VILLAGE OF ASHLEY, MICHIGAN
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

1717 Heritage Way
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
Leave blank
Acknowledgments

Thanks to the following individuals for their participation and engagement during this project.

**Village Council**
- Steve Moffit, Village President
- Sherry Brzak, Treasurer
- Shelly Moffit, Clerk
- Dave Foote
- Rod McGillis
- Duane Schneider
- Matt Schueller
- Mike Turner
- Ann Paksi

**Village Planning Commission**
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- Dave Foote
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Community Description

The Village of Ashley, Michigan was originally platted in 1883 and was incorporated in 1887. It was named for John M. Ashley, promoter and builder of the Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon Railroad.

The Village of Ashley is located in Gratiot County, Michigan in the northwest corner of Elba Township. No major state highway trunkline goes through the village although M-57 passes east and west less than 1 mile south of Ashley. Ashley is located approximately 5 miles east of U.S. 127.
Population

With a population of 563, according to the 2010 census, Ashley is one of the 100 smallest municipalities in Michigan. Ashley has shown a growth in population of 7% since the 2000 census in a county that has seen an overall population decline of between .5% and 1% in the same period.

The median age of Ashley residents is 41.3 years; more than two years older than the median age in Gratiot County or Michigan. Over a quarter of Ashley residents are age 65 or above compared to just 15% in the state as a whole.

Over 97% of Ashley Residents are white. Hispanics make up the next largest ethnic group.

| Table 1: Population Characteristics |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                               | Ashley Village | Gratiot County | Michigan |
| Median Age                    | 41.3           | 38.7           | 38.9     |
| Population under 18 years     | 20.7%          | 22.4%          | 22.7%    |
| Population 65+                | 26.9%          | 17.9%          | 15.4%    |

Ashley Village Service Area

Although the municipality is the governmental unit for which this plan is being prepared, in a rural area it may be more practical of think of the broader geographic area served by the Village. Ashley Public Schools serves a geographic area that includes parts of six townships with a total population of approximately 2,100.

Economics and Employment

Almost 22% of Ashley Households have incomes below the poverty level compared to the state average of 16.8%.

Median household income in Ashley is on par with household income in Michigan and more than $5,000 higher than the median income in Gratiot County.

Of residents aged 25 and up, 72% have a high school diploma or higher and 7% have a bachelors degree or higher.

Unemployment in the Village of Ashley is 16.3% compared to Gratiot County’s 10.9%, Michigan’s 13 % and the national unemployment rate of 8.2%

Of residents 16 and over, 55% are in the labor force. Ashley residents are primarily employed in
Education, Health & Social Assistance industries (42.5%), Retail Sales (15.8%, and Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodations and Food Service (11.3%).

The average Ashley resident drives over thirty minutes to work daily.

Table 2: Key Economic Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Village of Ashley</th>
<th>Gratiot County</th>
<th>Michigan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Unemployment</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% In the Workforce</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>62.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income²</td>
<td>$43,897</td>
<td>$38,943</td>
<td>$45,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Households below the Poverty Level¹</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX BY AGE. 2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.
Administration and Finance

Village Administration
The Village of Ashley is organized under the Michigan General Law Village Act (Act 3 of 1895). The Village Council acts as the authorizing body for all matters related to parks. The Village Council establishes the annual budget for parks. There is no village staff with specific responsibility for parks or recreation.

Table 3: Village Organization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Administrator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Clerk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Park Finance
Village parks are funded from the Village general fund budget. The general fund has allocated between $13,000 and $15,000 for park operations and maintenance each of the past three years. There is currently no budget for capital improvements in the parks.

Table 4: Ashley Parks Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, wages &amp; benefits</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>2,756.00</td>
<td>6,061.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>3,784.00</td>
<td>28,224.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>79.00</td>
<td>31.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvements</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>14,286.00</td>
<td>6,619.00</td>
<td>34,316.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Role of Volunteers
Recreation activities that take place in the parks are organized and managed by local volunteers. Youth baseball and adult softball are volunteer lead. Numerous events are held in the parks including the annual Ashley Trading Days, which are all volunteer lead.
Park and Recreation Inventory

Village of Ashley Park Resources

The Village of Ashley operates one park. The village park is a 6.3+ acre park located in the southwest side of the village. The village park includes the following primary features including two youth baseball fields, two sand volleyball courts, basketball court, playground equipment, restrooms, and a pavilion.

Baseball field #1

Baseball field #2

Pavilion
Playground Equipment.

Basketball Court.
Not quite full size concrete court with two goals.
Ashley Community Center:
The Ashley Community Center is located on North Sterling Street. The Community Center is located on a .36 acre lot. Community Center Building is approximately 3,500 sq. ft. of open meeting space, a kitchen, and restrooms. The community center is available to community groups and organizations on a reservation basis.

The undeveloped lot on the south side (right in the image) of the center is also owned by the Village.

![Ashley Community Center](image1)

There is a small Veterans Memorial located at the corner of East Oak Street and Sterling Street providing an opportunity for sitting, reflecting and social interaction with neighbors. This memorial is located adjacent to the Township offices, Emergency Medical Response, and the Public Safety buildings.

![Veterans Memorial](image2)
Pattenaude Property:
In recent years the village leadership has acquired several additional parcels of land totaling just under 11 acres. A new water tower has been constructed on this property, but the property is otherwise undeveloped. There have been discussions of using this property for park and/or other public purposes.
Other Recreation Resources

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources properties:**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages several areas near Ashley and Gratiot County that provide access to natural resources to area residents. These areas have been set aside and dedicated for wildlife conservation and management including hunting, fishing, and hiking.

**Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area** in Gratiot and Saginaw Counties: *Size in Acres (approx) 16,684.*

**Maple River State Game Area** in Clinton, Gratiot and Ionia Counties: *Size in Acres (approx) 9,252. Left.*

**Maple-River - Gratiot-Saginaw Connector State Game Area** in Gratiot County: *Size in Acres (approx) 311.*

**Sleepy Hollow State Park** is in Clinton County 17.5 miles south of Ashley. This park includes approx 2678 acres including Lake Ovid, trails, campground, day use area, horseback trails, beach, disk golf. Left.
City/School Parks and Recreation: The nearby communities of Alma, Breckenridge, Ithaca and St. Louis operate park and recreation systems.

Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Department: Gratiot County operates two parks, classified as regional parks that serve county residents and visitors.

Paul Hubscher County Park, located 7 miles east of Ithaca includes a man-made beachfront, 3 small pavilions, 1 large pavilion, picnic tables, charcoal grills, 2 sand volleyball courts, 2 horseshoe pits, open field space, trails, and a restroom facility.

Reed County Park: Is located just east of US 127 near North Star. Reed County Park includes a man-made beachfront, 3 large pavilions, 2 small pavilions, charcoal grills, observation platform, 1 sand volleyball courts, 2 fenced baseball diamonds, trails, accessible restroom/bathhouse facility, youth playground, 18-hole disc golf course.

Public Schools: The four communities mentioned above, plus Ashley and Fulton, operate public school districts which have facilities useful for recreational purposes including gymasia, baseball, softball, soccer, and football fields. Public school sports programs provide numerous spectator opportunities.

Ashley Community Schools

Ashley Community Schools are located within Ashley Village. The Elementary, Middle and High School are located on the same property. Ashley Community Schools include the following facilities that are useful for community recreation and leisure services:

- H.S football field
- Baseball field
- Softball field
- Playground equipment
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Gymnasium

School facilities are used for girls and women’s softball
The District Library is also located at the Ashley Community School site.

Alma College: Alma is the home of Alma College. The Alan J. Stone Center for Recreation at Alma College features cardiovascular equipment, free weights, an elevated track, fitness classes, and four indoor multipurpose courts that can be used for basketball, tennis, roller hockey and volleyball, among other activities. Alma College athletic teams offer numerous spectator opportunities to the public. The college sponsors numerous on-campus activities including concerts, lectures, and theatre that are open to the public.
Park and Recreation Standards

Activity Area Standards
With a population of only 563 (~2,100 in the school district) and a land area measuring barely ½ mile square the Village of Ashley Park contains only the most common types of recreation activity features each serving the entire community. Ashley Village Park would best be described as a Community Park.

Specific recreation activity areas that could be considered deficient by the Michigan DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plans include:
- Girls softball field (1) (expressed during public input process)
- Soccer field(s) (1)
- Hockey (regional feature) (1)

Park Land Standards
The National Recreation and Park Association suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a total of 6.25 to 10.50 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population.

Ashley Village Park, totaling about 6.33 acres, exceeds that standard with a ratio of over 11 acres per 1,000 residents.

Other Considerations
There was insufficient data in the NRPA Park and Recreation Operating Ratio and Geographic Information System (PRORAGIS) for communities as small as Ashley to make any meaningful comparisons on facilities or services.

Accessibility Evaluation of Village Parks & Recreation Facilities
Ashley Village parks and recreation spaces do not currently meet ADA guidelines for access. Examples of deficiencies include:
- Restrooms at the Village Park are not ADA compliant.
- There is no designated, signed, paved accessible parking in the village park or the community center.
- There are no assessable routes of travel to and between park elements.
- No accessible picnic sites (table, grill, trash) were observed.
- Playground area and equipment are not ADA compliant.
- The Ashley Community Center is currently not accessible (entrances)
Future planning efforts should focus on meeting minimum ADA requirements for all public spaces (parking, signage, accessible routes of travel, accessible restrooms and water fountains, etc. Purchasing of park equipment such as picnic tables, chairs, benches, grills, bleachers, should be done with and eye toward products that meet ADA requirements.

**DNR Recreation Grant Inventory**
The Village of Ashley has not received any prior funding from DNR.

**Public Participation**
Three primary strategies were employed to assure broad public input in the planning process.

1. Community survey
2. Focus group with community leaders
3. Open public meeting

**Community Survey**
A written questionnaire as developed to obtain a broad sampling of residents and visitors to the Village of Ashley. The focus of the questionnaire was to determine user attitudes and opinions about Ashley parks and to assess expressed desires for additions and improvements to Village parks.

The questionnaire was developed with input from the Village Planning Commission and was implemented by commission members during June and July of 2012. This sampling method is non-randomized and is not scientific, rather it is a convenience sample based on neighbors asking neighbors to participate. For this purpose of this project, this is considered reliable.

- Questionnaires were collected during the weekend of Ashley Trading Days, June 8-10. Trading Days is an annual community festival featuring a craft and flea market, sports tournaments, carnival rides, a parade, concerts, a street dance, and fireworks show. Planning Commission members set up a booth and intercepted festival visitors
- Questionnaires were distributed and collected during local youth sports events.
- Questionnaires were placed in a number of local businesses and banks.
- Commission members actively solicited their neighbors and friends to complete the questionnaire.

**The Respondents:** One hundred, fifty-five questionnaires were completed during June and July, 2012 including Village residents (59%), Township residents (10%), Gratiot County residents (22%), and out of county visitors (9%). The 89 completed questionnaires from Village residents represent approximately 42% of village households (Table 5).
Table 5: Respondent Place of Residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Residence</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village of Ashley</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>58.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elba Township</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gratiot County</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>21.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Gratiot County</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>151</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most respondents were females (63%). (Table 6). Although it would have been desirable to have closer to 50% response from each gender, it is not uncommon in these types of studies to have more responses from females who often make the majority of recreation decisions for the children and family.

Table 6: Respondent Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>36.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>63.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>112</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondent households averaged 2.89 persons compared to the village average of 2.43. Only about one fourth of households surveyed included children (Table 7). This compares favorably with US Census data on household size and presence of children. The data suggests that the percentage of households with children is higher outside the Village.

Table 5: Respondent Household Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Characteristic</th>
<th>Village residents</th>
<th>All respondents</th>
<th>U.S. Census data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household size</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with children present</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use of Village Park
Subjects were asked to characterize their household’s use of Village parks and public facilities by indicating whether their household was a regular, occasional, infrequent, or not a user of village parks.

Eighty percent of Village residents indicated they were either regular or occasional park users (Table 8). Both respondents who reside in Elba Township and Gratiot County indicated they were regular or occasional users; 93% and 77% respectively. Because many of the questionnaires were collected at activities or events occurring in the park, this is not as odd as it may at first appear. It is important to understand the extent of park use by non residents because nonresidents also rely on village facilities for their leisure needs.

Table 6: Level of Park Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular User</th>
<th>Occasional User</th>
<th>Infrequent User</th>
<th>Not a User</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village of Ashley</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elba Township</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gratiot County</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Gratiot County</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opinions about Village Parks and Public Facilities
Subjects were asked to indicate their agreement/disagreement with a number of statements about village park features, and characteristics. Agreement/disagreement was evaluated using a five-point scale ranging from Strongly Agree (5) to Strongly Disagree (1). These scores were used to compute an average score for each question. An average between 3.0 and 5.0 indicates increasing degrees of agreement while an average between 3.0 and 1.0 indicate increasing degrees of disagreement.

Responses were grouped by place of residence for comparison. Village residents and non-residents residents agreed that village parks are safe, are a point of pride in the community, and the village should emphasize developing existing parks (Table 9).

The statements with which residents and non-residents agreed the least include the village has an adequate amount of park land and Village parks are well equipped.

Opinions of Village residents and non-residents are relatively consistent on the opinion items.
Table 7: Opinions about Village Parks by Place of Residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Village residents</th>
<th>Non Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Village has an adequate amount of park and public spaces to meet the current recreation needs of the community.</td>
<td>3.34 7</td>
<td>3.22 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Village parks and public spaces are a point of pride in the community.</td>
<td>3.39 6</td>
<td>3.82 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village parks and public spaces are well maintained.</td>
<td>3.55 4</td>
<td>3.74 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There should be increased emphasis on developing existing Village parks and public spaces.</td>
<td>3.98 2</td>
<td>4.18 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel it is safe to walk or bike from my home to Village parks, public spaces, and schools.</td>
<td>4.13 1</td>
<td>4.03 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Village should seek to acquire and develop additional parks and public space.</td>
<td>3.48 5</td>
<td>3.85 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village of Ashley parks and public spaces are well equipped for use by all residents.</td>
<td>2.92 8</td>
<td>3.41 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village parks and public spaces make a positive contribution to the quality of life in Ashley</td>
<td>3.79 3</td>
<td>4.15 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interest in New Recreation Areas and Facilities

Subjects were asked to rate the priority the Village should place on developing several common types of park and recreation areas and facilities. Subjects were asked to rate the priority using a five point scale ranging from Lowest to Highest. These scores were used to compute an average score for each type of development. Higher averages indicate increasing priority.

Village residents and non-residents were in virtual agreement on the priority that should be placed on new development. Subjects indicate that highest priority for park development should be placed on expanding sidewalks, trails & pathways and new playground equipment (Table 10). Village and Township residents placed lowest priority on a public campground.
Table 8: Priorities for New Park Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Village Residents</th>
<th>Non-residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>score/rank</td>
<td>score/rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>score</td>
<td>rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Sport fields (baseball, soccer, football, etc)</td>
<td>2.98 5</td>
<td>3.28 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A public campground</td>
<td>2.62 6</td>
<td>3.07 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand sidewalks, trails, &amp; pathways (Bicycle, exercise, walking)</td>
<td>3.79 2</td>
<td>4.01 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New picnic and pavilions</td>
<td>3.42 3</td>
<td>3.75 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New playground equipment</td>
<td>3.87 1</td>
<td>3.97 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New sport courts (basketball, volleyball, etc)</td>
<td>3.36 4</td>
<td>3.66 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Written Comments

Subjects were asked “In your opinion, what other recreation areas or facilities would you like to see the Village develop or improve?” Responses are recorded as written below and are grouped into logical themes. This included comments from all Village and Township respondents. In cases where a comment addressed more than one theme, it has been included under each theme and the appropriate text underlined.

Recreation Facilities or Activities

- sliding and ice skating
- a pond/lake/beach with camping
- clean up downtown, BMX, skate board track, repair basket ball court, nice big sign "welcome to Ashley" on the corner of 57 and Arnold. Daily many people pass the sign we have and never see it. Replace paw prints coming into town.
- Campground
- community pool, tennis court
- concession stand at the park, better bathrooms at the park, a track field
- Facilities, car tractor pull- horse pull, horse show, 4 wheels opv course
- For sidewalks I do not think that we should have to pay for them, if they are going to put them up. The town should have to pay for it. And yes they need more playground equipment for the Ashley park.
- Have bingo here once a week more things to do for the kids young and old
- I believe an updated playground at the park would get the kids outside and playing more, bike trails are also a good idea
- I feel we need updated playground equipment
- I truly believe more playground toys for children would be very nice and more public places to maybe have a picnic
• maintaining roads, blight ordinances, ordinance against semi parking in roads, beautifying business fronts, flowers, trash, weeds, main street, finish road signs, concession stands at ballgames @ park.
• More work on sled hill, possibly a shooting range
• new skate park as hub of attn: then new everything around
• With the bike/walking path there needs to be a couple of benches for walkers to take a rest if needed- spaced along the wal. The playground equipment is so old, there is really no draw or interest for people to come spend much time there. The basketball rims are inferior in quality. The teither ball pole was used 1 year then the ball and attaching chain disappeared. There use to be a bench swing that the elderly could come sit on. now there is nothing for them.
• Public swimming, water softener, brown water fixed
• softball field for girls
• swimming pool
• update park play equipment
• The president and wife should not be employed by the village. We do not need a pavilion or a skating rink in town that is what the park is for
• The need public restrooms for the parks
• things that can get all ages of children and their families involved together
• Our facilities are adequate, save your m oney for a "rainy day"!
• pond or swimming pool
• concession stand at ball park, track at school to walk jog etc.
• Continuing to improve sidewalks and roadways for joggers & bike riders is good. Addition at baseball fields are very nice.
• more playground equipment for young children

Park Maintenance and Operations
• I don't think we need to work about the parks, except keeping the tables clean of balgar sayings & pictures on the tables for little eyes to see. I would like to see the roads fixed
  Main street flower beds, sterling st.
• sidewalks, roads, a gate to close the park, better enforced park hours, spray for insects more often, working
  instead of patched. The hydrants that do not work r repaired. The water in this town is not fit to drink or bath in.
• just improve whats alread available
• Parks and public spaces are not handicap access new fire and rescue facility
• drinking fountains in the park
• parks are fine the kids don't appreciate them anyway they would rather deface things then to help take care of it.
• The sidewalks need to be replaced. The parks need to be kept up.
• The park needs to be improved
Sidewalks, trails & pathways
- Better sidewalks
- Better sidewalk to school, (I have no kids in school)
- Bike paths, basket ball & soccer fields for children
- I believe an updated playground at the park would get the kids outside and playing more, bike trails are also a good idea
- Please put any extra tax payers money into fixing roads and sidewalks
- Sidewalks/bike path etc..
- walk path
- Continuing to improve sidewalks and roadways for joggers & bike riders is good. Addition at baseball fields are very nice.
- The sidewalks need to be replaced. The parks need to be kept up.
- You should define what's meant by Parks/Public spaces give examples. Better communication of town events, leverage the good things more, would like to see rail trail

Non Park or Recreation Related Comments
- you should be more concerned with the water & road conditions. Husband & wife should not be in control of village.
- clean up downtown, BMX, skate board track, repair basket ball court, nice big sign "welcome to Ashley" on the corner of 57 and Arnold. Daily many people pass the sign we have and never see it. Replace paw prints coming into town.
- clean up residents yards
- downtown business, the empty store fronts are sad to look at
- enforce a blight ordinance. Clean up west side uptown store fronts. The Meth (church bells and music are disturbing air space. Especially school hours and during game times. Music at Sunday for call to worship only.
- fix roads, get rid of president
- fix roads, get rid of president, fix our water softener
- fix the dam roads, get rid of the president
- For sidewalks I do not think that we should have to pay for them, if they are going to put them up. The town should have to pay for it. And yes they need more playground equipment for the Ashley park.
- I don't think we need to work about the parks, except keeping the tables clean of balgar sayings & pictures on the tables for little eyes to see. I would like to see the roads fixed instead of patched. The hydrants that do not work r repaired. The water in this town is not fit to drink or bath in.
- Fix the water. Man and wife cannot hold puplic office at the same time, it is called nepitism.
- Get rid of president, we pay for softener that we don't have, but badly need fix roads instead of buying railroad property we don't need. Give tax payer a change to vote
- get water softner, new president, fix our dam roads
- Handicap accessible downtown, up grade downtown appearance
I would like to see the downtown area improved. It seems to be so rundown @ this time. We should be able to be proud of our little community, but I hate taking visitors thru the downtown.

Lower water bills fix drains so we don't flood, like to have cable TV, Thanks

maintaining roads, blight ordinances, ordinance against semi parking in roads, beautifying business fronts, flowers, trash, weeds, main street, finish road signs, concession stands at ballgames @ park.

The roads are badly in need of fixing not patching. The softener needs to be fixed and the waer is not even fit to bath in let alone drink. for what we pay a month we should be a lot better. my pet doesn't drink it either. maybe we should bill the village for the water I have to buy.

Please put any extra tax payers money into fixing roads and sidewalks

Public swimming, water softener, brown water fixed

would like to see improvement on our water system

Parks and public spaces are not handicap access new fire and rescue facility

The president and wife should not be employed by the village. We do not need a pavilion or a skating rink in town that is what the park is for

Fire and Rescue building

Uncategorized Comments

any we can get

combine village efforts / school efforts/ trading days

need people

none

You should define what's meant by Parks/Public spaces give examples. Better communication of town events, leverage the good things more, would like to see rail trail

Summary

There seems to be an interest in improving sidewalks and pathways based on the number of comments related to sidewalks, pathways and trails. Park restrooms, a concession stand at the park, and improving playground equipment were listed by several respondents.

Observations

For the most part, non-resident opinions and rankings were stronger/higher than village residents on most items (Tables 5 & 6).

The Village of Ashley, population 563, is a hub for a larger geographic. For many non-village residents Ashley is where theY go to school, work, or do business. The Elba Township office is also located in Ashley. For these reasons, the Village will bear the burden of providing public parks for this larger population. The Ashley Community School District, population 2079, may more closely approximate the population served by Village parks. This is reinforced by the fact that 40% of survey respondents live outside the Village.
Meeting of Select Community Leaders

On September 12, 2012 a meeting was held with an invited group of community leaders. Over thirty individuals, representing a wide range of interests and organizations, were invited by letter to participate in this session. This group included representatives of elected public officials, schools, local sport and athletic programs, and others. Appendix A contains a complete mailing list for this meeting. More than twenty community members attended this meeting, held at the Ashley Community Center, and actively participated in the planning exercise.

Attendees were asked to participate in a role-playing exercise set ten years in the future – to September 12, 2022. The stated purpose of this future meeting is to “review and celebrate all that has been accomplished in Ashley parks since we began planning in 2012”.

Thinking from this future mind-set, participants were asked to list all the changes that have taken place in Ashley parks over the past ten years. In describing these changes, participants were instructed to phrase comments in the following context; “Over the past 10 years, the park improvements that I am most proud of include...”

Participants were given time to reflect and list their responses. Individual responses were then listed on flip-chart pages and posted on the wall for all participants to see.

Finally, participants were asked, “If resources are only available to achieve five of the “successes” identified above, which successes would you most like to see accomplished?” For this exercise, participants were given five adhesive “dots” to place next to their preferred “successes” on the flip-chart pages.

The items that received the most “votes” are indicated below. All votes are indicated in parentheses next to the item in the first list above.

Park and Recreation Developments

1. Accessible playgrounds for all (11)
2. Clean smooth, well-lit sidewalks (11)
3. Senior center (8)
4. Paved bike path to Reed County Park (7)
5. Pathway to state land (6)
6. New basketball courts (5)
7. New walking track (Nature trail) (5)
8. Community center (cooling shelter & meals) (5)
9. Undated/new playground equipment (5)
10. Public parking and restrooms at park (4)
11. Spray or water park (3)
12. Outdoor sports complex (3)
13. Music Gazebo (3)
14. Visitor campsites (2)
15. New town square (2)
16. Pathways to connect nursing home to parks (2)
17. Shuffle board courts (1)
18. Expand school sports/gym at school  (1)  
19. BMX Track  (1)  
20. Girls softball field  (1)  
21. Community gardens  (1)  
22. Sled hill and skating rink  (1)  
23. Improved ball fields  
24. Football and soccer fields  
25. Shaded picnic areas  
26. Annual buck pole  
27. New community center  

Recreation Programs, Services and Activities  
28. Sports and recreation leagues for youth and adults  (2)  
29. Movie nights in the park  
30. More recreation opportunities to draw a younger crowd  
31. Annual Civil War reenactment  
32. Opportunities for senior adults  
33. Weekly activities for adults  
34. Evening park programs  
35. Farmers market  
36. “Arts” in the parks  
37. Summer day camps  

Other Community Initiatives  
38. All roads & streets paved  (9)  
39. Safe routes, streets, etc. for families  (4)  
40. Community safe shelter  (1)  
41. New service drains  (1)  
42. Growth of the Fire Department  
43. Downtown beautification  
44. More jobs in town  
45. Community-wide wireless internet  
46. Full time law enforcement  
47. New motel  
48. New industrial park  
49. Bank drive thru  
50. New stop lights  
51. Dining opportunities  
52. New community college  
53. Truck route around town  
54. New apartment housing  
55. Improved HS football  

Although the focus of this exercise was on park improvement, clearly some participants did not limit their vision to that object. The list also includes projects that are more aptly labeled Recreation Programs, Services and Activities and Other Community Initiatives.
Summary
Great attention was given by participants to sidewalks, trails, pathways, etc. evidenced by items 2, 4, 5, 7, 16, & 39 which received a total of 35 votes (1/3 of all votes cast). These items cover a range of concerns including:
Improving pedestrian/cyclist safety
Providing access between parks and other gathering places.
Connecting to nearby recreation resources (state land, county park)

Several items related to some form of a community/senior center (items 3, 8, 27, & 40) that could also serve as a community shelter. A center could also serve as a location or any number of social and recreation programs & services.

A number of items related to general improvements to or addition of park features. New, updated, accessible playground equipment, new restroom & concessions, tennis courts, girl’s softball field, new/improved ball fields, sledding hill, skating rink, etc.

Public Comment Period

The Public Comment period began on Wednesday, November 14. Copies of the Draft Plan were made available for public review and comment in several locations:

- A draft of the Plan was posted on the village web page on November 14, 2012.
- A draft of the Plan was made available at the Village Office on November 14, 2012
- A draft of the Plan was placed at the District Library on November 16, 2012
- A Press release was sent to the Public Notice in the Gratiot County Herald (See Appendix B for a copy of the Press Release)
- A Public hearing on the Draft Plan was held at the village Council meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2012.
- The Village Council passed a resolution (2013-02) approving the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on Tuesday, January 8, 2013.

The Draft Plan was available for public comment from Wednesday, November 14, 2012 to Tuesday, January 8, 2013 (55 days).
Goals and Objectives

G1: Connections
Improve opportunities for non-motorized transportation including bicycle lanes on roads, sidewalks, and linkages to existing local and regional trail systems and parks working with M-DOT, the county and trails groups.

O1: Continue development of sidewalk/pathway within the Village.
O2: Provide safe, accessible, lighted walkways linking parks, schools, businesses, and public properties.
O3: Seek out collaborations to develop connections to surrounding recreation resources including State Forest land, Maple River Game Area, and Reed County Park.
O4: Create opportunities for residents and visitors to gather to socialize and interact within the village.

G2: Park Maintenance
Maintain and improve existing park facilities in safe, functional, and aesthetic condition and to acquire and develop park areas and facilities that meet the needs of Village residents and visitors.

O1: Develop a program of park maintenance to assure safe, functional and aesthetic condition.

G3: Park Improvement
Develop a program of on-going improvements to parks and recreation areas consistent with the expressed needs of village residents.

O1: Assure that all parks and recreation facilities meet ADA guidelines; that parks, pathways, and related features are accessible.
O2: Identify property for acquisition for future park development.
O3: Develop new park areas and features to meet resident needs.

G4: Recreation
O1: Increase opportunities for socialization and recreation for children and youth in the village.
O2: Increase opportunities to attract visitors to the village.
Capital Improvement Plan

The Action plan represents a proposed plan of action for the next five years. The Action Plan may be revised from year to year and an updated Action Plan will be filed with the Department of Natural Resources as required.

Factors that may influence the revision of the Action Plan include continuing levels of general fund support, future revenue sources, and continued revenues rental fees. In addition, opportunities to partner with other organizations, external funding opportunities, as well as significant changes in the recreational needs of the community may influence changes to the Action Plan. Updates to the Action Plan are always submitted for public review and input prior to approval by the Village.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal(s)/Objective(s)</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Planned Improvements</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G3:O3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Develop site plans for Pattenaude property, village park, and community center property.</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G1:O1, G4:O1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Complete current sidewalk/pathway plan. Incorporate casual seating where appropriate. Link to park, downtown, schools, public offices, etc</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G3:O1, O3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Community Center: Make improvements for ADA compliance, use for senior center, emergency shelter, etc. Add pavilion and develop adjacent lot as a small park to be used separately or in conjunction with the community center. Add landscaping, seating, picnicking, and event space.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G3:O2, G2:O1, G4:O1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Update/Replace playground equipment in the park including</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G2:O1, G3:O3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Construct new restroom/concession building at the Village Park.</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G3:O3, G4:O1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Develop sledding hill and outdoor ice rink for winter recreation</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G3:O3, G4:O1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Develop a Spray Park</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G3:O3, G4:O1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Improvements to youth Baseball Fields including new fence &amp; backstop, scoreboard, and lighting</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G3:O3, G4:O1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Develop an adult softball field including fence &amp; backstop, scoreboard and lighting</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G3:O3, G4:O1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Develop a girls softball field including fence &amp; backstop, scoreboard and lighting</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Potential Funding Sources

There are various funding sources available to support the County goals and objectives and subsequent park and recreation related projects. The following are brief descriptions of some of those funding sources.

- **Ashley Village Appropriations Funds** allocated for Parks and Recreation expenditures.

- **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** provides funding assistance for state and local outdoor recreation needs, including land acquisition which provides access to and use of water and/or preserves rare, fragile and scenic resources and protects endangered species.

- **Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) Recreation Bond Program** provides financial assistance to local governments for the development of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, with a focus on meeting community recreation needs.

- **Michigan Passport Grants Program** provides funding for local recreation development projects. The program is focused on renovating and improving existing parks, but the development of new parks is eligible.

- **Michigan’s Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (L&WCF)** Half of the funds are generally awarded to local units of government for the development of basic recreation facilities and improving existing facilities, to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. The other half of the fund is allocated to development of trails of regional or state-wide significance (trails that are typically abandoned railroad right of ways) that are managed by local units of government. Funding in this program may pay up to 50% of the total project cost.

- **Gratiot County Community Foundation – Community Recreation Fund** offers funding opportunities for projects acting as an umbrella for specific funds that meet specific needs such as youth and seniors, accessible equipment, etc.
Appendix A

Public Survey
Focus group invitation letter
Focus group invitee list
Community Survey
Village of Ashley Parks & Public Spaces Planning Survey

Dear Resident or Visitor:

The Village of Ashley is in the process creating a Master Plan for Parks and Public Spaces in order to better serve the needs of residents and visitors. By completing this questionnaire you will be providing valuable input to the Village that will be used in decision-making about the improvement and development of parks and public spaces. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and your responses will be kept confidential.

1. Which of the following statements best characterizes your household’s use of Village parks and public facilities? (Circle One).

   - Regular users
   - Occasional users
   - Infrequent users
   - Not users

2. Opinions about Village parks and public facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please indicate your agreement/disagreement with each of the following statements</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Village has an adequate amount of park and public spaces to meet the current recreation needs of the community.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Village parks and public spaces are a point of pride in the community.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village parks and public spaces are well maintained.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There should be increased emphasis on developing existing Village parks and public spaces.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel it is safe to walk or bike from my home to Village parks, public spaces, and schools.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Village should seek to acquire and develop additional parks and public space.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village of Ashley parks and public spaces are well equipped for use by all residents.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village parks and public spaces make a positive contribution to the quality of life in Ashley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. New Recreation Facilities & Public Spaces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please indicate the priority you think the Village of Ashley should place on developing the following kinds of new recreation areas &amp; facilities.</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Somewhat low</th>
<th>Neither high or low</th>
<th>Somewhat high</th>
<th>Highest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Sport fields (baseball, softball, soccer, football, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Public Campground</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanding sidewalks, trails and pathways (Bicycle paths, exercise, walking)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New picnic areas &amp; pavilions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New playground equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New sport courts (basketball, volleyball, etc)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. In your opinion, what other recreation areas, facilities, or features would you like to see the Village develop or improve?

6. Including yourself, how many persons in your household fall into each age group below?
   - _____ Children 5 & younger
   - _____ Children 6-12
   - _____ Youth 13-15
   - _____ Teens 16-18
   - _____ Adults 19-24
   - _____ Adults 25-34
   - _____ Adults 35-44
   - _____ Adults 45-54
   - _____ Adults 55-64
   - _____ Adults 65-74
   - _____ Adults 75 or older

7. Gender  Male ______  Female ______

8. Please check the one box that best indicates where you live.
   - Village of Ashley resident  [ ]
   - Elba Township resident  [ ]
   - Gratiot County resident  [ ]
   - Outside of Gratiot County  [ ]

Thank you for your time and participation.
Focus Group Invitation Letter

August 30, 2012

Address

Dear:

During the fall of 2012 the Village of Ashley will be developing a Master Plan for Parks and Recreation for the Village. The Master Plan for Parks and Recreation serves as a planning and decision-making framework that will guide decisions about the development and improvement of parks and recreation amenities for the next five years. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will make the Village eligible for a number of grant opportunities that can be used to enhance the parks and recreational opportunities available to the citizens of Ashley.

We are personally inviting you to attend a meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2012, at 7:00 pm at the Ashley Community Center.

You have been personally selected because you are a key leader of the community whose input we are seeking in this planning process. We have tried to identify the many individuals, organizations, and groups in the community whose interests may intersect with the provision of quality parks and recreation services. By inviting a wide ranging group of community members we are seeking to assure that the interests of all citizen groups are considered in this planning process.

Thank you for your leadership in our community and we look forward to hearing from you on Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Steve Moffit,
Village President
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invitee Name</th>
<th>Organization/Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pete Little</td>
<td>Gratiot County Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Daggett</td>
<td>Daggett’s Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill March</td>
<td>Ashley Care Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Crocker</td>
<td>First Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Sopocy</td>
<td>Knights of Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Cjorcia</td>
<td>Knights of Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Sefl</td>
<td>Sportsman’s Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Slavik</td>
<td>Elba Township Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Hanus</td>
<td>Hamilton Township Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denny Cook</td>
<td>Hamilton Township Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tish Dodd</td>
<td>Rescue Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Beracy</td>
<td>Gratiot County Sheriff/Village resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich Ryals</td>
<td>Fire Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Hughes</td>
<td>Ashley Community Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Band Boosters/Sports Boosters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Hardman</td>
<td>Steve Hardman Trucking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Bancroft</td>
<td>Agro Culture Liquid Fertilizers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Roger Morris</td>
<td>Ashley Family Care Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Seals</td>
<td>Lions Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Crossley</td>
<td>Railroad Tracks Café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rollie Merignac</td>
<td>Resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Foote</td>
<td>Foote’s Party Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Whaley</td>
<td>Wiggieswerks Repari Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Jones</td>
<td>J. Six Corp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kip Michael</td>
<td>Sweet Spot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Strouse</td>
<td>Terra One Realty / Strouse Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcie Thompson</td>
<td>Lattice Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jen Moore</td>
<td>Softball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina Anderson</td>
<td>Little League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike &amp; Rhonda Todosciuk</td>
<td>Gus’s Eatery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Wolfe</td>
<td>Wolfe’s Arrows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacey Whitford</td>
<td>Trading Days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B

- Notice of availability of draft plan for review.
- Minutes from the Planning Commission recommending approval of the plan.
- Minutes from the Village Council meeting approving the plan
- Signed and dated resolution from the Village Council approving the plan.
- Copies of letters of transmittal to county and regional planning offices.
ATTENTION RESIDENTS OF ASHLEY VILLAGE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REVIEW OF DRAFT 2013-2017 PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The Village of Ashley has completed a comprehensive park and recreation master plan that will guide decisions about park development and improvements for the next five years. This plan is required by the State of Michigan as a component of any application for State recreation grant funding. A public hearing will be held during the Village Council meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the Community Center located at 110 N. Sterling Street. This public hearing will be held to provide an overview of the plan and to gather input from the general public prior to final consideration of the plan for adoption by the Village Council at a subsequent regularly scheduled meeting of the Village Council. This draft park and recreation master plan is available at the following locations for public review.

Village of Ashley office
114 W. Oak St.
Tuesday & Thursday 9-12 & 1-4

District Library
104 North New Street
Monday: 8-11, 12-4
Tuesday: 8-11, 12-5
Thursday: 8-11, 12-5

The plan is also available online at: http://www.ashleyvillage.org
Planning Committee Recommendation

Village of Ashley Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
October 23, 2012

Call to Order:
A regular meeting of the Ashley Planning Commission was called to order at or about 7:15 PM by
Vice-Chairman Roger Keck, at the Ashley Community Center.

Members Present:  Dee Denniston
                  Roger Keck
                  Steve Moffit
                  Tim Hughes

Guest:  Mike Turner

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Steve Moffit, support by Tim Hughes All ayes - motion carried.

Public Comments and Communication - None

Old Business:
   a. Newsletter, recommend Council Develop Village Newsletter, (Dee will contact school to
      inform of Community Events and ask them to add to the schools newsletter, until such time a
      Village Newsletter is established.
   b. Structure of Village, Flow chart of responsibilities of each Committee and/or department.
      Allen will format a rough draft and provide to the Planning Commission, for their review.
   c. Concession stands at Park. Concession Stand in progress and will be completed in spring of
      2013. – Community groups to run stand. How scheduled.
   d. Welcome Plan, Dee will draft together a plan and review with Shelly the Village Clerk prior
      to presenting, to the Planning Commission for review.
   e. Parks and Leisure Master Plan.
      f. Reschedule Planning Commission Meetings – to be held quarterly
   g. Community Event Sign

Village Council Update

1. Presented by Steve Moffit
   b. Lagoon Cleaning
   c. 5 Year DPW Plan

New Business
   a. Parks and Leisure Master Plan, Recommend by Commission that Village of Ashley Council
      approve the Master Plan as submitted. Motion by Steve Moffit support by Dee Denniston, All
      ayes motion carried. On approval of Master Plan by Council, Request Village Clerk to Post 30
      day notice to public for meeting. Community Center has been reserved for December 18, for the
      public meeting.
   b. Future Development Fund – When and how to seek funds, Request Council add to their Agenda
   c. Contact Park Developers
Motion to adjourn made by Dee Denniston, support by Tim Hughes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Next Regular Meeting to be held November 27, 2012 7:00 PM at the Ashley Community Center.

Dee Denniston
Village of Ashley
Planning Commission Secretary
Minutes from the Village Council Meeting approving the Plan

Ashley Village Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2013

The regular council meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Steve Moffit.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all followed by prayer.

Roll call was taken with Steve Moffit, Dave Foote, Rod McGillis, Duane Schneider, Matt Schueller, Mike Turner, Clerk Shelly Moffit and Treasurer Sherry Brzak present. Absent was Ann Paksi.

Visitors: Dr. Al Ellard, Bill Hirschman, Jennifer Garza.

M. Turner made a motion to move into a Public Hearing to take public comments for the proposed 2013-2017 Village of Ashley Parks & Recreation Master Plan at 7:06 p.m. Seconded by D. Schneider. Motion carried.

No public comment was made.

R. McGillis made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m. Seconded by M. Turner. Motion carried.

M. Turner made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Maguire Iron Change Order #3. Seconded by R. McGillis. Motion carried.

The Fire Department report was reviewed. Fire Chief Rich Ryals discussed budget/contract concerns.

R. McGillis made a motion to accept the council meeting minutes of December 11, 2012 as presented. Seconded by D. Foote. Motion carried.

After review and discussion R. McGillis made a motion to approve the expenditures for January 2013. Seconded by D Foote. Motion carried.

Dr. Al Ellard of Leisure Planning and Solutions, LLC answered questions regarding the proposed 2013-2017 Village of Ashley Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Bill Hirschman of Roslund, Prestage & Company answered questions regarding the potential of future auditing services.

Jen Garza of Spicer Group reported on the progress of the Water Project, contractors progress payments, change orders and answered questions and concerns from the council.
After review and discussion D. Foote made a motion to submit Glaeser Dawes-Division A Progress Payment #4 for $127,796.38 to USDA Rural Development for payment. Seconded by R. McGillis.
Ayes: D. Foote, R. McGillis, D. Schneider, M. Schueller, S. Moffit
Nays: M. Turner
Absent: A. Paksi
Motion carried.

After review and discussion D. Foote made a motion to approve Glaser Dawes-Division A Change Order #4. Seconded by D. Schneider. Motion carried.

After review and discussion D. Schneider made a motion to submit Maguire Iron-Division B Progress Payment #4 for $34,200.00 to USDA Rural Development for payment. Seconded by D. Foote. Motion carried.

After review and discussion D. Foote made a motion to approve Maguire Iron-Division B Change Order #3. Seconded by R. McGillis. Motion carried.

After review and discussion R. McGillis made a motion to submit Spicer Invoice #167920 for $20,076.13 to USDA Rural Development for payment. Seconded by D. Foote.
Ayes: D. Foote, R. McGillis, D. Schneider, S. Moffit
Nays: M. Turner, M. Schueller
Absent: A. Paksi
Motion carried.

After review and discussion D. Foote made a motion to approve Spicer Contract Amendment #3 for $12,820.00. Seconded by D. Schneider.
Ayes: D. Foote, R. McGillis, D. Schneider, S. Moffit
Nays: M. Turner, M. Schueller
Absent: A. Paksi
Motion carried.

After review M. Turner made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 2013-01 RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE MONTHLY TRASH RATE FOR RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS CUSTOMERS FOR THE VILLAGE OF ASHLEY. Seconded by R. McGillis. Roll call vote was taken:
Nays: 0
Absent: A. Paksi
Resolution 2013-01 passed and adopted.

After review M. Turner made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 2013-02 A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE VILLAGE OF ASHLEY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN. Seconded by D. Foote. Roll call vote was taken:
Nays: 0
Absent: A. Paksi
Resolution 2013-02 passed and adopted.

The 2013-2014 proposed budget recommended by the Budget Committee was submitted to council to review and make comments.

M. Turner made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Seconded by R. McGillis. Motion carried.

_________________________  ________________________
Steve Moffit, Village President  Shelly Moffit, Village Clerk
RESOLUTION

2013-02

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE VILLAGE OF ASHLEY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Village of Ashley Council held on January 8, 2013, at the Ashley Community Center, in the Village of Ashley, County of Gratiot at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Steve Moffit, Rod McGillis, Dave Foote, Duane Schneider, Matt Schueller, Mike Turner

Absent: Ann Paksi

The following preamble and resolution was offered by M. Turner, supported by D. Foote.

WHEREAS, the Village of Ashley has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2013 and 2017, and

WHEREAS, a public comment session was held January 8, 2013 at the Ashley Community Center to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Ashley has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the park and recreation needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, after the public meeting, the Village of Ashley voted to adopt said Park and Recreation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Village of Ashley Council hereby adopts the Village of Ashley Park and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Village of Ashley.


Nay: 0

Absent: A. Paksi

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Village of Ashley Council of the Village of Ashley, County of Gratiot, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on January 8, 2013.

[Signature]

Shelly Moffit, Village Clerk
Copies of letters of transmittal to county and regional planning offices

January 15, 2013

Nicole Frost, County Administrator
The Gratiot County Courthouse
214 East Center Street
Ithaca, Michigan 48847

Dear Ms. Frost:


Sincerely,

[Signature]

Shelly Moffitt
Village Clerk
January 15, 2013

East Michigan Planning and Development Region
Susan Fortune, Executive Director
3144 Davenport Ave., Suite 200
Saginaw, MI 48602-3494

Dear Ms. Fortune:


Sincerely,

[Signature]

Shelly Moffitt
Village Clerk

APPENDIX H. COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Grants Management

COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 263 and 719 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Plan:</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village of Ashley</td>
<td>Gratiot</td>
<td>January 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE
   - Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
   - Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
   - Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming
   - Current Funding Sources
   - Role of Volunteers
   - Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations
   - Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only
     - Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
     - Articles of incorporation

3. RECREATION INVENTORY
   - Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
   - Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
   - Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
   - Accessibility Assessment
   - Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS
8. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

- Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
  
  **Date of the Notice:** November 18, 2012
  
  **Type of Notice:** Newspaper AD
  
  **Plan Location:** Village Office, District Library, Village Website
  
  **Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days):** 55 days
  
- Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan’s Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)
  
  **Date of Notice:** November 18, 2012
  
  **Name of Newspaper:** The Weekly
  
  **Date of Meeting:** January 8, 2013
  
- Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

Plans must be adopted by the highest level governing body (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should also include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are required and must be included in the plan.

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 8, 2013
2. Official resolution of the Planning Commission, Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: October 23, 2012

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for Village of Ashley, Michigan includes the required content, as indicated above and as set forth by the DNR.

[Signature]

[Date]

Administrator for the Local Unit of Government

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSDING, MI 48909-7925

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community(ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

[Signature]

[Date]

Grants Management

[Date]