

# VILLAGE OF COLON FIVE YEAR PARKS & RECREATION PLAN



**FEBRUARY 2025 – FEBRUARY 2030**

**Colon Community Parks Board  
December 4 , 2024 minutes  
Colon Village Office  
111 St. Joseph St.  
Colon, Michigan 49040**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by chairman, Richard Livermore.

**Park Board members present:** Richard Livermore, Jodi Gross, Mikael Smoker, Linda Rehmeyer, Kristie Boals, Jon Colombo  
**Parks Advisory Committee:** none present  
**Public:** Joyce Columbo

This special meeting of the Colon Community Park Board was called to examine and approve the 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan for the Colon Community parks.

Jodi Gross went over the entire plan for the board. A few minor corrections were made in wording and numbers.

Mikael Smoker made a motion that we accept the new 5-year plan. The board voted unanimously to accept the plan as written.

On January 14, 2025 at 6:30pm there will be a public hearing for the plan. This hearing is before the Colon Village Council meeting.

5-year plan must be posted for the public to read for 30 days.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Rehmeyer  
CCPB Secretary

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## **COMMUNITY GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION**

The Village of Colon is approximately 1.73 square miles and is located on M-86 in northeast Saint Joseph County, approximately 17 miles west of Coldwater, 15 miles north of Sturgis (18 miles from the Indiana toll road), 19 miles east of Three Rivers, 36 miles southeast of Kalamazoo, and 30 miles south of Battle Creek. It is situated on portions of both Palmer Lake and Sturgeon Lake, with close proximity to Long Lake south of the village. The location of the village puts it within easy traveling distance to and from larger municipalities and in close approximation to I-94, I-69, M-60, M-66, and the Indiana Toll Road. Situated as it is, the Village of Colon affords easy access to individuals wishing to vacation or attend many of the year round attractions.

## **HISTORY OF COLON**

“Roswell Schellhous of Ohio was the first to settle in the area. In 1829, he built a log house that contained two rooms and was used as a hotel for other settlers and travelers. Roswell left for Illinois in 1838, but by then Lorancie, Martin and George Schellhous, brothers of the first settler, had located in Colon and were on their way to becoming Leaders in the community.”<sup>1</sup>

“The Village of Colon was originally platted in 1832 but the plat was not officially recorded until 1844. It was actually named by Lorencie Schellhous when he opened a dictionary at random and saw the word: “Colon.” He determined that the town would be named that, as he felt the lake and river resembled the shape of a grammatical colon.”<sup>2</sup> The Schellhous brothers purchased the property along Swan Creek to develop a saw and later gristmill. At approximately the same year, 1832, Charles Palmer moved from Ohio to Colon and constructed the first dam across Swan Creek. This 90 foot long dam backed up water into what is now Palmer Lake.

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1

Village of Colon, St. Joseph County, Michigan, Master Plan 2014, Chapter 2, Community Snapshot, Page 7

2

Village of Colon, St. Joseph County, Michigan, Master Plan 2014, Chapter 2, Community Snapshot, Page 7

1

“Colon’s roll in the world of magic began in 1925 when Harry Blackstone, the great magician and illusionist, bought property that is still known as Blackstone Island. Blackstone and his troupe would spend the summer months in Colon, designing their shows and perfecting their craft.”<sup>3</sup> “Among those who came to visit Blackstone, was his Australian friend, Percy Abbott. Not only did Abbott perform magic, but also he built tricks and illusions. Together, he and Blackstone formed the company, which still bears Abbott’s name.”<sup>4</sup> Hence, the Village of Colon to this day is known as the Magic Capital of the World.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS**

“According to the 2020 United States Census, the Village of Colon has a population of 1199.<sup>5</sup> This represents an increase in population of 2.2% from the population in the 2010 Census.

The percentage of families living below the poverty level in the Village of Colon also rose from 3.5% in 2010 to 8.9% in 2020. <sup>6</sup> These low-income families will benefit greatly with the availability of recreational activities at no cost to them.

“The Village of Colon is a desirable place to live, with proximity to many natural and recreational assets, a strong history, and sustainable local businesses. Although population and housing growth have been limited in recent years the area’s tourism opportunities and proximity to population centers positions the Village of Colon for a positive future.”<sup>7</sup> (Further information on the Village of Colon Demographics may found in the 2014 Master Plan. Copy may be viewed at the Colon Village Office.)

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3 Colon Chamber of Commerce, Welcome to Colon Brochure,

4 Colon Chamber of Commerce, Welcome to Colon Brochure,

5 United States Census Bureau data from census.gov

6 United States Census Bureau data from census.gov

7 Village of Colon, St. Joseph County, Michigan, Master Plan 2014, Chapter 2, Demographics, Page 21

## **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF COMMUNITY PARKS IN THE VILLAGE OF COLON**

In 1988 the Colon Community Pride Committee was formed with representatives from all of the service clubs, schools, Chamber of Commerce and village government with the ultimate goal of making improvements and promoting Colon as the Magic Capital of the World. The Village Council solicited the committee's input on improvements to the Swan Creek Park (now the Veteran's Memorial Park). Over a two to three year period, playground equipment, four metal tables with benches, two barbeque grills, benches along the waterfront, and boat tie-ups were added. The Colon Garden Club also landscaped the park.

In the mid 1970's Recil Bordner purchased the property on the northwest corner of North Blackstone Avenue and Mill St. He then, most generously, donated that property to the Village of Colon. In 1996 the Colon Garden Club approached the Village Council with a proposal to build a community gazebo in what would become Bordner Park. Upon approval of the village council, garden club members and community volunteers made the dream of a gazebo become a reality.

In approximately 2001 a committee was established to raise funds for the construction of a community center on property abandon by the railroad along the southeast shore of Sturgeon Lake. For six long years the Community Center Executive Board raised funds, but in the end funding was far short of the actual cost. With the realization that the community center could not built they enlisted suggestions from the community. From this the concept of the Colon Community Park was developed. The department of Architectural and Landscape Design at Michigan State University was contacted and agreed to have a class assist in planning and designing of the park. In December of 2007 the executive board was presented twenty-five different architectural landscape designs/plans; one for each student working on the project. January 22<sup>nd</sup> thru the 26th 2008, all twenty-five plans were put on display at the Colon Township Library for the community to view and comment on. A master plan was developed by Danny Bulmore, senior at MSU, and presented to the Colon Village Council

on March 11, 2008. The plan was also presented to the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) of the Branch County Community Foundation and a grant for \$2,000.00 was secured. With this grant, and funds held over from the community center project, construction for the pavilion began in August of 2008 and was completed in the spring of 2009. However, going into the spring of 2009 and realizing that funds were near depleted, the executive committee applied for a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. In March of 2009 the Colon Village Council passed a resolution authorizing the application for a DNR Grant. The grant application was completed and submitted to Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Management. Also, as a condition, the grant application process required that the Village of Colon, through resolution, resolve to keep the park in perpetuity. March 10, 2009 the Colon Village Council voted 7-0 on the above resolution, which pledged to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources that the Village of Colon would keep the park in perpetuity. (*Appendix E: Resolution Keeping the Colon Community Park in Perpetuity and Appendix F: Section 6 : Post-Project Completion Obligations and Program Recognition*) On July 21<sup>st</sup> the executive committee was notified that Michigan Resources Trust Fund Board was extending an invitation to make a ten-minute presentation on the community park plan and development proposal at their August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting. Three members of the executive board made the trip to Lansing to present their plan/proposal to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board. December 8, 2009 the executive board was notified that their application was among those recommended and approved to receive a MNRTF development grant in the reduced amount of \$200,000.00. September 14, 2010 the Village of Colon passed a resolution to accept the property, on which the now Colon Community Park stands, as part of the Colon Community Parks system. The Colon Community Park, now one of the true jewels of the Village of Colon, was completed in 2014.

**VILLAGE OF COLON PARKS BOARD & ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

The Village of Colon is a General Law Village comprised seven council members serving four-year terms. All property within the Village of Colon, designated as community parks, falls under the auspices of the Colon Village Council. The Colon Community Parks Board was established by the Village of Colon in 2014. The Village of Colon acts as treasurer for the Parks Board and the Parks Board reports directly to the Village Council. One member of the Village Council shall serve as a member of the Colon Community Parks Board of Directors.

**Village of Colon Council Members**

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| President         | Jodi Gross      |
| President Pro tem | Keith Stickley  |
| Council Member    | Richard Delp    |
| Council Member    | Tamera Sterlini |
| Council Member    | Dillon Baker    |
| Council Member    | Carl Thornton   |
| Council Member    | John Sterlini   |

**Colon Community Parks Board of Directors**

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Chairperson      | Richard Livermore |
| Vice Chairperson | Jon Columbo       |
| Secretary        | Linda Rehmeyer    |
| Member           | Mikeal Smoker     |
| Member           | Edith Doenges     |
| Member           | Connie Thrans     |
| Member           | Kristie Boals     |

**Village Council Liaison Jodi Gross**

**Colon Community Parks Advisory Committee**

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| Member | Mike Davis |
| Member | Tom Tenney |
| Member | Colin King |
| Member | Linda Held |



## **VILLAGE OF COLON PARKS DEPARTMENT FINANCE & BUDGET**

The Village of Colon is responsible for the funding of all public parks owned and operated by the village. It must be realized that, for all practical purposes, these parks are nonprofit facilities. The majority of cost accrued by the village fall under the department of public works for general property maintenance. The Village of Colon budgeted \$24,382 for general parks and recreation maintenance, supplies, and liability insurance in the 2024-2025 fiscal year which ends on March 31, 2025. The Colon Community Parks Board has a checking account that has a balance as of November 30, 2024 of approximately \$18,200. The funds in this account have been generated from individual donations to the parks and have not come out of the Village of Colon's General Fund.

No fees are charged to enter any of the Village parks; they are free and open to all visitors. A facilities rental enterprise focused on the pavillion at the Colon Community Park has been developed as a source of self-generated funding focused on the maintenance of that building, wherein fees are charged for special events, classes, etc.

## **RECREATION INVENTORY & PARKS LISTING**

It could be said that in the Village of Colon there are only two seasons, when the docks go in and when the docks come out. As stated previously, the Village of Colon is nestled between Palmer Lake and Sturgeon Lake. However, the surrounding area of Colon Township offers many other lakes. These lakes include Long Lake, Lepley Lake, Goodrich Lake, River Lake, Farrand Lake, Leidy Lake, Washburn Lake and the St. Joseph River, which flow into and out of the North section of Sturgeon Lake. These lakes

provide well over 1500 acres of year around enjoyment and are one of the areas largest tourist attractions.

Palmer Lake, at approximately 448 acres and with 16 miles of shoreline, has two public boat launches, one maintained by the Village of Colon at the Veterans Memorial Park and the other at the Southeast end maintained by the DNR. Both Sturgeon Lake and Long Lake have public launches maintained by the DNR. Recreation on these lakes and the St. Joseph River, from late spring to early fall, provide tremendous opportunities for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, boating, tubing, wave runners, and of course the leisurely slow ride around the lake on the pontoon. During the winter months the Village of Colon, even though there is ice fishing, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing, sees a decline in tourism and population. Cottages are closed up for the winter and the snowbirds have all gone south.

### **VILLAGE PARKS**

#### **COLON COMMUNITY PARK .35 Acres at 200 W. State Street)**

The Colon Community Park, started in 2008 and completed in 2014, is truly one of the highlights of the village. Developed on 0.35 acres of village property located on the southeast section of Sturgeon Lake, this park has become one of the most popular parks within the Village. The park has a large pavilion with a central area and a north and south wings holding twenty-three picnic tables, men's and women's restrooms, large storage room and grilling area. During late spring, summer, and early fall the pavilion has been used for a farmers markets, family reunions, graduation parties, and meetings. Non-profit organizations also utilize this facility approximately several times per year.

Other features of the park include a children's playground, sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, gazebo, memorial gardens, approximately one quarter mile paved walking path, floating dock with fishing platform, large storage barn, and lighted parking lot. The Colon Garden Club has also professionally landscaped the entire park and

added the Blue Star Memorial. The Colon Community Park has also been used for the annual Fourth of July celebration with kids games, food vendors, and musical venue and for activities of the Colon Township Library Summer Reading Program. The first Friday in December the park is decorated by the Colon Garden Club for the annual Christmas in Colon activities.

**VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK (intersection of South Swan St. and Canal St.)**

The Veterans Memorial Park, formally the Swan Creek Park, is located one block South of the downtown area on South Swan Street. This park has a public boat ramp, maintained by the Village, with limited vehicle parking and hitching post for the Amish parking. The park also has a small, very dated playground, new square metal tables with benches, and several grills. There are several dated benches on the shoreline, and a few boat tie-ups for boat parking. The Veterans Memorial Park is 0.15 acres that provides one of the best views for fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**BORDNER PARK (209 N. Blackstone Ave.)**

The Bordner Park, named after Recil Bordner, is located on 0.13 acres and is located on the northwest corner of north Blackstone Ave. and Mill St. next to the Colon Historical Museum. This park contains a fully accessible gazebo with electrical service. A perennial garden and memorial trees surround the gazebo, which was built by the Colon Garden Club members, spouses, and volunteers. The Colon Garden Club paid for a new roof on the gazebo in 2020, and paid for the powerwashing and restaining of the gazebo in 2022. This small park is used for musical performances, garden club plant sales, and a quiet place to just sit, read a book or enjoy the view.

**DRAKE PARK .26 acres, (undeveloped natural wetlands on the north side of the M-86 bridge over Swan Creek & land owned by MDOT immediately to the west)**

This park has two sections. The first area includes the undeveloped wetlands immediately north of the bridge on M-86. This area of Swan Creek is part of the St.

Joseph watershed and, because of the fluctuating water levels, for all practical purposes cannot be developed. The second area, immediately west of the wetland area is a section owned by MDOT. This land slopes north to Swan Creek and has a retaining wall at the north end. This area cannot be developed because of underground BP Gas lines. This park may be used for fishing on Swan Creek.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INPUT**

The Colon Community Parks Board (CCPB) along with the Community Parks Advisory Committee (CPAC) met several times during 2024 to discuss the Village parks. All of the meetings were open to the public and public comments are allowed. The Village of Colon is a very small community. Each board member and advisory committee member solicited input from the local community. The CCPB and the CPAC met on October 16, 2024, during regular park meeting to discuss and draft the 5-year plan. At a meeting of the CCPB and CPAC on December 04 2024, the draft was presented and approved by members to post on the Village website for public viewing. The draft was presented at the December 10, 2024, village council regular meeting. Copies of the Draft 5-year plan will be available at the Village Hall and on the website, [www.contact@colonmi.net](mailto:www.contact@colonmi.net). In addition to the posting in the Sturgis Journal, notices will be placed outside the Village Hall, Village Market, Sturgis Bank and Trust, The Post Office and Village Pharmacy, for a public hearing. The Public Hearing was held on January 14, 2024. Following the Public Hearing, the Village Council held a special meeting to adopt the resolution to approve the 5-year plan.

## **GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION PLAN**

**GOAL:** to maintain the Colon Community Park, the Veteran's Memorial Park, and Bordner Park for community gatherings, social events, and recreational activities for all age groups, and to enhance the recreational opportunities available at these parks as funds become available.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLAN:**

Continue organizing and promoting various activities and festivals at all the parks with community activities for all age groups. These would include Magic Week activities, 4th of July activities, Farmers Market, Christmas in Colon, car shows, monthly family fun events, and other activities that are of interest to many age groups.

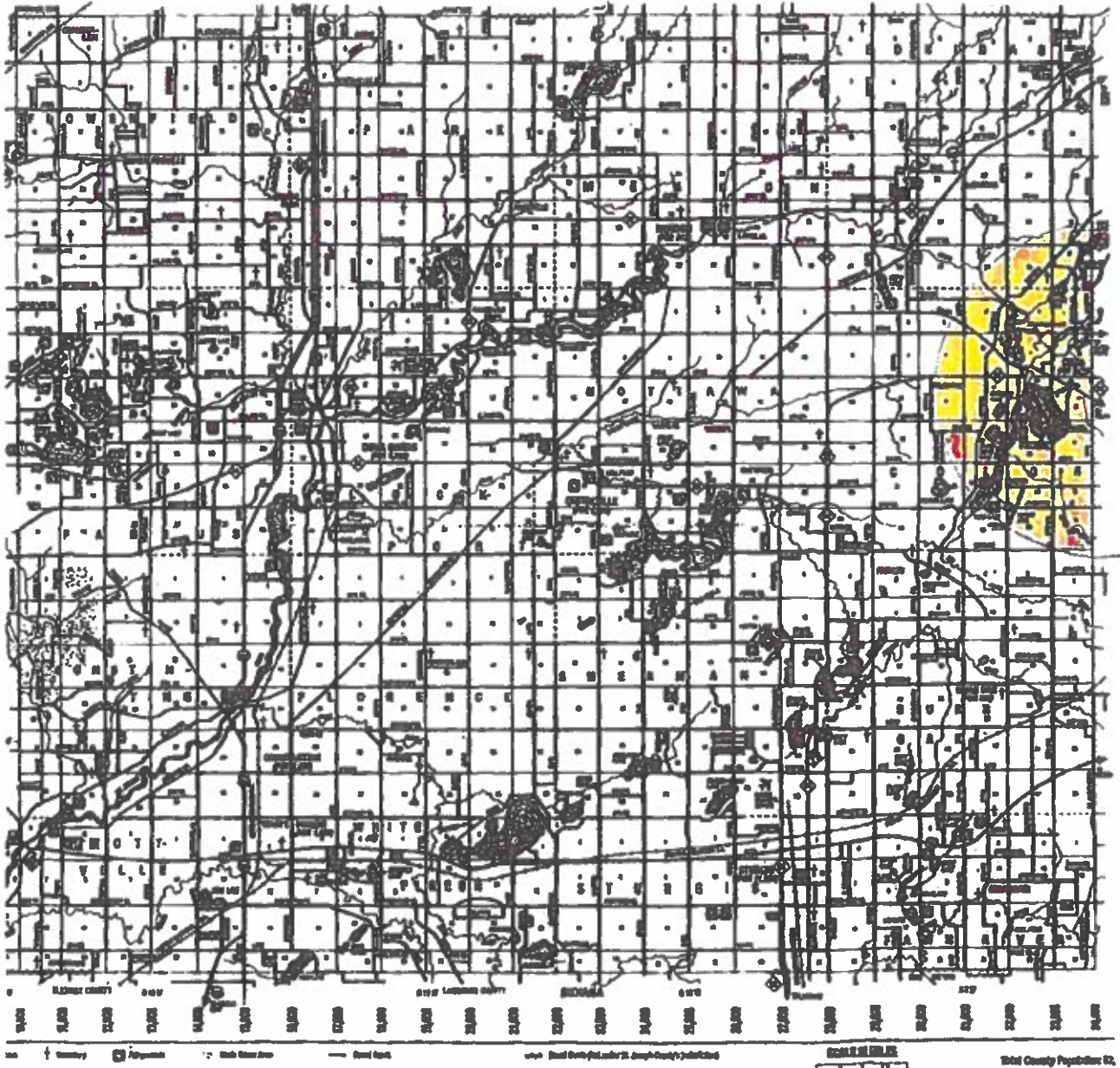
- \* To apply for Grants to add additional recreational options to the Colon Community Parks.
- \* To add physical fitness stations with age appropriate activities for children and adults along the walking trail at the Colon Community Park.
- \* Improvement of playgrounds
- \* Provide lighting from the pavilion to the floating docks on Sturgeon Lake.
- \* Lighting improvements at the pavillion
- \* Security cameras
- \* Paved parking lots (Colon Community and Veterans Park)
- \* Pickleball court, received a \$7,000 grant from
- \* BCCF to help with this project, along with resident
- \* donations.
- \* Stage area for concerts and events
- \* Food truck days
- \* Rubber mulch for playgrounds
- \* Basketball
- \* Updated playground equipment
- \* Dog walk with fenced in area for small/large dogs
- \* Updated Information Center
- \* Veterans Memorial Park Project

## **APPENDIX CONTENTS**

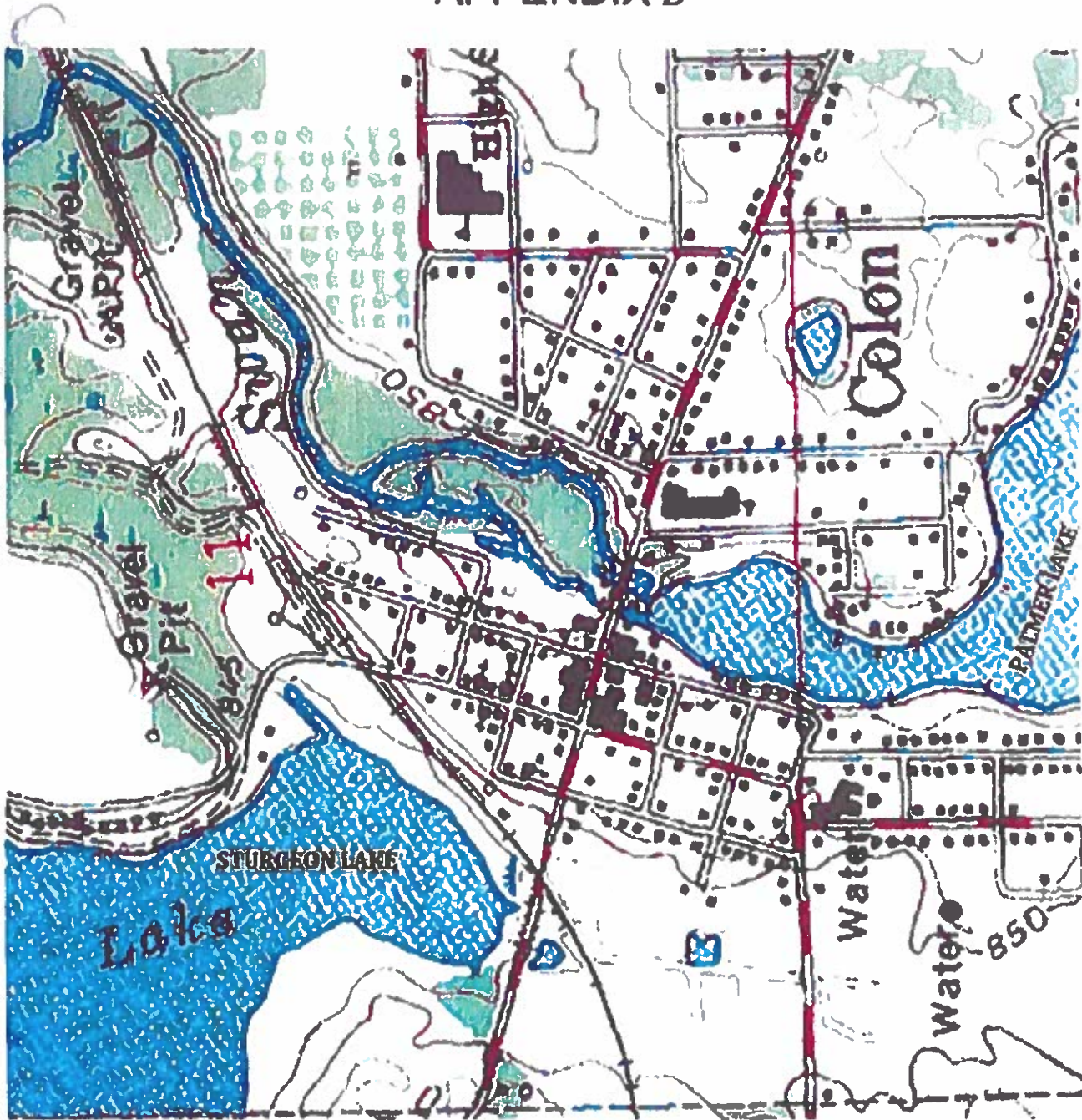
- Appendix A: Map of St. Joseph County, MI**
- Appendix B: Topographical Map of the Village of Colon**
- Appendix C: Street Map of Colon with Parks and Lake access**
- Appendix D: Photos of Colon Community Park (9), Veterans Memorial Park (18), Bordner Park (2)**
- Appendix E: Village of Colon Resolution #09-03 – A Resolution Keeping the Colon  
Community Park in Perpetuity**
- Appendix F: DNR Section 6: Post- Project Completion Obligations and Program  
Recognition**
- Appendix G: Village of Colon Resolution 10-91410 – A Resolution to Accept Property  
as Part of the Colon Community Park**
- Appendix H: Colon Community Park & Pavilion Rules**
- Appendix I: Colon Community Parks Board Bylaws**
- Appendix J: Copies of the Resolutions to accept bi-laws, regular council minutes,  
public hearing minutes, special meeting minutes January 2024**
- Appendix K: Recreation Inventory and Accessibility Assessment**

# APPENDIX A

## Map of ST JOSEPH COUNTY, MI

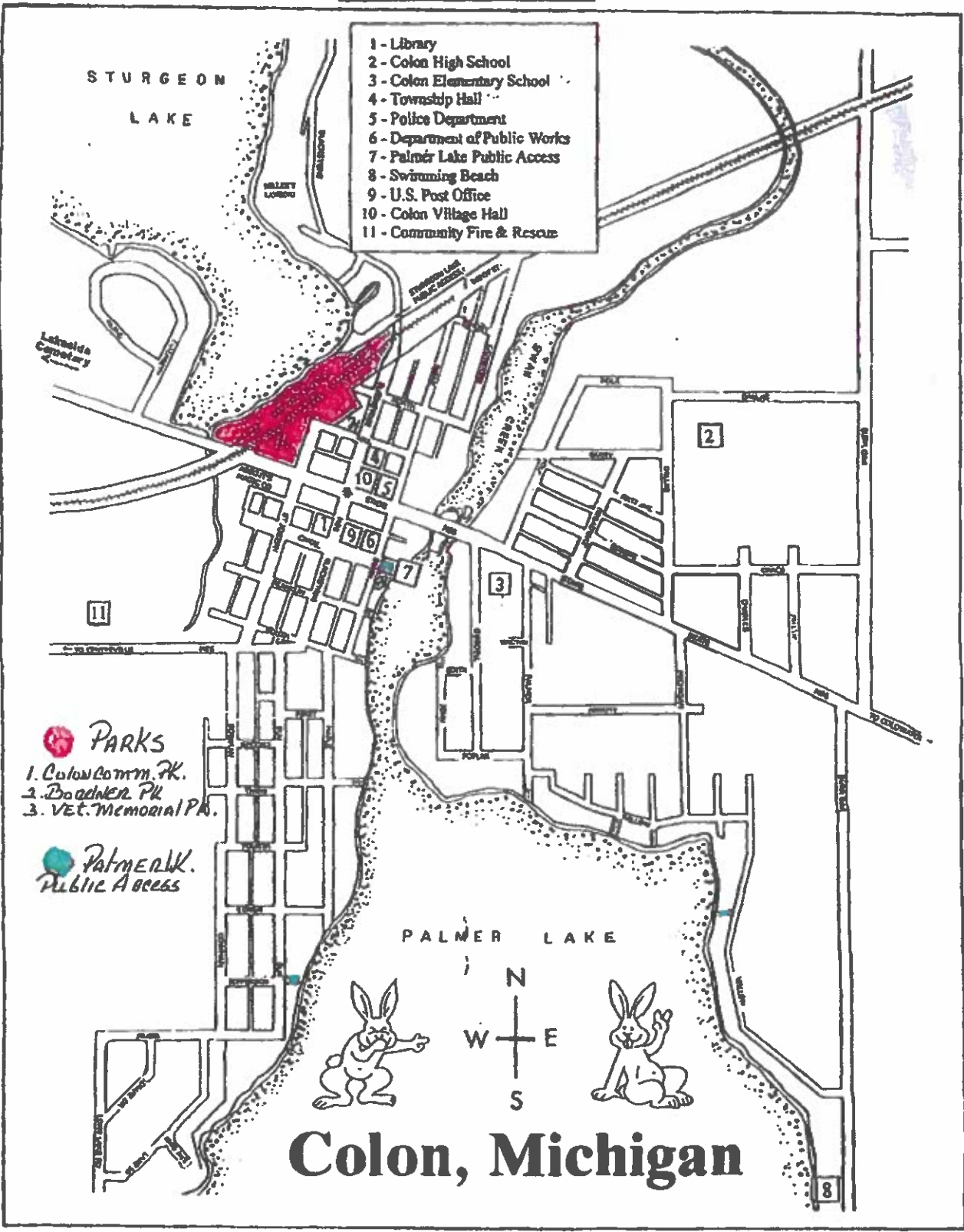


# APPENDIX B





# APPENDIX C





St. Joseph



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Revenue derived from oil, gas and mineral production from state-owned lands provided funding for this public recreation site.

Funding is made possible through a grant provided to the citizens of the State of Michigan by the:

**Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund**

## Reservation Agreement Colon Community Park Pavilion

Date(s) requested \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Rental of the Whole Pavilion - Includes use of all picnic tables within the pavilion  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 per day

Rental of Half of the Pavilion Includes use of half of the picnic tables within the pavilion

\_\_\_\_ North Bay \$70 per day      \_\_\_\_ South Bay \$70 per day

Rental of Bordner Park Gazebo or Colon Community Park Gazebo \$25 per day  
(circle one)

As a representative of the \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed this document and the Colon Community Park and Pavilion Rules. Our group agrees to abide by them.

Please sign and return this agreement with your payment to The Village of Colon.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations are not confirmed until payment and a signed agreement have been received by the Colon Village Office. Dates are reserved on a first come, first serve basis.

Reservation fees for non-profit organizations such as churches and schools will be waived.

Your reservation is for the pavilion and tables within and does not allow exclusive use of any other park facilities (playground, restrooms, etc.) These facilities must remain available for public use.

Reservations are made at the Colon Village Office 269-432-2532  
P.O. Box 50, Colon, MI 49040

Office hour are Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 5:00 Friday 8:00 - 4:00

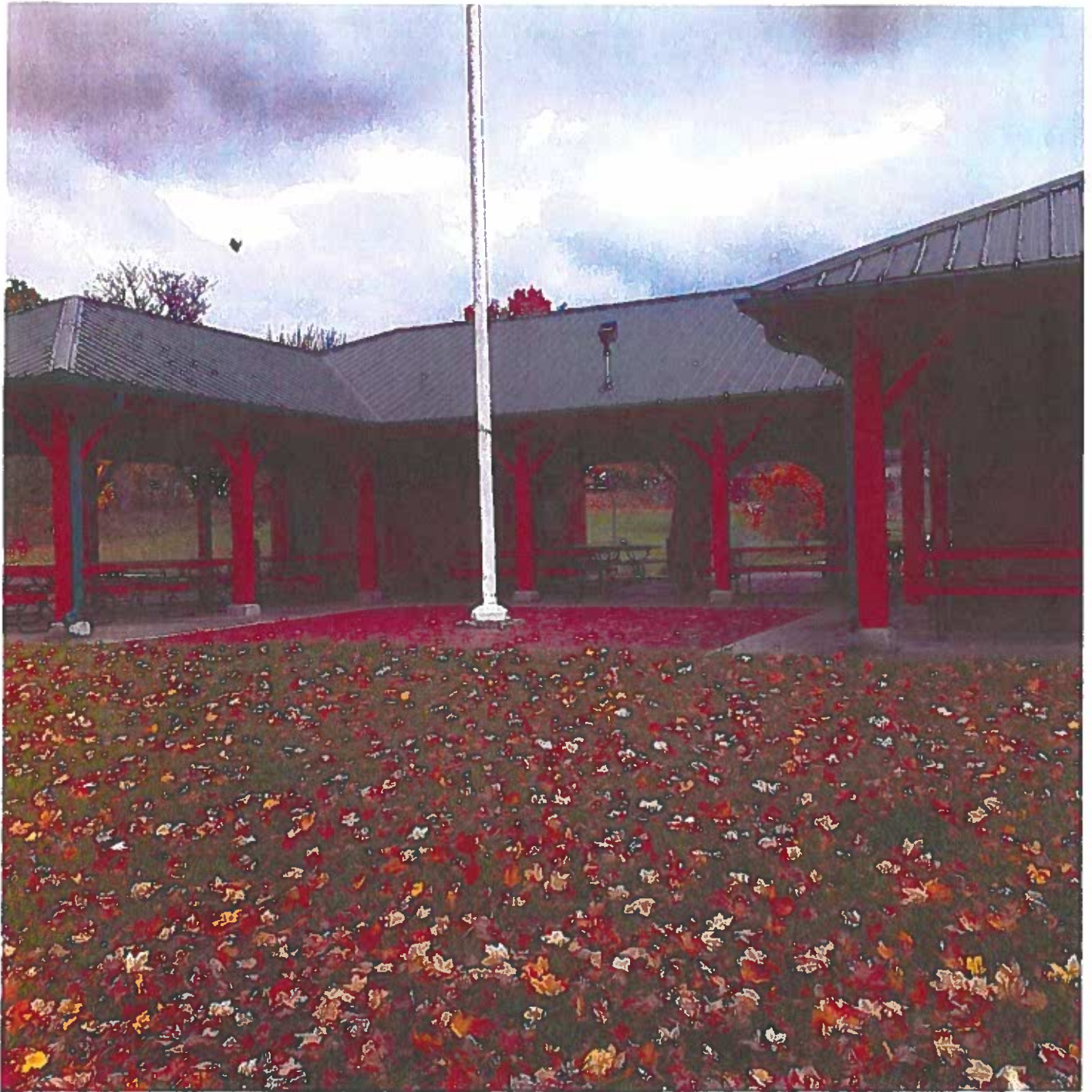
An outside drop box is available on the handrail.

10/30/19

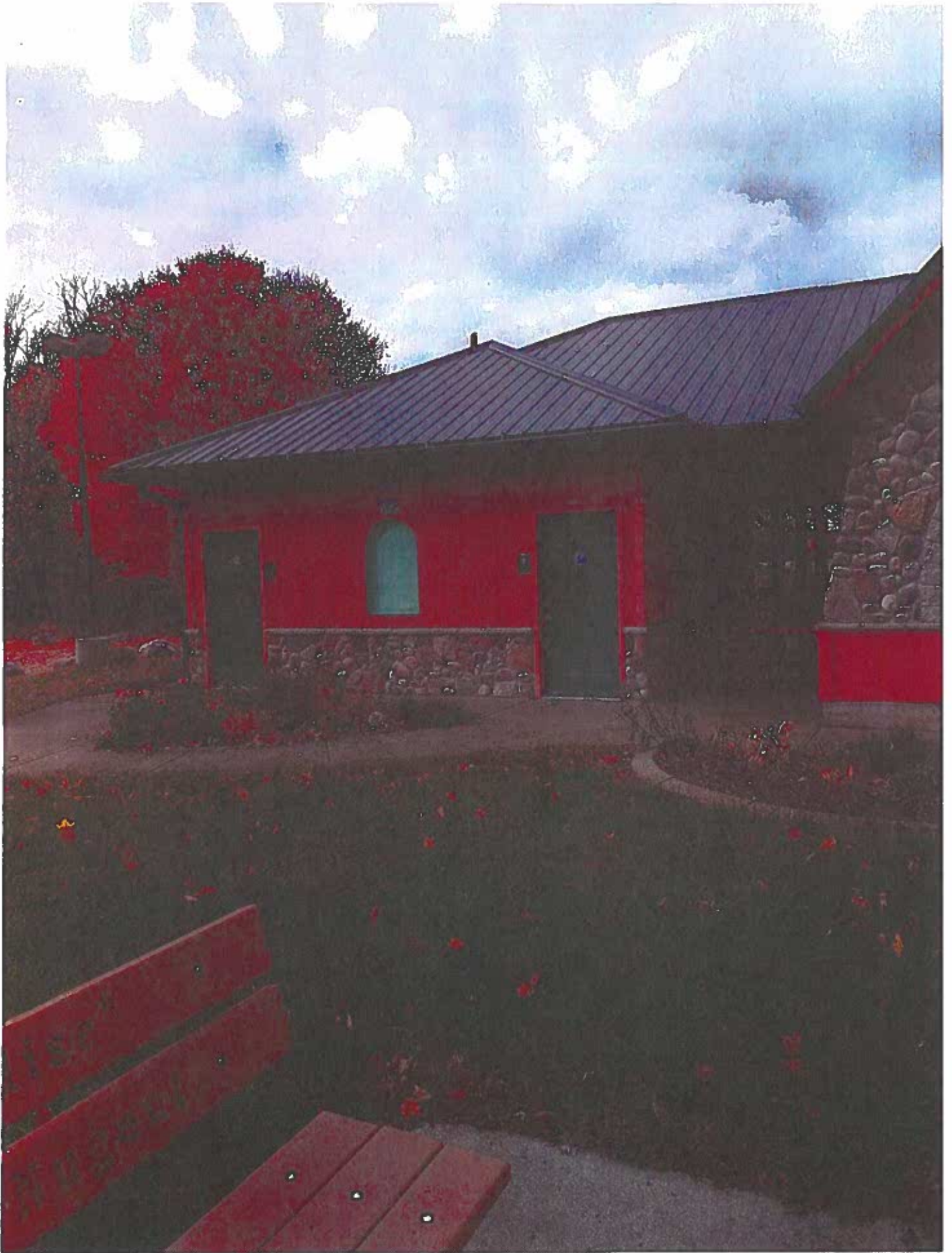
office use only

Amount received \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date payment received \_\_\_\_\_















The Village of Colon and the Colon Community Parks would like to extend a huge Thank You to the Branch County Community Foundation for awarding the Colon Community Parks a grant for \$7,000.00. With the support of The Colon Foundation, Healthy Seniors Fund and Healthy Youth Fund, the Colon Community Parks project of a Pickleball/ Half Basketball court is now a reality. We have also received additional donations to help reach our goal of \$15,000.00

The Colon Community Parks committee is always looking to improve our parks and create spaces for the well-being and activity of our community and the surrounding communities. The Pickleball / Half Basketball court will be a great addition to other activity spaces in the park. We are so excited for this opportunity to improve our park and its completion in May 2025.



St. Joseph



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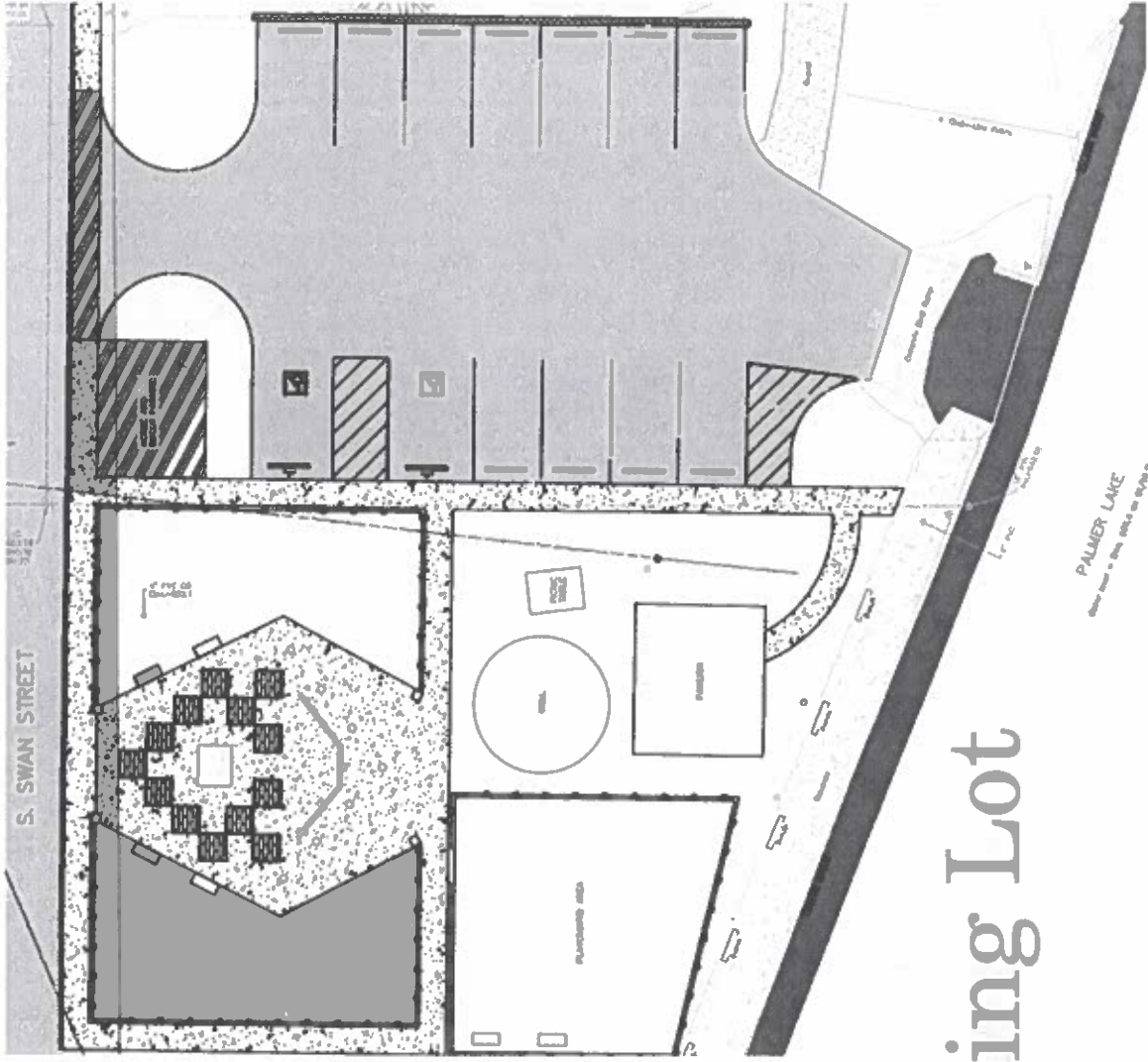






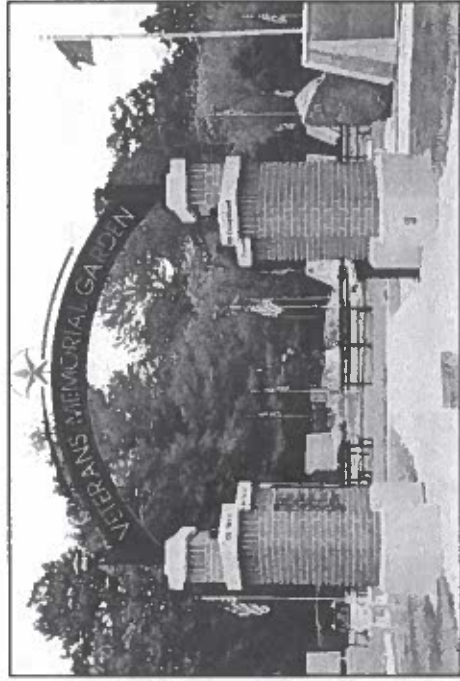
# Veterans Memorial Park

- Memorial
- Playground
- Pavilion
- Asphalt Parking Lot

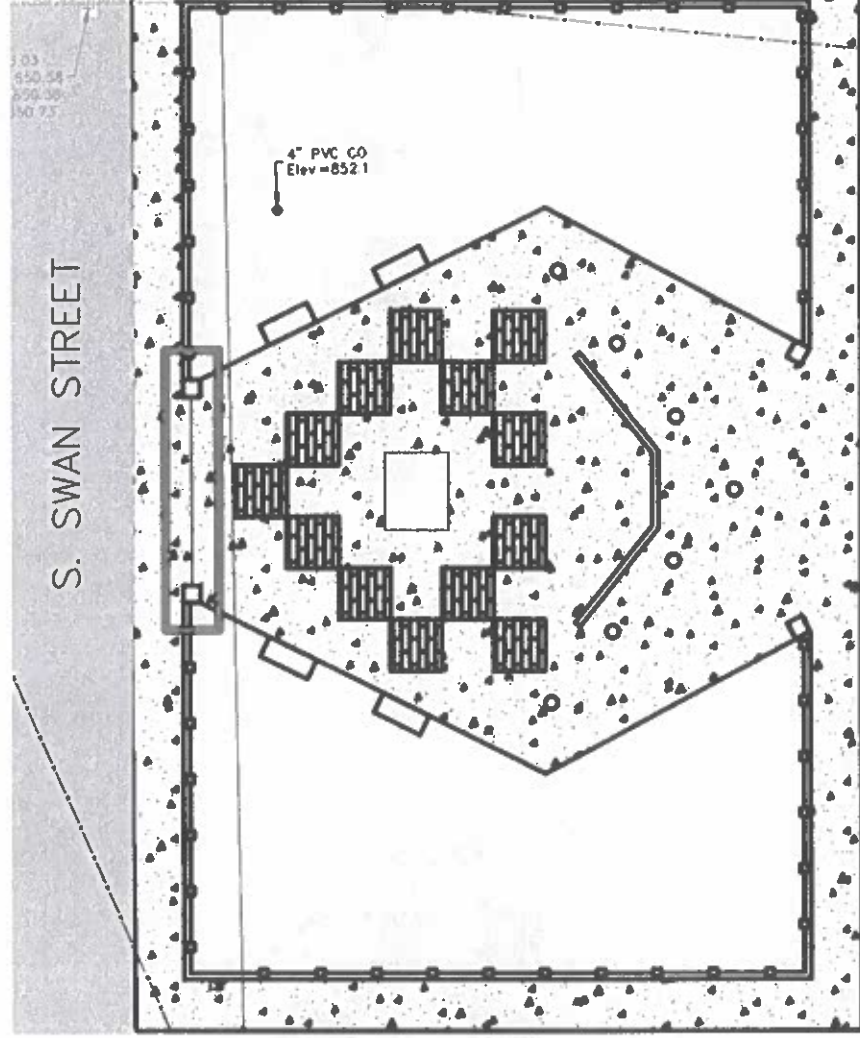




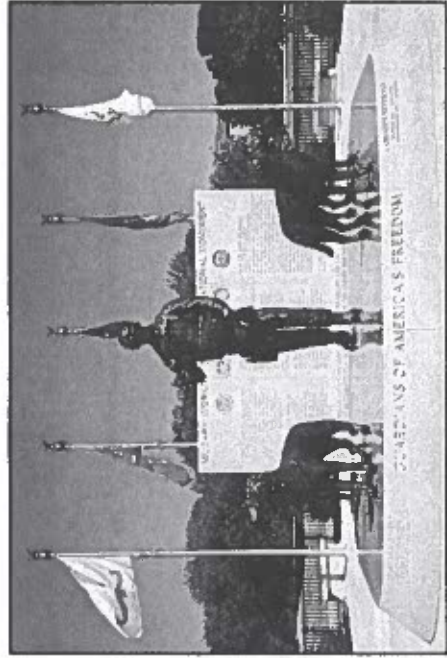
# Memorial Plan



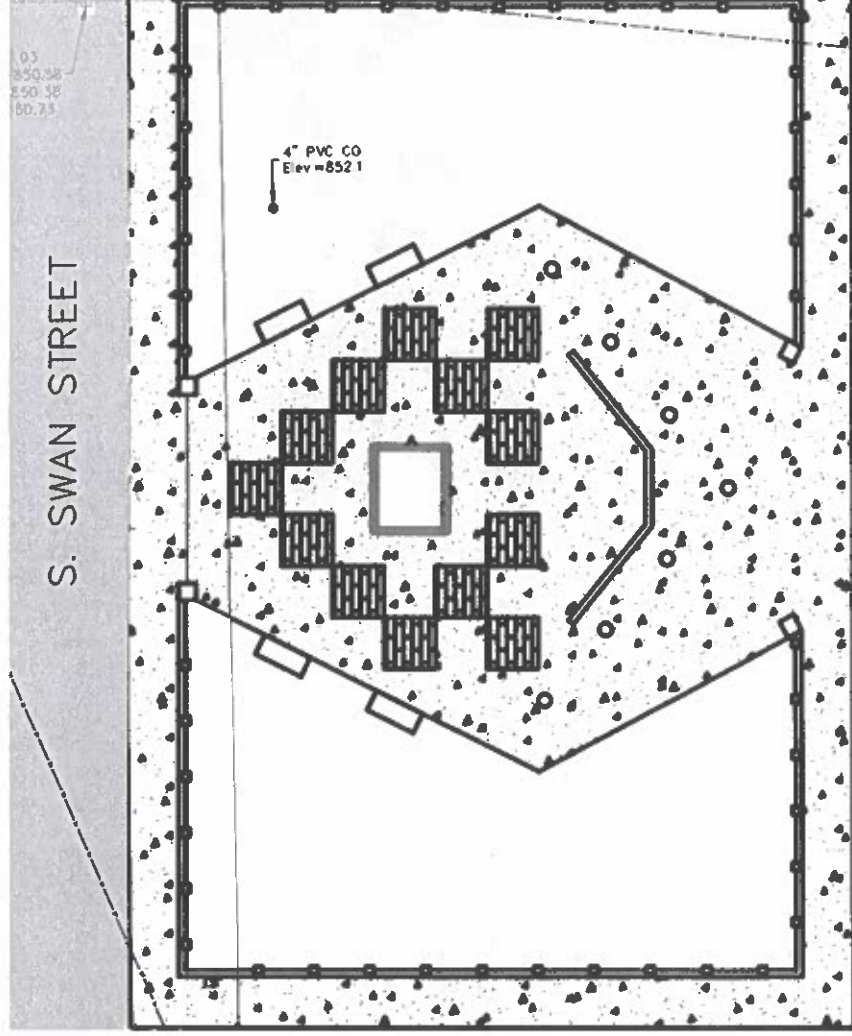
- Entryway Arch
- To be design by a third party



# Memorial Plan



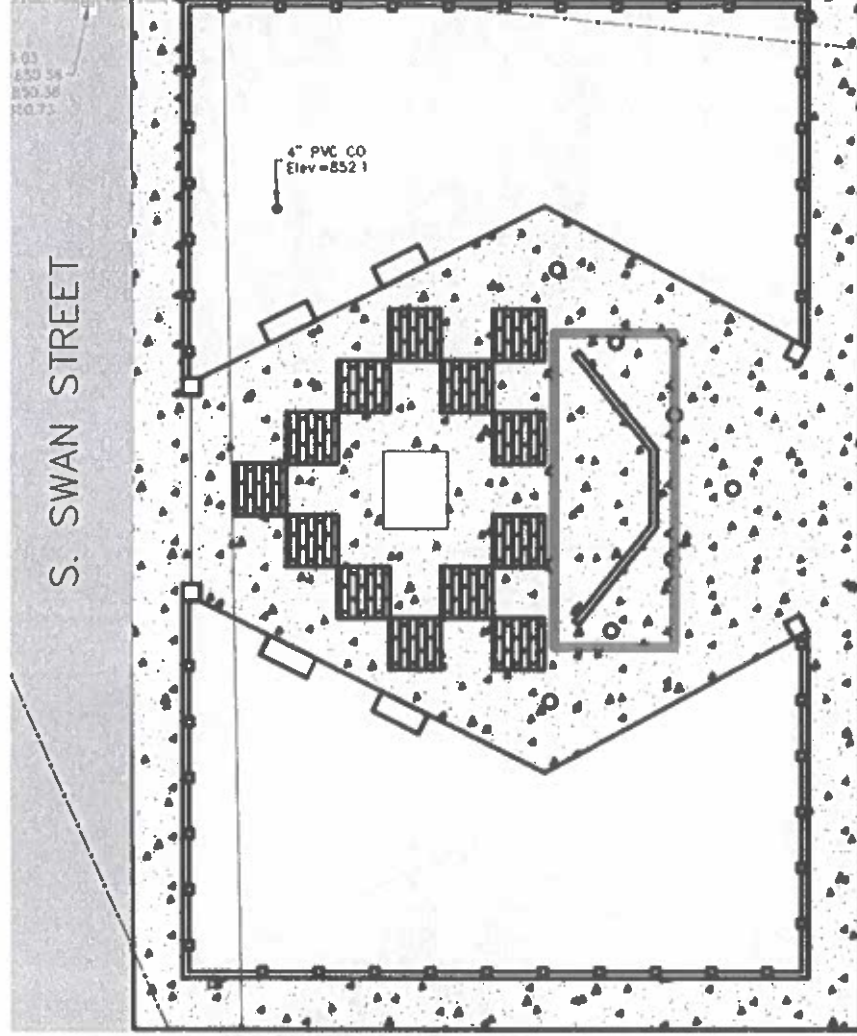
- Inspired by the Military Working Dog Monument at Lackland Air Force Base
- 6' Army Soldier with rifle
- Custom Design by Paula Slater



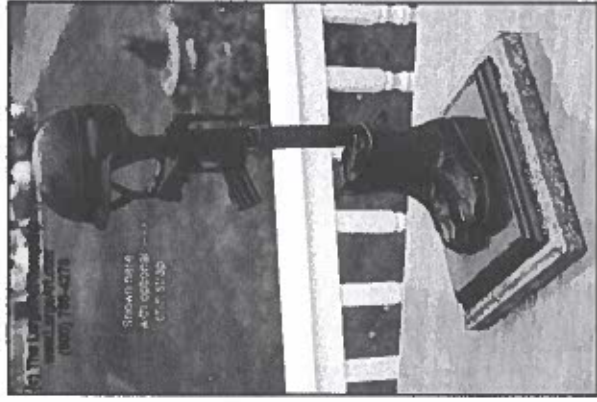
# Memorial Plan



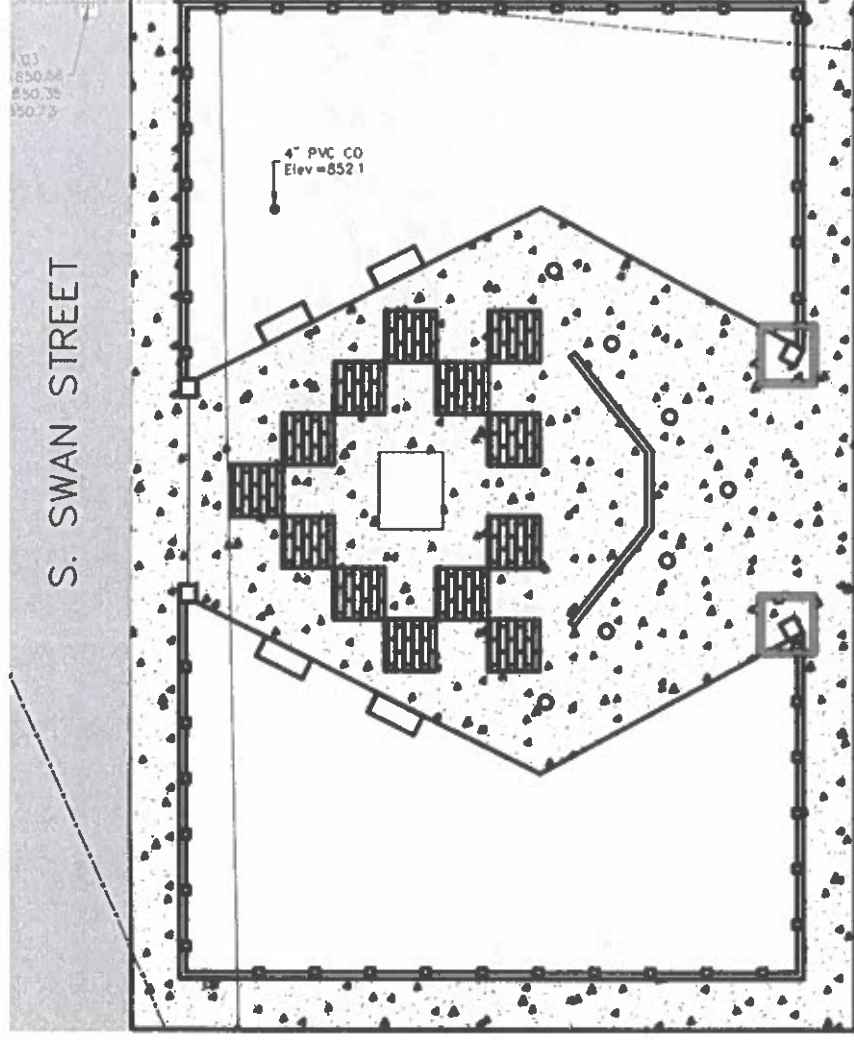
- Polished Granite Tombstone
- Etchings
- Incriptions



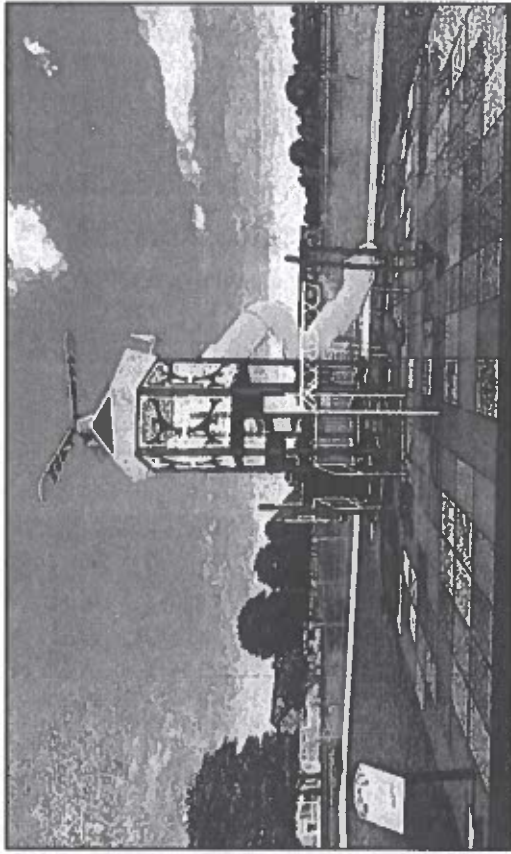
# Memorial Plan



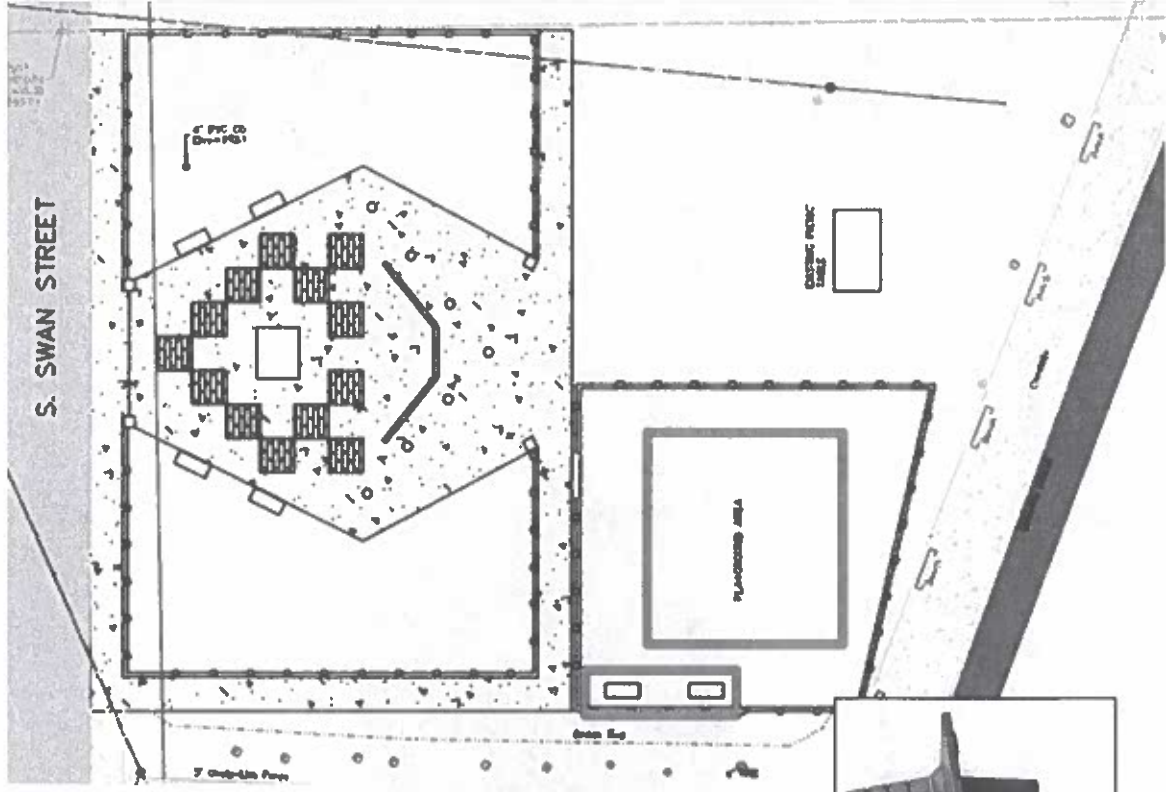
- Fallen Soldier Battle Cross Statue x2
- Marking the Entryway

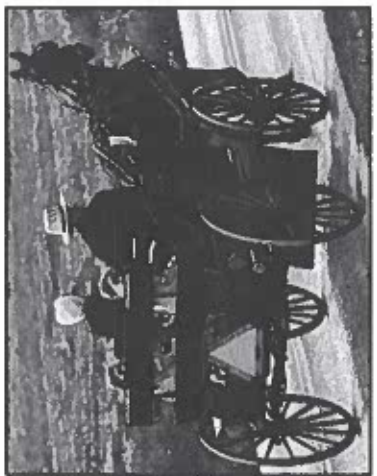
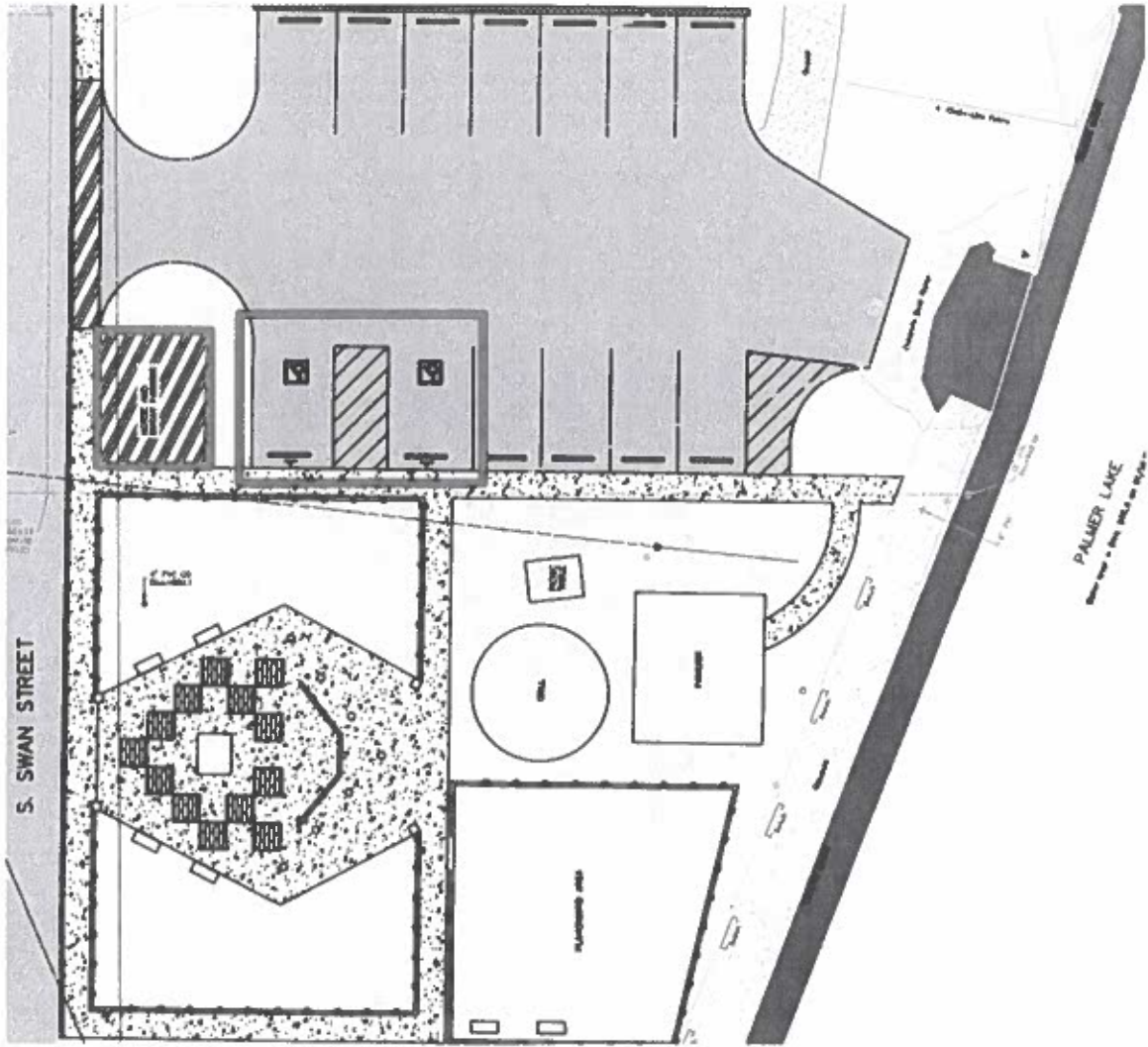


\*Placement available to change if requested

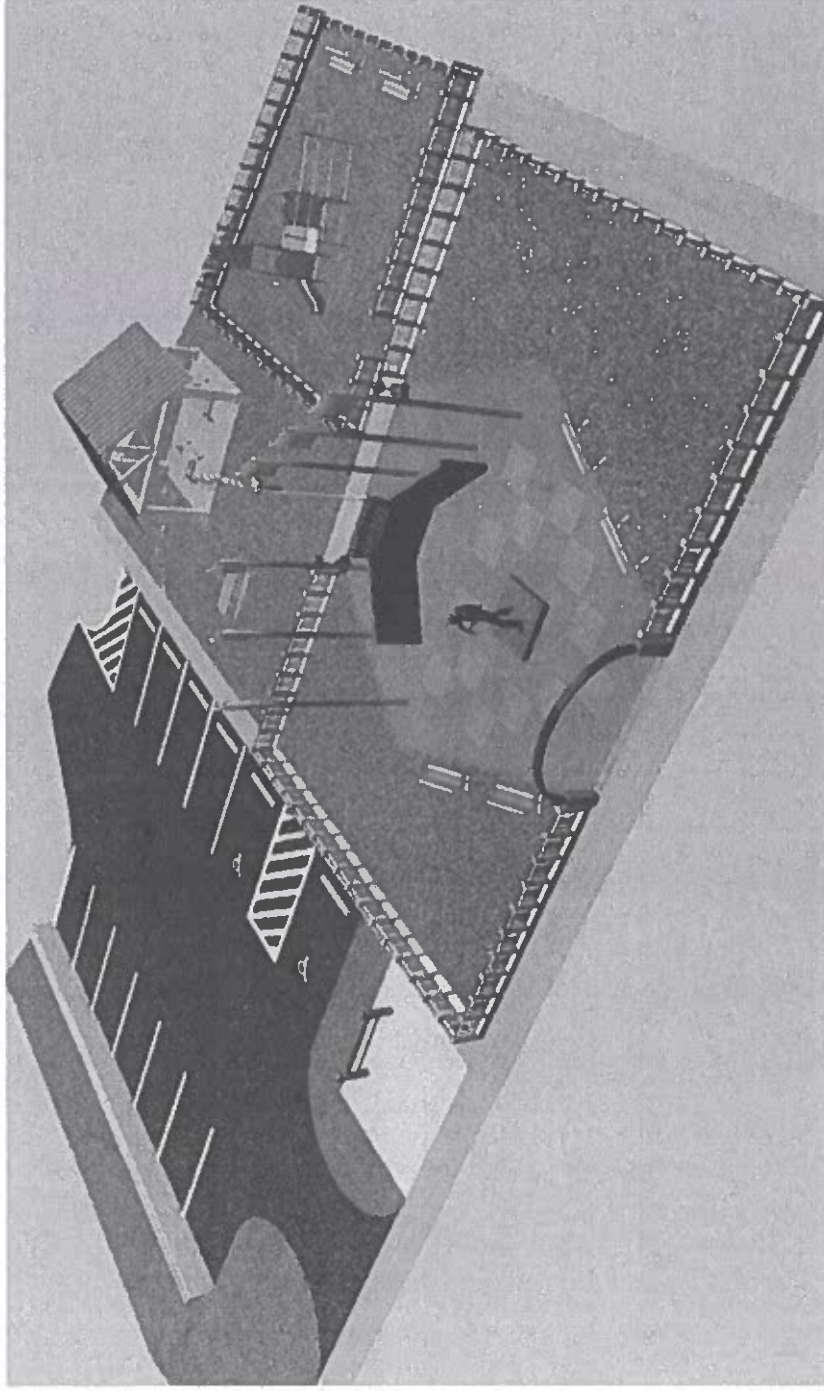


- Custom Playground Design
- Helicopter themed
- Woodchip base
- Benches for parents





- Asphalt Parking Lot
- ADA Accessible Parking
- Horse & Buggy Parking



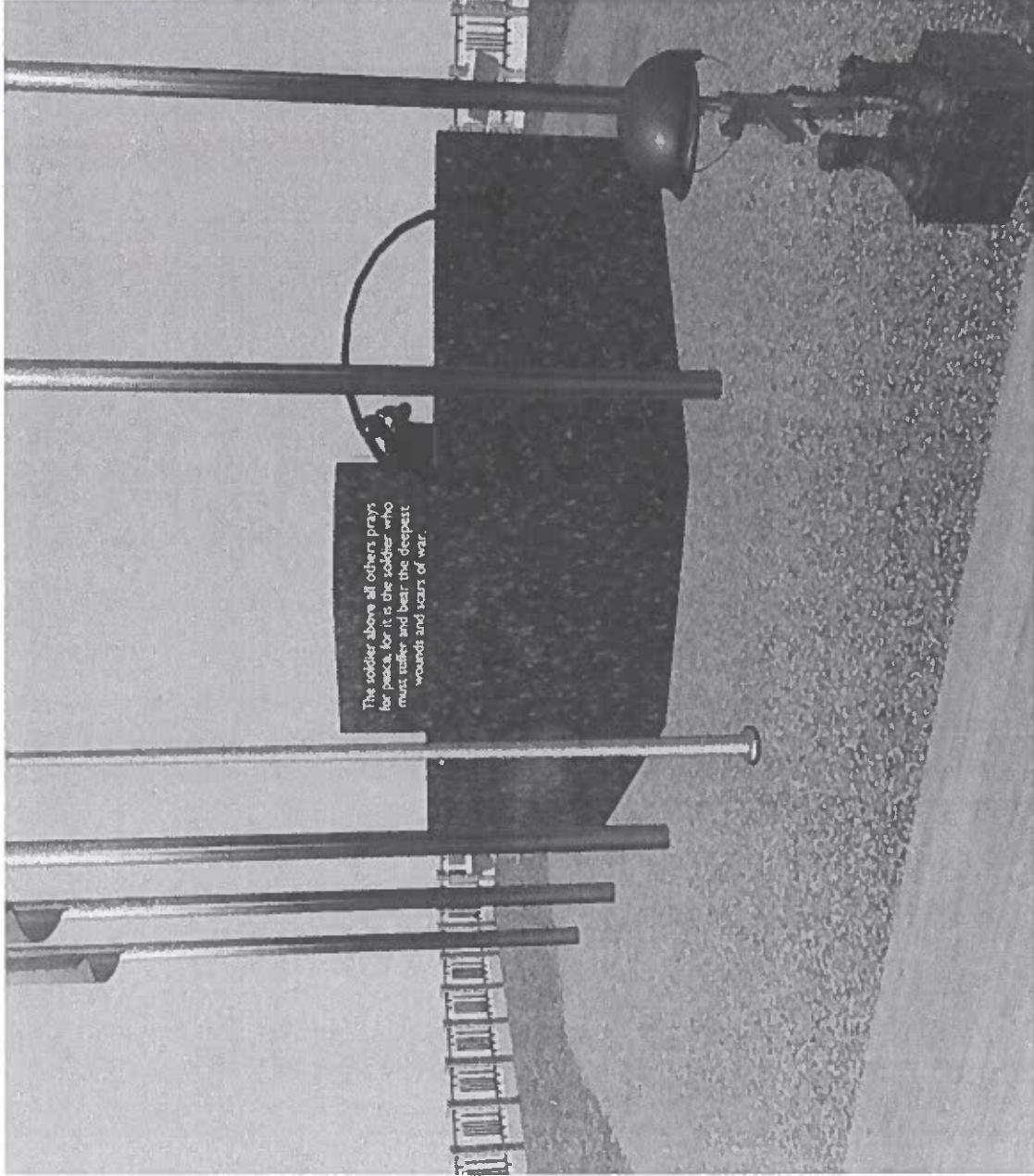
## Site Plan Layout

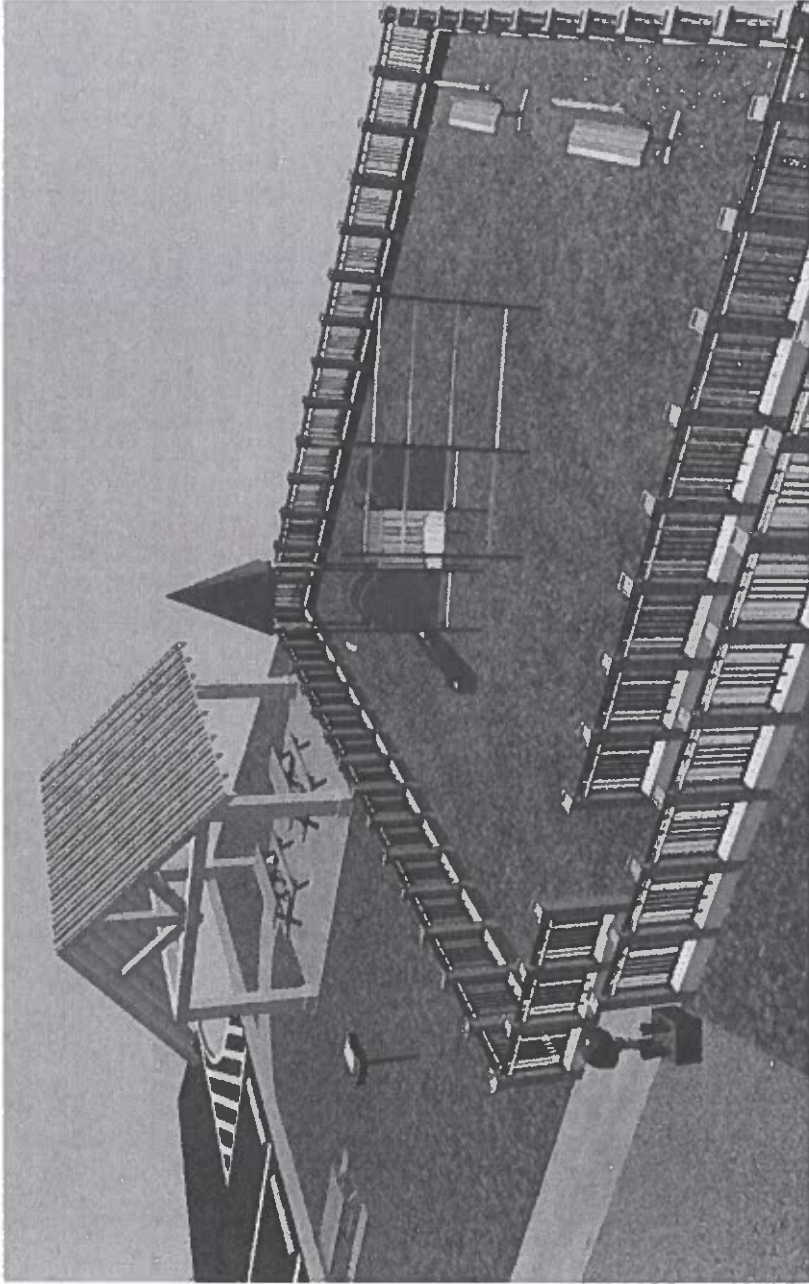
"In Honor of  
those men and  
women past and  
present who serve  
their country and  
this community  
in the Armed  
Forces of the  
United States of  
America during  
war and peace"



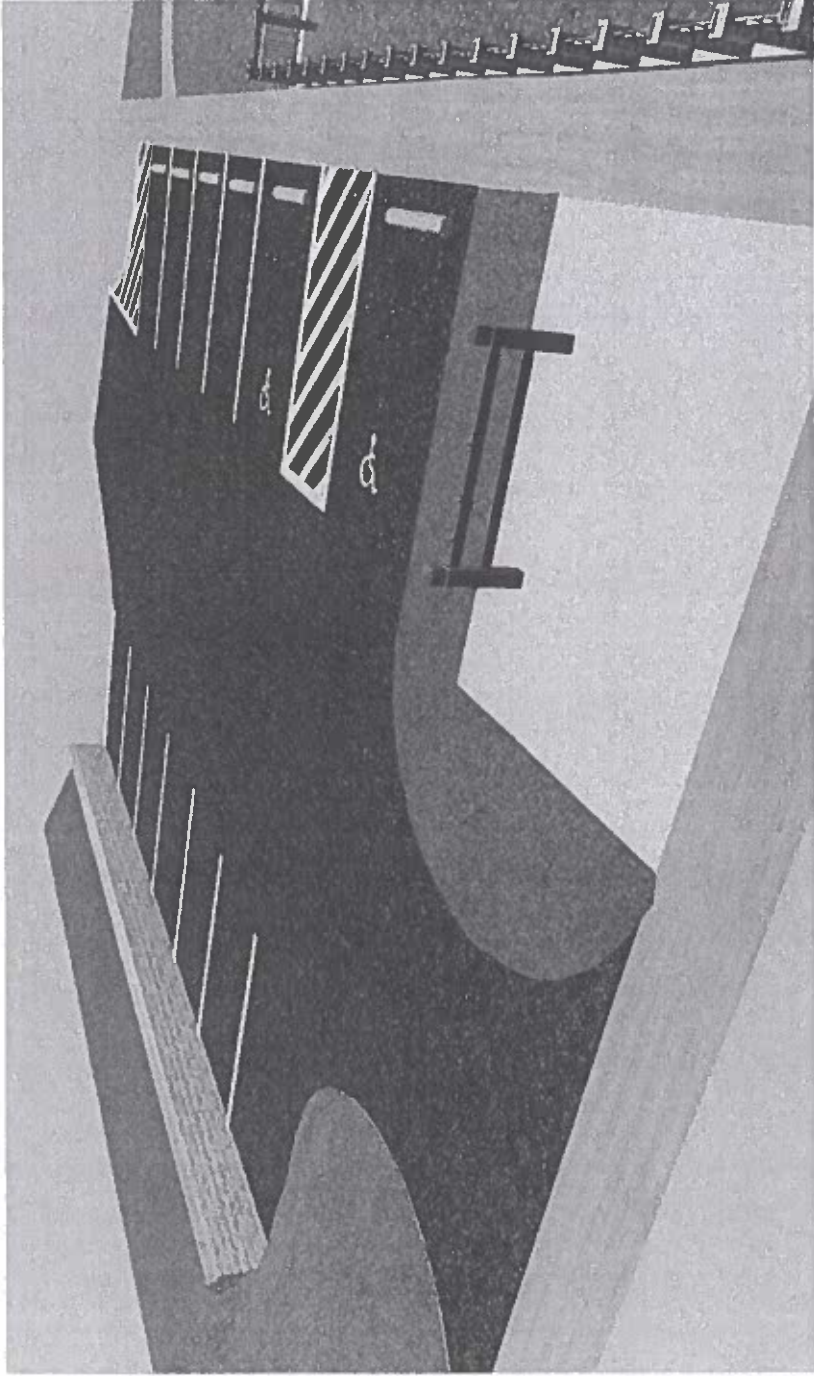


"The soldier  
above all others  
prays for peace,  
for it is the  
soldier who must  
suffer and bear  
the deepest  
wounds and  
scars of war."





## Picnic Area & Playground



Parking Lot

| Item        |  |           |           |
|-------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| Playground  |  |           | \$180,000 |
| Pavilion    |  |           | \$25,000  |
| Parking Lot |  |           | \$75,000  |
| Memorial    |  |           | \$525,000 |
| Total       |  | \$805,000 |           |

# Cost



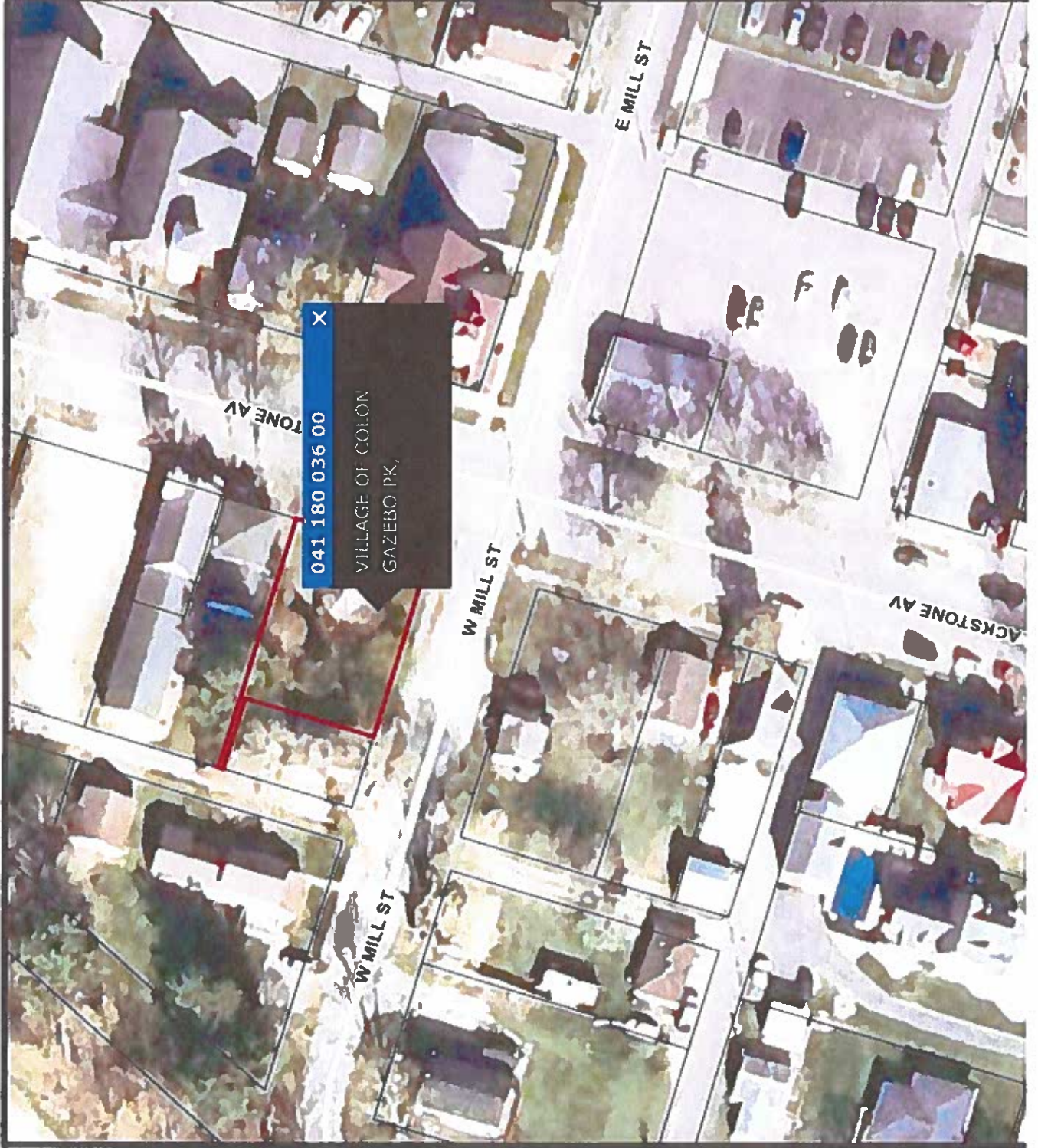
St. Joseph

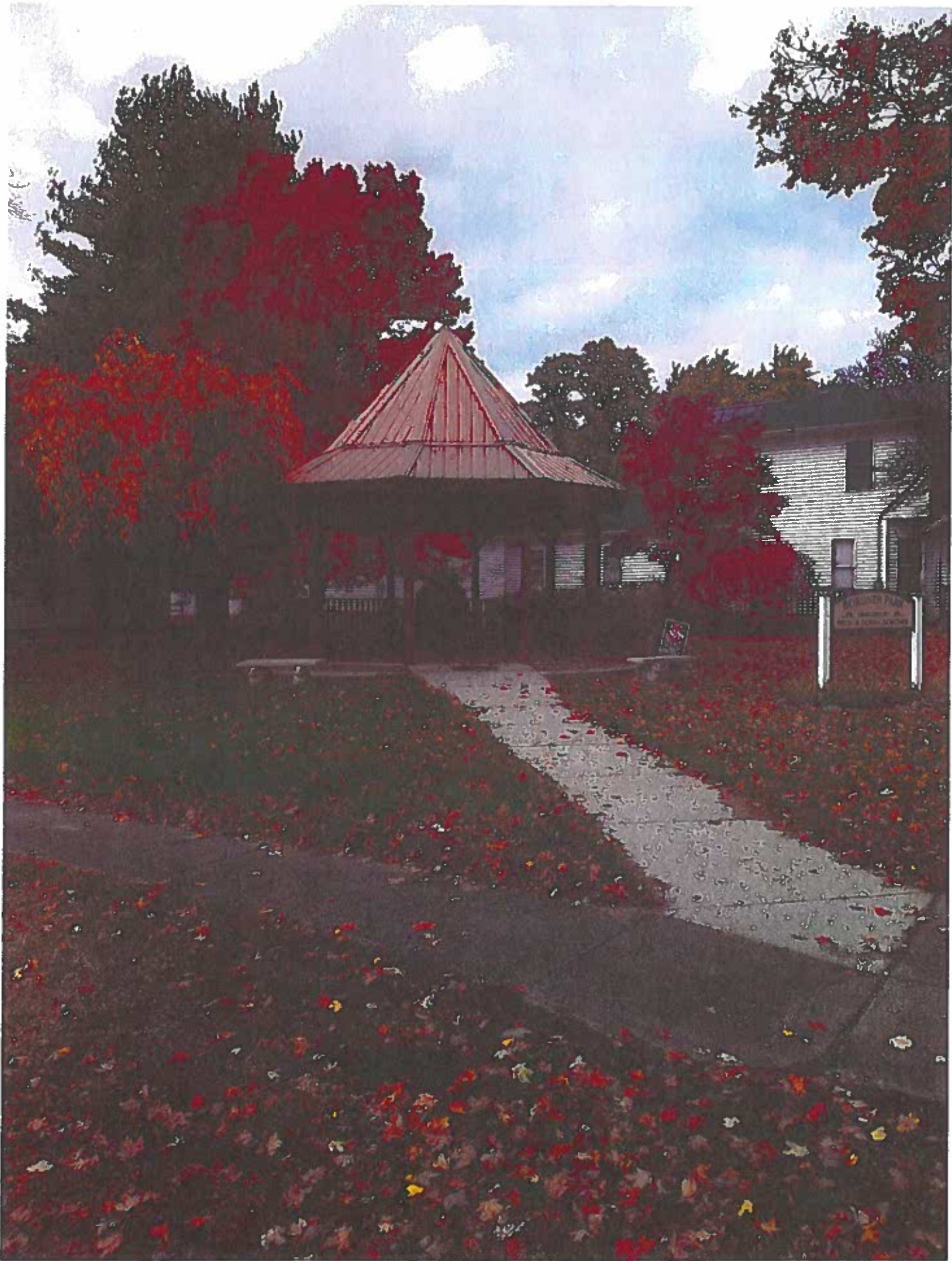


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## APPENDIX E

### VILLAGE OF COLON Resolution #09-03

#### A RESOLUTION KEEPING THE COLON COMMUNITY PARK IN PERPETUITY

At a regular meeting of the Village of Colon, Michigan held at the Village Hall on March 10, 2009 the following resolution was offered by Council member Percival, and supported by Council member Bell.

WHEREAS, the Village of Colon is working with the Colon Community Park Committee to develop a multifaceted community park, and

WHEREAS, the park is situated at 200 W. State St., parcel # 75-041-180-125-00, the property lies north of State St., west of N. St. Joseph St., south of the DNR public access and east of Sturgeon Lake, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Colon considers this park to be a recreational improvement to the residents of the Village of Colon, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Colon wishes to keep this park in perpetuity for the recreational needs of its residents, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Colon Council wishes to keep the Colon Community Park (parcel # 75-041-180-125-00) in perpetuity for the purpose of improving recreation for the residents of the Village of Colon.

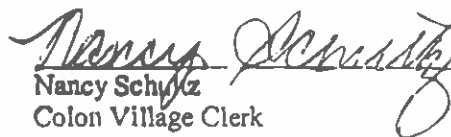
AYES: Bell, Delp, Kuhlmann, McManus, Percival, Thibideau, Whitford

NAYS: none

ABSENT: none

#### RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

I, Nancy Schultz, hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution made and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Colon on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2009.

  
Nancy Schultz  
Colon Village Clerk

## APPENDIX F

### SECTION 6: POST-PROJECT COMPLETION OBLIGATIONS AND PROGRAM RECOGNITION

Your obligations under your development grant do not end with final reimbursement and close-out of the financial portion of the grant. Grantees have long-term obligations that pertain to both the facilities developed with grant assistance and the project area encumbered by the Project Agreement. Your obligations regarding facilities endure for the life of the facilities. Obligations regarding the project area endure in perpetuity.

These long-term obligations include, but are not limited to:

- Maintenance of the project area and facilities, so they are attractive, inviting and safe.
- Management of the area and facilities in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- Keeping the project area/facilities open and accessible for public use at all appropriate times, based on the type of facilities. Full or partial closure of the project area or facilities to public use is a significant violation of the grantee's obligations under the Project Agreement. Extended, temporary closures for renovation or other purposes may be acceptable, but should be approved by the DNR before being implemented.
- Not instituting membership or annual permit systems. Differences in admission and other fees may be instituted on the basis of residence, but nonresident fees cannot exceed twice the amount charged to residents.
- Keeping the project area in public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. Adding any non-recreation facility to the project area, including other government buildings (such as libraries or fire stations) and utility structures (including cellular towers) is considered a conversion of the project area to nonrecreation use. Conversion of park areas developed with grant assistance is strongly discouraged. Conversions require prior DNR approval and the implementation of specific mitigation measures as approved by the DNR and, as appropriate, by the MNRTF Board of Trustees or, for LWCF projects, by the National Park Service. Mitigation measures normally include a requirement to replace the parkland with new parkland of equal or greater recreational or natural resource value and of equal or greater monetary value.
- Obtaining DNR approval and, for LWCF projects, National Park Service approval to discontinue operation of any grant-assisted project facilities prior to or at the end of their useful life.
- Obtaining DNR approval to make any significant change to the type of recreation provided for at the site. For example, if a grant was awarded for a site that was presented in the grant application as a passive recreation area with limited development, prior DNR approval must be sought if the site is to be changed over to an intensely developed active recreation area.

The DNR will perform periodic formal and informal inspections of the project area and facilities to determine compliance with the grantee's long-term obligations. You will be notified of any problems identified and will be asked to address them within a reasonable timeframe. You are obligated to comply with long-term obligations even in the absence of a DNR post-completion inspection process. Failure to comply with long-term obligations is a violation of the terms of your Project Agreement and will require mitigation. In addition, failure to comply with post-completion obligations will negatively impact your ability to compete for future recreation grants.

It is not uncommon for a park to receive DNR grant assistance under a number of grant programs, including MNRTF, LWCF, the 1988 Recreation Bond Fund program and the CMI-Recreation Bond Fund program; therefore, the grantee's long-term obligations at the site may be governed by more than one project agreement. A community should make sure they are aware of all grant obligations before implementing a change.

Any questions regarding post-completion obligations should be directed to your Grant Coordinator.





## GRANT HISTORY

---

**Grantee**

Village of Colon - St. Joseph County

---

**Project No.** TF09-049

**Project County:** St. Joseph

**Project Year:** 2009

**Project title:** Colon Community Park Development

**Project Status:** Grant Closed

**Grant Amount:**  
\$200,000.00

**Scope Item**

Amphitheater

Basketball/tennis court/horse shoe pits

Benches and grill

Boardwalk and fishing platform

Gazebo look-out

Horse shoe pits

Ice skating rink

Landscaping

Miscellaneous lighting, etc.

Playground equipment

Sand volleyball

Sidewalks to connect playground and courts/ park

**Project Description:** Development to include non-motorized trails, wetland boardwalk, fishing platform, playground, sand volleyball, horse shoe pits, and picnic areas.

---

**Total number of projects:** 1

**Total Amount of Grant Given** \$200,000.00



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 76 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Village of Colon - St. Joseph County

PROJECT NUMBER: TF09-49 PROJECT TYPE:

PROJECT TITLE: Colon Community Park Development

PROJECT SCOPE:

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with contact information for Village of Colon, including Name of Agency, Contact Person (Jodi Gross), Title (President), Address (111 S. St. Joseph St), Telephone (269-506-7775), City, State, ZIP (Colon, MI 49040), and Email (jodigross1@gmail.com).

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [X] Yes [ ] No

Colon Community Park public restrooms, pavillion and playground area
Camera...

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.  Yes  No  
Weekly Mowing, weeding flower beds, during spring, summer, fall.  
we have a custodian that cleans the restrooms daily.

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)  Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.  Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.  Yes  No  
Reservation Agreement Attached w/5 year Plan

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
All Parks are open all year during daylight hours. Restroom facilities

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

are closed from Nov - May.

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

|  |  |                          |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| <u>Jodi L. Gross</u><br>Please print   | <u>Jodi L. Gross</u><br>Grantee Authorized Signature | <u>2-13-2024</u><br>Date |
| <u>Julie A. Dekker</u><br>Please print | <u>[Signature]</u><br>Witness Signature              | <u>2-13-2024</u><br>Date |

**Please be sure to upload the completed Post Completion Report and plaque photographs to the 5-Year Recreation Plan in MiGrants.**

VILLAGE OF COLON  
(St. Joseph County, Michigan)

**APPENDIX G**

RESOLUTION 10-91410

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT PROPERTY AS PART OF THE COLON COMMUNITY PARK

Council member Nancy Percival offered the following resolution and Council member Ruth A. Kuhlmann moved for its adoption.

WHEREAS: The Colon Community Park, Incorporated, formerly know as Edgett-Godrey Community Center, Incorporated owns parcel# 75-041-180-122-00 adjacent to Village of Colon property parcel# 75-041-180-125-00; and

WHEREAS: the Colon Community Park Committee has designed a Colon Community Park to be placed in Village of Colon parcel # 75-041-180-125-00, which lies in the area west of St. Joseph St., east of Sturgeon Lake, north of State St., south of Michigan DNR public access, parcel # 75-041-040-001-00; and

WHEREAS: The Colon Community Park, Incorporated intends that their parcel# 75-041-180-122-00 become a permanent part of the Colon Community Park being developed on the Village of Colon parcel #75-041-180-125-00; and

WHEREAS: The Village of Colon has set aside the property for the Colon Community Park parcel# 75-041-180-125-00 in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS: Colon Community Park, Incorporated, parcel# 75-041-180-122-00 is tax exempt; and

WHEREAS: It is the opinion of the council that it would be in the best interests of the Village of Colon to accept the Quit Claim Deed for parcel#75-041-180-122-00 for inclusion as part of the Colon Community Park; and

WHEREAS: The Colon Community Park, Incorporated is wanting only One Dollar (\$1.00) for this Quit Claim Deed for parcel # 75-041-180-122-00: and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that The Village of Colon accepts the Quit Claim Deed for parcel # 75-041-180-122-00 for inclusion as part of the Colon Community Park for One Dollar (\$1.00) . Said resolution to be immediately effective on this date September 14, 2010

YEAS: Bell, Craun, Delp, Kuhlmann, McManus, Percival and Whitford

NAYS: none                      ABSENT: none

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

I, Nancy L. Schultz, herby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution made and adopted at a regular meeting of the governing body of this municipality on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, 2010.

  
Nancy L. Schultz, Village Clerk/Treasurer

  
Thomas Whitford, Village of Colon President

## APPENDIX H

### COLON COMMUNITY PARK & PAVILION RULES

1. Park hours are dawn to dusk unless pre-approved by the village president, however the park restrooms will be closed at or around dusk or at such time the Colon Police Department is available.
2. All vehicles, including horse drawn, must be parked in the parking lot and may not be parked on the grass or any other park area. Overnight parking is not allowed in the parking lot and overnight camping is not allowed in the park area.
3. Alcohol is not permitted throughout the park.
4. Smoking is not allowed in the pavilion, restroom, or other park structures.
5. Grills, of any kind, are not allowed in the pavilion.
6. Fireworks or bonfires are not allowed in the park.
7. Glass beverage containers are not allowed in the park.
8. Skateboarding or riding of bicycles is not allowed in the pavilion.
9. All pets in the park must be on a leash and owners are responsible for cleaning up.
10. The use of tape, nails, thumbtacks, push pins, and staples to attach signs or decorations to the park pavilion, trees, or shrubs surrounding the area is not permitted. Also, glitter, confetti, or table sprinkles may not be used in the pavilion or park area.
11. Permanent installation of signs, decorations, or plantings is only allowed without the express permission of the Colon Community Park Board.
12. Picnic tables may not be removed from the pavilion. Picnic tables may be rearranged for an event, but must be moved back to their original position when finished. Also, picnic tables must be carried not dragged.
13. Facilities must be returned to their original condition: picnic tables wiped down, trash picked up and placed in trash containers, and all decorations taken down.
14. Other than vendors of the Colon Farmers Market, no individuals, organizations, or business may sell food, drinks, services, or merchandise in the park without express written permission of the village president.

# APPENDIX I

## VILLAGE OF COLON COLON COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION BOARD BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

**Section I:** The name of this organization shall be the Colon Community Parks and Recreation Board, hereby referred to as "the Board."

**Section II:** The Board is operated under auspice the of the Village of Colon as a subcommittee with the purpose of the organization, planning, and operation of the Colon Community Park, The Bordner Park, and the Robert L. Bryan & Elwin J. Lamb Veterans Memorial Park.

**Section III:** The Board shall consist of two levels, the Advisory Board and the Colon Community Parks & Recreation Board.

### ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

**Section I:** Membership on the Board and Advisory Board shall be approved in April, of each fiscal year, by the Colon Village Council at their organization meeting.

**Section II:** The Board shall consist of seven (7) members and the Advisory Board shall consist of five (5) members.

**Section III:** In the case of any vacant position(s) on the Board or Advisory Board, the Board shall make recommendation(s) to the Colon Village Council as to replacement. The Colon Village Council will consider recommendations from the Board and will approve new members at any regular monthly meeting.

**Section IV:** One member of the Colon Village Council shall serve as a member of the Board as liaison to the Council. This Council member may be an officer and will have voting privileges.

### ARTICLE III: POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

**Section I.** Board Members shall:

- i. Abide by applicable ordinances of the Village of Colon.
- ii. Act in an advisory capacity to the Colon Village Council and Village President in regards to all parks and recreational facilities operated by the Village of Colon.
- iii. Recommend policies to govern the organization, planning, and operation of all the Parks & Recreation facilities within the Village of Colon.
- iv. Be actively involved in the maintenance and planned future development of all park and recreational facilities operated by the Village of Colon.
- v. Assist in interpreting the policies and functions of the Board and Advisory Board to the public.
- vi. Submit a yearly budget no later than the February Monthly Council Meeting.

# APPENDIX I

## ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

**Section I:** The officers of the Board shall be Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary. The Village of Colon shall conduct all financial transactions of and for the Board and the Village of Colon Office Manager shall be considered acting Treasurer without voting privilege.

**Section II:** Officers of the Board shall be nominated and elected at the April Board meeting. Members of the Advisory Board may be nominated for any official position.

**Section III:** Vacancies in offices shall be filled as follows:

- i. In the event of the resignation, removal from office, or incapacity of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair for the remainder of the term of office.
- ii. The membership shall nominate and vote on a member to fill the position of Vice-Chair.
- iii. In the event of the resignation, removal from office, or incapacity of the Vice-Chair, the membership shall nominate and vote on a member to fill said position.
- iv. In the event of the resignation, removal from office, or incapacity of the Secretary, the membership shall nominate and vote on a member to fill said position.

**Section IV:** Duties of the officers shall be as follows:

- i. The Chair shall:
  - a) Preside at meetings of the Board.
  - b) Appoint all standing and special committees and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
  - c) Prepare and present an agenda for each meeting.
  - d) Be responsible for presenting to the Board a financial report at each monthly meeting.
  - e) Complete the Five (5) Year Parks & Recreation Plan report as required by Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund.
- ii. Vice-Chair shall:
  - a) Preside at all meetings in the absence of the Chair
  - b) Fill the office of the Chair upon resignation, removal from office, or incapacity of the Chair to preform their duties.
  - c) Contact all members of the Board and Advisory Board with a reminder of the next meeting date and time.
- iii. The Secretary shall:
  - a) Keep a record of attendance and minutes of meetings. A copy of all meetings minutes will be kept at the Colon Village office.
  - b) Conduct correspondence of the organization as requested.

## ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

**Section I.** Committees may be appointed for special purposes by the Chair and with the consent of the majority of the Board members. All committees will have at least one Board member serving on them. These committees are automatically dissolved upon completion of their assignment.



# APPENDIX I

**Section II.** Progress reports of the committee will be given at each Board meeting and a final report upon completion of their assignment.

## ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

**Section I:** The regular meeting of the Board shall be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7PM at the Village Hall.

**Section II:** All meetings shall be posted forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

**Section III:** All meetings are open to the public.

**Section IV.** Special meetings may be called by the Chair or at the call of any two members of the Board. Any special meeting will require a forty-eight (48) hour advance notice. Members shall be notified of the date, time, place and business of the meeting by mail, phone, e-mail, and public notice given eighteen hours prior to the meeting.

**Section V:** A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Board.

**Section VI:** All questions presented for a vote shall be decided by a simple majority of the quorum of the Board, including the vote of the Chair.

**Section VII:** Any member of the Board or Advisory Board who misses three consecutive meetings without good cause shall be deemed to have resigned. Replacement of Board or Advisory Board members shall be consistent with Article II, Section II.

**Section VIII:** Rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall apply whenever they are applicable.

## ARTICLE VII: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**Section I.** All members of the Board and Advisory Board shall avoid any issues, which may be considered a conflict of interest.

**Section II.** Any member of the Board or Advisory Board shall notify the Chair of any issue that may be considered a personal conflict of interest.

**Section III.** All members of the Board and Advisory Board shall abstain from voting on any issues that may be considered a conflict of interest.

## ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

**Section I.** These by-laws may be amended by majority vote of the members present at any meeting of the membership provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been sent with the notice of the meeting.

**Section II.** This amendment would then be subject to approval by the Colon Village Council.

# APPENDIX I

**Effective Date:** September 9, 2015.

Record:

The foregoing resolution offered by **Council Member** S. Crown

Second offered by **Council Member** N. Percival

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

"Aye": Doenges, Delp, R. Kuhlmann, Percival, Crown, Tenney

"Nay": \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: McManus

Mr. Thomas A. Tenney, Village President, declared the resolution adopted

(adopted/rejected)

Thomas A. Tenney  
Thomas A. Tenney, Village President

## CERTIFICATION

I, Kurt P. Kuhlmann, the duly appointed Clerk of the VILLAGE OF COLON, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a Resolution, passed by the Colon Village Council, on 09 08, 2015, the original of which is on file at the Colon Village Hall.

Date: Sept 08, 2015.

Kurt P. Kuhlmann  
Kurt P. Kuhlmann, Clerk

# APPENDIX J

## VILLAGE OF COLON

### COUNTY OF ST JOSEPH, MICHIGAN

Resolution No. 2015 - 09 - 08 - C

#### **Resolution by the Village of Colon Village Council in Support of the Colon Community Parks & Recreation Board Bylaws**

WHEREAS, the Village of Colon owns, maintains, and operates three public parks; Colon Community Park, Robert L. Bryan & Elwin J. Lamb Veterans Memorial Park, and the Bordner Park, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Colon Village Council has approved the entity of the Colon Community Parks & Recreation Board and Advisory Board, and

WHEREAS, the Colon Community Parks & Recreation Board and Advisory Board was charged with the development of Bylaws for the purpose of organization, planning and operation of the parks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, the Village of Colon Council accepts and supports the Colon Community Parks & Recreation Board Bylaws as printed and attached.

**Effective Date:** Resolution No. 2015 - 09 - 08 - C; Resolution by the Village Council of Colon, Michigan in support of the Colon Community Parks & Recreation Board Bylaws, effective September 9, 2015.

Record:

The foregoing resolution offered by Council Member Sharon Craun.

Second offered by Council Member Nancy Percival.

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

"Aye": Edith Daengia, Dick De Co, Ruth Ann Kuhlmann, Nancy Percival, Sharon Craun, Tom Johnny

"Nay": None

Absent: Marilyn McManus

Mr. Thomas A. Tenney, Village President, declared the resolution Adopted  
(adopted/rejected)

Thomas A. Tenney  
Thomas A. Tenney, Village President

#### CERTIFICATION

I, Kurt P. Kuhlmann, the duly appointed Clerk of the VILLAGE OF COLON, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a Resolution, passed by the Colon Village Council, on September 8, 2015, the original of which is on file at the Colon Village Hall.

Date: September 8, 2015.

Kurt P. Kuhlmann  
Kurt P. Kuhlmann, Clerk

# APPENDIX K

## COLON COMMUNITY PARKS BOARD Colon Parks Inspections June 9, 2023

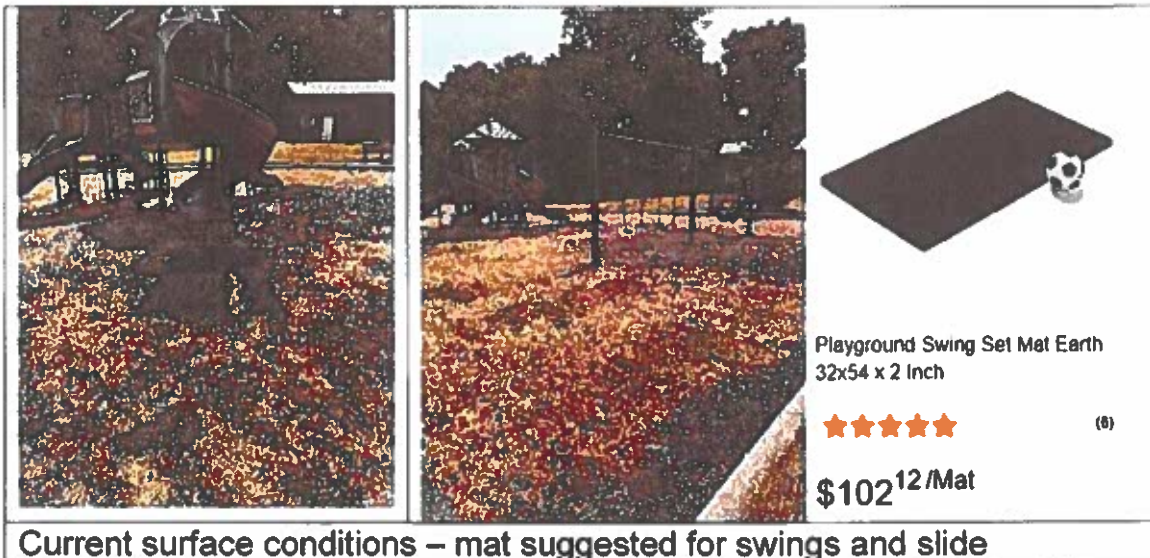
### Overview

The Colon Community Park Board (Board) performed inspections on all three Colon Parks. The purpose was to assess the conditions of the Parks to determine what needed to be addressed. The findings are detailed in this report. Some items have been corrected by Board Members and all items have been prioritized. The main concern is the surfaces in the playgrounds of Community and Veterans Parks. The Playground Equipment Act – Act 16 of 1997 (copy in appendix) requires the Village be responsible for the maintenance, repair and upkeep of its public playground equipment according to the standards identified by the Act (ASTM F1487-01 and Public Playground Handbook – copies in appendix). It is recommended that the surfaces in both playgrounds be addressed ASAP.

### Community Park

#### Playground

The main concern is the playground surface. The DPW has applied weed killer, but now we must excavate the area 12" and then add 12" of mulch. The requirement is 9" but due to settlement it is recommended to fill to 12". The DPW can provide the mulch but cannot excavate or spread the mulch.



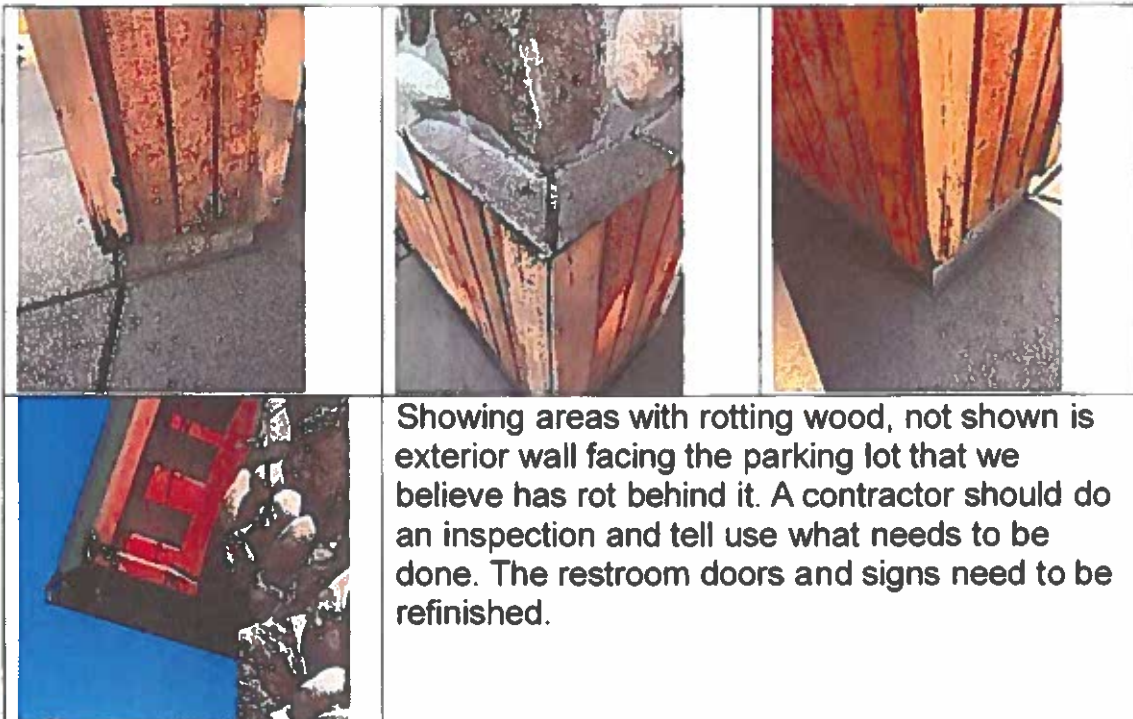
Current surface conditions – mat suggested for swings and slide

Also, the mats originally for the swings have been moved to the slide area and need replacing. It is felt the 7 mats should be ordered to cover both the swings and slides.

# APPENDIX K

## Main Building

While the main building is in good condition it is beginning to show its age and needs repairs to prevent further deterioration.



## Memorial Garden and Berm

Both of these areas need more mulch, which can be provided by the DPW. The Garden Club has taken care of weeding and trim the Berm.

## Green Building

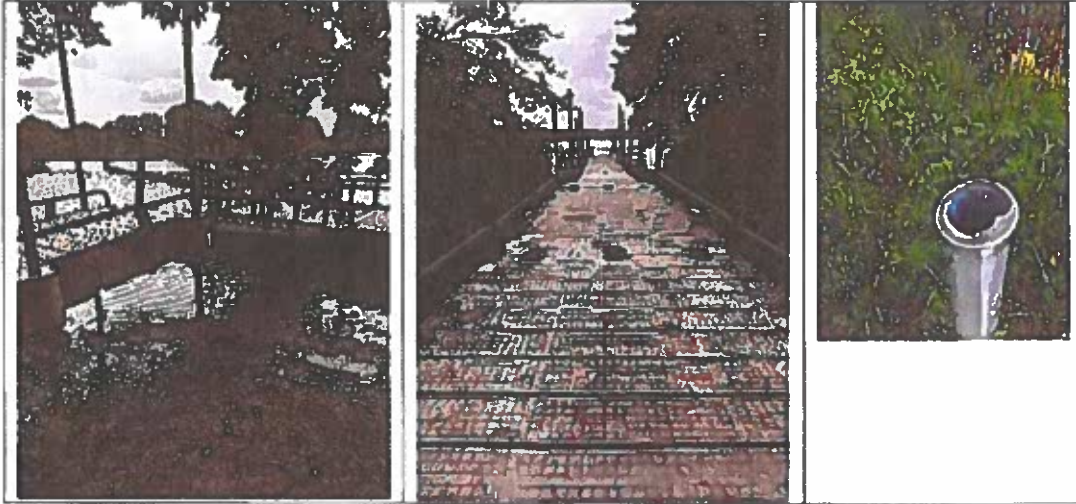
There are areas of rotting that need to be addressed and windows in the overhead doors need to be replaced.



# APPENDIX K

## Dock

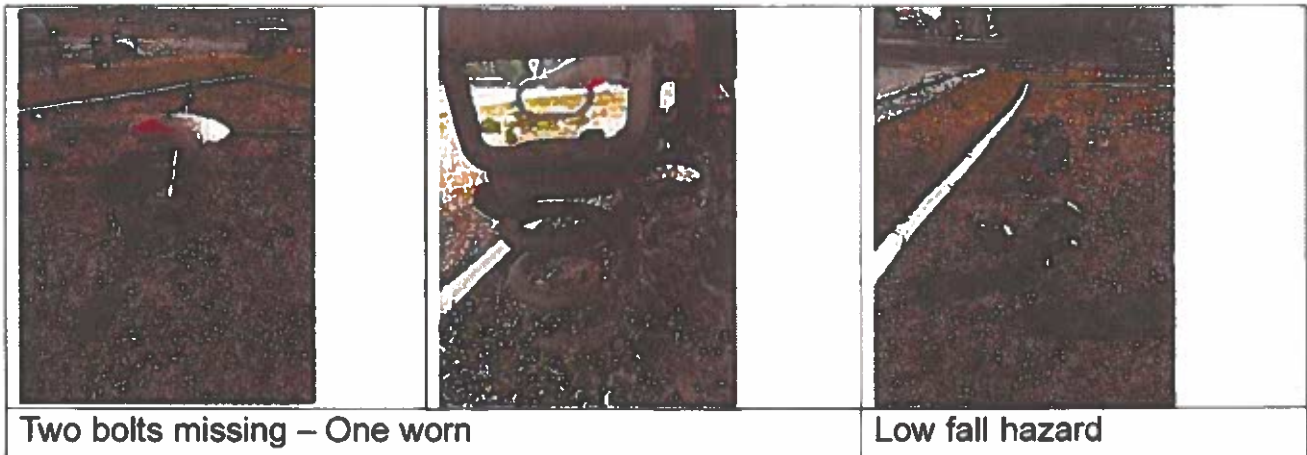
The dock is not level and quite high at the end. The caps on the poles have been broken and created a hazard – all have been removed. The poles at the end have been straightened and put back into their holders. The area that presented a tripping hazard has been fixed, but the whole dock needs to be leveled. The caps should be replaced with plastic caps.



## Veterans Park

### Playground

The main concern is the playground surface. The DPW has applied weed killer, but when now need to excavate about 3" of the existing surface and replace with about 6" of sand. The fall in this park is very limited due to the height of the equipment. So, sand is a viable option.



Two bolts missing – One worn

Low fall hazard

# APPENDIX K

Not shown the drains in Swan and Canal are plugged causing washout in Park



## **Bordner Park**

**No issues**

### **Assessment**

Community and Veteran Parks both need attention. Board member were able to address some of the issues and resolved them. The dock poles were put back in place and straighten out. The dock tripping hazard of uneven sections was fixed. The tree that was leaning has been staked. 3 of benches in Community Park has been cleaned of mold and bird excrement – the remaining 6 will be done. We are looking for replacement caps for the dock. In Veterans Park the rebar tripping hazards have all been painted and the playground pipe put back together. The missing bolts will be taken care of tomorrow. The following recommendations are submitted for approval.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **Priority 1 – Safety issues**

1. Both playgrounds need to have their surfaces addressed, in Community Park the surface should be excavated 12” and replaced with mulch from the DPW. In Veterans Park the surface should be excavated 3” and replaced with 6 inches of sand. We are seeking quotes for the excavation, sand and spreading the mulch.
2. 11 Playground swing mats should be purchased for the playgrounds – 7 for Community Park and 4 for Veterans.
3. It needs to be determined the type and number of signs needed for compliance with standards.
4. Inspections of the playgrounds should be made regularly and documented (see samples in Appendix).

# APPENDIX K



5. This yellow barricade at the end of the path needs to be anchored or removed. It presents a crushing hazard if a child would try and climb on it and it tipped over.

## **Priority 2 – Maintenance**

1. The Pavilion in Community Park has a number of areas of rotting wood that need to be replaced. Quotes should be obtained and work done.
2. In the Pavilion two of the three interior lights are not working and should be replaced.
3. The Green Building has a number of areas of rotting wood that need to be replaced. Quotes should be obtained and work done.
4. We have installed one dog poop sign and need 4 more – 2 for Community, 1 each for Veterans and Bordner.

## **Priority 3 –**

1. The dock needs to be releveled. There is a steep incline at the end which presents a hazard.
2. The clock in the Pavilion needs to be fixed.



## 2024 Colon Community Parks Improvement

Colon Community Park- The playground was resurfaced with new mulch and rubber mats for the swings and slides.

The Pavillion front entrance where the wood was rotted has been replaced and stained.

Additional mulch was added around the trees in the park.

The berm was professionally weeded and plants/trees were trimmed.

2 dog bag waste stations were added to the park.

4 bollards were added to the walking path ( 2 at each end ) to prevent golf carts, 4 wheelers etc. from driving on the path.

3 NO GOLF CART signs were placed, ( 2, on the walking path, 1, at the main entrance of the park.

Veterans Memorial Park- The playground surface had more sand added to it.

2 swings were repaired ( chains were broken)

1 park bench with a broken board was repaired. There was discussion at the October 16, 2024 meeting about replacing all the boards on the benches in 2025 as they are all getting worn and warped.

Bordner Park- The Gazebo and the park grounds are in good shape. The Park Board did observe that the Gazebo would need to be power washed in 2025.

**ACCESSIBILITY RATING  
FOR COLON  
COMMUNITY PARKS**

Colon Community Park has 2 handicap parking spots that are paved with easy access to the sidewalk leading around the Pavillion. There are also sidewalks around the playground that lead to the paved walking path. The sidewalks also lead to the gazebo that has wooden ramps going in and out of the gazebo for easy access. Along the walking path there is a sidewalk that leads to the floating fishing dock. There are also several memorial benches along the ¼ mile walking path for patrons of the park to sit and enjoy the view of the lake. There is another sidewalk that leads to the sand volleyball and horseshoe pits.

The Pavillion has both Men's and Women's handicap accessible restroom. Each restroom also has a diaper changing table. The inside of the Pavillion area is all cement with an area with several picnic tables for gatherings.

In May 2024, Colon Community Park Board members R. Livermore, J. Gross, L. Rehmeyer, K. Boals take a walk through the park, pavilion, gazebo and to the floating dock. During this time we check all sidewalks for cracks, trip hazards, any broken boards, bathrooms are checked to make sure all ADA handrails are secure, sinks, hand dryers and lights are working properly. Picnic tables are checked, playground equipment is checked for safety. After all inspections are conducted and any repairs or safety concerns are noted the CCPB then uses the DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities to rate the Accessibility of the park. The CCPB has rated the Colon Community Park and agreed that the park meets accessibility guidelines and the entire park was developed using the principles of universal design. The CCPB gives this park a rating of 5.

Veterans Memorial Park is located on Palmer Lake channel with a view of the Lamberson Dam. This park has a public boat launch with a cement ramp leading into the water and a wide cement boardwalk that runs along the waterfront with benches for relaxing. There are also 3 floating docks for boats and pontoon parking. In the grassy area of the park there are picnic tables and a playground with a sand base with older playground equipment for the kids. The parking lot is packed gravel, there are no designated handicap parking spots. There are no restroom facilities at this park. There are plans to create a Veterans Memorial at this park in the future ( 2027-2029). In July 2024 members of the Colon Community Park Board R. Livermore, J. Gross, L. Rehmeyer, K. Boals did an inspection and found that more sand was needed to the base of the playground, 1 bench was broken, the other benches are warped and in need of repair, 2 of the swings had broken chains, and the sidewalk on the road side of the park is in need of replacement. There are no future plans of adding restroom facilities to this park. After noting all the repairs and the condition of this park, the CCPB used the DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities to rate this park a 2.

Bordner Park is a small park on a corner lot that is located next to the Historical Museum and near 2 churches. This park has a larger gazebo that is surrounded by seasonal flower beds and ornamental trees. The gazebo received a new metal roof in 2023. The park has sidewalks on both street sides and a sidewalk leading to the gazebo which is ramped for easy access. There are no restroom facilities at this park and parking is available along the street. This park is perfect for relaxing and gathering with friends and only 1 block away from downtown Colon. In May 2024 the members of the CCPB, R. Livermore, J. Gross, L. Rehmeyer, K. Boals inspected the park and found no repairs were needed, all sidewalks are in fair condition. There is no future plans for restrooms at this park. Based on the notes made by CCPB members after inspecting this park, the CCPB would rate this park a 2 using the DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities

Drake park is located on the north side of the Lamberson Dam. Many years ago this park was accessible by a bridge going across Swan Creek. Today this park is considered a wetland and not accessible unless you walk through the water. This park also has a spillway surrounded by cement that is fenced off for safety purposes on the west side of the park. There are no restroom facilities at this park and parking is very limited. There are no future plans to enhance this park. In June 2024, CCPB members R. Livermore and J. Gross inspected this park to make sure that there were no safety issues. Using the DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities, the members of the CCPB rated this park as a 1.

After all the Parks were inspected by CCPB members, the members have concluded the rating for all for 4 parks would be a 2 according to the DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities.