

SAUGATUCK DOUGLAS AREA

5 YEAR PARKS & RECREATION PLAN 2014 – 2019

CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS, SAUGAUCK TOWNSHIP, CITY OF SAUGATUCK, SAUGAUCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Transportation Systems page 25

The City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas have a well defined urban grid pattern of streets which is common to mature urban areas. Saugatuck Township's street pattern is more rural in nature but blends well with the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas. The City of Saugatuck offers shuttle bus service for residents and tourist during the summer. Cars park on the outskirts of town, thus reducing traffic, and the need for more in town parking, and people are transported by bus to the downtown area or the beach area.

Sidewalks are found throughout the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas. As new development occurs, or with the reconstruction of area streets, sidewalk connections examined for placement to connect area paths and walking routes. It is very important to the area that all densely populated areas, or other areas heavily used by pedestrians, possess adequate sidewalks or non-motorized pathways for purposes of advancing public safety. There are currently 2 non-motorized pathways in the area. One connects the City of Saugatuck to the City of the Village of Douglas and the other connects the City of Saugatuck to Laketown Township and Holland to the North.

System Overview page 37

In both the 2008 Plan and during the update process for this plan, citizens were very interested in the development of an interconnected trail system throughout the community. Bike paths have been proposed throughout the area; and walking trails which are separated from vehicular trails are also of great importance. There is opportunity to develop more extensive trails connecting public facilities to natural areas via a formal trail network with the "Friends of the Blue Star Trail" not-for profit group and Allegan County Community Foundation

BASIS FOR ACTION PROGRAMS page 49

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The three governmental units consisting of the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township came together in 1988 to develop the Tri-Community Comprehensive Plan, which was updated in June of 2005 and is in the process of being updated in 2014. Since that time, the Saugatuck School system has taken on a significant role in recreation programming. A special milage was passed in 2005 and renewed regularly with strong support to create a department within the school system for recreation programming. The communities continue to have a strong commitment to joint planning efforts.

The greater Saugatuck/Douglas community intends to advance the following goals: *GOAL: Protect and enhance the natural aesthetic values and recreation potential of all waterfront areas for the enjoyment of area citizens and visitors to the community.*

GOAL: Enhance the well-being of area residents by providing a variety of opportunities for relaxation, rest, activity, and education through a well balanced system of public parks, recreational facilities, and activities to serve the identified needs of the area.

GOAL: Provide recreational opportunities for persons of all ages and physical ability.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Enhance and expand the trail system for non-motorized activities throughout and beyond the area. This is the main collaborative goal of all governmental entities involved, to provide safe, networked access between communities and points of special interest such as beaches and parks. Work with other government entities and non-profit entities like "Friends of the Blue Star Trail" to obtain matching funds for grants to extend existing non-motorized trails.