own The Stone House Bed & Breakfast in Chesaning and this would be a great attraction for our gues to use. I'm for it, and I'm willing to help in anyway to bring it to Chesaning.

- **Kim H** // [12/12/2008 at 8:04 am](#)

Greeting from Chesaning....you remember Chesaning right? We are in Saginaw County....we even host the yearly fair now. However, it seems you've forgotten us.

Where is the rails to trails bike trail for my children? Where do I walk with my girls on a sunny afternoon?

I'd like very much for you to heavily consider completing the trail in my community. Chesaning has a wonderful reputation for these types of projects. One only needs to look at Mr. Tom Meder, Mr. Randy Michaleisi, The Showboat folks, etc to see that.

I will see you at the Dec. 18 meeting.

Thank you.

- **Cathy G** // [12/12/2008 at 8:49 am](#)

The addition of a bike trail between Chesaning and St. Charles would be a perfect fit with the current trail. The community of Chesaning is so excited about the restructuring of our dam located downtown which will provide kyaking and boating activities on our Shiawassee River. A bike trail from Chesaning through St. Charles would be a wonderful extension of providing another outdoor activity in our beautiful rural area. The communties would certainly take advantage of such an opportunity and work to provide an enjoyable environment for all who pass through.

- **JULIE** // [12/12/2008 at 3:00 pm](#)

The rail trail would be a great asset to Chesaning! The thoughts of a safe place to ride bikes, walk, and roller blade are great. The trail in St. Charles is used frequently by the people as well as Chesaning people that drive over to use the facilities. The thoughts of having our own trail would be wonderful.

- **jerry n** // [12/12/2008 at 6:07 pm](#)

For the last year I have not been able to use the trail as I would like to. I live in Chesaning and some times I don't have the opportunity to or fill lucky enough to ride the back roads to St Charles. If the trail would come as far to

Chesaning it would be more accessible to myself and I'm sure many others in my community that enjoy a safe way to exercise and enjoy the out of doors. Thank You for your time.

- **Helen** // [12/12/2008 at 9:10 pm](#)

Please make the extension of the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail from St. Charles to Chesaning one of your priorities. It will bring a 'breath of fresh air' to our Chesaning community.

- **Judie G** // [12/12/2008 at 9:19 pm](#)

I would be so excited to have the rail trail extended to Chesaning. I now walk with a group of girls in St. Charles and it would be so great not to have to drive in order to walk some where were it is so peaceful and pleasant. It is not the same as walking in town on sidewalks or out of town where I live on the road fighting cars. Please for myself and all those who love to get out and get some fresh air while exercising let this become a reality.

- **cindy** // [12/13/2008 at 12:37 pm](#)

I love to bike but unfortunately I don't get to share this passion much with my children because I fear for them on the roads because of my own experiences with vehicular traffic while on my bike (Despite the fact I wear very bright clothing and a helmet). I just don't think drivers around here watch enough for bikers. We've been to the rail trail several times—but truthfully packing up 3 bikes and driving 12 miles is cumbersome. To have a local trail would be fabulous. We also frequent Saginaw County's other parks. Price Nature center and Ringwood forest are wonderful for cross country skiing, and letterbox hunting(although we never found the box-it was fun looking). Both parks the several times we've been there have unfortunately been under populated. The rail trail in contrast has always been busy—therefore I think it's money well spent developing something that will be utilized.

- **JOSEPH C.** // [12/14/2008 at 5:07 am](#)

CHESANING NEEDS THIS! THERE ARE SO FEW RECREATIONAL THINGS FOR OUR CHILDREN TO DO. THIS OPENS THE DOOR FOR WALKING,BIKING,ROLLER BLADING IN A SAFE ENVIROMENT TOGETHER. I THINK RAILTRAILS ARE ONE OF THE BEST IDEAS EVER. =)

- **Kathy S.** // [12/14/2008 at 7:59 am](#)

According to data gathered through the Memorial Fit Kids program, an alarming percent of Chesaning area children are at risk of developing serious health problems in the future due in part to their inactivity. Extending the railtrail to the Chesaning area would help all area citizens to become more fit and healthy and especially help our youngsters in developing healthy habits. Please give serious consider in helping Chesaning area residents in their goal to becoming healthier.

- **Beverly** // [12/14/2008 at 10:57 am](#)

I have driven to St. Charles to use the trail but not that often it would be nice if it came into Chesaning right now the Rail Road is a waste other than when the train goes to the Fair grounds or the elevator

- **Louie E** // [12/14/2008 at 2:36 pm](#)

I understand many towns are experiencing the downturn in the economy, but I can't help but wonder if Chesaning started earlier and therefore has been impacted by it more than others. Being able to say that we can offer rails to trails in our area could be the difference and encourage others to visit our town and bring in some needed cash-flow. In addition, the local residents will benefit from it. During these hard times, it becomes important to get back to the things that are really important to us "family" and "community". This will allow families to enjoy these facilities and be proud to be part of what is already considered a huge success "Rails to Trails".

- **Anonymous** // [12/15/2008 at 12:14 pm](#)

Having the railtrail come to Chesaning would be a great asset to our community. The rail trail is a beautiful, peaceful and safe way for us all to get some much needed exercise. With our hectic lives (adults and children) we don't have the time to drive to St.Charles to get on the trail. I believe that this will give our "bored" children an alternative way to run off thier "steam" then to be destructive.

- **Amber** // [12/15/2008 at 12:15 pm](#)

Having the railtrail come to Chesaning would be a great asset to our community. The rail trail is a beautiful, peaceful and safe way for us all to get some much needed exercise. With our hectic lives (adults and children) we don't have the time to drive to St.Charles to get on the trail. I believe that this will give our "bored" children an alternative way to run off thier "steam" then to be destructive.

- **Brenda** // [12/15/2008 at 12:24 pm](#)

The extension of the rail trail to CHesaning would be a wonderful thing! IT would provide easier access as well as a greater distance to walk/ride. Michigan needs all the help it can get to promote health and physical fitness! And the rail trail provides this in a family friendly way!

- **Steph** // [12/15/2008 at 2:17 pm](#)

I think it would be great for the Rail Trail to extend into Chesaning. Personally, I would rather travel the Rail Trail from my own town rather than driving 15 minutes and then traveling it.

- **Kevin C** // [12/15/2008 at 2:22 pm](#)

If the rail trail would continue to Chesaning, it would help boost the economy of the county by bringing in more Tourism. Also Chesaning is looking into doing a Heritage Route on M57 to M15. This would help link Saginaw County with Genessee County bringing people from that area. Chesaning could use a boost that other parts of the county are getting with the HSC expansion. It makes sense continuing the trail, to go with the park projects that are in the works.

- **Nellie D** // [12/15/2008 at 3:49 pm](#)

Please bring us back into Saginaw County and move that priority up on the extention of rails to trails from St. Charles to Chesaning. I too, have packed up my bike in the back of the car and drove into St. Charles. It is a 30 minute round trip to get to use the trails. Chesaning needs it and we have alot to offer anyone who comes here to utilize it too! We love the trails!

- **Bobbi** // [12/15/2008 at 4:23 pm](#)

I think extending the rail trail to Chesaning would be great.. My kids and I have drove to St. Charles to use theirs, and it is wonderful. The trail would be a great asset to our community.

- **Gary A** // [12/15/2008 at 6:38 pm](#)

The existing section from St. Charles to Saginaw is clean, well maintained and much used. It makes a lot of sense to extend it to Chesaning, not only giving our local economy a boost, but also returning some of our tax money to this end of the county.

- **RoseMary S** // [12/15/2008 at 9:31 pm](#)

please make the Rail Trail extention a top priority. It would be well received and used often.

- **Kristin** // [12/16/2008 at 8:15 am](#)

I see no reason to delay the development of the Rail Trail extention. It could potentially benefit every citizen, draw visitors and create work for the county.

I must clarify that by benefit for all, I mean the inclusion of those who would require wheelchair access or ergonomic cycles.

- **Trail User** // [12/16/2008 at 10:40 am](#)

I too would love to be able to use the trail closer to home! I currently load up the bikes or roller blades and head to St. Charles or Montrose.

I inevitably end up making a stop to make the trip more economical (grocery store, gas station, etc) and would much rather spend locally!

- **Carol** // [12/16/2008 at 10:51 am](#)

Please consider extending the rail trail into Chesaning. As another commenter mentioned, our community has a great track record when it comes to supporting projects like this. I know you will have an enthusiastic, engaged group of supporters to help you in this process.

- **Dale and Mary Ellen** // [12/16/2008 at 1:41 pm](#)

It's our dream. What an asset it would be for Chesaning and the southern part of the county. We will continue to put our efforts in to making it a reality.

- **Bruce C.** // [12/16/2008 at 3:04 pm](#)

At present, our family all exercise, but seldom use the county's beautiful biking / hiking trails because they are not yet connected to the village of Chesaning.

We hope that priority will be given to extend and open up the Rails to Trails program to our southern part of the county, so that we too will have direct access to this wonderful recreational gem!

The County Parks and Rec. Commission deserve high praise for a wonderful job done so far! The St. Charles to Saginaw section that I've occasionally used provides a wide, smooth, paved path with convenient stops, benches and overlooks.

Don't we in Southern Saginaw County deserve the same services offered to our friends in the northern part of our county?

Sincerely, Bruce C, Chesaning, MI

- **Chuck** // [12/16/2008 at 3:09 pm](#)

Connecting the Chesaning community to the rest of the park system is a must. With a great local park system, the Saginaw County Fair Grounds immediatly adjacent to the railway, as well as all the other amenities available the enhancement can not be understated.

- **Cori H** // [12/16/2008 at 10:06 pm](#)

My family and I hope you decide to make the Trail Extension to Chesaning a top priority for 2009! Our community not only will be eager to use the trail, but we have an active core of volunteers that would be happy to

help with the trail. Please extend the trail to us!

- **MB** // [12/17/2008 at 6:37 am](#)

Whether on bikes, roller blades, in wheelchairs or on foot.....all ages will use the trail! I live in St. Charles and enjoy seeing people in all sorts of weather improving their health by exercising!

- **Dallas B** // [12/17/2008 at 6:37 pm](#)

We use the rail trail in St. Charles, and it's a great family opportunity. Bringing it to Chesaning would be wonderful. I'm sure many residents would be delighted, and it would get used!

- **Pam** // [12/17/2008 at 6:58 pm](#)

I love to go to St. Charles to ride bikes on the rail trail. It would save so much time to have it extended to Chesaning. I know it would be great for the entire community.

- **Steve K** // [12/17/2008 at 8:45 pm](#)

Please keep the extension of the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail into Chesaning in your plans for the future. As president of the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce, I believe this is something that will help Chesaning's economy as people will come to our town to get on the trail and ride to St. Charles or ride from Shields and St. Charles to Chesaning. We need projects like this to make our county shine as we fight to market the Saginaw Valley as a place for people to visit and live. People who live in this area and surrounding areas will support and use this trail. Let's get this done!

- **Sandy H.** // [12/18/2008 at 8:45 am](#)

Extending the rail trail from St. Charles to Chesaning would be great. I currently drive and haul my bikes to St. Charles. being able to just get on the trail in Chesaning would be wonderful since we would be able to use it more and my kids would love it. It helps bring small communities together!!

- **Christi M** // [12/18/2008 at 8:08 pm](#)

Fitness has always been a priority in my life. A Rail Trail would be a wonderful additon to any community. It is something that can be used by young and old alike. I feel that supporting the Chesaning to St. Charles Rail Trail expansion should certainly be a top priority for the Saginaw Parks and Recreation five year plan. Anything that brings families together, offers fitness opportunities and does not cost money to use is certainly worth serious consideration.

- **Judy H** // [12/19/2008 at 12:02 am](#)

I would really enjoy the trail coming to Chesaning, when we have our grandkids over, it is a safe and fun thing to do with them. It is showing them how you can have fun get, good exerchise , with out spending money. But it is hard for us to take them and their bikes to St. Charles. We need the exerchise!  
(( \*\_\* )) Thank you, Judy

- **Roger W.** // [12/19/2008 at 6:01 pm](#)

The expansion of the rails to trails from St. Charles to Chesaning would be a great addition to Chesaning and a great way for a family to spend time with one another. The trail would provide for cheep family fun when riding or walking from one town to the other. It would also provide a safe and efficient way for citizens to exerchise whether that be walking, jogging or biking along the new path.

- **barbie h** // [12/20/2008 at 11:50 am](#)

I would love to see the rail trail come to chesaning . I have used the one in St. Charles and think it is so nice, you never realize how long you have walked. this could benefit so many people and their health.

- **SANDIE C** // [12/21/2008 at 5:35 pm](#)

I THINK THE RAILTRAIL IN CHESANING WOULD BE AMAZING. FAMILY WALKS, GETTING EXCERCISE TOGETHER, WE USE ST CHARLES RAIL TRAIL ALL THE TIME IT WOULD BE GREAT NOT TO HAVE TO DRIVE SO FAR TO HAVE SOME FAMILY RECREATION TIME TOGETHER. I GIVE THE RAIL TRAIL A POSITIVE THUMBS UP.

- **Renee** // [12/27/2008 at 1:42 pm](#)

Chesaning could really benefit with more traffic and customers in our town. The St. Charles trail is great, but I would love one closer to home!

- **administrator** // [12/29/2008 at 4:19 pm](#)

From TEAMTECH1 via [mlive.com](#) on Friday, December 26:

I am responding to the invitation written in the Saginaw News to submit ideas for changes/improvements to the Saginaw County Parks.

1) Offer annual parks tag of say \$20 like the State of Michigan does for its state parks or for those that may be only a one time visit a daily rate. This would be for Haithco Park only. Or I would by a annual tag to know I could go to any park in the county anytime, even though I rarely use it. A seasonal tag would encourage others to go more often too. I really don't understand your reasoning for charging a fee to use Immerman Park, its been the county tax payers money that funded the development of the free land given to the county by the Immerman family to memorialize their son. I have read the \$30 amount then free, my first thought was this really is not an offer at all and I don't believe many people remember to ask for the season pass offer after the \$30 quota. Not a good idea, good marketing always must be a win - win situation. I remember Immerman Parks growing up as a kid was always packed with families full of children for family reunions and Boy Scouts camping over night, since your implementation of a fee for use rarely do I see the park full anymore. So this leads me to ask where the money is coming from to pay your employees? I would pay a \$20 annual fee or a special millage to use the parks without a fee for use, your \$30 then fee is out of line with the state parks.

2) Strobel Road parking lot and all of the rail trail needs solar lighting for those people (especially women) getting caught on the return trip in the darkness of evening. Bathrooms (at least out houses with sterile hand wash) are needed in this parking lot also. The same needs to be included for the St Charles end of the trail.

I think we as citizens of Saginaw County must understand how fortunate we all are to have such a wonderful county park system that we do. It has been such a joy to know they are there when we need to get away. Thank you!

- **Dave from Saginaw Twp** // [01/05/2009 at 9:04 am](#)

I would just like to say that the trail system is just great. I would like to see it expanded and connected to the Midland trail system. I think the planners of the trail system have done a great job.

## Leave a Comment

Name



*Taking the Polar Plunge at the William H. Haithco Recreation Area*

Categories: [Saginaw County](#)

7 responses so far ↓

- **Brenda F** // [12/11/2008 at 4:35 pm](#)

Having a rail trail in our town would be wonderful. I have logged many hours on the rail trail in St. Charles and truly believe that providing a walkway out in nature is a great way to keep a community more fit and healthy, which would set a great example for our children!

- **len and chris** // [12/16/2008 at 4:47 pm](#)

Saginaw P & R needs to extend the “RAILS SYSTEM” to Chesaning.

- **Donald M** // [12/18/2008 at 3:46 pm](#)

For the William H. Haithco Recreation Area: a pedestrian link along the west edge of the lake, connecting the north and south ends of the park and creating a walking loop would be a good improvement.

For Price Nature Center: a bridge over the ditch at the east edge of the property, would allow more variety in hiking the park by connecting the Deer Run Trail to the White Oak Trail directly.

For Ringwood Forest: an easement over private land on the north edge, near the river, would allow connection of Witch Hazel Trail to the extreme north side of the park for hiking, which is now inaccessible as it lies north of the river. Alternately, a new parking lot and trail from Schroeder Rd would open up the extreme north side of the park for hiking.

- **Hal M** // [12/18/2008 at 8:22 pm](#)

I would like to see a partnership between Saginaw County Rec and the Village of St. Charles in an effort to transform the old water tower to an observation tower at the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail head in St. Charles. I believe the observation would be a strong attraction to “would-be” trail users.

- **Deb** // [12/22/2008 at 3:17 pm](#)

I think the previously-mentioned observation deck on the water tower would be a great addition to the Rail/Trail. And, partnering with the Village of St. Charles would help with the costs of the improvement.

- **Amy** // [12/22/2008 at 3:18 pm](#)

I would love more places to mountain bike, we go to the Shiawassee trails off of Center frequently but head to Midland most times as their trails are longer and more challenging!

The rail trail is amazing and I would love to see it made much longer and more accessible to those living in Saginaw Township/City as I want to ride to the rail trail vs. driving there.

Overall I don't see Saginaw having an ideal parks and rec program until the dioxin problem is addressed. The constant discoveries of record breaking amounts of dioxin turn any nature lover off to the beautiful parks, woods, and water of the area. I am tired of driving far away to swim, canoe, and hike but can't help but worry about my safety if I ignore warnings about dioxins. Most people who love the outdoors will feel the same way and will therefore be unlikely to support funding to parks they don't want to use!

- **Ryan** // [12/22/2008 at 3:33 pm](#)

My wife and I love snowshoeing, backpacking, hiking, camping and mountain biking. I would like to be able to hike into the woods, set up a tent, and hike out the next day. Same w/ my snowshoes. There is 1 group campground in the park system which rents for \$35, how about something a little more budget friendly, as we can go to a normal rustic campground anywhere in MI for \$10-15. I am tired of driving hours to enjoy these things, and would be more likely to stay in the area if it had more secluded nature to enjoy, as it stands we are trying to relocate "up north"

## Leave a Comment

Name

Mail

Website



Notify me of followup comments via email.

- **Your input is requested!**



*Saginaw Valley Rail Trail crossing over the Bad River in St. Charles*

[1 Comment](#)

1 response so far ↓

- Donald M // [12/18/2008 at 3:51 pm](#)

At ALL public parks, the restroom facilities should be open and accessible at ALL times of day when the parks are open and in ALL seasons. I view it as poor public policy to provide recreational facilities with no restroom available. As a minimum, operating portable toilets should be available, but it would be highly preferable to simply open and maintain the existing restroom buildings. If we cannot maintain a park properly, we have no business owning it.

**Leave a Comment**

Name

Mail

Website

Notify me of followup comments via email.

# Saginaw County Recreation Plan

- [Front Page](#)
- [Share Your Comments](#)
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- [About the Plan](#)



[The Start of a New Plan](#) →

## Virtual Bike Ride: Saginaw Valley Rail Trail

10/22/2008 · [14 Comments](#)

Watch a two minute tour of the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail! It's like you are in the sky, flying over your fellow bike riders, power walkers, and joggers for almost 10 miles.

Well... sort of. Actually, it's just aerial imagery from Google Earth. Watch as you ride over neighborhoods, wooded areas, and farm fields, starting at Lumberjack Park in St. Charles and finishing at Stroebel Road in James Township.



Categories: [Saginaw County](#)

14 responses so far ↓

- **Randy M** // [12/08/2008 at 11:04 am](#)

Sure looks good going North but what about the beautiful view to the south of St. Charles, still in Saginaw county...I am talking about the rest of the trail...the southern extension to Chesaning. It would be a great link to a nice safe, friendly town with restaurants, cafes and bed and breakfast sites. What would be better than that? The rails to trails system in Michigan is extensive. The Saginaw Valley Rail Trails gets a lot of use...it would get more if it was longer and included the 8 mile section south of St. Charles.

- **Janet K** // [12/11/2008 at 3:03 pm](#)

I am sorry that I can not attend the meeting on the 18th. To have the Rail-Trail be extended to the Chesaning area would be great for Saginaw County residents. I would be interested in receiving more information on this after your meeting and what the next steps would be to make this a reality. Thank you for your efforts in providing Saginaw County with additional recreation and business ventures and bringing more positive activities to our area!

- **Gary A** // [12/11/2008 at 6:27 pm](#)

The existing section is very clean, well maintained and much used, extending it to Chesaning would be more of the same and help our local economy as well. It would be good to see some of our tax money come to this end of the county

- **Lisa** // [12/11/2008 at 7:32 pm](#)

I am a Chesaning Citizen that resides in the country. Often driving through St. Charles my family comments on how it would be nice if their small community had a bike path like St. Charles does. I know my family would utilize it often and enjoy the extension of recreation. We hope to see this addition in our community.

- **Bob** // [12/11/2008 at 8:31 pm](#)

It is called the Saginaw COUNTY Parks and Rec Department. Presently, there are no County rec opportunities in southern Saginaw county (Chesaning area). The extension of the Rail Trail south of St. Charles to Chesaning would tie the community in nicely. I would like to see that extension aggressively pursued.  
Thank you.

- **William B** // [12/12/2008 at 8:36 am](#)

First, the Google Earth view of the current rail trail is not working! Secondly, having served on the village council in Chesaning for 6 years, I have seen the need and interest in developing the rail trail segment from St. Charles to Chesaning. There are excellent social reasons as well as economic reasons to support this initiative in the southern end of Saginaw County. We have seen what a paved trail has done for our Cole Park and want to extend that sort of initiative into our Showboat Park. The natural tie would be adding the Chesaning-St. Charles segment, particularly with our campground anchoring the southern end of the trail.

- **Anonymous** // [12/16/2008 at 2:34 pm](#)

Our children are at risk...unhealthy sedentary lifestyles lead to many long term health issues. In southern saginaw county there are no recreation facilities. A rails to trails from St. Charles to Chesaning would address this problem...our taxes support the Saginaw Parks and Rec, we deserve to have this trail extended...Its a no brainer !!!

- **Damion** // [12/16/2008 at 3:36 pm](#)

There is no reason that we do not already have the southern end of this trail in operations! Get the track rights from the State and let's start with a gravel trail while we work on more money for enhancements.

By the time we wait for the Cadillac system too many kids will have grown up and moved from the area; too many families will have looked beyond Saginaw County to locate their families.

This is easily obtainable and cost effective. Most importantly, it will be one reason to justify why people in the southern part of Saginaw County should vote for a parks millage.

- **Rod** // [12/16/2008 at 10:23 pm](#)

This trail would benefit all people. Not only would people be able to start/end the ride in Chesaning they could bike to the Shields area in a safe manner. This would encourage people to exercise without fear of being hit by a driver. This would be an excellent idea that should have started in this area not ended in this area.

- **JS** // [12/17/2008 at 2:40 pm](#)

I ask that you please assist us in the continuation of the Rail Trail into Chesaning. My family and I often use the Trail in St. Charles, although we reside in Chesaning, because it is one of the safest ways to get outdoors and get exercise. It is an activity that we can do as a family, and, it never fails, we always end up stopping for gas or food while we're there! Those dollars could be spent in our own community.  
Thank you for your consideration.

- **Ellen** // [12/17/2008 at 7:02 pm](#)

When we drive by the trail in St. Charles, I always wish that we had a path that would extend to Chesaning. What a wonderful addition this would be to exercise and to see the beautiful countryside in our area. The extension of the trail to Chesaning would be a positive sign to our community that we are still an important part of this county.

- **scott** // [12/18/2008 at 1:33 pm](#)

As a frequent visitor of local county and state parks, a great addition would be a frisbee golf course. Freeland, St. Charles, Midland and Pinconning have all added frisbee golf courses. It is growing and popular sport. Once the initial set up is done, maintenance costs are virtually zero. Imerman Park would make a great location. Please consider this alternative.

- **Tom T** // [12/19/2008 at 9:51 pm](#)

Every 5 years the Chesaning Parks and Recreation Commission develops a 5 year Plan with lengthy deliberation and input from the community. This plan identifies the recreational needs of the community and a framework for the development of these needs. The 2004-2009 Plan includes completion of the rail trail from St. Charles to Chesaning. Unfortunately this has not been completed but there continues to be significant interest. Hopefully the obvious interest in this project will provide impetus for completion.

- **DEBBIE S** // [01/10/2009 at 12:58 pm](#)

WE ENJOY THE RAIL TRAIL AND HAVE FOR 3 YEARS NOW BUT WOULD LOVE TO SEE IT LONGER!!!!!! WE RIDE FROM MIDLAND TO CLAIR EVERY SAT BUT WOULD LOVE TO STAY CLOSER TO HOME IF THE TRAIL WERE LONGER.. WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO CLIO GOING TO BIRCH RUN AND BIRCH RUN GOING TO ST CHARLES??? WE LIVE IN BR AND COULD RIDE ALL THE WAY TO SAG!!! BIG PLUS!

## Leave a Comment

\_\_\_\_\_ Name