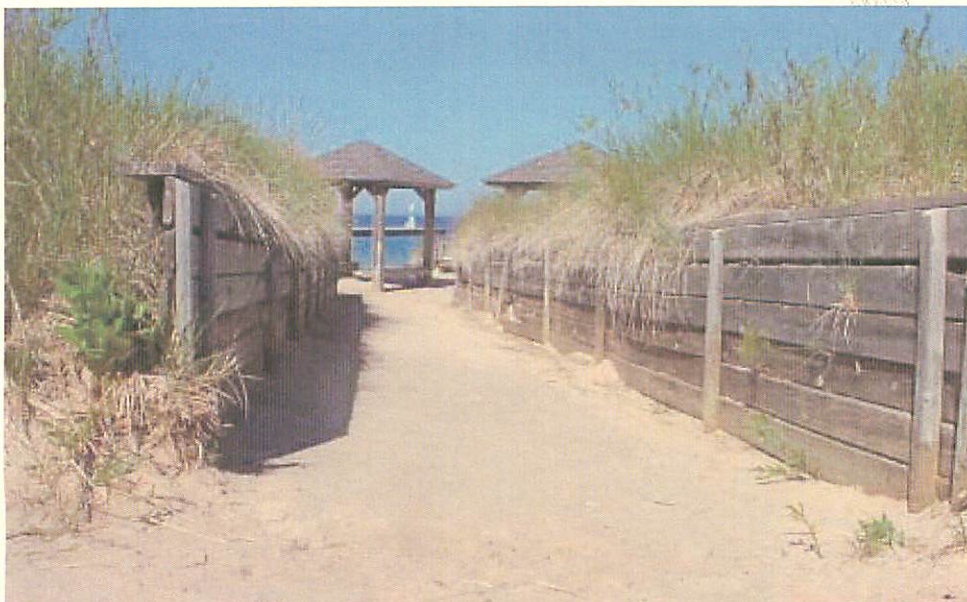




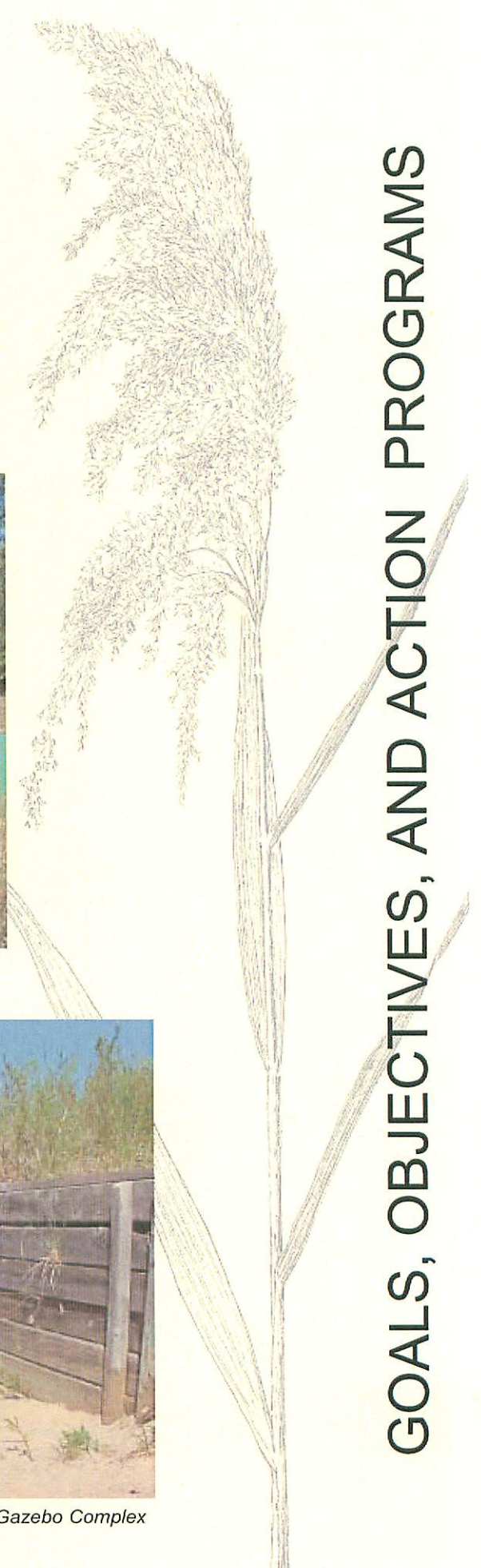
*Phragmites Spoiling Portage Lake View*



*1930-1985 Channel Pierhead Light Awaiting Re-Erection near Water*



*Sand at Langeland Park Gazebo Complex*



**GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION PROGRAMS**

## Goals, Objectives, and Action Programs

Goal 1—Highlight, enhance, and preserve the natural beauty of the flora and fauna, the wetlands, and the water quality of the lakes in Onekama Village and Township for residents, seasonal residents, and visitors to enjoy

Objectives	Action Programs
Ensure the waters of the lakes in Onekama Village and Township are of the highest quality possible →	Continue monitoring of the lake waters by the Watershed, Township, and School  Support and enforce the Countywide program of the monitoring of septic systems  Extend present sewer system into areas where septic system contamination of the lake waters exists
Acquire State-owned lands that contain natural beauty and wetlands that would be offered to the conservation district and then the public, if governmental units do not want them →	Scan listings of such properties and pursue purchase of ones meeting goal and objective
To promote native plant growth, control invasive species of plants, such as spotted knapweed and phragmites, by using a pro-active approach towards eliminating them throughout the Village and Township as much as possible →	Educate public of need for and prescribe proper methods of control  Involve community organizations in efforts to identify and control invasive species in and around Portage Lake
Enhance the natural habitat for wildlife at North Point Park for study and pleasure of visitors →	Build a small natural pond to support wildlife and plantings  Install birdhouses, especially for bluebirds  Plant trees near park perimeter as wildlife habitat

### *Rationale*

(Some of the material appearing here and for the “Rationale” under other goals may also have been retained in “Community Description” for more intelligible reading.)

### **Natural Resources**

Highlighting, enhancing, and preserving the natural resources of Onekama Village and Township are invaluable for the ultimate in parks and recreation. Items related to the objectives, and action programs for this goal— many of which are highly ranked—appear frequently in the reports for the Beckett & Raeder vision and student sessions.

## ***Vision and Student Sessions Support***

In the first vision session, "sanitary sewer around the Lake" ranked second, "future Watershed protection" ranked third, "natural resource protection" ranked thirteenth, and "healthy Lake" ranked fifteenth out of



*Ferns at Glen Park*

nineteen items listed in the collective prioritization. In "The Preferred Future" for the first vision session, "wetland protection" received three or more votes from each table. "Protection of scenic roadways" and "develop management plan for preventing runoff of fertilizers from private properties" are mentioned in "The Preferred Future" of the first vision session.

In the second vision session, "maintain water quality" ranked first out of thirteen items and "sewer system around the Lake" ranked sixth in the collective prioritization. In "The Preferred Future" for the second vision session, "clean lakes and air" and "protect

natural beauty" are items that received three or more votes from each table. "Nature trails near water," "no blight on Lake," and "fewer invasive species" were mentioned for "The Preferred Future" in the second vision session.

In the student session, the question, "Thinking ahead twenty years, what three words would you use to describe the ideal Onekama area?" was asked. "Good water quality: clean lake, no more zebra mussels" is a summary of some of the items among the answers. Onekama's natural resources are ranked as "excellent" by ten of fifty-four of the students, "good" by twelve of the students, "fair" by eighteen of the students, and "poor" by eight of the students. Six students had "no opinion." The students feel that one of "the five most important issues that should be addressed in Onekama's community plan" is the "natural environment—clean lake/land preservation/public beaches/farms."

## ***The Lake Waters and Environmental Problems***

The lake waters take on the color of the skies, providing beautiful views and sunsets, and temper the breezes, cooling the land in the summer and warming it during the winter. Therefore, the surface water is an important natural feature for the Township and Village, making a direct contribution to property values and the quality of life. Studies in other communities have documented a direct correlation between property values, desire to vacation in an area, and water quality.

Environmental problems relating to the key natural resources for parks and recreation—water as well as shifting dunes and beaches—in Onekama Township and Village have, for many years, been issues requiring attention. The water quality in Portage Lake has been subjected to testing, officially and unofficially for a number of years, the results of which led to the installation of sanitary sewers in the Village of Onekama during the 1970's.

With the financial assistance of the Township, Village, and the M-DNR Coastal Zone Management Unit, the Portage Lake Management Plan, prepared by SEG Engineers & Consultants, was published in 1987. This was developed as a plan of action for the maintenance of Portage Lake as a healthy and vital water resource in the midst of increasing land-use conflicts and development forces.

In 1993, Snell Environmental Group, Inc., published the Portage Lake U. S. EPA Phase I Diagnostic/Feasibility Study for Onekama Township, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5. The report, which was funded by Onekama Township and

a Clean Lakes Program Grant, contains the results of the U. S. EPA Clean Lakes Program Diagnostic/Feasibility Study of Portage Lake.

The 1987 study recommended continued water quality monitoring, having found that nutrient loading into Portage Lake keeps occurring. Septic systems and lawn fertilization were pinpointed as sources of these nutrients. After the 1993 study was released, the Portage Lake Water Quality Study Committee was established by the Township, and science students in the Onekama Consolidated Schools started gathering water samples from Portage Lake at established locations and at scheduled times each year. The Committee had two informational brochures printed for distribution to residents and resorters—Septic Systems and Water Quality, and Lawn Maintenance on Shoreline Properties.

The science students continued to collect samples of the waters of Portage Lake and conducted some on-site tests twice a year. The water samples were analyzed by a professional laboratory. In 2001, the students developed a PowerPoint presentation about the work they did in monitoring the water quality of Portage Lake; this presentation was made, as a part of service learning, to the Onekama Township Planning Commission and later during the Governor's Conference on Career Development in Lansing.



*Birch and Blue Skies at  
North Point Park*

Portage Lake through this monitoring has been established as a mesotrophic lake, meaning that it is of medium quality with a greater amount of nutrients (than the oligotrophic or high-quality lake) resulting in a higher volume of aquatic plants. Water clarity is somewhat lower, and fish species are varied.

Although lawn fertilizers and drainage from farming and livestock operations have been thought to provide the nutrient loading into the lake, the use of septic systems for sewage disposal around Portage Lake except for the Village of Onekama is also thought to contribute to this problem. Because the soil is sandy and percolates well, the placement and maintenance of these septic systems is critical.

### ***Sewer and Septic Systems***

After the Village had installed its sewer system, the Township also applied in the 1970's for a grant to do likewise. This system never materialized. In 2000, the Township attempted to establish a sewer district once more with no success; it was rejected by owners of a majority of property in the sewer district because of expense and fear of over-development brought on by the availability of the sewers.

A Water and Sanitation Committee was then established as a subcommittee of the Township Planning Commission and wrote a septic system ordinance for Onekama Township that would require inspection of septic systems at the point of sale of a property or when new or additional construction on a property created additional plumbing facilities. This was not passed before support was garnered from all of the townships in the County for a similar ordinance Countywide. In 2008, this ordinance was voted on by the County Commissioners for its addition to the District Health Department #10 Sanitary Code.

### ***Portage Lake Watershed Forever Plan***

The process for creating the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Plan (see pages A-30-A-36) began in 2006; the action was initiated by Michael Acton, a resident of Onekama Township, who remains as chairperson. The Plan was approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on June 3, 2008. It had to meet the criteria for the State Clean Michigan Initiative Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Program of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Plan preserves and protects surface water resources. The Portage Lake

Watershed encompasses portions of Bear Lake, Brown, Manistee, and Onekama Township as well as the Village of Onekama. The Watershed is approximately 24.6 square miles or 15,777 acres.

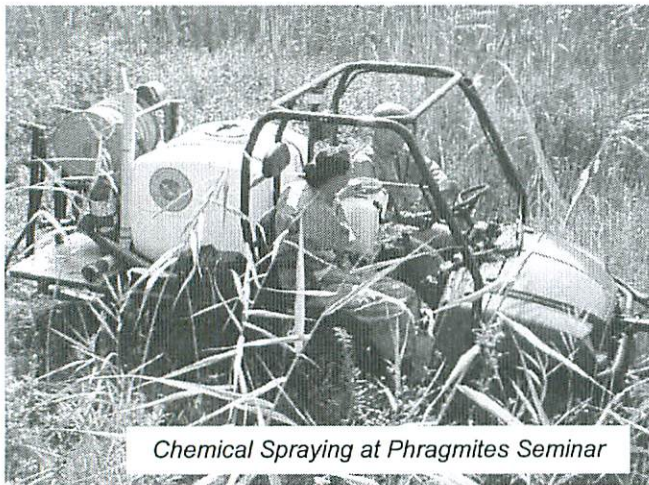
Portage Lake Watershed has an Inventory and Monitoring Committee, which has been active in monitoring the water quality of Portage Lake and Lake Michigan for E. coli at popular swimming areas. It also is continuing long-term trend water quality data collection, including measuring dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll-a, clarity (secchi), and pH, and making a temperature profile. Onekama School students are continuing this work each spring and fall during the turnover and will sample the two deep basins and one shallow site. Dissolved oxygen profiles are to be made during summer stratification (mid-June, mid-July, and mid-August) at the two deep basins in Portage Lake. Onekama Township has provided financial support for some of the monitoring.

### ***Vegetation and Invasive Plant Species***

Understanding the vegetative character of the Portage Lake area is important, as concern has been expressed about the protection of the area's environmental features as well as the fact that the vegetative cover is an important aesthetic element of any region, and plays an important role in natural environmental systems and processes.

The primary vegetative cover in the Portage Lake area, excluding residential and agricultural areas, consists of northern hardwood forests. Although a couple of areas of the prime timberlands exist near and into the Village (Section 25) and in the southeast corner of the Township (Section 36), most of the timberlands are of regional importance in Onekama Township.

The prime timberlands are lands that are capable of producing 85 cubic feet (about one standard cord) per acre per year in fully stocked natural stands. These areas in Onekama Township and Village are Nationally significant. The timberlands of regional importance have soils designating them as important forestlands that produce medium-high to high volumes of wood products.



*Chemical Spraying at Phragmites Seminar*

Forestry for Onekama Township is an important industry, especially due to its proximity to Packaging Corporation of America, a corrugated medium paper and pulp mill, and various loggers and handlers. Forestlands also contribute significantly to recreation in the Township by providing areas to observe wildlife and wildflowers that thrive profusely in their shaded and often damp, even wet areas. Glen Park is an excellent example of a wooded tract offering opportunity to see wildlife and wildflowers while hiking along Glen Creek to Glen Springs.

In the non-forested dunes can often be seen a totally different vegetation that thrives under arid conditions and enjoys growing in the sand.

Beach grasses of various varieties offer a green contrast to the desert-like sand. Wildflowers grow here, too. The pitcher's thistle, which is said to be locally common, is considered to be quite rare and threatened on the State and National levels.

In regard to invasive plant species, a shoreline survey has been made by the Watershed Inventory and Monitoring Committee. Of great concern are the concentrations of phragmites that are growing along the shoreline of Portage Lake and smothering other plant varieties that grow in wet areas. The Portage Lake Association has conducted a seminar of how to destroy phragmites that are growing on the waterfront at Farr Center. Just cutting them does not work. There are proper methods to use. The concern over this invasive plant and others has led to one of the objectives and action program items for the goal regarding highlighting, enhancing, and preserving the natural resources of the Village and Township.

Several years ago, the Michigan State University Extension Service told of the invasive qualities of spotted knapweed, great concentrations of which are “beautifying” North Point Park. The Extension Service conducted a campaign, which included a brochure, for eradication of this non-native plant, which actually destroys native plants.

### **Wetlands**

Wetlands in Onekama Township are mainly former pothole lakes or those associated with the lowlands of existing lakes. Significant wetlands are shown on page A-16. The wetlands are highly complex natural systems in the ecological balance of nature that provide productive areas for breeding, nesting, and rearing of birds, mammals, fish, and reptiles. Wetlands also play an important part in sediment control and wastewater treatment. This is particularly true with the wetlands at the east end of Portage Lake, where they act as a major sediment filter.

Also, the wetlands play an important role in maintaining and improving the water quality of the Lake. They provide an “oxygen factory” that replaces oxygen in the Lake used by the process of decaying material on the Lake bottom. The wetlands also provide a natural system that uses and thus removes oxygen-sapping nutrients from the Lake waters. This function of wetlands is particularly critical when located on a lake with a large amount of homes using septic tanks and having little greenbelt adjacent to the Lake. The wetlands provide a storage, or buffer, for floodwater and other water runoff, which can be a problem in the flood plain areas. Because of all of these positive factors of wetlands, their protection in Onekama Township is an important priority as is also the protection of the quality of surface water.

### **Wildlife**

Wildlife in Onekama Township includes deer and turkeys, which are hunted during season. However, hunting does not draw those from other areas seeking recreation in the numbers that fishing does. In Portage Point and in much of the Portage Park resort areas (portions of Sections 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, and 33), there is a center-fire rifle ordinance (Regulation No. 151 for Manistee County) prohibiting hunting with center-fire rifles. The larger aspect of wildlife for recreation in Onekama Township is the observation of the animals and birds.

North Point Park is an excellent area to observe nature as is Glen Park. Many resorters observe animals and birds from their own cottages. Deer, red foxes, and raccoons are entertaining to watch; but the deer and raccoons have become destructive, with the deer consuming flowers and shrubs, and the raccoons finding any way possible to enter trash cans and garbage bags. Residents and seasonal residents alike often put out bird feeders to attract the many kinds of songbirds, some of which can be viewed in Onekama Township and Village throughout the year. Song sparrows, indigo buntings, brown thrashers, American woodcocks, bluebirds, and northern harriers are among the birds that can be viewed near forested areas.



*Speaker, Phragmites Seminar*

Goal 2—Provide opportunities for enjoying lake views, utilizing beaches, and accessing waters of Portage Lake and Lake Michigan in Onekama Township and Village

Objectives	Action Programs
<p>Facilitate enjoyable lake views for residents, seasonal residents, and visitors in parks and public shoreline areas</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→</p>	<p>Raise gazebo complex so that viewing of Lake Michigan and its sunsets may continue despite encroaching sand dune in Langland Park (Channel Turnaround)</p> <p>Build permanent restrooms for people using Langland Park for viewing Lake Michigan and for other recreational purposes</p> <p>Build boardwalk through wetlands in Feldhak Park for access to Portage Lake as per plan of 2007 "Design of enVision Manistee County" of the Small Town Design Initiative of Michigan State University's Landscape Architecture Program</p>
<p>Acquire lakeshore lands adjoining or remote from existing public lakeshore lands</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→</p>	<p>To increase opportunities for the public to enjoy, use, and view Portage Lake within the Village of Onekama—acquire shoreline property with wetlands east of Farr Center for wetland preservation, and for educational and recreational area. Obtain grants to purchase land; finalize plans for development of handicap accessible area as appropriate for activities such as birding, fishing, education, etc.; and enlist community to help develop area</p> <p>Acquire property north of Thirteen Mile Road End at Pierport for non-accessorized park, which would include the beach at Thirteen Mile Road End</p>
<p>Achieve legal designation of road ends and public lands as park access to allow the use of the beaches on the road ends for lakeside activities</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→</p>	<p>Quiet title to approximately 300 feet of public land adjacent to Lakeside Avenue along Lake Michigan in Portage Park Addition for non-accessorized park. This land previously has been listed in the <a href="#">Onekama Township Road End Ordinance</a> as public land</p> <p>Work with County and State officials in adding other purposes beyond just ingress to and egress from the water for road ends, and post rules and regulations at each road end</p>

**Rationale**

(Some of the material appearing here and for the "Rationale" under other goals may also have been retained in "Community Description" for more intelligible reading.)

**Shorelines, Lake Views, and Vision and Student Sessions Support**

There are around 16 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and around 10 miles of Portage Lake shoreline on which people—the public and shoreline owners—can experience and enjoy lake views, utilize beaches,

and access the waters of Portage Lake and Lake Michigan in Onekama Township and Village. Many comments recorded by Beckett & Raeder during the two vision sessions and the student vision session support Goal 2, and its objectives and action programs:

"Unobstructed views of the lake" ranks seventh out of nineteen items and "lots of open space around lake" rank seventeenth out of nineteen items in the collective prioritization in the first of the two vision sessions. In the second session, "lake views preserved" (tenth out of thirteen items) and "accessible waterfront" (thirteenth out of thirteen items) also support Goal 2, and its objectives and action program. Mentioned in "The Preferred Future" of the second session are "more Village- and Township-owned land on lake," and "parks and boardwalk around the Lake."

In the Student vision session, the summary says that "overall, students in every grade expressed a desire to have more recreational and outdoor facilities in the form of parks, beach access, pathways, and skate parks." The Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel, Lake Michigan, and Pierport are favorite places to go marked on an Onekama area map by the students. Most locations marked are ones where the students can swim and recreate.

### ***Sand Dunes***

Sand dunes are found predominantly along the existing Lake Michigan shoreline, from the Township's southern boundary to about the middle of Section 16. The dunes separate Lake Michigan and Portage Lake. The Township has three different types of dunes: "Foredune ridges" are the first and newer dunes found along and closest to Lake Michigan. They are usually low and may have a vegetative cover of beach grass or no vegetation. There may be several ridges of these dunes.

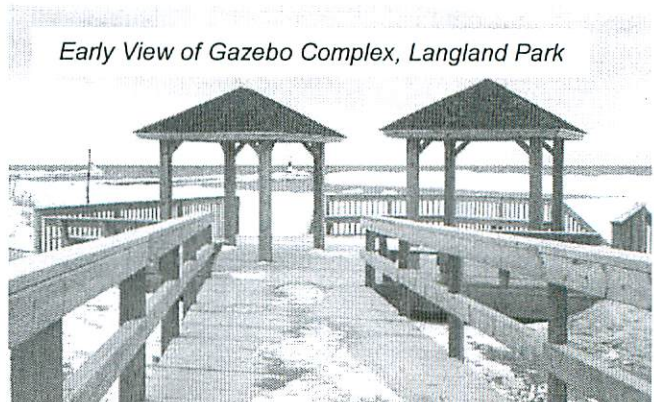
Parabolic dunes are the most common. The name is descriptive of their shape. The windward side (concave) faces the lake. These dunes are extensions of blowouts in dune ridges, and develop in height and length. They often are the older (farther inland) sand dunes that are higher and perched on top of glacial moraines. The third dune type is the wooded dune, where shifting dunes have developed a forest-floor cover.

The first two types of sand dunes particularly are always in a constant state of change; affected by wind erosion, lake (wave) erosion, lake levels, and groundwater levels. The soil particles of Michigan sand dunes are nearly 90 percent mineral quartz. Sand dunes are a relatively rare environment and in most cases are the subject of protective laws.

Often a dune environment supports unique plant communities and is considered fragile. Economical-recreational value is found in the use of the dunes by the tourists and residents seeking recreation. Lake Michigan sandy swimming and sunning beaches are often at the edges of these dunes; cottages are built in the dunes or at the lee edges of them; and the dunes provide a scenic ambience.

### ***Problems for Recreation Associated with Shifting Dunes***

The shifting dunes are along the Lake Michigan shoreline, where high winds cause the sand to move at an alarming rate, especially during the winter months. Regulations of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality protect the critical dunes, and special permits are often required to build there. But for recreation, the problems associated with keeping special structures clear and maintaining access through the dunes to the beaches are notable.

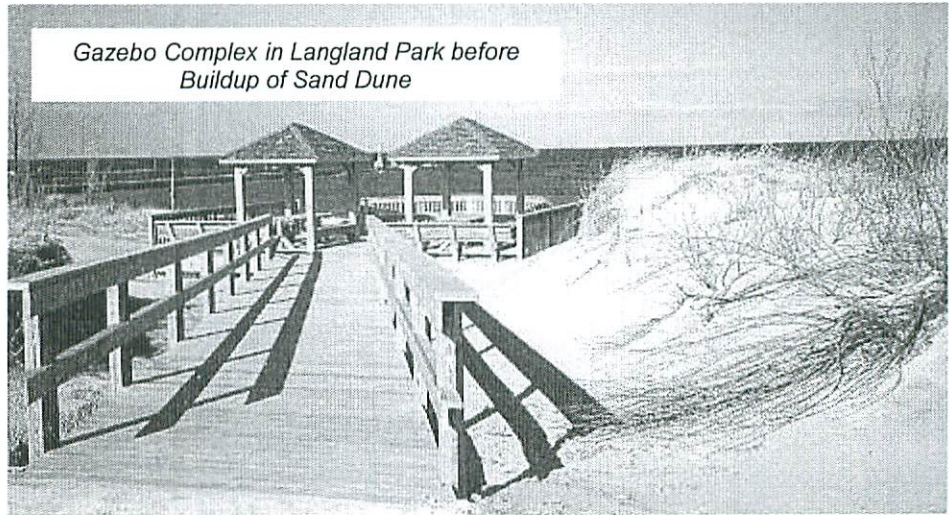




Each spring, it is an assured task that sand has to be removed from any structures that have been erected for viewing the Lake. These structures often have to be raised or lowered. Steps and boardwalks have to be replaced after being taken up in the fall to prevent them from being buried. Permits sometimes have to be obtained to remove the sand from the accesses to the beach.

The ongoing battle with the sand has to be kept in mind when designing any park facilities along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The Township constantly battles with sand at Langland Park (the Turnaround north of the Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel), where it has a deck with two gazebo-type structures.

After litigation between Onekama Township and the M-DEQ, an order was issued on October 5, 2005, indicating that a permit would not be issued for the removal of the dune surrounding this complex. Word was later received that by permit only 4 feet of sand could be removed around the complex and boardwalk to it. The Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation has had the sand removed since from the boardwalk and complex only, which has made it still usable as a viewing point of the Channel and Lake Michigan and as an access point to the Lake.



The gazebo complex is particularly enjoyed by the senior population. According to the 2000 census, there are 366 (out of 1,514 Village and Township residents) or 24.1 percent of the residents, 65 years and over. The seasonal population adds numbers to this age group (the 2000

census shows that 41.9 percent of the houses are homes for seasonal, recreational, and occasional use). The sand dune has cut off the view of the Lake from most of the parking lot. At the northwest corner of the parking lot, the dune was removed in the early 2000's for access to the Channel during renovation of the piers. The Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation also spends considerable money in maintaining and removing sand from the Sunset House, and boardwalks and stairs at the Lakeisle Avenue Road End at Lake Michigan. The Sunset House has been raised several times.

### ***Portage Lake Beaches***

The beaches along the Portage Lake shoreline have presented a different problem since the water has been so low. Plants that thrive in wet soils have come up in the sand, spoiling the beaches for many. Governmental agencies have claimed these are wetlands and should be protected as such. Permits are required from the M-DEQ for what is now called "mechanical beach grooming." When developing these areas for recreational purposes, the permits required for maintenance have to be obtained.

### ***Beaches on the Road Ends***

Enjoying the beaches on road ends for activities such as lounging, fire building, picnicking, and sunbathing is another problem; it has been ruled in Michigan court cases that road ends are only for the ingress and egress of those entering or leaving a lake and for reasonable public use of the water for boating, fishing, and swimming.

**Goal 3—Administer and publicize Onekama Village and Township parks and recreation to the best advantage of all**

Objectives	Action Programs
<p>Develop a sense of togetherness between the Village, Township, and School in regard to parks and recreation by holding meetings with and developing ideas from each entity of the community →</p>	<p>Hold regularly scheduled committee parks and recreation meetings having representatives from each entity committed to the idea of one community system of parks and recreation</p>
<p>Provide adequate funding for parks and recreation, including parks maintenance and improvements, for current and future needs using traditional and creative ways →</p>	<p>Obtain a millage (example, .25 mill) for parks and recreation</p> <p>Plant 5 to 20 acres of red pine trees at North Point Park for harvesting when mature</p> <p>Inform donors and potential donors of improvements in, and current status of, parks and recreation, particularly in instances where donated funds have been used</p> <p>Develop ways of soliciting new donors</p> <p>Establish Promotion Subcommittee of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Continue annual North Point Park Appreciation and Awareness Day during the Onekama Days summer celebration, inviting donors as well as the general public, and providing refreshments and nature walks; hold similar days or tours at other parks. Publicize North Point Park event early enough to appear in Onekama Days publicity</p> <p>Sell T-shirts, pens, glasses, mugs, caps, etc., advertising Onekama parks and recreation</p>
<p>Provide continual communication with and solicitation of feedback from the public for Onekama parks and recreation, including information and ideas for facilities, needs, events, and new additions. Facilitate this by developing a public relations subcommittee and exploring different ways of keeping the public informed and receiving feedback from it that can be used to determine the best way to implement plans →</p>	<p>Place monthly meeting minutes of parks and recreation committee on Onekama's web site and in newspaper</p> <p>Publish a monthly parks and recreation newsletter for donors and local taxpayers June-September</p>
<p>Increase usage of and encourage participation in parks and recreation by enlightening the public (residents, seasonal residents, and visitors alike) of locations, park amenities, and hours, and by scheduling special events →</p>	<p>Create a brochure of parks and recreation for residents, seasonal residents, and visitors to be placed in Library, Township Hall, Bank, restaurants, real estate offices, motels, etc.</p> <p>Establish a center for welcoming and providing information for visitors</p> <p>Maintain parks and recreation photographs and information on Onekama's web site</p>

	<p>List Onekama Township and Village parks in telephone directory information guides</p> <p>Install large map of Onekama Township and Village parks at Village Park; include location and features of each park</p> <p>Organize special events—such as Easter egg hunt, Fourth of July bike parade, and Halloween fun area with refreshments—through committees</p>
<p>Ensure input of Onekama Village and Township Community Parks and Recreation Committee into County parks and recreation plans and activities by appointment of at least one or preferably two members of the Committee to a planning body, recreation group, authority, parks commission, or advisory group for Manistee County that is established to facilitate, manage, monitor, and seek resources for implementing the <u>County Recreation Plan</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">→</p>	<p>When Manistee County advertises for members of parks and recreation bodies, seek appointment(s) immediately through the Onekama Village Council and Township Board</p>

### ***Rationale***

#### ***Community Efforts***

Although the Onekama Village and Township Community Parks and Recreation Committee has been a “joint” group with representatives from the Township, Village, and School for over a decade and gained approval in 2004 of The Portage Lake Community Five-Year Plan for Parks and Recreation in the Village of Onekama, Onekama Township, and the Onekama Consolidated Schools—the idea of a real community effort for parks and recreation between the three entities has been made more imperative now with the writing of the first Onekama Community Master Plan for Onekama Village and Township. A joint venture such as this for parks and recreation could provide much-needed funding through the passage of a millage for a real system of parks and recreation.

#### ***Vision Sessions Support***

The Community Master Plan is hoped to be a step toward a collaborative effort between the Village and Township for planning and zoning, and by many, a step toward a consolidation of the Village and Township Governments. During the first Beckett & Raeder vision session in collective prioritization ranking fifth out of nineteen items is “consolidate local government.” Eighteenth out of nineteen items is “keep infrastructure up to date.” Fourth out of thirteen items in the collective prioritization of the second vision session is “consolidated government.”

Communication for parks and recreation with the public is essential for the passage of a millage, soliciting funds, obtaining volunteers, and attaining optimal usage of programs and facilities. In “The Preferred Future” of the first Beckett & Raeder vision session, “better communication/promotion of local events” is mentioned. Several methods for this communication appear in the action program for the objectives of Goal 3. Not in the least is the seeking of appointment for members of the Community Parks and Recreation Committee to County Parks and Recreation committees or subcommittees.

In "The Preferred Future" of the second vision session, "welcome center" is mentioned, which is an excellent opportunity for communication with visitors to the community and is therefore included in the action program for the objectives of Goal 3. No items in the student session support the objectives or action program of Goal 3.

**Goal 4—Improve and enhance Onekama Village and Township marine facilities to attract Great Lakes, resident, and seasonal recreational boaters and fishermen**

Objectives	Action Programs
Obtain regular dredging of Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel; bring to completion the renovation of the Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel piers →	Campaign for legislation to provide Federal funding for dredging of Channel and for completion of renovation of the Channel piers
Establish a self-supporting transient public marina on Portage Lake with approximately fifty boat docks/slips →	Apply for State funding to hire an engineering firm to study the feasibility of establishing a small municipal marina near the Onekama Village Park  Study other public marinas located in villages similar to Onekama (Pentwater, Arcadia, etc.)
Solicit improvement of the M-DNR Access Site on Portage Lake, including dredging as needed to make boat launching more feasible; publicize the M-DNR Access Site locally →	Notify the M-DNR annually of improvements needed at the Access Site  Post signs at the Onekama Village Park indicating availability and location of the M-DNR Access Site
Upgrade boat launch at Onekama Village Park →	Add an additional launch lane at the Village Park boat launch and extend the length of both the existing and new launch lanes to conform to safe boat launch grades and the slope of the Portage Lake shoreline; do minor dredging

**Rationale**

***Portage Lake, the Channel, and Lake Michigan***

In Onekama Township, the predominate body of water besides Lake Michigan is Portage Lake in Sections 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36. Portage Lake, which is an inland lake covering 2,116 acres, provides direct access to Lake Michigan through the Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel with piers approximately 2,000-feet long and approximately 300-feet wide. Formed by glaciers, Portage Lake is a natural lake with maximum depths in two areas of up to 60 feet. The mean depth is 19 feet. Lake Michigan bounds the Township entirely on the west.

Portage Lake is a natural harbor of refuge for recreational boats on Lake Michigan. The Channel between Lake Michigan and Portage Lake is supposed to be dredged to chart datum, 10 feet deep, 100 feet wide. It is shallower on both sides of the maintained center. With the last renovation of the piers being done in 1940, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers began renovating the Channel piers once more in 2001, which has provided a sheet-steel encasement with a new concrete cap for the piers extending into Lake Michigan. The early timber-crib substructures were replaced with stone. The piers are used for

fishing and for viewing the water. The Portage Street Walkway, allowing access to the south pier for fishermen, was finished in 2007.

### ***Recreational Activities***

Portage Lake, the Channel, and Lake Michigan are key resources for recreational activities in Onekama Township and Village. They provide the water for motorboating, sailboating, water and jet skiing, surfboarding, swimming, and fishing (ice fishing in Portage Lake during the winter).

Fish abound in the Lake Michigan and Portage Lake waters of Onekama Village and Township. Lake trout, steelhead, coho salmon, chinook salmon, and brown trout entice fishermen in Lake Michigan. The waters have been made more plentiful with fish due to large plants of steelhead and Chinook salmon by the M-DNR. Some of the streams that bring clear spring water into Portage Lake also contain fish. In the inland waters are often found trout, walleye, pike, bass, perch, and a wide variety of panfish.

### ***Channel Work and Dredging***

The Channel work ended, incomplete, by 2003 as funding ran out. Due to low water levels in the lakes and the lack of funds for dredging the Channel, it became dangerously choked with sand resulting in a serious boating accident in July, 2007. In March, 2006, a local marina owner, Jim Mrozinski, organized a campaign for Federal funds for the dredging. Many letters were written to Washington. Officials also were contacted personally. The dredging did not occur until 2008; it was completed in early August with a dredge of 13 feet. Concerns still are being voiced, however, about the condition of the piers where work was not completed.

### ***Portage Lake Harbor Commission***

In part because of these concerns with the Channel, a seven-member Portage Lake Harbor Commission was established by resolution at the Onekama Township Board meeting on July 10, 2007, with Jim Mrozinski as chairperson. Its purpose is to procure the maintenance dredging for the Portage Lake Harbor and the finalization of the rebuilding of the pier structures. It also shall address additional water-related harbor issues in conjunction with other local and environmental groups concerning water quality, shoreline protection, a municipal marina, and the monitoring of Portage Lake for undesirable species of fish and dangerous weed growth. In addition, it will support law enforcement efforts regarding safe boating and education. The Commission since has become involved with the founding of the Michigan Small Harbor Coalition.

### ***Vision Sessions Support***

Because of the concerns with the Channel, the objectives and action program for this goal involve campaigning for regular dredging of the Channel and for bringing to completion the work on the piers. However, in the Beckett & Raeder first vision session collective prioritization, "Village public marina" ranked ninth out of nineteen items, so an objective with action program items also was written for this issue.

In "The Preferred Future" of the first vision session, "more boat ramp parking," "usable boat launch on Andy's Point," and "schedule Channel dredging" are mentioned. An objective and an action program item were written regarding the DNR Access Site on Portage Lake, which is on Andy's Point.

"More boat ramp parking" is included with an action program item about parking in the Onekama Village Park work outlined under Goal 5, which involves improving and enhancing facilities for Onekama Village and Township parks and recreation. The upgrading of the boat launch in the Park, which is included as an objective with an action program item for the goal regarding marine facilities, is not mentioned in the collective prioritization or "The Preferred Future" of the vision sessions; however, the need is well known.

In the second-session collective prioritization, “public marina” ranks eleventh out of thirteen items. In “The Preferred Future” of the second vision session, “Channel breakwaters completed with benches on the jetty” is one of the items that received three or more votes from each table. “Good fishing” is mentioned in “The Preferred Future” of the second vision session. There is no mention of any items that would have supported this goal in the student session.

### Goal 5—Improve and enhance facilities for Onekama Village and Township parks and recreation for optimal use by residents, seasonal residents, and visitors

Objectives	Action Programs
<p>Work with community organizations—such as Portage Lake Association, Lions Club, Portage Lake Garden Club, and Jr. Clío Club—to accomplish needed maintenance, repairing, planning, and upgrading in the Onekama Village Park</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→</p>	<p>Clear out scrub trees and brush around Memorial Fountain</p> <p>Cut and replace trees as needed</p> <p>Maintain picnic tables and cooking grills</p> <p>Reconfigure parking; provide additional parking for boat ramp and general Park use; provide two-three overnight parking spaces for RV’s on first-come, first-served basis</p> <p>Remove basketball equipment and lights from tennis courts, and resurface them, adding fencing</p> <p>Renovate bathhouse into toilet-only facility by removing outside walls (in which vertical block alignment has caused cracks) and showers, repairing floors, and painting building</p> <p>Upgrade electrical service in and around pavilion and around Fountain</p> <p>Remove existing slides and replace with safer recreational items; add safe play equipment appropriate for children of two-five years</p> <p>Re-landscape Park, including leveling ground and planting grass</p> <p>Place RV dump site at old fish station</p> <p>Erect a second pavilion</p> <p>Plan for future needs and upgrades in the Onekama Village Park by using public input; determine best ways to implement plans</p> <p>Mechanically groom beaches</p>
<p>Upgrade, preserve, and enhance Farr Center for public meetings and events</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→</p>	<p>Put on new asphalt shingle roof; possibly reconfigure roof to eliminate future leaks</p> <p>Purchase round lightweight tables for hall</p> <p>Rehabilitate floor in hall</p>

	<p>Establish a small meeting/conversation area in corner of hall (8-foot by 10-foot rug, three chairs, and small table)</p> <p>Place lightweight curtains at windows</p> <p>Upgrade kitchen of hall to conform to health requirements and regulations for meal preparation on site</p> <p>Make kitchen more user-friendly for those renting Farr Center</p>
Provide picnic tables at all parks and on road ends where appropriate →	Survey sites to determine picnic tables needed; plan for winter storage
Finish landscaping at main entrance and parking lot at North Point Park →	<p>Remove and control remaining unwanted brush and vines</p> <p>Plant dogwood, hawthorn, pine, and spruce</p>
Landscape at Feldhak Park →	Add native trees and plants that do not interfere with Portage Lake view
Provide a clean, safe beach at Langland Park (Channel Turnaround) →	<p>Mechanically groom beach</p> <p>Add fire rings for beach cleanliness and safety</p> <p>Provide boardwalk from gazebo complex to Channel north pier</p>

### ***Rationale***

#### ***Onekama Village Park, and Vision and Student Sessions Support***

The Onekama Village Park has been heavily used by residents and seasonal residents, and visitors in Onekama Village and Township since the Park's development during 1939. It is not surprising, then, that it is often mentioned in the vision and youth sessions of Beckett & Raeder. In "The Preferred Future" of the first vision session, "inviting parks, improved Village Park" and "more boat ramp parking" are mentioned. In "The Preferred Future" of the second vision session, "nice park and beach around Lake" and "lots of trees and flowers in the Park" are mentioned.

In their session, thirty of forty-nine students ranked recreational and community facilities as "poor." In marking a location on the Onekama area map in need of the most attention for future planning efforts, students in their vision session chose the Onekama Village Park ("needs improvement") in addition to School, Portage Lake ("dead fish in lake"), and Village of Onekama. In the summary for the student session is written, "overall, students in every grade expressed a desire to have more recreational and outdoor facilities in the form of parks, beach access, pathways, and skate parks."

The Onekama Village Park has depended greatly on the volunteer efforts and monetary investments of civic groups to develop and maintain Park facilities; continuance of these acts of generosity is reflected in the current objectives and action program items for the Park. The Portage Lake Garden Club has long been involved with landscaping in the Onekama Village Park. The Club had the frontage along Main Street filled and erected the Memorial Fountain in 1951, which was one of pair of fountains that originally stood on the lawn of the Manistee County Courthouse that burned in 1950.

**Farr Center**

Similar civic involvement has been evident and must continue in the upgrading, preservation, and enhancement of Farr Center, which is used by some of these groups as a meeting place. At Farr Center, outdoor landscaping and the Butterfly Garden are to the Portage Lake Garden Club’s credit. The Club recently installed a memorial patio with an artistic bench in the shape of a butterfly.

**North Point Park**

North Point Park has flourished through the generosity of individuals. During the summer of 2008, Boy Scout Thomas Koon, along with his parents Tom and Sally Koon of Onekama, undertook clearing brush at the main entrance of the Park, adding landscaping stone and plants, and erecting additional split-rail fencing. Thomas Koon was assisted by his fellow Boy Scouts and friends with these and other North Point Park projects. The projects were scheduled for Koon to earn his Eagle Scout rank.

**Feldhak Park**

Some landscaping would make Feldhak Park more attractive, although the Park is principally a “view park,” where landscaping should not interfere for those wishing to see the Lake.

**Beach Enhancement**

Since the nearby City of Manistee will lease its beach-cleaning equipment with operator, mechanical beach grooming has become a desirable action item, both for the Onekama Village Park and Langland Park (Channel Turnaround), where the beaches are primary attractions. Fire rings also are desired at Langland Park to contain the beach fires and to locate them at a safe distance from the gazebo complex.



*Small Town Design Initiative  
Boardwalk Design for Feldhak Park*

**Goal 6—To promote healthful living for adult and youngster residents and seasonal residents—provide new facilities and enhance existing facilities for walking, hiking, exercising, biking, sports, roller skating/blading, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and ice skating**

Objectives	Action Programs
Build new and improve existing sidewalks throughout the Township for those who wish to walk and bike for exercise and for enjoyment →	Clean debris from and repair or replace existing sidewalk where needed on west edge of Portage Point Road south of the Portage Point Inn; extend sidewalk along Second Street to Langland Park  Replace sidewalk on Lakeview Avenue from Outlet Avenue to Portage Lake Avenue in Portage Park buried during seawall construction along Portage Lake
Create indoor facilities for walking and exercising during inclement weather →	Provide community-accessible year-around walking track and fitness equipment in new gymnasium (with a projected cost of \$4.6 million) that is included in \$14.1 million Onekama School building project



<p>Offer fitness and recreation classes after school, during evenings, and during summer through community education program →</p>	<p>Provide recreational opportunities on newly renovated (with a projected cost of \$725,000) Onekama School campus football, softball, track, and soccer fields</p> <p>Designate an Onekama School employee to develop and supervise a regular after-school exercise program for community use</p> <p>Support and promote community education programs for fitness and recreation of the Onekama School through increased publicity</p>
<p>Provide a variety of trails, including those for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling →</p>	<p>Purchase and develop appropriate private land (abandoned railroad right-of-way) that could be used for a variety of trails, including those for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling</p>
<p>Create fields in community for sports for adults and youngsters for soccer, baseball, and volleyball →</p>	<p>Build playing field as originally suggested by the Small Town Design Initiative of Michigan State University's Landscape Architecture Program in a location remote from the Blanche Miller Trail in North Point Park; field should be on 2 acres to accommodate a variety of sports</p>
<p>Construct an exercise trail, with instructions and designated points to stop and exercise, with appropriate accessories to help a person at each location →</p>	<p>Establish a fitness circuit in Rotary Park and/or North Point Park</p>
<p>Create opportunities locally for skating →</p>	<p>Provide an inside roller rink for roller skating/blading for adults and youngsters that would not only provide facilities for this activity but that would also promote fellowship among the participants</p> <p>Create a pond for winter ice skating with a fire ring for daytime and evening use by adults and youngsters that would also promote fellowship among the participants</p>
<p>Provide information as to distance and route of trails for persons using them →</p>	<p>Post signs showing map of Trail at two entrances of North Point Park</p> <p>Post signs showing map of trail at two entrances of Glen Park</p>

### ***Rationale***

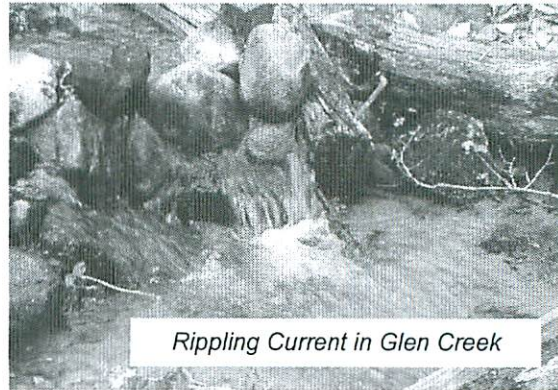
(Some of the material appearing here and for the "Rationale" under other goals may also have been retained in "Community Description" for more intelligible reading.)

### ***Recreational Activities for Healthful Living***

Recreational activities are the most talked-about today for healthful living (especially weight control) for young and old alike. There are many opportunities for recreational activities in Onekama Village and Township that are available to residents and seasonal residents the year around.

## ***Outdoor Recreational Activities***

What is it that makes outdoor recreational activities different and enjoyable in Onekama Village and Township? Is it the sweet smell of cedar from the everpresent arbor vitae? Is it the sand underfoot? Is it being near water almost everywhere one turns? Or, is it seeing the glittering sunlight among the deep shadows of the forests? How about hearing the distant roar of the waves when being near Lake Michigan, or the rippling current of a nearby brook? Perhaps, it is the songs of the birds or the calls of waterfowl? Or, is it encountering almost head-on a herd of deer or a flock of turkeys?



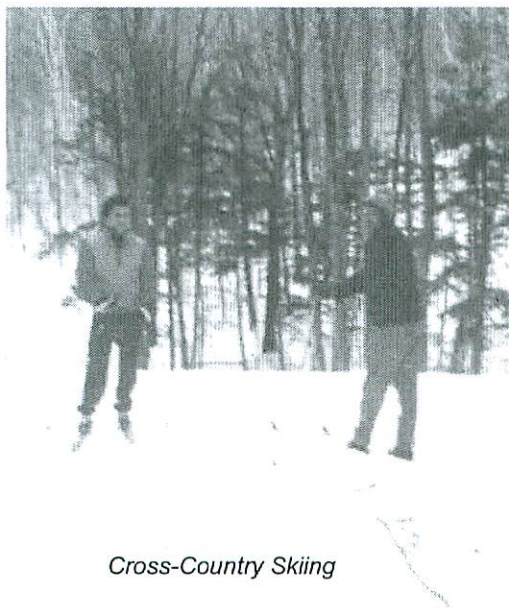
*Rippling Current in Glen Creek*

## ***Recreational Activities and Climate***

At this point, it is appropriate to say something about the climate in Onekama Village and Township, because it certainly factors in the comfort and location of recreational activities. The climate in Onekama Village and Township is tempered by the westerly winds over the waters of Lake Michigan (lake effect), the shore of which borders the Township on the west. In the summer, the breezes off of Lake Michigan have a cooling effect, especially along the shoreline.

Summer day temperatures often fluctuate between 65 degrees and 85 degrees. Extremes have seen the temperatures rise into the nineties. Summer night temperatures, of course, fall back. The air is relatively humidity-free during most summer days, making the heat "dry." These weather conditions are ideal for many outdoor recreational activities. And, watching the sun "disappear" into Lake Michigan as night comes on is an experience that only can be equaled by seeing the moon set into the Lake during early morning.

There definitely are four seasons in this climate. Fall often brings lake storms with high winds, huge waves, and heavy sleet and rain, as the cooler air fights with the still-warm lake waters. But, there are beautiful days with blue skies and deep blue waters that reflect the vibrant colors that develop, especially in the leaves of the maple trees.



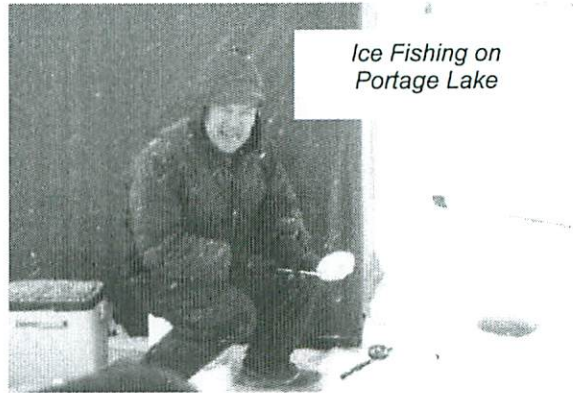
*Cross-Country Skiing*

Winter winds pick up moisture from the lake water, bringing lake-effect snow as the winds deposit the moisture onto the land in a frozen form. The average snowfall for Manistee County, according to the Manistee County Road Commission, is around 116 inches, with the highest snowfall being 188 inches in the winter of 1996-1997 and the lowest being 50.5 inches during the 1982-1983 winter. These figures are according to recent records kept by the Road Commission. The problem of measuring the snowfall is often compounded by the winds blowing the snow into drifts. The blowing snow also sometimes creates white-out conditions, causing visibility problems similar to those created by fog.

These same winds, though, temper the harshness of the winter temperatures, most of which are between 10 and 40 degrees. Extreme temperatures are considered those that are around zero and below. In Onekama Township, the winter and snow are wonderful for recreation in the form of ice skating, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling,

although these activities really are not greatly organized.

Other recreational activities must seek the indoors for the winter; and the provision of facilities for the Community at the Onekama School is very important during the colder months of the year, although Community fitness and recreational activity programs at the School are vital to Village and Township recreation at all times of the year. Exercise trails and fields at other locations in the community are necessary, too, for use when facilities at the School are not available to the public because of student utilization of them.



*Ice Fishing on Portage Lake*

The days lengthen as the shadows shorten during the sun's return north in the winter and spring. The trees leaf out usually in middle to late May, just after a beautiful "blossom festival" is provided by the trees in the apple, peach, and cherry orchards in Onekama Township. A tour of these orchards in the Township and the surrounding area is definitely a memorable experience.

***Vision and Student Sessions Support***

Comments recorded by Beckett & Raeder during the two vision sessions and the student session that support Goal 6, its objectives, and action programs are as follows: In the collective prioritization of the first vision session, "hike and bike trail" is fourth out of nineteen items. "Sidewalks" is sixteenth out of nineteen. "Bike paths" is seventh out of thirteen items in the collective prioritization of the second vision session. "More opportunities for winter sports" is mentioned in "The Preferred Future" of the second vision session.

In the student session, the summary indicates that the students are "least favorable to Onekama's recreational and outdoor facilities, economic development, and local transportation system. Overall, students in every grade expressed a desire to have more recreational and outdoor facilities in the form of parks, beach access, pathways, and skate parks. A preference for outdoor recreation also showed up in the map exercise. . . ." "Non-motorized pathways and sidewalks" is listed as one of the "important issues that should be addressed in Onekama's community plan..." in the youth vision session.

**Goal 7—Provide recreation programs for resident and seasonal youth of the community in parks and school facilities in association with the Onekama Consolidated Schools**

Objectives	Action Programs
Provide instruction in various sports and activities (soccer, basketball, softball, etc.) to develop basic skills for youth. Use local coaches and volunteers →	Request a grant to set up programs for groups of not more than twenty-five youth, and to purchase equipment, pay instructors, and maintain facilities
Develop summer day camp activities →	At North Point Park, build a covered shelter to afford shade and provide portable toilet facilities; plan weekly programs of crafts, hiking, stories for kids, and picnic lunches for groups of not more than twenty-five youth; staff with a director and volunteers

## ***Rationale***

### ***Student Population***

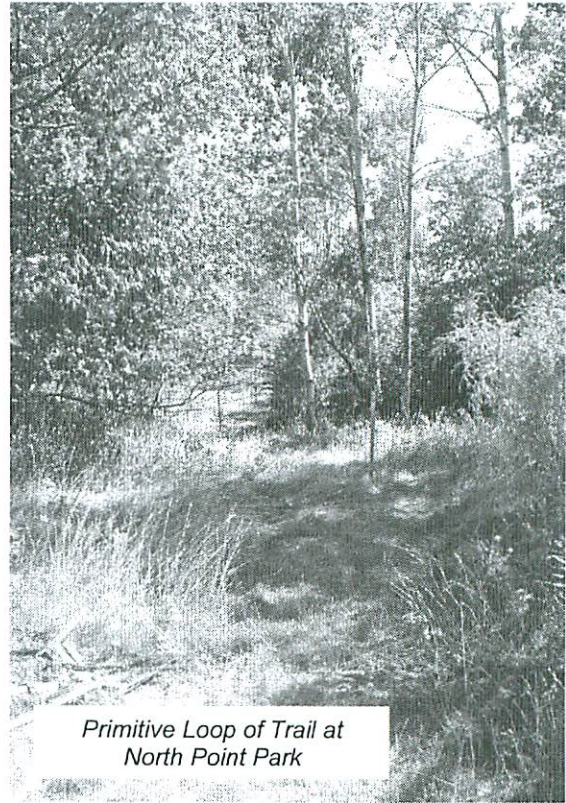
According to the 2000 census, 18.7 percent or 282 of the 1,514 residents of Onekama Village and Township are school-age children of 5-19 years. The 2000 census shows that 97 of this age group are 16-19 years; of which 18 (18.6 percent) were employed. The seasonal population adds numbers to this age group (the 2000 census shows that 41.9 percent of the houses are homes for seasonal, recreational, and occasional use).

These figures indicate that there are sufficient numbers of school-age children who could participate in youth recreation programs designed for small groups. As the 2000 census shows only 15.3 percent or 44 of the 288 resident students under 18 years as being below poverty level, program fees might be applicable for those who could afford them, with sponsored participation being available for those who could not afford them.

### ***School Involvement, and Vision and Student Sessions Support***

Through grant funding, the involvement of the Onekama School is imperative in staffing these programs as well as providing some of the facilities. The \$14.1 million dollar construction program—which will provide a new gymnasium (with a projected cost of \$4.6 million), a new cafetorium (with a projected cost of \$1.9 million), and renovated athletic fields (with a projected cost of \$725,000)—has been made possible by a millage that is paid by both residents and seasonal residents who pay property taxes in Onekama Village and Township.

As can be seen by the listing of "greater use of schools" as ranking eighth out of thirteen items in the collective prioritization of the second Beckett & Raeder vision session, there is some expectation by the community of its use of the Onekama School. However, there is no other listing of any item regarding the



*Primitive Loop of Trail at  
North Point Park*

*Site of New Gymnasium and Cafetorium at  
Onekama School*



goal involving recreation programs for youth in the report for the adult vision sessions. In the student session, recreational and community facilities are given a "poor" rating by thirty of the fifty-eight students when they were asked to rank items regarding the community. In defining the five most important issues that should be addressed in Onekama's Community Master Plan, "recreational opportunities/youth activities" is listed.

## Goal 8—Highlight, enhance, and preserve the historical resources of Onekama Township

Objectives	Action Programs
<p>Present the Township history by marking historical sites and displaying historical artifacts that can be experienced and enjoyed by all who appreciate the past →</p>	<p>Obtain and erect a Michigan State Register of Historic Sites informational marker in Glen Park</p> <p>Publicize and encourage use of Glen Park through historical brochure with map of trails, and identification of flora and fauna (brochure similar to <u>Walking with Nature</u> published for North Point Park)</p> <p>Find a suitable location for and erect the 1930-1985 steel-skeleton pierhead light tower from the Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel</p> <p>Establish a museum in a building that would accommodate exhibits recalling the history of the Township and its lakes</p>

### Rationale

#### Area's Rich Historical Past

The area's rich historical past cannot be ignored as source of interest, information, and entertainment for residents, seasonal residents, and visitors alike. It is an attraction that should not be overlooked. As with many of the shoreline Lake Michigan lands, and resulting towns and villages, lumbering is in the past of Onekama Village and Township.

There is the 1871 opening of the Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel, dug by homesteaders who did not like the flooding of their lands and the expensive toll for the use of the Lake Michigan pier—both caused by the milling company that had a water-powered mill on Portage Creek, the only outlet to Lake Michigan from Portage Lake. The milling company dammed Portage Creek higher and higher, but the Channel, when dug, lowered the level of Portage Lake 8-14 feet.



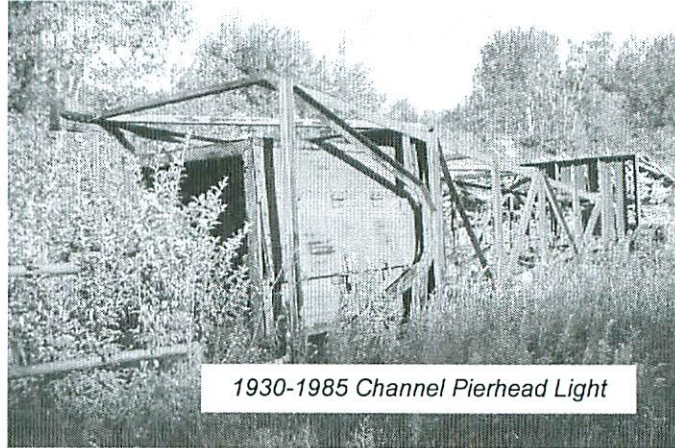
*Glen Park Sign at Main Street and Fourth Avenue*

And then, there is Glen Park, with its bubbling springs and creek recalling the first bona fide resort in Manistee County, which was established by the Onekama Lumber Company. Gone is the 1886 Glen House hotel, which accommodated one hundred guests; but the spring tiles still remain and yield mineral waters under recreated wellhouses. Paths, bridges, and stairs lead visitors to this historic site. The resort areas of the Township have fascinating histories themselves.

#### The 1930-1985 Pierhead Light

The steel-skeleton tower that served as the 1930-1985 pierhead light on the north pier of the Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel is an historical "artifact" that needs to be placed on a site near water. After

this interesting structure was removed from the Channel, the tower, with its bunker for the acetylene tanks, was erected at a marina in Manistee, which was demolished in 1997. The Portage Lake Association of Onekama was then given possession of the light tower, which has been stored at Domres Construction on U. S. 31 near Norwalk ever since. It has been primed with a rust retardant, and the Association has an approximately \$5,000 fund to apply toward its erection.



1930-1985 Channel Pierhead Light

### ***Historical Sites***

There are sixty-six historical sites listed and marked on maps (see pages A-27-A-29) that are a part of a brochure, Historic Sites—Pierport, Portage Lake, Onekama, that was distributed by the Onekama Village and Township Community Parks and Recreation Committee in 2002. These are sites that are visible from public streets and can be enjoyed by anyone who is interested, although the sites are not, in most cases, open to the public. There is one site that is on the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites; one site that is on the National Register of Historic Places; and three sites that are on both the State and National Registers. Eight Centennial Farms are listed. Historical and current photographs of these sites have been placed on the Onekama web site, [www.onekamainfo/](http://www.onekamainfo/).

### ***A Museum?***

Obviously, a museum building would bring together and identify in a logical sense the intriguing history that the Village and Township possess. An ideal building would be one that also could contribute to the historical theme in itself.

### ***Vision and Student Session Support***

Comments recorded by Beckett & Raeder during the two adult vision sessions and the student vision session that support Goal 8, its objectives, and action program are as follows:



Historic Pierport Farmhouse

In the collective prioritization of the first vision session, nothing referring to historical resources ranked; however, in “The Preferred Future,” “museum with historical landmarks identification” and “consistent architectural look-maintain historic ‘cottage’ tradition” are mentioned. In the collective prioritization of the second vision session, “museum” ranks twelfth out of thirteen items. In “The Preferred Future” of the second vision session, one of the items that

received three or more votes from each table is “placement of 1930 steel light tower from Portage Channel pier.” There is no discussion of historical resources in the report of the student session.

## Goal 9--Highlight and enhance the cultural resources of Onekama Village and Township

Objectives	Action Programs
Utilize auditorium facilities for the community in the new cafeteria (projected cost of \$1.9 million) included in the recent Onekama School \$14.1 million building project →	Present concerts year-around by local and regional artists for enjoyment of residents, seasonal residents, and visitors

### *Rationale*

#### ***New Cafetorium***

The Portage Lake Association has sponsored Concerts in the Park (Onekama Village Park) since at least 1999. These feature entertainment mostly by local talent and are looked forward to each season. A part of the attraction to these concerts is that they are being held outdoors during the summer. But, they are not possible in inclement summer weather and during other seasons of the year. This goal is an important one in that its objective and action program item would provide a community use for the auditorium facilities in the new cafeteria (with a projected cost of \$1.9 million) in the recent \$14.1 million building project at the Onekama School.

#### ***Vision Sessions Support***

In the Beckett & Raeder first vision session, “concerts in the park” is mentioned for “The Preferred Future.” In the second vision session, “more public use of the schools for the community” and “vibrant arts community” are items that received three or more votes from each table, and “year-round concerts” and “Onekama Park is completely redone and improved with bandshell” are mentioned for “The Preferred Future.” There are no items listed in the student session supporting this goal’s objective and action program.

*Demolition of the 1930's Onekama School for New Gymnasium and Cafetorium*

