

VILLAGE OF BELLAIRE

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN



2007-2012 Recreation Plan

VILLAGE OF BELLAIRE PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN	
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COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Village of Bellaire Recreation Plan will cover those facilities located within the Village limits. Bellaire is a small community of close to 1200 residents. The Village is split in the middle by two townships, Forest Home and Kearney, but they each have their own plan. This plan encompasses all public facilities for recreation within the Village limits, but does not include private recreation such as theatres, put-put golf, etc.

Bellaire is approximately 2 miles square and the Intermediate River splits it in half. The Village intends to continue to provide high quality recreational opportunities to both residents and visitors. The Village will consider and pursue appropriate opportunities to develop, expand and/or improve the recreational facilities as such opportunities arise.

The mix of Village owned facilities such as Richardi Park and Craven Park and privately owned (Shanty Creek) facilities offers a wide range of passive and active recreational opportunities. A description of these facilities is included in the recreation inventory, later in this document. Bellaire is committed to maintaining existing facilities and will carefully consider the maintenance requirements of any additional facilities.

As a recreation service provider, the Village recognizes the importance of planning for future recreation services and facilities

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Administrative Structure and Funding

The Village of Bellaire Parks and Recreation Commission serves as an advisory board to the Village of Bellaire Parks Committee. The Parks Committee in turn provides information through its Council Executive to the Planning Commission. If the need arises the committees will hold joint meetings. The Parks and Recreation Commission has eleven members, (with representation from the two townships, the Village Council, Lions Club, Rotary Club, School District athletic department, soccer association, softball league and 4-H) and provides recreational recommendations regarding land, facilities and programs. The Planning Commission is responsible for preparing the recreation plan and updating the plan. The Village Council has final authority for recreational policy, administration and funding. The recreation plan must be adopted by resolution by the Village Council after a public hearing.

The Bellaire Village Council consists of seven members: the president and six council members and is supported by the Council Executive/Clerk. The day-to-day operation and maintenance for the parks is provided by the Village Department of Public Works. The Department of Public Works has a staff of five who are responsible for the maintenance of the parks in addition to the other public infrastructure responsibilities for the Village (including streets, municipal water and wastewater facilities). The Village of Bellaire does not have a recreation director, but does hire a seasonal caretaker to maintain Craven Park and clean the restrooms at Craven and Richardi Park.

Other recreational facilities and activities utilized by local residents are administered both formally and informally by organizations serving multiple jurisdictions. The Village of Bellaire is located within the Bellaire School District, making most of that district's recreational facilities and activities available to village residents. Village youth may also participate in non-school related recreation organizations such as 4-H, little league, baseball, softball and soccer, and Pop Warner football. Most of these activities are played and practiced for on Village facilities.

The recreation budget has managed to stay stable in recent years due to the generous contributions by community and service groups, earmarked for special projects, such as the Rotary Park Soccer fields. Additionally, little league, co-ed soccer, and Bellaire Schools have

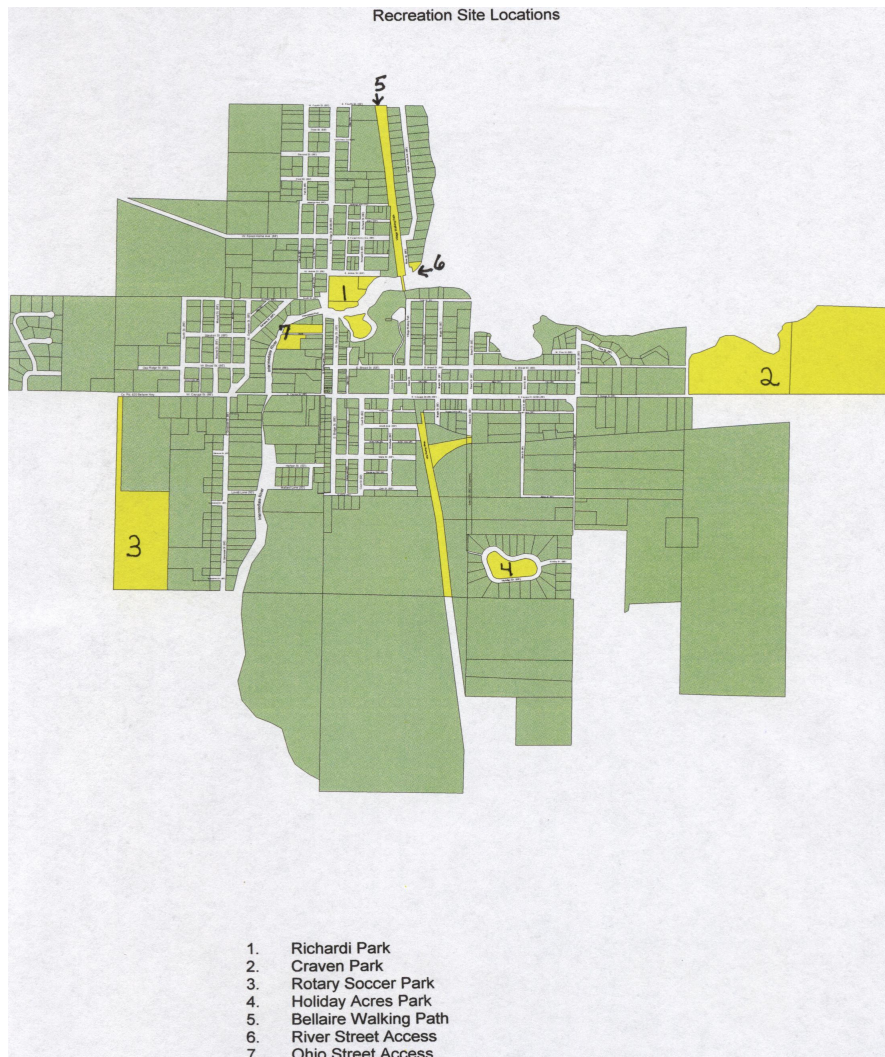
donated time and materials to various projects in their interest groups. The recreational facilities for the Bellaire Schools are critical. With a small rural school, the maintaining of numerous facilities becomes costly. They contract yearly with the Village of Bellaire for the use of Craven, Richardi Parks, and the Soccer field for high school sports and physical education classes.

As there are water access sites within the Village, they work with the Antrim Conservation District to do erosion work on their public access sites. The District provides the technical assistance and staff, while the Village provides the funding, helping out the budget restraints of the District.

Park and Recreation Area Inventory

Park Type	Park name	Size	Service Area
Community Park	Richardi	8 acres	Village and surrounding townships
Sports Complex-Camping	Craven	80 acres	Village and surrounding townships
Special Use	Rotary Soccer Park	10 acres	Village and surrounding townships
Neighborhood	Holiday Acres	4 acres	Neighborhood
Community Park	Bellaire Walking Path	2 ½ miles	Village and surrounding townships
Special Use	River Street Access Site	< 1 acre	Village and surrounding townships
Special Use	Ohio Street Access Site	<1 acre	Village and surrounding townships

Recreational Sites Map



Name	Location	Accessibility Assessment	Support Facilities	
Richardi Park	E. Antrim St.	3	Beach Tennis Courts Picnic Area Picnic Pavilion Gazebo Barbecue Grills Restrooms Walking Path	Playground Equipment Transportation Station-play area Basketball Courts (3) Ice Rink Areas (2) Fishing Area Spillway Nature Trail
Craven Park	Derenzy Road and E. Cayuga	1	Picnic Area, Parking Playground Equipment Fishing & Boat Access Nature Trails (1.6m)	Campsites (30) Restrooms W/ Showers Ball Diamonds (3) field lighting sprinkler system electric scoreboard concession stand
Rotary Soccer Park	Bellaire Highway	4	Parking- gravel area	Soccer fields
Holiday Acres Park	Holiday Acres Subdivision	1	Playground equipment	
Bellaire Walking Path	Abandoned Railroad	4	Partially paved walking path.	
River Street Access	River Street off Antrim Street	3	Boat Dock/Ramp	Car and Trailer Parking
Ohio Street Access	Ohio Street off Bridge Lane	3	Boat Dock and Ramp	Car and Trailer Parking

DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

1978- Craven Park Upgrades building a bathhouse for the campground and installing sewer and water

1999- Richardi Park to build a new bathhouse

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Discussion of the Plan Development Process

The Bellaire Planning Commission along with the Village Council has during the past 2 years had ongoing conversations about our parklands and the need and use of them by our residents. Due to the amount of parks in the Village and their non-taxable status, the Village must carefully consider the ongoing maintenance costs when deciding on upgrades and improved facilities.

Description of the Key Persons Involved in the Process

Village Residents – a copy of the original survey and its results are attached that was developed to obtain input from the Village residents. (Attachment A) The survey was publicized in the paper and available at the Village offices for three months. Additionally, there were two elections held during that period, and the survey was available for the voters to pick up. The Village also provided the plan electronically for those that requested it. Their comments are incorporated into the plan.

The Village Board and Planning Commission provided input and direction on various aspects of the plan. They also provided recreational inventories and review process, along with budget information.

Overall Description of Public Input Process and How Results were Used in Plan Development

The Village residents were given multiple opportunities to answer survey questions and to talk one on one with the Council Executive. The Council Executive is in consistent communication with residents and discussed their ideas and the Village plans. These conversations provided valuable input into activities that are included in the plan under future development.

The draft plan was sent out to residents and the Village Council, along with various residents and non-residents that requested draft copies. These groups provided input to be used in further drafts.

Description and Dates of Public Input Method(s) Used

January 1, 2006	Survey sent out
May 16, 2006 –	First public, facilitated meeting – over 25 residents in attendance
June 6, 2006-	Second Open public meeting – 18 residents attended
August 22, 2006 -	First follow up meeting where ideas from 1 st and 2 nd meeting items were put into a draft plan.
October 2006 –	Plan sent to people who requested final draft and an announcement was in the paper for final review of the plan by citizens

November 2, 2006

Anticipated the final public meeting. New people attended and added so much to the plan that we decided to revise the plan and represent it in January.

January 2007

Final document ready for review

The final public hearing on the plan was held on March 7, 2007

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Provide opportunities for young people to interact with community leaders and authority figures in a positive fun atmosphere
2. Provide summer recreational programs for area young people
3. Provide water recreation at campground
4. Provide more camping opportunities
5. Provide an alternative to computer and TV surfing for the younger residents
6. Provide an opportunity for adults and young people to interact in some type of physical activities
7. Have recreational opportunities to take advantage of all Michigan seasons
8. Identify the recreational opportunities with proper signage
9. Improve river passage and access to allow water and pedestrian traffic to access Village water access sites
10. Provide our residents with convenient walking facilities to access the different Parks and downtown area.

Community Population

The Village's population was 1104 in the 1990 Census, and has increased slightly over the past ten years—5.4% between 1990 and 2000. The population distribution by age and gender are described in table form later in the document.

As a resort community, the Village's recreation planning must take into account not only permanent residents of the Village, but also seasonal visitors who maintain second residences in the area or attend the many festivals which take place in the Village in the spring and summer.

Village General Fund Budget and Recreation Expenditures, 2004-2006		
VILLAGE GENERAL FUND BUDGET		
for Fiscal Years ending February 28		
2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
\$ 583,835.29	\$ 537,886.42	\$ 582,875.92
RECREATION EXPENDITURES		
\$ 107,112.31	\$ 106,876.37	\$ 101,397.01
Source: Village of Bellaire, Village Treasurer, 2007		

Employment Trends

The Village has prospered over the last twenty years. As the following table shows, the number of jobs in the Village has increased by nearly 42% since 1970, and the unemployment rate has increased only 7% in the same time period. This improvement has taken place due to the amount of population growth in the area, demanding new services and opportunities.

Village Employment and Unemployment Rate, 1990-2000

Year	Employment	Unemployment Rate
1990	500	3.6%
2000	541	3.4%

*Source: Michigan Department of Career Development,
Office of Labor Market Analysis Section*

Number and Location of Households

The 2000 Census indicates the Village has 661 households. The residential units of the Village have two high-density areas. Those density areas are comprised of the Village of Bellaire and Shanty Creek Resort. The remainders of the households in the Village are basically rural homes spread throughout the Village. Although counted as one household, there is a large assisted living and elderly residential care facility run by the County, that houses over 125 residents that may be from any part of the County. There are some smaller apartment buildings, a few upstairs apartments, and newly built senior apartments close to a traditional downtown area in the Village of Bellaire.

Population Trends

The makeup of the Village's population has changed significantly over the last 30 years. As the following table shows, the Village population has become more mature, on a whole. Particularly dramatic are the increases in Family Form and Retirement age population, and the decreases in the pre-school and school age population. We believe that over the last 10 years there has been a significant increase in the number of children in the community, as the local school system has been forced to build new classrooms onto its remaining buildings, and future expansions based on millage proposals and conversations during 2003-2004.

Population Changes, 1970-2000.

Age Group	Life Phase	2000 Census	1990 Census	1980 Census	1970 Census
Under 5	Pre-school	6.7%	7.4%	6.7%	12.5%
5-14	Elementary	13.7%	13.0%	14.9%	15.4%
15-19	Secondary	6.1%	6.9%	9.1%	10.4%
20-44	Family Form	31.9%	33.3%	31.5%	28.2%
45-64	Mature	20.8%	18.4%	17.9%	13.6%
65+	Retirement	20.7%	21.0%	19.5%	13.1%
<i>Total Population</i>		<i>1,764</i>	<i>1,487</i>	<i>1,241</i>	<i>997</i>

ACTION PLAN

GOAL: Have opportunities for young people to interact with community leaders and authority figures in a positive fun atmosphere			
Activity to meet goal	Park location	Tasks to meet goal	Anticipated Costs
Midnight Basketball Program	Downtown-Broad St.	Obtain more volunteers	
		Speakers on street	\$1000
Better publications		Send flyers out in May/June	Donated/\$250
		Obtain local sponsors	
GOAL: Provide summer recreational programs for area young people			
Summer Ball tournaments	Craven park	Obtain more volunteers	
Swim Program	Richardi	Summer Intern	\$4000
Camping program	Craven Park	Parks & Rec Director	\$21,000
4-H Fair	Craven	Activities along with the Fair	\$5,000
Ameri-corp Person		More publication in the schools	
GOAL: Provide water recreation at campground			
Rental water equipment	Craven	Obtain rental equipment	\$7500
Paddle Boats		Build equipment shed	\$4000
Kayaks		Establish policy pricing	
Disc Golf		Better access to the pond	\$2000
Volley Ball Courts		Obtain company for dredging	
Horseshoes		Rent equipment	\$50,000
Dredge Craven Pond		Establish deposit site	
Radio controlled boat races		Material transfer	\$15,000
Rent pavilion			
GOAL: Provide more camping opportunities			
Increase #of campsites	Craven	Review parks plan	
Family Camping		More publicity	\$2000
Improve Showers		Put plan in phases	\$3000
Trail/hiking trails		Boy Scout project	
Camp store		Schedule in future	\$35,000
Camp office		Schedule in future	\$10,000
Improve look of sites		Hire prison crew	\$2,000
Online credit card reservations		Sign up for service	\$80 yearly

GOAL: Provide an alternative to computer and TV surfing for the younger residents			
Young Bellairians Program	Bellaire Schools	Conduct Survey	\$100
More Basketball		Obtain Volunteers	
Skateboards		"Business Sponsors"	
Frisbee		Acquire needed equipment	\$2000
GOAL: Provide an opportunity for adults and young people to interact in some type of physical activities			
Fitness Bellaire Program	Bellaire Schools	Conduct survey	\$100
Exercise Stations	Richardi Park	Identify program Costs	\$600
-weight loss	Gym	Develop program based on survey	\$450
-physical conditioning	Track	Obtain volunteers	
	Walking paths	Obtain business sponsors	
		Advertise the program	\$200
Improve ball fields at Craven Park to improve playable surfaces	Craven	Re-grade outfields Put in irrigation Purchase score boards Supply water	\$70,000
GOAL: Have opportunities for young people to interact with community leaders and authority figures in a positive fun atmosphere			
"A day in the life of"	Bellaire Schools	Identify Village positions	
	DPW		
	Village Offices		
	Village President		
GOAL: Have recreational opportunities to take advantage of all Michigan seasons			
Recreation 365 Program	All Village area	Survey to obtain interest/support	\$450
		Annual Awards	\$500
		Ceremony/dinner	\$2500
		Obtain volunteers	
		Develop program	\$6,000
		Obtain sponsorships	
		Promotional Activities	\$500
GOAL: Identify the recreational opportunities with proper signage			
Include in each goal		Design signs for way-finding program	\$1000
		Have signs made	\$5000
		Install signs	\$700
GOAL: Improve river passage and access to allow water and pedestrian traffic to access Village water access sites			
Boat launches up and down the river	Upper/lower Inter.	Clear/reconstruct current access points	\$5000
"Take to the	Lake Bellaire	Develop water	\$500

Water" program		access plan	
Bridge across the dam	Craven Pond	Antrim Alliance	
Walking path along entire river system		Create portage site	\$5000
GOAL: Provide our older residents with convenient walking facilities to access the different Parks and downtown area.			
Senior stroll program	All Village Parks	Complete walking path	\$15,000
		Acquire electric wheelchairs	\$4000
Summer walking contest		Put together trail map	\$500

Plan Review and Adoption

Recreation plan review and adoption activities are described below in chronological order. Documentation for each of the activities is attached at the end of this chapter.

Feb. 27, 2007 - Notice of combined public hearing on the comprehensive plan and recreation plan was published in the Antrim Review. (Copy of publication is attached.)

March 7, 2007 - Combined public hearing for the comprehensive plan and recreation plan was held. (Copy of public hearing minutes is attached.)

March 7, 2007- Village of Bellaire Recreation Plan was presented to the Village Council and adopted at the regular meeting. (Copy of the resolution of adoption is attached.)

Feb. 16, 2007 - Copies of the Village of Bellaire Recreation Plan were forwarded to Northwest Michigan Council of Governments and Antrim County Parks and Recreation Commission. (Copies of transmittal letters are attached.)