

Kent County, Michigan

Multi-Jurisdictional Parks Study

Citizens Committee Meeting
January 19, 2012

Initial Consultant Findings



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Purpose of Study

1. Summarize existing parks and recreation services in Kent County.
 - Agencies
 - Programs
 - Assets
 - Budgets
 - Funding mechanisms

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Purpose of Study

2. Identify and evaluate models of collaboration, operational efficiency and funding.
3. Make recommendations for strategies for participating P&R agencies to consider.

Tasks and Timeline

- Data collection and summary
 - November and December, 2011
- Report of findings
 - January, 2011
- Identification and evaluation of models and best practices
 - November, 2011 – February, 2012
- Recommendations and final report
 - March, 2012

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Data Collection Goals

- Understand and articulate the assets, systems, programs, services and liabilities of parks and recreation within the boundaries of Kent County
- “Paint a picture” of current models of ownership, funding and service delivery
- Provide a foundation of information for decision making

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Data Collection Status

- 36 municipalities surveyed
 - 16 reported no P&R or did not respond
 - Non-reporting communities represent
 - 15% of Kent County population
 - 1.6% of total county wide P&R spending (F-65 data)
- All public school districts surveyed (basic questions)
 - 14 of 20 responded
- Data collection continues

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Data Limitations

- Low number of responses related to:
 - Classification of employees in P&R
 - Some uncertainty about how to determine employees in P&R (seasonal, temp, multiple assignments, etc.)
 - Assets and liabilities
 - Very few agencies list P&R assets separately
 - Future capital plans
 - Not all departments have a 5-year capital plan
 - Technology
 - Limited number of agencies use specialized software

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Data Limitations

- Data reported in wide range of detail and in multiple formats
 - Functional budget vs. activity budget
 - Total rev/exp vs. very detailed line items
- More complete GIS data could help complete missing parks acreage and other data

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Findings

- Currently 31 initial findings
- Based on available data
- Supported by additional data (not all of which is included here)
- Seeking input today and in the coming weeks

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1. Parks and recreation spending by municipalities in Kent County declined 5.5% between 2009 and 2011

Municipality	2009 Expenditures	2011 Expenditures	Difference	% Diff
<i>Kent County</i>	\$ 4,302,352	\$ 3,864,019	\$ (438,333)	-10.2%
Ada Township	\$ 310,856	\$ 320,220	\$ 9,364	3.0%
Algoma Township	\$ 55,579	\$ 56,535	\$ 956	1.7%
Alpine Township	\$ 34,575	\$ 24,452	\$ (10,123)	-29.3%
Byron Township	\$ 395,848	\$ 672,870	\$ 277,022	70.0%
Caledonia Township	\$ 52,900	\$ 5,520	\$ (47,380)	-89.6%
Cannon Township	\$ 18,778	\$ 37,061	\$ 18,283	97.4%
Cascade Township	\$ 132,347	\$ 41,523	\$ (90,824)	-68.6%
Cedar Springs City	\$ 49,514	\$ 155,359	\$ 105,845	213.8%
East Grand Rapids City	\$ 1,748,714	\$ 1,662,343	\$ (86,371)	-4.9%
Gaines Township	\$ 31,420	\$ 15,241	\$ (16,179)	-51.5%
Grand Rapids City	\$ 8,266,701	\$ 6,747,077	\$ (1,519,624)	-18.4%
Grand Rapids Township	\$ 11,879	\$ 40,487	\$ 28,608	240.8%

Source: F-65 Database

Note: municipalities with no data or missing data have been hidden

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1. Parks and recreation spending by municipalities in Kent County declined 5.5% between 2009 and 2011

Municipality	2009 Expenditures	2011 Expenditures	Difference	% Diff
Grandville City	\$ 806,666	\$ 507,952	\$ (298,714)	-37.0%
Kentwood City	\$ 970,220	\$ 1,795,363	\$ 825,143	85.0%
Lowell City	\$ 160,803	\$ 176,778	\$ 15,975	9.9%
Lowell Township	\$ 27,212	\$ 20,712	\$ (6,500)	-23.9%
Oakfield Township		\$ -	\$ -	
Plainfield Township	\$ 191,743	\$ 175,775	\$ (15,968)	-8.3%
Sand Lake Village		\$ 14,306	\$ 14,306	
Solon Township	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,700	\$ (300)	-7.5%
Sparta Village		\$ 59,712	\$ 59,712	
Tyrone Township	\$ 7,392	\$ -	\$ (7,392)	-100.0%
Vergennes Township	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,000	66.7%
Walker City	\$ 1,684,069	\$ 1,532,450	\$ (151,619)	-9.0%
Total	\$ 23,787,456	\$ 22,468,717	\$ (1,318,739)	-5.5%

Source: F-65 Database

Note: municipalities with no data or missing data have been hidden

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2. Per capita spending on parks & recreation varies substantially between communities

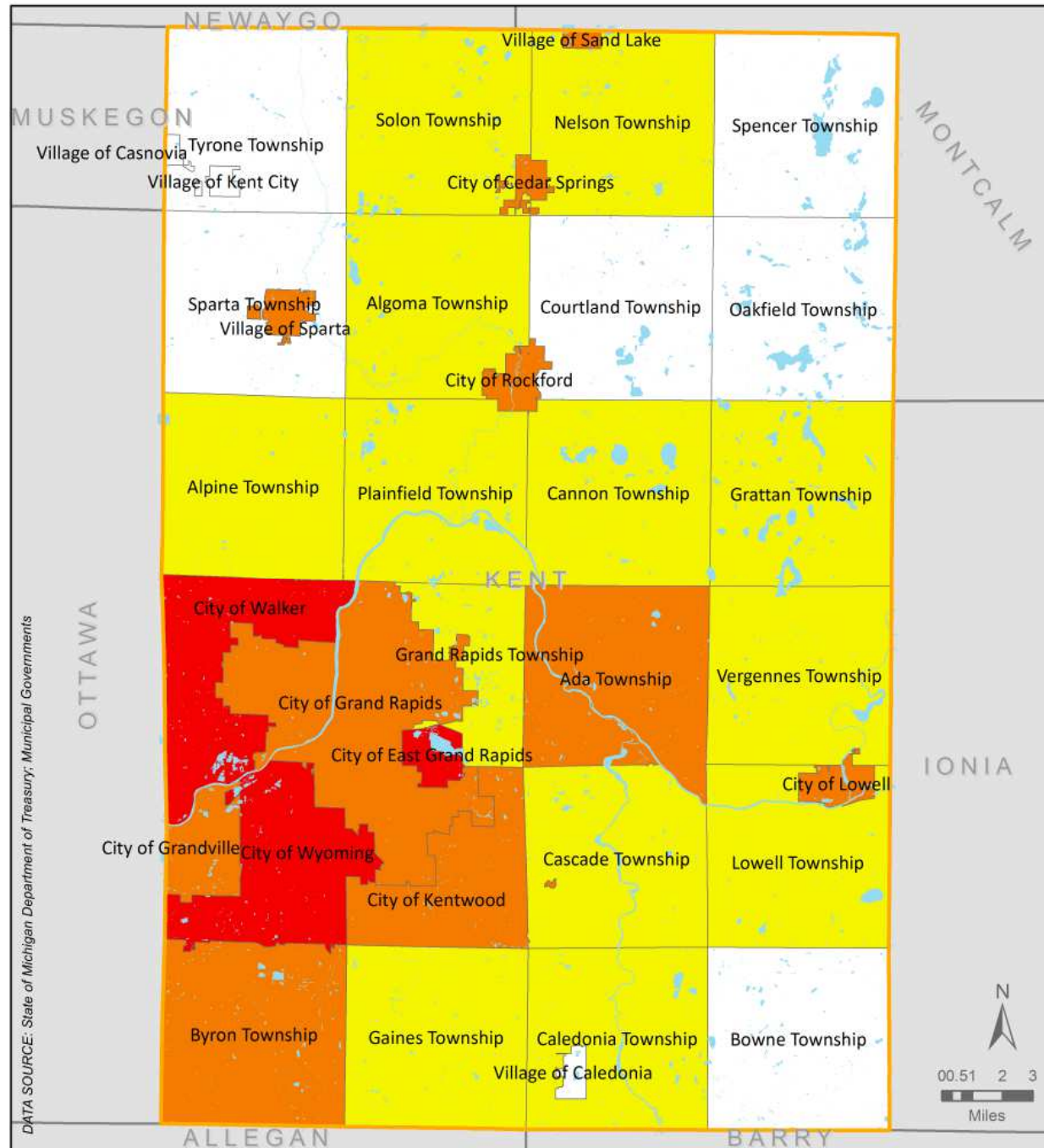
Municipality	2010 Population	2011 Expenditures	\$/pop.	Municipality	2010 Population	2011 Expenditures	\$/pop.
Kent County	602,622	\$ 3,864,019	\$ 6.41	Grandville City	15,378	\$ 507,952	\$ 33.03
Ada Township	13,142	\$ 320,220	\$ 24.37	Kentwood City	48,707	\$ 1,795,363	\$ 36.86
Algoma Township	9,932	\$ 56,535	\$ 5.69	Lowell City	3,783	\$ 176,778	\$ 46.73
Alpine Township	13,336	\$ 24,452	\$ 1.83	Lowell Township	5,949	\$ 20,712	\$ 3.48
Byron Township	20,317	\$ 672,870	\$ 33.12	Oakfield Township	5,782	\$ -	\$ -
Caledonia Township	10,821	\$ 5,520	\$ 0.51	Plainfield Township	30,952	\$ 175,775	\$ 5.68
Caledonia Village	1,511	\$ 150	\$ 0.10	Rockford City	5,719	\$ 148,500	\$ 25.97
Cannon Township	13,336	\$ 37,061	\$ 2.78	Sand Lake Village	500	\$ 14,306	\$ 28.61
Cascade Township	17,134	\$ 41,523	\$ 2.42	Solon Township	5,974	\$ 3,700	\$ 0.62
Cedar Springs City	3,509	\$ 155,359	\$ 44.27	Sparta Village	4,140	\$ 59,712	\$ 14.42
East Grand Rapids City	10,694	\$ 1,662,343	\$ 155.45	Tyrone Township	4,731	\$ -	\$ -
Gaines Township	25,146	\$ 15,241	\$ 0.61	Vergennes Township	4,189	\$ 2,500	\$ 0.60
Grand Rapids City	188,040	\$ 6,747,077	\$ 35.88	Walker City	23,537	\$ 1,532,450	\$ 65.11
Grand Rapids Township	16,661	\$ 40,487	\$ 2.43	Wyoming City	72,125	\$ 4,384,112	\$ 60.78
				Total	602,622	\$ 22,468,717	\$ 37.28

Source: F-65 Database

Note: municipalities with no data or missing data have been hidden

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Per Capita Expenditures for Parks & Recreation, 2011



3. Per capita spending on P&R in Kent County is lower than NRPA averages*

Jurisdiction Type	Kent County	NRPA Average
All	\$37.28	\$63.00
County	\$6.41	\$12.00
Township	\$7.52	\$27.00
City (>200,000 pop.)	\$45.48	\$69.00

*National averages are 2011 data from the National Recreation and Parks Association based on reporting from member agencies

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4. Spending for P&R in Kent County is lower per capita than in comparable Michigan Counties

	2011 P&R Expenditures	2010 Population	\$/person	Change 2009- 2011
Kent County	\$ 22,468,717	602,622	\$ 37.28	-5.5%
Washtenaw County	\$ 29,041,174	344,791	\$ 84.23	-13.7%
Oakland County	\$ 85,671,449	1,202,362	\$ 71.25	-10.0%
Macomb County	\$ 22,103,181	840,978	\$ 26.28	-5.3%
Ottawa County	\$ 9,708,424	263,801	\$ 36.80	-15.9%
Average of Comparables	\$ 36,631,057	662,983	\$ 55.25	-11.2%
<i>Sources: F-65 Database; US Census</i>				
<i>Note: some communities not reporting expenditures</i>				

- Reflects of choices of individual communities
 - Full service vs. basic parks
 - Breadth of recreation services desired

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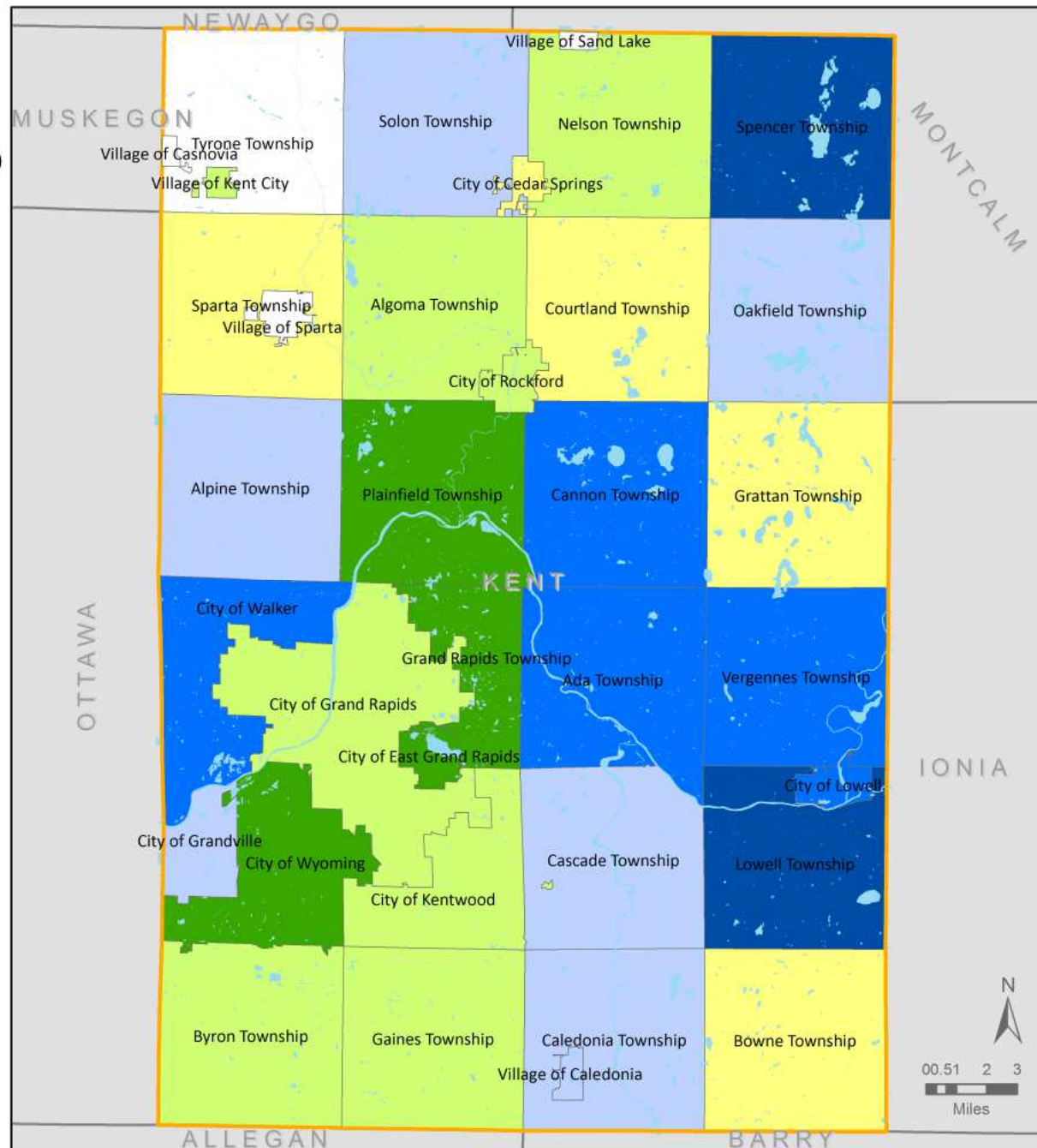
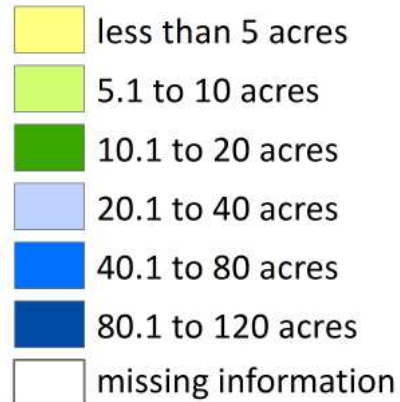
5. Acres of parkland per population varies substantially between communities

- Some communities own little or no parkland, yet have a lot of acres due to county and state parks
- Highest density appears to be east and south of GR
- Identified 238 parks/park sites in county to-date
 - Municipal & State parks, nature areas, etc.
 - Developed & undeveloped
 - 17,971 total acres (11,951 w/o State game areas)
 - Data related to some municipal parkland has not been received or discovered

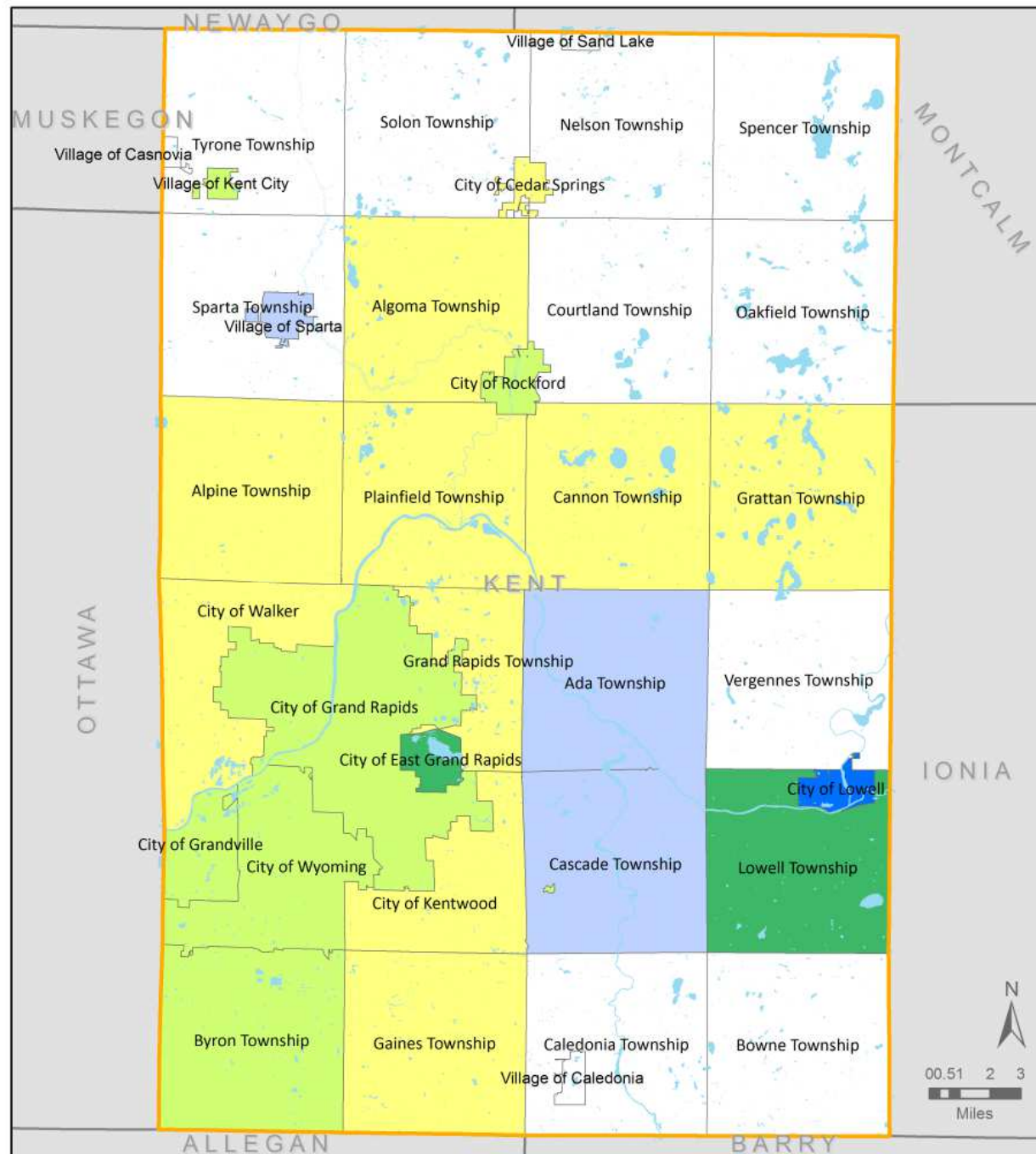
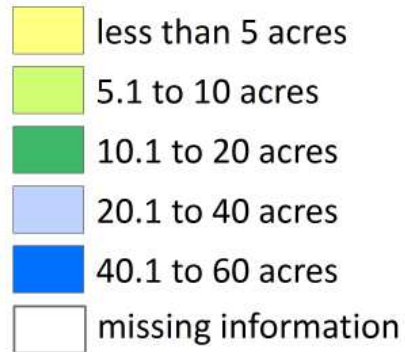
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Acres of Parkland Located in the Municipality Per 1000 Population

(includes Kent County and State, except Game Areas)



Acres of Parkland Owned by the Municipality Per 1000 Population



6. Acres of parkland (all types) per 1000 population in Kent County exceeds the national average

- Kent County (all jurisdictions) has an estimated 19 acres/1,000 population (not including State game areas)
- The national average is 16 acres/1,000 population
- The NRPA standard is 10 acres/1,000 population

National averages are 2011 data from the National Recreation and Parks Association

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7. Most jurisdictions in Kent county are involved in some form of inter-agency cooperation or service sharing

- 43% of responding schools indicated they share recreation programming with other units of government
- 8 communities are members of 2 interagency authorities
- Coordination of purchase/management of county parks and inter-jurisdictional trails
- Various arrangements exist for building & grounds maintenance

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7. Most jurisdictions in Kent county are involved in some form of inter-agency cooperation or service sharing

- Plainfield Charter Township works with the Rockford Arts Commission, YMCA, and independent youth athletic associations
- Kentwood has a partnership with the Kroc Center and the Michigan Athletic Club
- Cedar Springs partnership with Cedar Springs Schools, Nelson, Solon, Algoma and Courtland Townships
- East Grand Rapids partners with schools, offers interscholastic sports for middle school students, Michigan Athletic Club
- City of Grand Rapids partners with library and Kroc Center
- Ada Township uses private sector facilities and schools.
- Grand Rapids Township partners with the YMCA and Forest Hills Aquatic Center
- And many others

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8. Budget challenges make obvious the need for increased collaboration between jurisdictions but have the effect of reducing the capacity for collaboration

- Collaboration requires substantial staff time to establish and manage
- Budget reductions force a contraction of services and a tendency to focus narrowly on maintaining core services
- “We used to do more, but we seem to be doing less collaboration during the economic downturn”

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Staffing and Contracting of Parks and Recreation Functions

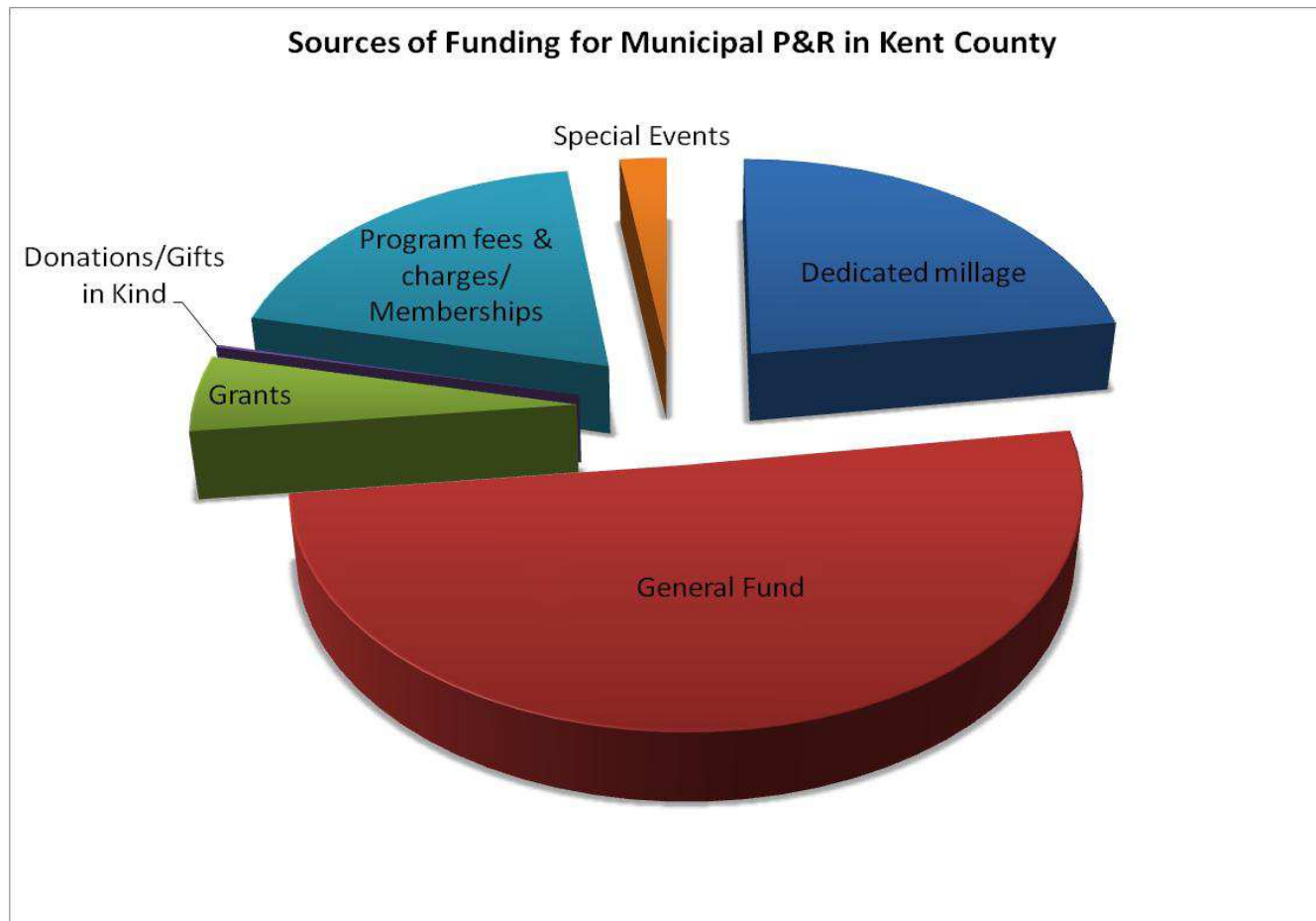
	Dedicated 100% PR - Total FTE's	Staff Used from Other Departments - FTE's	PT Year Round Employees	Temporary/ Seasonal Employees	Services Contracted Out
Ada Township	2	2	3	9	Lawn Mowing, Fertilization, Porta-Johns, Waste Mngt., Tree Chippers
Algoma Township	0	0	0	0	Landscaper/Mowing/Porta-John/Little League
Alpine Township	0	1	1	0	None
Byron Township	4	0	8	50	Fitness Equip.
Caledonia Village	0	0	0	0	
Cannon Township	0	1	0	0	Lawn Svs./Trash/Kent. Co Contracted to clean park
Cascade Township	0	5	0	4	Lawn Mowing/Porta-Johns/Trash
Casnovia Village	0	2	0	0	
East Grand Rapids City	8	2	2	90	Lawn Maint. Program
Gaines Township	0	0	0	0	Lawn
Grand Rapids Township	0	0	0	0	Lawn/Clean Baths/Fixing everything/Remove Dead
Grand Rapids City	10	14	0	350	
Grandville City	0	0	0	0	
Kent City Village	0	2	0	0	Weed Control
Kent County	16	7	0	131	
Kentwood City	6	2			
Lowell City	0	1	0	0	Mowing
Plainfield Township	0	4	0	10	Trash/Porta-Johns
Sparta Village	0	3	1	0	Porta-Johns/Weed Control/Flower Beds
Sparta Township	0	0	0	1	None
Vergennes Township	0	0	0	0	
Walker City	0	4	5	80	None
Wyoming City	78	0	0	75	Therapeutic Rec./Mowing/Weed Control/Roofing
Totals	124	50	20	800	

9. Capital expenditures can significantly increase a municipal parks & recreation budget in a given year

- Example: Algoma Twp.
 - Operating budget: \$57,000
 - Capital budget (2012): \$851,000
- Capital expenditures often funded with GF money
 - GF budgets are being reduced
 - Potential for less spending on parks capital in future

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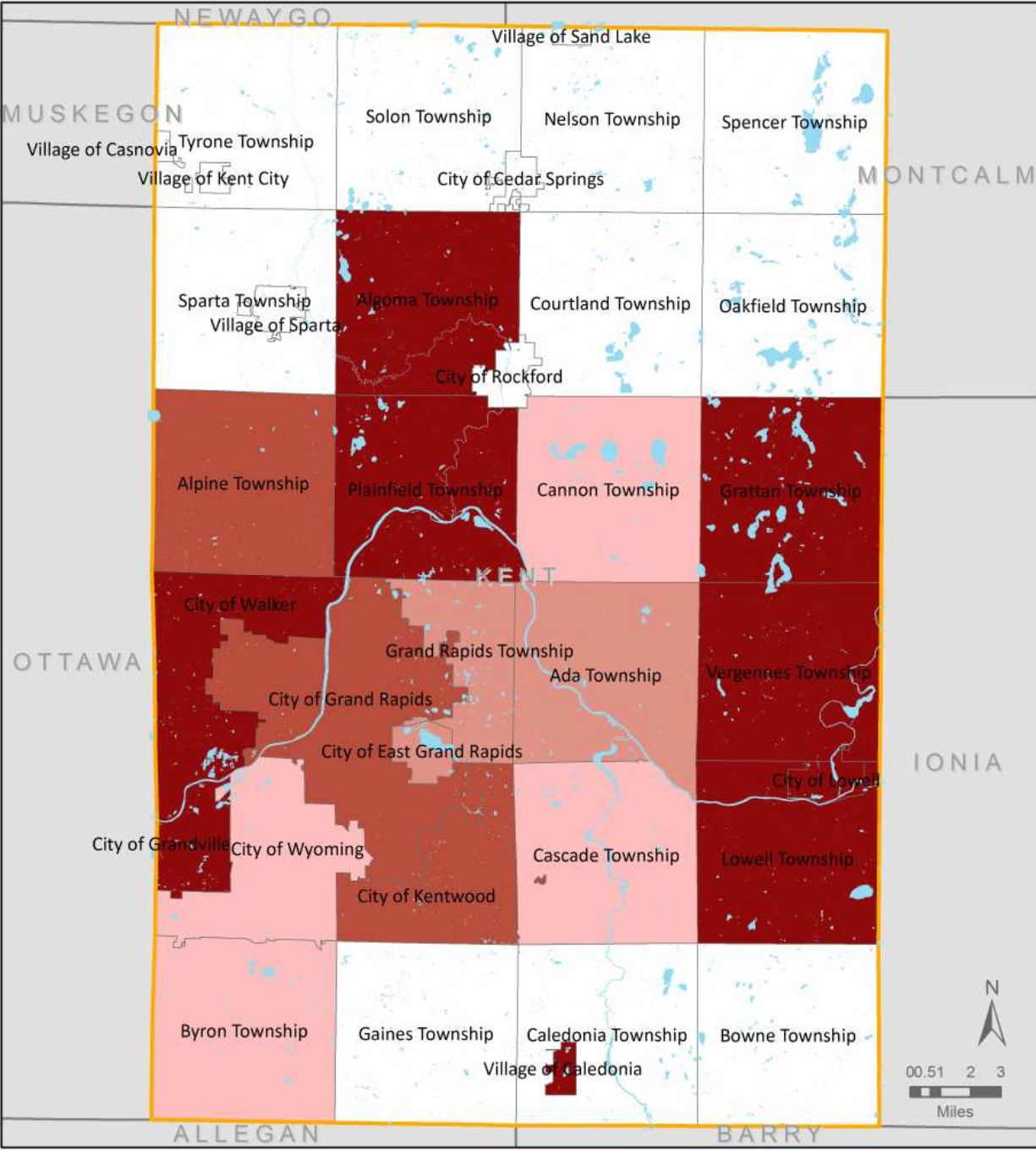
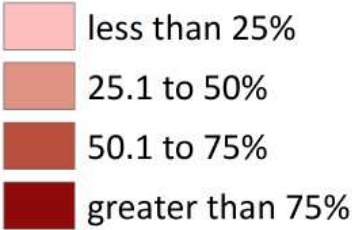
10. The largest source of funding for P&R departments in Kent County is the general fund (nearly 50%)



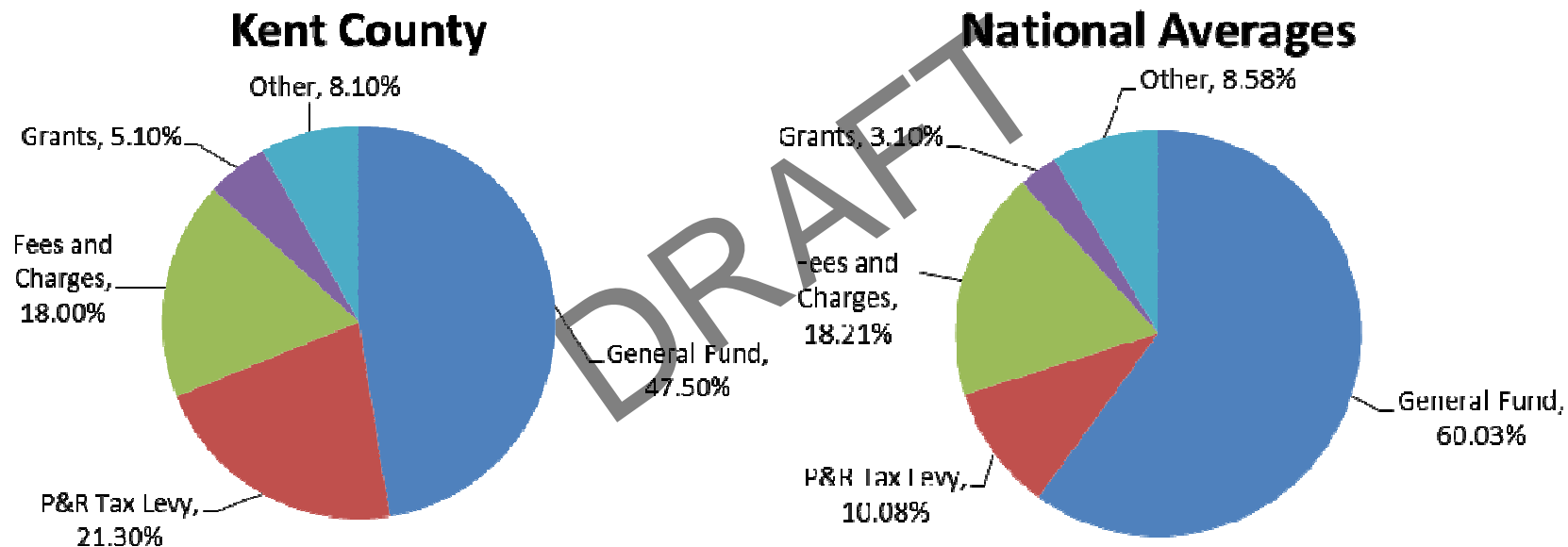
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General Tax Support

Percent of Total P&R Revenue



11. Local P&R millages are a higher percentage of total P&R revenue in Kent County than the national average



National averages are 2011 data from the National Recreation and Parks Association

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12. Six municipalities in Kent County have a P&R millage (about 20% to total revenue). Four school districts have a dedicated millage

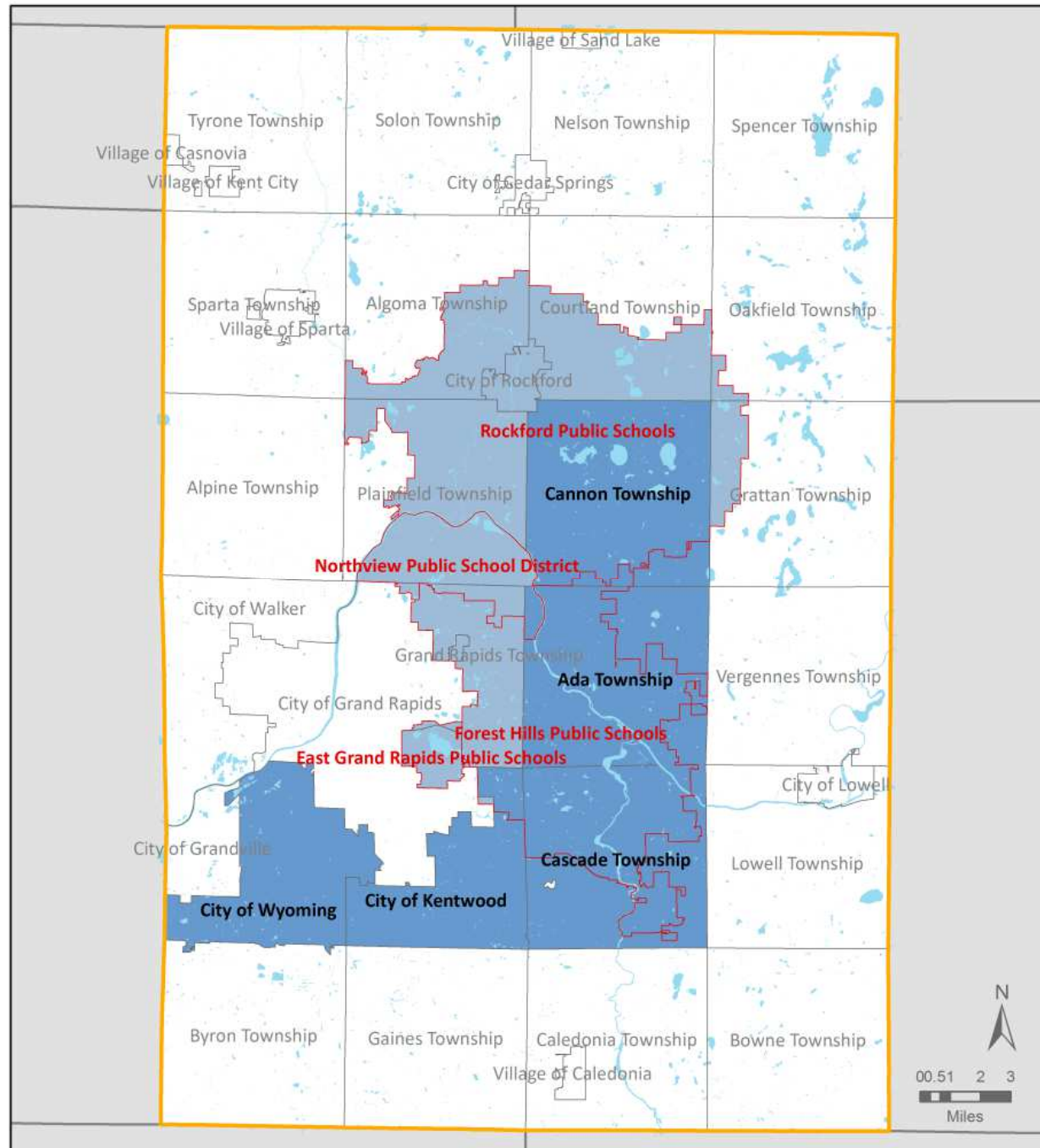
Municipality	Millage Rate	Revenues	Purpose
Ada Township	0.3963	\$ 348,953	Opens space/parks development
	0.2448	\$ 215,553	Parks maintenance & operations
	0.4977	\$ 438,238	Pathways/trailways
Cannon Township	0.3760	\$ 207,675	Trails
Cascade Township	0.2300	\$ 313,793	Parkland & open space purchase, development & maintenance
	0.3985	\$ 543,680	Pathways/trailways
East Grand Rapids City	0.2600	\$ 138,861	Debt
Kentwood	0.0998	\$ 191,322	Trails & park development & acquisition. No operations/mtc.
Wyoming	1.5000	\$2,977,787	Parks maintenance & operations. No GF support for P&R.
School District	Millage Rate	Revenues	Purpose
East Grand Rapids Public Schools	1.3455	\$ 765,741	Community Recreation
Forest Hills Public Schools	1.0000	\$2,936,560	Community Recreation
Northeview Public Schools	0.7500	\$ 432,651	Community Recreation
Rockford Public Schools	0.9881	\$1,503,574	Parks & Recreation

Sources: Kent County administration; Municipal Analytics survey

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Millages

Supporting Parks or Recreation
in Municipalities and School Districts



13. Schools are a significant resource for recreation facilities

- Schools account for over 50% of most common recreation facilities

Facilities	Schools	Muni	% Schools
Baseball	40	37	52%
Softball	39	28	58%
BallField	73	70	51%
Basketball	170	50	77%
Football	40	3	93%
Lacrosse	25	n/a	100%
Soccer	96	54	64%
Volleyball	54	18	75%
Tennis	146	104	58%
OpenField	16	13	55%
Track	17	1	94%
Playground	126	134	48%
Gymnasium	54	5	92%
Pool	9	6	60%
Skating	0	5	0%
Trails	1	66	1%

Source: Survey of schools; online reviews

Note: Data is incomplete due to limited availability

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14. Schools play a critical role in recreation programming in Kent County

- 11 of 14 responding school districts provide some form of recreation programming to the public
- Basketball, swimming and summer recreation are the most common opportunities provided by schools
- Recreation is a relatively insignificant part of school mission, operations and budgets
 - May be more susceptible to budget cuts
 - Are generally valued by the public
- Thirty six percent of responding districts have their own recreation staff.
 - There are varying fees for school use by parks and recreation agencies; some agencies pay no fees at all

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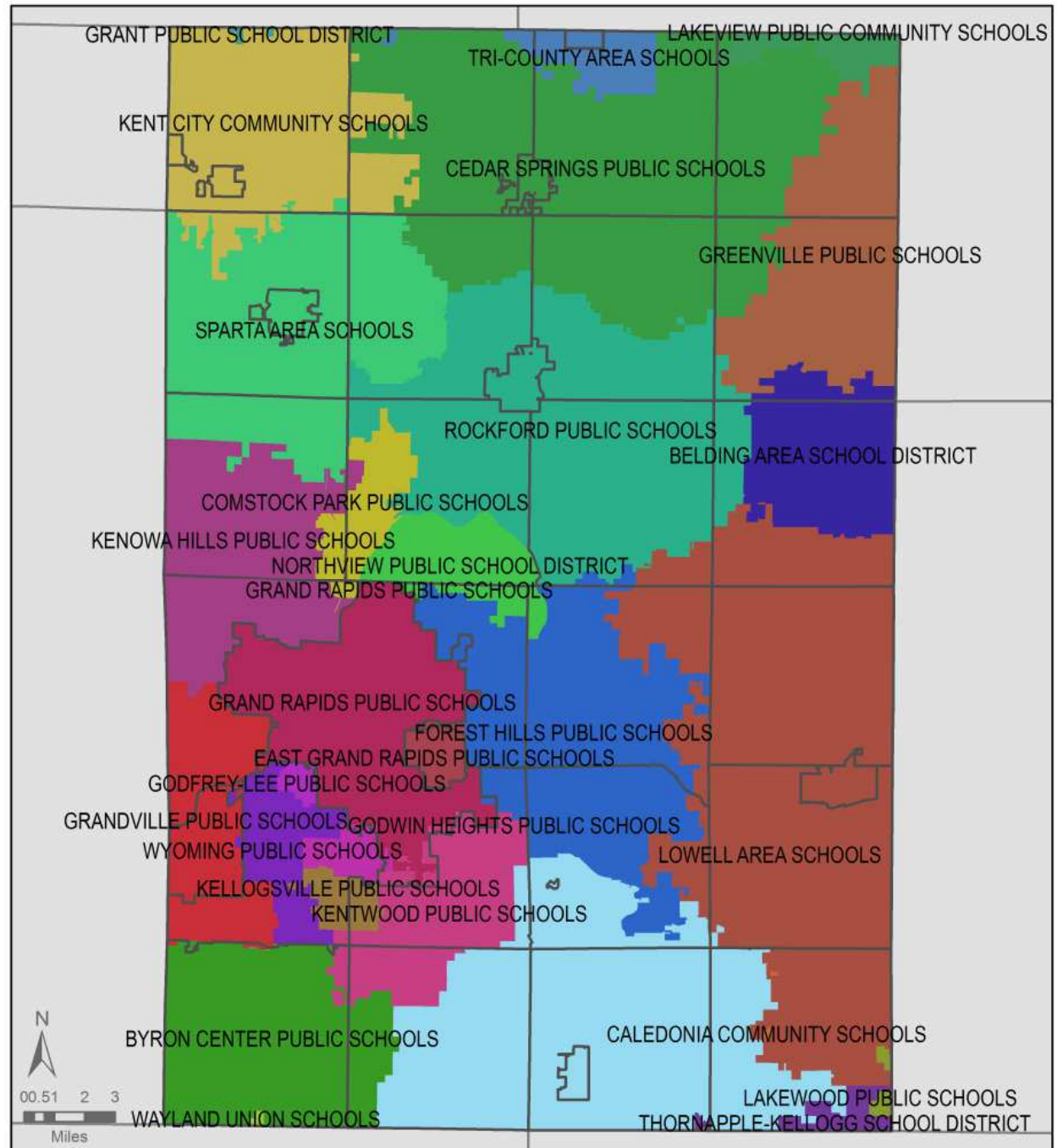
15. School boundaries are often not congruous with city/township boundaries resulting in complexity in forming working relationships

- East Grand Rapids: City and school boundaries are almost identical
- Wyoming: 7 school districts in city
- Vergennes Township: 1 district for all of Township
- All school districts, with exception of Grand Rapids Public Schools and Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, lie within at least 2 municipalities

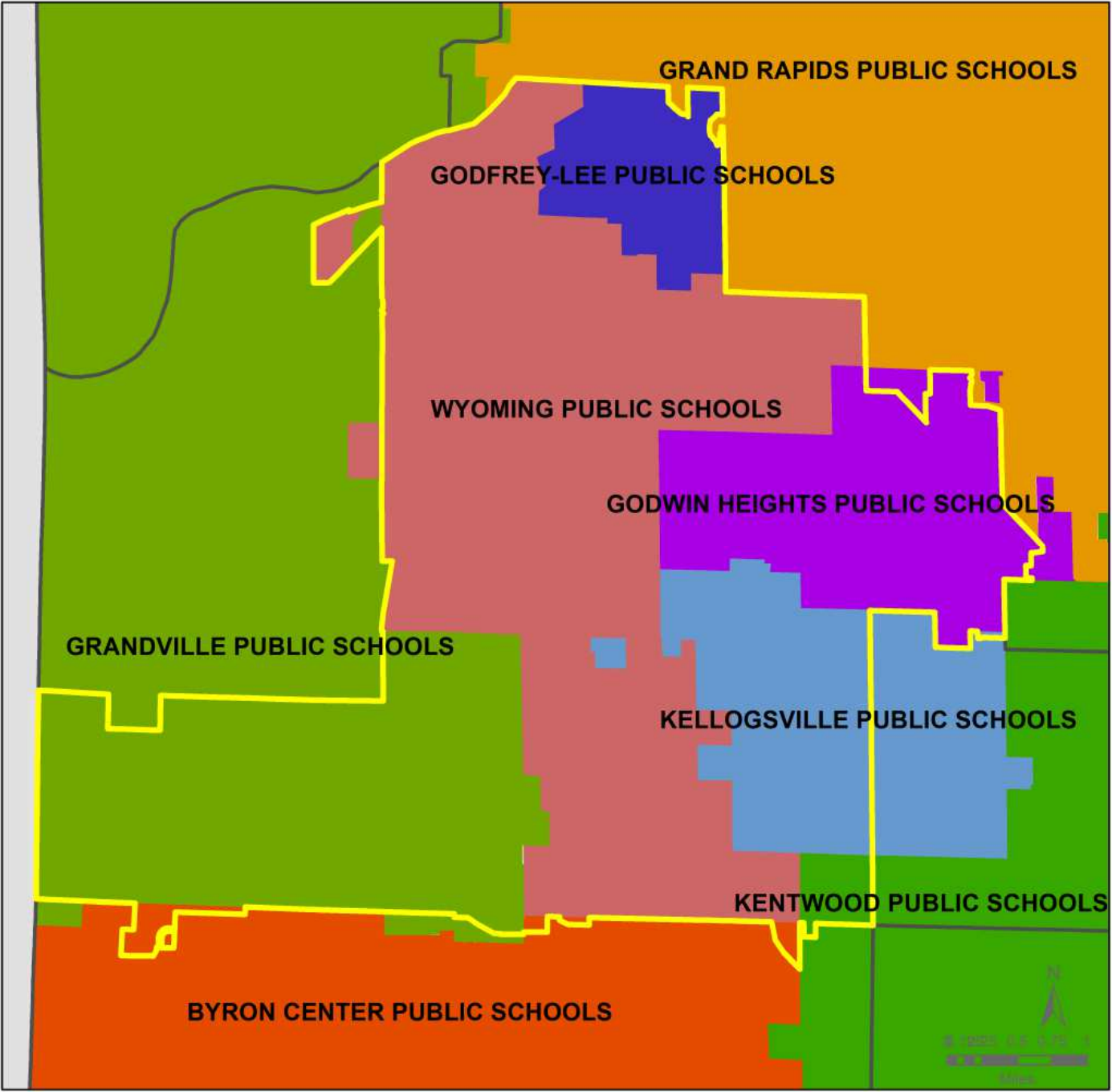
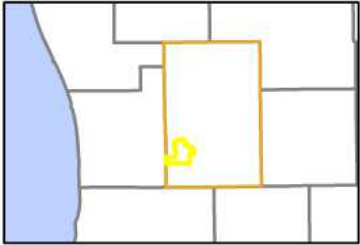
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School Districts in Kent County

 Municipal Boundaries



School Districts
in the City of Wyoming



16. Inter-local agreements are an effective mechanism for multi-jurisdictional cooperation



- Lowell Area Recreation Authority
 - City of Lowell, Vergennes Township & Lowell Charter Township
 - Formed in 2004
 - Urban Cooperation Act
 - Develop non-motorized trailway connecting member communities

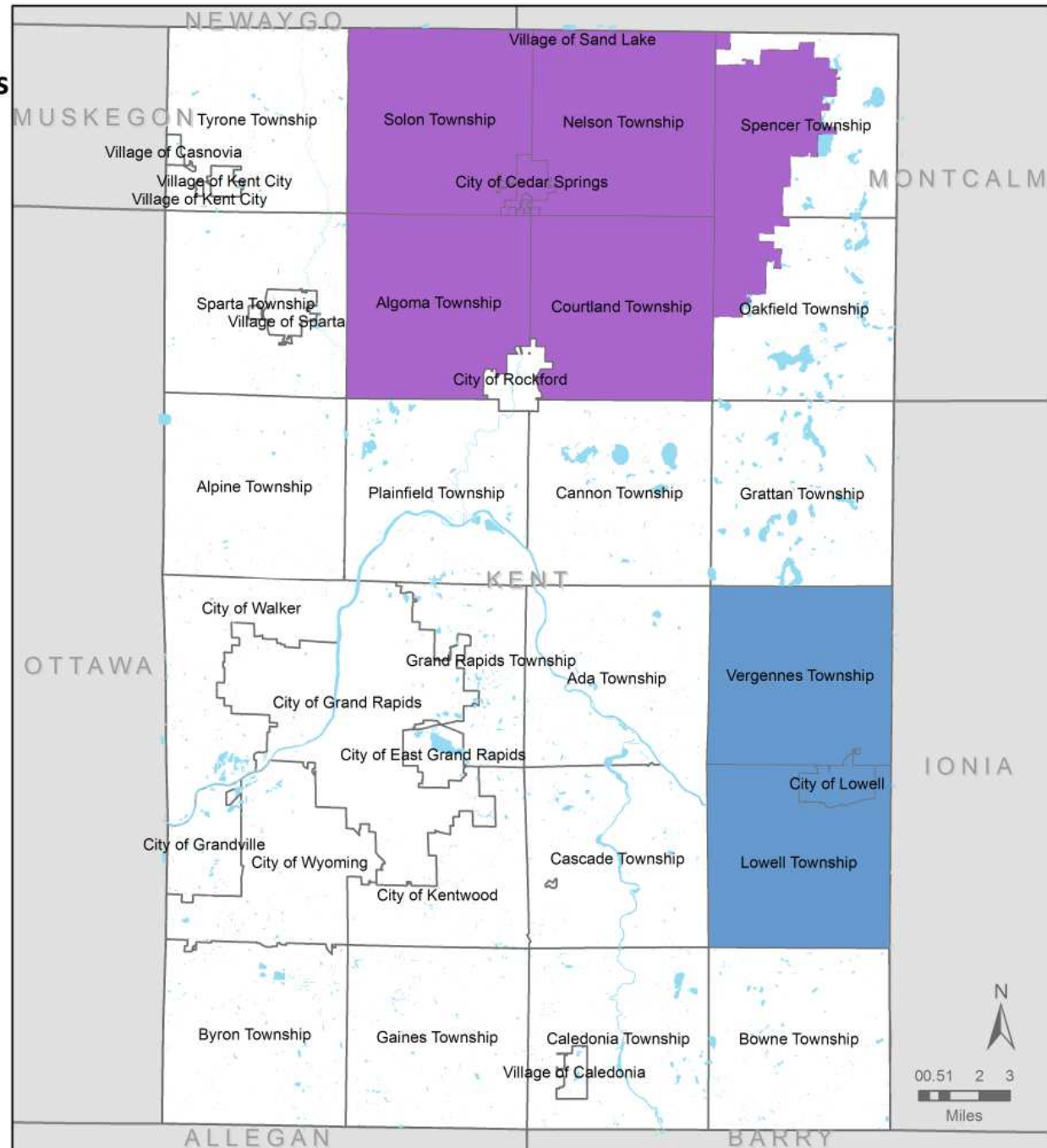
16. Inter-local agreements are an effective mechanism for multi-jurisdictional cooperation

- Cedar Springs Area Parks and Recreation Board
 - Townships of Solon, Nelson, Algoma & Courtland
 - City of Cedar Springs
 - Cedar Springs Public School District
 - Formed 2007 (Urban Cooperation Act, 1967)
 - Recreation and Playgrounds (PA 156 of 1917)
 - Plan public recreation, parks, recreational facilities, and expenditure of funds as needed for the operation & supervision of such system

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Parks & Recreation Inter-jurisdictional Partnerships

-  Cedar Springs Area Parks & Recreation
-  Lowell Area Recreation Authority



17. Kent County multi-jurisdictional relationships, particularly those involving schools, tend to be informal and not clearly defined

- Of the 12 responding school districts to the survey question relating to formal agreements, 11 have no formal intergovernmental agreements
- Most frequent partnerships: School districts, YMCA, Kroc Center, libraries and private fitness facilities such as the Michigan Athletic Club, independent volunteer athletic associations. Non-profits such as Arts Commissions offer programs as well.
- East Grand Rapids has a relationship with schools offering interscholastic sports for the middle schools. There are also relationships among agencies (Cedar Springs with townships and a school district).
- City of Grand Rapids: Joint Use of Facilities, Maintenance and Programming Agreements
 - Grand Rapids Public Schools
 - Grand Rapids Community College

18. Municipalities and schools leverage community resources to provide a broader scope of recreational opportunities

- Review of program brochures suggests public recreation programs utilize a wide range of public and private pools, fitness facilities and athletic fields/courts to provide recreation opportunities
- During interviews with recreation managers, frequent mention was made of using YMCA, private gyms, school or municipal facilities
- Recognition that “we don’t have to build it all ourselves”

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19. Model parks agencies have both a dedicated millage and independent governance mechanisms

Jurisdiction	Tax Source	Tax Revenue	Percent of Total Budget	Millage Rate	Governance Structure
Washtenaw County	Parks operating	\$3,600,000		0.25	Parks & Recreation Commission*
	Park development and land acquisition	\$3,600,000		0.25	
	Natural area preservations	\$3,600,000		0.25	
Oakland County	Parks operating	\$11,078,000	44%	0.25	Parks & Recreation Commission*
Ottawa County	Parks operating	\$2,974,049	80%	0.3165	Parks & Recreation Commission*
Minneapolis Parks	City tax levy	\$47,217,000	79%	2.0 (est.)	Parks & Recreation Board (elected)
	State local government aid	\$7,570,039	13%	N/A	

*PA 261 of 1965 MCL 46.351: The Commission shall consist of 10 members including a member of the County Road Commission, the County Water Resources Commissioner, a member of the County Planning Advisory Board and seven members appointed by the County Board of Commissioners, at least one and not more than three of whom shall be members of the Board.

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20. The St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission distributes a portion of its millage to local units within the county

- P&R tax generates \$2.6 million per year (0.49 mils)
- Distributes 25% of the property tax it collects back to 33 local units of government, based on their populations, for the development of local parks and recreation facilities and programs
- Works in partnership with several local groups that provide programming within the St. Clair County Parks system (the Port Huron Museum, St. Clair County Farm Museum, Wales Historical Society, Can-Am BMX, Prop Busters RC planes, Redline Racing RC cars and Earth Keepers)

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21. There is no independent park & recreation governance authority in Kent County

Jurisdiction	Parks and Recreation Governance
City of Grand Rapids	Parks And Recreation Advisory Board
City of Kentwood	Parks & Recreation Commission
City of Wyoming	Parks and Recreation Commission
Ada Township	Open Space Board Parks & Recreation Committee
Algoma Township Cedar Springs Courtland Township Nelson Township Solon Township	Cedar Springs Parks & Recreation Board
Alpine Township	Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
Byron Township	Parks & Recreation Committee
Cannon Township	Twp. Board of Parks & Recreation Committee makes recommendations
Cascade Township	Planning Committee responsible for Parks & Recreation
Grand Rapids Township	Parks & Recreation Committee
Grattan Township	Grattan Township Parks & Recreation Committee (Volunteer)

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22. Partnerships with non-profit and private sector organizations offer opportunity for expansion of services and revenue generation

- East Grand Rapids partners with the Michigan Athletic Club (MAC) and Middle schools
- Kentwood partners with MAC and the Kroc Center
- Courtland and Caledonia Townships and Rockford include information about daily fee public courses, not owned by the townships/city
- Grand Rapids partners with the Kroc Center and the library
- Plainfield Charter Township partners with the Rockford Arts Commission, and non profit athletic associations and swim teams

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23. Trails are a highly desired amenity and are largely multi-jurisdictional

- Landowners adjacent to White Pine Trail strongly support the trail
 - 67% of businesses; 76% of residents
- Lowell Area Recreation Authority formed specifically for trail development
- Friends of White Pine Trail volunteer to help maintain trail, with some local funding
- Sparta rec plan identified trails as highest priority (30% above next highest priority)
- Trails increase property values, safety & quality of life (*“Trail Effects on Neighborhoods: Home Value, Safety and Quality of Life,” Boulder Area Trails Coalition study*)
- A 2010 survey of Oakland residents reported trails as the most highly desired and highly used park and recreation asset

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24. There is no comprehensive assessment of public priorities for parks and recreation in Kent County

- 2007 assessment prepared by MSU focused on County-owned parks
 - Some priorities may carry over to local parks system
 - Top priorities:
 - More/better non-motorized trails
 - Maintenance, cleanliness
 - More activities/events/festivals
 - Lower fees
- What is the role of municipals & schools in meeting priorities?

25. There is no mechanism for comprehensive county-wide multi-jurisdictional park and recreation planning in Kent County

- Many communities have a parks and recreation master plan
- Consideration is often given to nearby assets
- Joint planning examples:
 - Lowell Area Recreation Authority
 - Each community also has its own planning document
 - Village and Township of Sparta
 - Recently completed joint community parks and recreation plan (2012-2017)

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26. There is very little coordination of marketing and promotion of park and recreation programming

- Few agencies use social media – primarily Facebook (Wyoming, Kent County, Kentwood, Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids)
 - Few agencies have information about neighboring agencies' contact information. Kentwood is an exception: Lists other agencies on their website. Caledonia Township and a few other agencies list Kent County Parks
 - There is no ability to register or reserve facilities for other communities on websites
 - Some agencies have very robust web sites. Other agency websites are hard to find. Some agencies do not have a website
 - A few agencies produce email newsletters such as constant contact; most have none
 - Some agencies distribute promotional material through the schools
 - Water bill insert is sometimes used
 - Agencies do not cross promote special events
-

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27. There is limited use of technology to support operations and public access

- EGR, Grand Rapids, Kentwood & Wyoming use RecTrac registration software
- Kent County uses a number of software application for different purposes, but is planning to transition to RecTrac in 2012
- Walker uses Max Ice for scheduling
- Only six agencies report online recreation program registration, parks reservations, or facility scheduling software.
- RecTrac is the most widely used application

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27. There is limited use of technology to support operations and public access

- Kent County is the only agency that offers online park reservations
- No online athletic field reservation system exists
- Most program guides in PDF (except for the 4 agencies that have online registration)
- No two school districts use the same scheduling software. Systems in use include: Active, Schedule Star, School Dude, Ace Ware, RecPro, DynaCal, etc.

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28. Emerging technology offers opportunities for enhanced customer service, inter-jurisdictional collaboration and operational efficiency

- Web-based systems for multi-jurisdictional gateway to activity registration, facility reservations, league management, cashiering and related services
- Common GIS platform GIS
- Technology can enhance marketing, CRM/customer communications and membership management
- Social networking software offers additional opportunity for customer communication

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29. Access to recreational programming varies significantly throughout Kent County

Access to Recreation Programming in Individual Communities

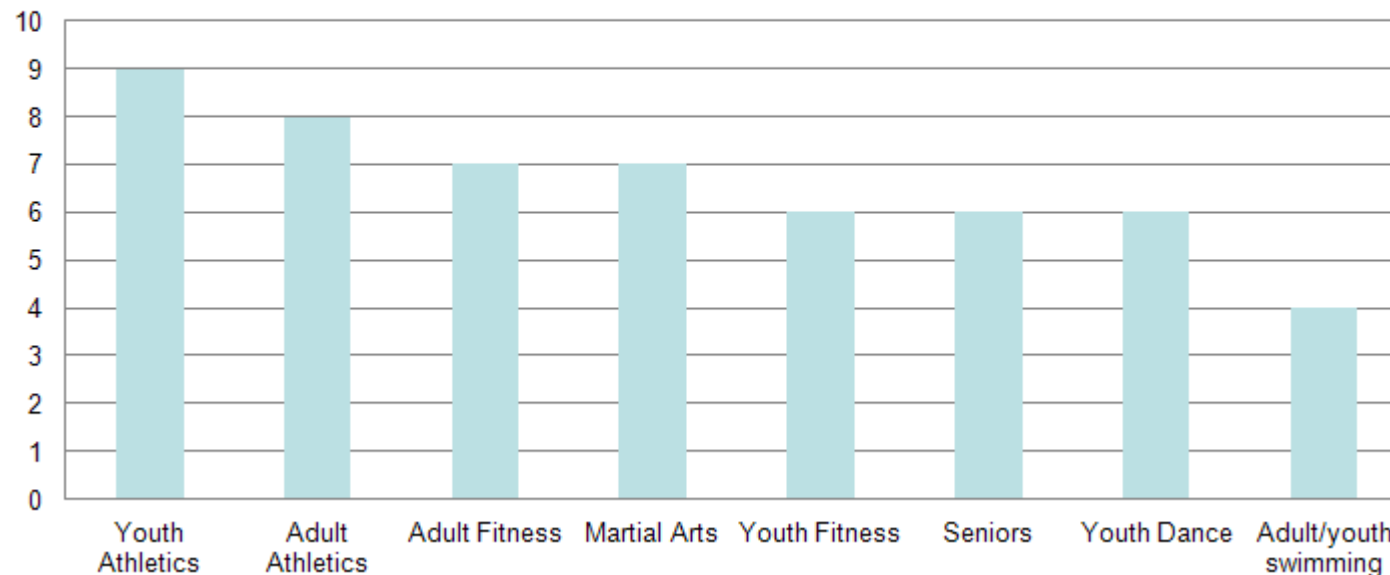


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29. Access to recreational programming varies significantly throughout Kent County

- Generally speaking, Kent County offers passive activities, cities/villages/towns offer active programs, and townships offer park services but no recreation. There are exceptions to this as Ada Township offers environmental/stewardship programming and Byron Township offers a variety of programs

**Most Frequent Recreation Services Available
(Number of Agencies Offering)**



29. Access to recreational programming varies significantly throughout Kent County

- Agencies generally charge non-resident fees.
- Wyoming and Kentwood charge \$15 more for non-residents
- Grand Rapids charges \$10 more
- Many townships charge 50% more for park amenities such as picnic pavilion rentals than residents
- Higher non-resident charges may reflect millage paid by residents
- According to the recreation staff group, there are opportunities to offer regional programs that do not generate enough participation by individual communities such as senior or active adult sports leagues
- According to the recreation staff group, there is an insufficient number of athletic fields throughout Kent County

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Recreation Program Pricing Comparisons (sample programs)

Municipality		Adult fitness	Adult dance	Youth athletics	Youth art	Youth dance	Adult yoga	Average
Ada Township	Resident Fee	\$114.00	\$100.00	\$45.00	\$34.00	\$132.00	\$114.00	\$94.83
	Non-res % Inc.	109%	110%	122%	129%	108%	109%	114%
Byron Township	Resident Fee	\$40.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$45.00	\$52.00	\$40.00	\$45.75
	Non-res % Inc.	125%	114%	129%	122%	119%	125%	122%
Cedar Springs	Resident Fee	\$30.00	\$30.00		\$55.00	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$38.00
	Non-res % Inc.	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%	100%
East Grand Rapids	Resident Fee	\$39.00	\$112.00	\$190.00	\$27.00	\$69.00	\$54.00	\$89.33
	Non-res % Inc.	126%	118%	111%	137%	122%	128%	123%
Grand Rapids	Resident Fee	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$25.00	\$70.00	\$50.00	\$52.50
	Non-res % Inc.	120%	120%	125%	140%	114%	120%	123%
Grand Rapids Township	Resident Fee	\$114.00	\$100.00	\$45.00	\$34.00	\$132.00	\$114.00	\$94.83
	Non-res % Inc.	109%	110%	122%	129%	108%	109%	114%
Kentwood	Resident Fee	\$48.00	\$20.00	\$36.00	\$52.00	\$41.00	\$48.00	\$45.83
	Non-res % Inc.	131%	100%	142%	100%	137%	131%	123%
Walker	Resident Fee	\$60.00		\$33.00			\$60.00	\$52.67
	Non-res % Inc.	100%		130%			100%	110%
Wyoming	Resident Fee	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$26.00	\$10.00	\$34.00	\$40.00	\$38.96
	Non-res % Inc.	144%	144%	150%	150%	150%	144%	147%
Average	Resident Fee	\$59.44	\$60.88	\$56.25	\$35.25	\$71.88	\$61.11	\$62.30
	Non-res % Inc.	118%	114%	129%	126%	120%	118%	121%

30. There is limited programming for special needs individuals in Kent County

- Special needs programming is offered primarily by Kentwood and Wyoming
- Wyoming offers Stepping Stones for all of Kent County for 60+ recreational therapy program
- Agencies do not have information posted about inclusion of special needs individuals within programs

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31. Advocacy groups, where they exist in Kent County, tend to be narrowly focused with limited collaboration

- Friends of Grand Rapids Parks
- Trails Group
- Individual community youth athletic associations

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QUESTIONS?

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