

# APPENDIX 7: PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY



# **ADA Transition Plan Public Input and Stakeholder Engagement Summary**

The public participation process is critical prior to adoption of the updated ADA Transition Plan. Over the duration of the Plan update, the Metroparks project team ensured a variety of public/stakeholder input and feedback. The process included input on questionnaires, email blast to stakeholders of survey, social media postings of survey, yard signs in parks with a QR-Code to Story Maps with online surveys, focus group meetings, open house events, and online comments based on the draft plan posted on a dedicated project webpage. This public input and stakeholder engagement strategy provided feedback on prioritizing facilities, PSAs, and identifying accessibility opportunities and issues.

## **INPUT OPPORTUNITIES OVERVIEW**

### **Huron-Clinton Metroparks ADA Transition Plan Update Website**

A page was hosted within the Metroparks website that described the project in detail, including a link to an interactive StoryMap and online survey for each park during the spring and summer of 2024. The draft Plan update was also made available for four weeks for public review prior to adoption of the Plan on October 10, 2024 by the Metroparks Board of Commissioners.

### **Social Media Post with Online Survey (Multiple times posted)**

A link to the online survey was made available on the Huron-Clinton Metropark's social media pages.

### **Yard Signs StoryMap with Online Survey**

An interactive StoryMap was developed for each Metropark. A virtual park tour allowed people to explore our facilities followed by a brief survey to assist in prioritizing future accessibility improvement projects and ensuring the Metroparks focused on the facilities and PSAs most important to them. Park visitors were asked to scan the QR code and were directed to the StoryMap/online survey for that specific park.

### **Open House Meeting #1 (Shelby Community Life Skills Centers Inc. June 7, 2024)**

Approximately 50 attendees consisting of individuals that actively participate in disability programs and services provided by both New Gateways Inc., and Life Skills Center Inc. were asked what park facilities they would like the Metroparks to prioritize for accessibility improvements.

### **Open House Meeting #2 Disability Network Livingston ADA Satellite Celebration (Genoa Township Park July 12, 2024)**

Metroparks staff attended the Disability Network Livingston ADA Satellite Celebration at Genoa Township Park in Brighton, Michigan. Approximately 15 attendees provided feedback on park facilities they would like the Metroparks to prioritize accessibility improvements.

### **Open House #3, DiversAbility Day (Lake St. Clair Metropark, July 31, 2024)**

Metroparks staff hosted a table at DiversAbility Days in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Oakland County. Staff provided intercept surveys and were asked what park facilities they would like to prioritize for accessibility improvements. Approximately 270 people attended the event.

### **Open House #4, Detroit's Disabled Have Talent (Detroit Riverfront, August 5, 2024)**

The Metroparks staff worked with partners at Detroit Disability Power to attend an event at the Detroit Riverfront to target Wayne County attendees. The event was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute, and the organizer instead shared out the online survey with registered participants and attendees.

### **Stakeholder Input- FAIR Play Coalition (August 27, 2024)**

The draft Plan was reviewed by the FAIR Play Coalition and was followed by a focus group meeting to receive input from disability advocates. The meeting was held virtually and were asked for input on accessibility needs and preferences.

### **Public Input- (Summer 2024)**

An opportunity for the public to review and provide feedback on the draft Plan was made possible by posting it on the Metroparks webpage for a four-week review period.

## Local Community Outreach

Yard Signs with QR-Code located throughout the Metroparks to gather information for each individual park's accessibility needs

# HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS

Seeking public input on:  
**ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS**



Scan for Survey  
Willow Metropark



# Project Website/Story Map

Planning and Development - Home

metroparks.com/planning-and-development/#FEEDBACK

## AND THEY'VE GOT A PLAN.

It takes a lot of work to make the Metroparks work. Learn more about the ways our Planning & Development team helps us fulfill our mission.

OVERVIEW | DOCUMENTS & PLANS | **PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

### PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Throughout the year our planning and development team has a variety of opportunities for visitors and community members to provide input on projects and plans. Check back here periodically for how YOU can help guide future projects at the Metroparks.

#### Metroparks Accessibility Surveys

HOW ACCESSIBLE ARE YOUR METROPARKS?

The Metroparks are committed to removing barriers, creating access, improving access and increasing recreation opportunities for all. As we look to the future, we will develop, update and improve facilities to meet or exceed the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Also, we'll look for ways to remove barriers to access so that individuals of all abilities have equitable access to Metroparks facilities, programs, services and activities. Part of that commitment is regularly updating our ADA Transition Plan which is intended to guide the Metroparks efforts in providing inclusivity for all visitors.

We are seeking public input on our updated ADA Transition Plan. To submit your input, please visit our survey here:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CL93TKR>

Public Input Survey- ADA Transition Plan

## Public Input Survey- ADA Transition Plan

Oakwoods Metropark

HOW ACCESSIBLE IS OAKWOODS METROPARK?

The Metroparks are committed to removing barriers, creating access, improving access and increasing recreation opportunities for all. As we look to the future, we will develop, update and

## Public Input Survey (May 2024-September 2024)

**Public Input Survey** – an online survey was developed to gather general information about park visitors and their use of the park and recommendations on what accessible programs and facilities are most important to them. The survey was made available online between May 2024, and August 2024. See below for the survey questions and summary of programs and features that are most important and a ranking of accessibility projects.

There was a total of 204 responses to the ADA Transition Plan survey. Overwhelmingly, most people preferred the Metroparks website for accessibility related information. Following this method was social media and in park signage.

Recreational programs were most important followed by guided nature programs, and educational programs.

The most important park features to be accessible were restrooms followed by trails, nature centers and picnic facilities. Playgrounds and accessible equipment ranked very popular as well with specific recommendations to include accessible swings that can be mounted with both adult and juvenile wheelchairs. Other popular features included farm center, drinking fountains and aquatic facilities (pools and splash pads).

Survey responses also chose bathroom facilities as the top priority for accessible improvement projects followed by picnic facilities, beaches, and aquatic facilities.

The following is the input gathered from stakeholders and members of the public from the survey.

### What programs at the Metroparks are most important to you?

Program	Total Count
Recreational Programs	110
Guided Nature Programs	95
Educational Programs	64
Concerts	64
Senior Programs	58
Sports Programs	12

**What park features are important to you?**

<b>Park Feature</b>	<b>Total Count</b>
Restrooms	107
Trails	87
Nature Center	85
Picnic Facilities	73
Playgrounds	55
Accessible Recreation Equipment	54
Drinking Fountains	55
Farm Center	53
Pools	38
Splash Pads	34
Fishing	30
Boat Rentals	31
Water Slides	25
Golf	25
Boat Launches	23
Paddling	22
Marinas	13
Sports Courts and Fields	11
Disc Golf	11
Other	7

**Top ten priority of accessibility projects based on survey**

1. Bathroom Facilities
2. Picnic Facilities
3. Beaches
4. Aquatic Facilities
5. Trails
6. Playgrounds
7. Nature Center/Farm Center
8. Golf Facilities
9. Boating/Paddling Facilities
10. Camping

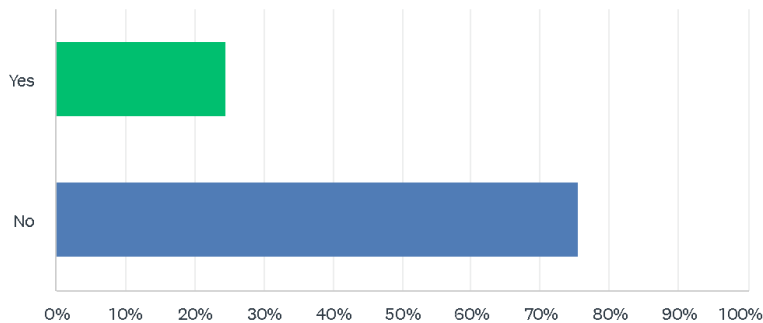
**Open suggestions for other accessibility projects**

- Movie in the park for adults
- Improved roads
- Check-in at parks remotely
- Accessible fishing areas
- ADA stuff for kids in wheelchairs

- Tree plantings for shade
- Enforcement on accessible parking spaces
- Event viewing and participation like Blue Moon concert, movie nights, rowing regattas, etc.
- Sidewalk accessibility improvements

### Are accessibility-related reasons preventing you from visiting the Metroparks?

Based on the graph below, over 75% of park responses did not have accessibility-related reasons preventing them from visiting the Metroparks.



### Response comments on answering "Yes"

*"Just to be honest we just work around things when we have or grands etc. sometimes the availability for parking becomes an issue however with the scooter we just have to be cautious in the parking lots as surface issues such as hole or trash which seem to cause the scooter issues."*

*"Like I said earlier bathrooms are a long walk and parking lot ditches are difficult to cross to get to a picnic tables for immobile people. We sit exclusively in our car seats."*

*"Daughter has medical issues and needs to sit and rest very often. We don't have a wheelchair for her at this time. Heat is a factor too. c tables for immobile people. We sit exclusively in our car seats."*

*"Our nearest park is on N. Territorial Rd. and does not have any equipment my wheelchair using 6 year old son can use. I asked about renting a bike to put him in that I could pedal but the bikes are single-rider only."*

*"This is actually for a friend and neighbor of mine. She has a recumbent e-bike for her disability and can't get in through the openings that normal bicycles can get through. I wanted*



*to contact someone regarding this but didn't know who to contact. Please call me at \_\_\_\_\_ . Thanks!"*

*"Need to be able to take a transport bus as I can't see to drive. Would like tactile and braille maps and information. Need nature paths to be obvious to a mobility cane. Push buttons with bird or frog songs heard along the trails would be lovely."*

*"Have a hard time walking long distances."*

*"I'm going to add this because there isn't another place to put it. While I'm not ADA at this time, one of the most irritating things is the location of the toilet paper in the restrooms. Even if you are ADA, reaching below the level of the toilet can result in falling to the floor and possible injury. Most times you have to put your hand inside the unit to restart the roll. Not only is it a nuisance, but, it could be dangerous and it doesn't work at all for wheelchair bound people. Please fix this and if you have to put two units in (because of ADA rules on one location) please do so. Thank you."*

*"I use a wheelchair, and sometimes it is difficult to get around certain areas."*

*"My husband has back problems and has been using a walker lately."*

*"I need assistance getting to parks and would need mobility equipment once there."*

*"Hard to find playgrounds and facilities that can accommodate folks with special needs assistance getting to parks and would need mobility equipment once there."*

*"Bird watching stations indoor and outdoor not optimal for wheelchair."*

*"No good way to get wheelchairs to certain programs...such as movies in the park."*

*"Limited to 200ft walking, so anything i do must not involve walking very far."*

*"Floating kayak launches are much safer for senior paddlers. Getting in and out of the kayak in the water is difficult."*

*"This survey is geared towards physical accessibility. That's wonderful but I think there may be some ways to include accessibility for sensory processing differences and neurodivergent children and adults. much more difficult for old knees."*

*"Parking long distances is a challenge."*

*"There are few places to stop and rest. Benches and tables are not frequent."*

*"Most trails are not really for wheelchairs."*

*"Some restrooms are difficult to open door and enter/exit with walker".*

*“My grandson is 7 with CP, epilepsy, feeding tube and in diapers. There is no place to change him.”*

*“People parking in handicap with no signage.”*

*“Sometimes if I come with my friend that has a child in a wheelchair, it makes it really hard to do things.”*

*“I stay in car and enjoy nature.”*

*“Hard to get in and out of bathrooms on my own. I like to be able to do activities on my own rather than relying on help.”*

## Open House #1 (Shelby Community Life Skills Centers, Inc.)



Approximately 50 attendees consisting of individuals that actively participate in disability programs and services provided by both New Gateways Inc. and Life Skills Center Inc. were asked what park facilities they would like the Metroparks to prioritize accessibility improvements. Below are the overall results:

### Stakeholder engagement survey (poof counts)

Park Feature	Total Count
Pools and Splash Pad	46
Beaches	39
Bathrooms	36
Nature Center	34
Playgrounds	31
Picnicking	27
Boat/Kayak Launches	22
Sports Courts and Fields	21
Disc Golf	20
Trails	18
Golf	17
Marinas	9

## Additional stakeholder open suggestions

- Access to the picnic shelters
- Playground equipment
- Adult changing tables
- Padding to changing tables and signage where available in park
- Distance to the pavilions is a struggle, shorter trails
- No showers at campgrounds
- Changing areas and restrooms
- Woodchips and ramps at playgrounds
- Improve roads
- Stony Creek Landing
- Screened in areas to protect from bees
- Beach wheelchairs
- Swingsets with wheelchair access
- Shade for picnic areas
- Ice cream concessions

## Open House #2 (Genoa Township Park)



### SAVE THE DATE

Friday, July 12  
3 - 5 p.m.  
Genoa Township Park  
2911 Dorr Rd, Brighton, MI 48116

The Metroparks are committed to removing barriers, creating access, improving access, and increasing recreation opportunities for all. As we look to the future, we will develop, update, and improve facilities to meet or exceed the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Part of that commitment is regularly updating our ADA Transition Plan. We want your input on what accessible features are most important to you. Join us at the ADA Satellite Celebration as we gather your feedback on accessibility improvements to use as we update our ADA Transition Plan.



Scan the QR code  
to learn more.



There was approximately 30 people in attendance at the ADA Satellite Celebration. The outreach event included Metroparks staff discussing the ADA Transition Plan and collecting a total of 15 responses to the survey. Priority ranking of accessible projects had bathroom facilities being the most popular followed by trails, playgrounds, and beaches.



## Open House #3 (DiversAbility Days)



Approximately 270 attendees came to the DiversAbility Day at Lake St. Clair Metropark. There were several booths for attendees to check out, and the Metroparks planning department hosted a booth with giveaways for people who completed surveys. Surveys were conducted in two ways, a printed-out version of our online survey, and an interactive survey at the table. People were asked what park facilities they would like the Metroparks to prioritize accessibility improvements. Below are the results:

### Stakeholder engagement survey (poof counts)

Park Feature	Total Count
Bathrooms	47
Trails	43
Pools and Splash Pads	39
Beaches	38
Picnicking	38
Playgrounds	35
Nature Center	34
Boat/Kayak Launches	26
Sports Courts and Fields	24
Disc Golf	22
Marinas	22
Golf	20

### Additional open suggestions

- We need to provide more employment opportunities, specifically partnering with programs that work to provide job opportunities to those with disabilities
- Need a splash pad at Stony Creek
- Adult changing tables
- We love the beach wheelchairs, but we need more of them!
- Ice skating

### Stakeholder Input (FAIR Play Coalition)

A focus group meeting was held on August 27, 2024 to receive input from disability advocates from the FAIR Play Coalition. This advisory group is comprised of organizations and individuals that have expertise in working with those of varying abilities or who have varying abilities themselves. An overview of the ADA Transition Plan was briefly presented followed by discussion of specific elements to achieve robust accessibility. Updates were made to our Plan following input from the advisory group members that participated in the meeting.

A total of 11 participants from FAIR Play Coalition and Metroparks staff brainstormed on accessibility challenges that remain unresolved. A theme that emerged from discussions was the opportunity for more employment opportunities for those with accessibility needs. Other topics included provided a more accessible method to resolve repairs or barriers identified by park users at a park facility to aid staff with real-time information. Other related comments with challenges for park to consider improving:

- Introduce annual surveys
- Co-op shared accessibility equipment with State parks.
- Maintenance for off-road wheelchairs
- Feedback on projects after implementation

A second question asked the FAIR Play Coalition members at the focus group meeting how the Metroparks benefit their organization and if our contributions are helping them achieve ADA goals? Comments collected included:

- Metroparks is going above and beyond, which is amazing
- The term ADA compliance is not necessarily synonymous with accessibility and universal design (ADA is 34 years old. It is the floor, not the ceiling).
  - The new projects that Metroparks does is great
  - The old park structures struggle with compliance.
- Note: the ADA Transition Plan text color is too light in report. Visual disability would not work, arial font is fine to use.