



**City of St. Louis  
Recreation Plan**

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## *Introduction*

For any community to provide recreation for its residents, it is first important to understand what the needs of residents are, what recreation exists now, and what sort of needs can be projected for residents based on age, population, density and surrounding recreational opportunities. This recreation plan will take a closer look at the City of St. Louis and its residents to examine their recreational needs, desires and hopes. Though the City is undertaking this plan, it has actively sought participation from the school district and residents located outside the City limits. The City Parks are actively used by the school districts and residents in the surrounding community. Since the City Parks actively serve a larger population than just the City residents, it was identified as a need to actively seek participation from the broader community.

This plan is developed in accordance with the guidelines for community recreation plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. A five year, DNR approved recreation plan is necessary for the City to pursue DNR administered grants.



Standing near W.T. Morris Pool, looking over the Pine River at Dam Park.



## *Community Description*

### **Location**

The City of St. Louis is the geographic center of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The City is located in northern Gratiot County. To the east of the City is Bethany Township. Clinton County and Emerson Township are located to the south. West of the City of St. Louis is Pine River Township and Montcalm County.

The City's location at the center of the lower peninsula puts it in accessible reach to several metropolitan areas. The City lies 25 miles southwest of Midland, 25 miles west of Saginaw, 50 miles north of Lansing, 60 miles northeast of Grand Rapids and 90 miles northwest of Detroit.

### **General Description**

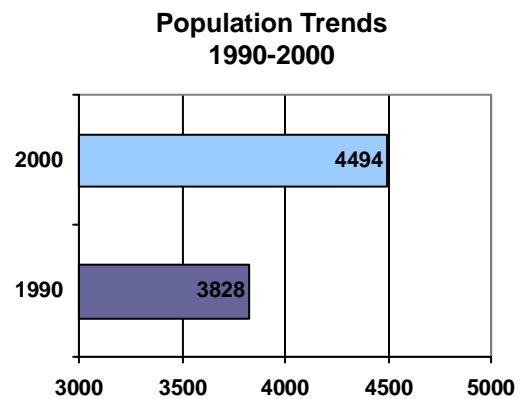
Because this plan incorporates the goals and needs of the St. Louis School District, it is important to discuss the service area of the school district. The St. Louis School District extends into six townships and is located within Gratiot, Isabella and Midland Counties.



## Social Characteristics

### Population Trends and Projections

The City of St. Louis experienced a 17.4 percent increase in population between 1990 and 2000, bringing the number of residents from 3,828 to 4,494. As mentioned earlier, the City of St. Louis Park system is also used by the St. Louis School District and by residents in neighboring townships.

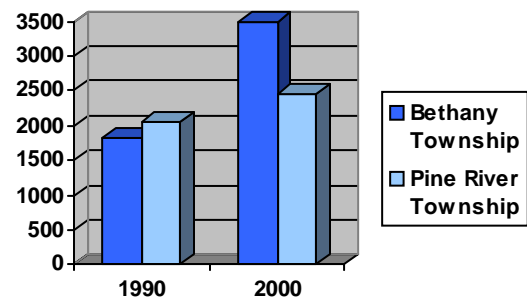


Source: 1990, 2000 U.S. Census

The St. Louis School District has approximately 1400 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. The district encompasses the City of St. Louis as well as several surrounding townships within approximately 74 square miles. A professional staff of 90 along with a support staff of 65 make up the St. Louis Public School staff.

Bethany Township and Pine River Township surround the City of St. Louis. Neither Pine River Township nor Bethany Township have any park facilities. Both Bethany Township and Pine River Township experienced an increase in population between 1990 and 2000. Though a portion of the population in Bethany Township is attributable to the prison population, it is reasonable to assume that Bethany

### Population Trends Bethany and Pine River Townships 1990-2000



Source: 1990, 2000 U.S. Census

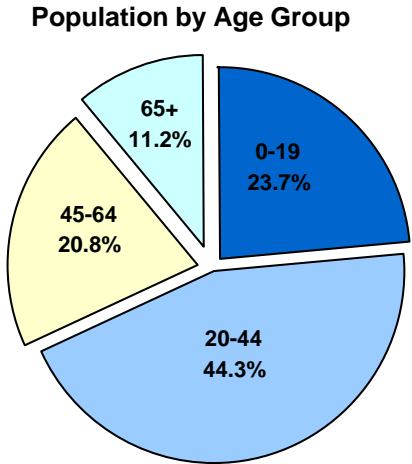
Township has increased in population, just as Pine River Township. Bethany Township shows an increase of 1,678 residents and Pine River Township shows an increase of 387



residents. When combined with the City of St. Louis, this brings the population served by the City Parks to 10,437.

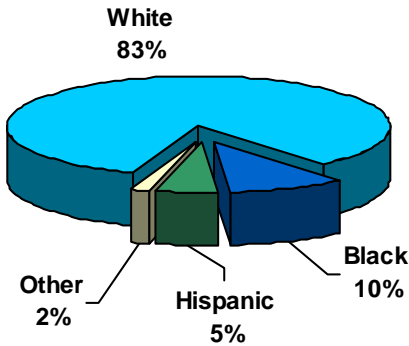
**Age**

The City of St. Louis has a slightly higher percentage of those in the twenty to forty four year old range at 44.3%, than either the state (35.1%) or the county average (35.6%). Twenty-three percent of the people are under the age of 19, compared with 26.1% statewide. Forty-four percent are between 20 and 44 years old, which is significantly higher than the average of 35% found in other areas of the State. The largest age group, those residents between the ages of 20 and 44, is typically considered the family-forming age group. This age group traditionally poses the greatest challenges for recreation because families have a variety of recreational needs.



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

**Population by Race**



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

**Race**

The City of St. Louis is mostly white. A total of 17% of all residents identify themselves as a racial minority, with 10.1% black, 5.3% Hispanic and 1.6% identified themselves as belonging to another race. The chart to the left shows race by number and percentage.

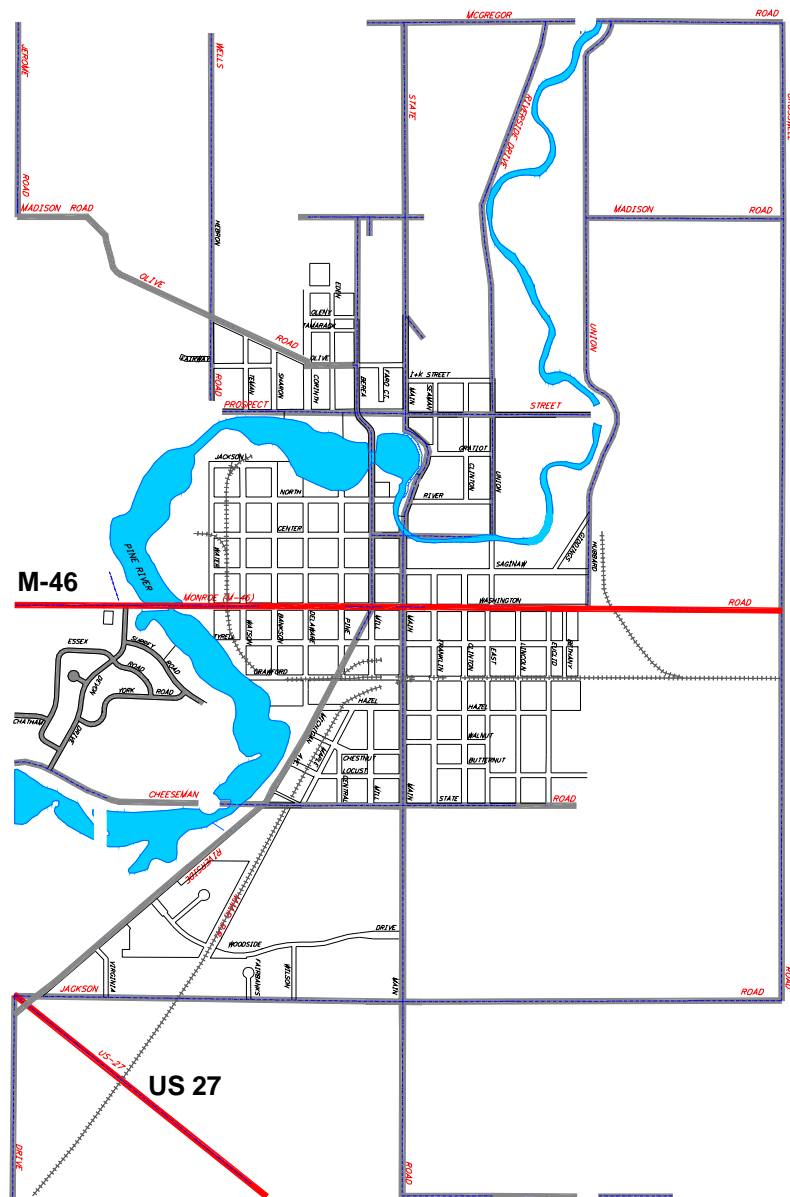


# Physical Characteristics

## Transportation

There are three primary roadways serving the City of St. Louis. U.S. 27 is located two miles west of St. Louis and connects the City with Mt. Pleasant to the north, and Lansing to the South. Business Route 27 passes through the City of St. Louis. An average peak of 11,000 vehicles use B.R. 27 each day. M-46 is the area's major east/west corridor. M-46 is a two-lane highway linking the City of St. Louis to Saginaw to the east.

## Transportation Map



## Land Use

The City of St. Louis is fully developed, with the majority of land use devoted to single-family housing and related public uses, such as schools. The downtown area is mostly retail, along with the City offices, and public services, including the police department and fire station. The Townships surrounding the City are mostly rural with the majority of land use devoted to agriculture. The City of Alma is located two miles southwest of St. Louis.

## Topography

The St. Louis area is generally level. Bethany Township, east of St. Louis, is very flat with few changes in elevation.

## Soils

There are two major soil associations present within the City of St. Louis: Capac-Parkhill-Metamora and Vestaburg-Tedrow-Boyer. The Capac-Parkhill-Metamora association is located in the middle of St. Louis, generally following the Pine River. Typically, this soil association is fairly level and poorly drained. Most areas of this soil type have been cleared and are adequately drained. Typically though, this soil is limiting because of its wetness.

The remainder of the City of St. Louis is comprised of the Vestaburg-Tedrow-Boyer soil association. These soils are nearly level to gently sloping. The soils found in this association are poorly drained to well drained. Most areas of this soil association have been drained and are easily adapted for a variety of built uses. Ponding is common on the soils in a lower position in the landscape.



## Natural Features

### Rivers and Streams

Gratiot County has several water features. Two natural lakes, Half Moon and Madison, are small, privately owned and located in Seville Township. Rainbow Lake is a man-made reservoir on Pine Creek. Located in Fulton Township, Rainbow Lake is privately owned and is a residential community.

The Pine River has two man-made reservoirs, one in the City of Alma and one in the City of St. Louis. There are two rivers in Gratiot County; the Pine River and the Maple River. The Pine River is in the northern part of the County and flows northeasterly through the City of St. Louis. The Maple River is in the southern part of the County and flows westerly. The Pine River provides a haven to many of the area's birds and is also home to a variety of fish.

### Vegetation and Wildlife

The City of St. Louis is fully developed and its vegetation reflects that. However, the fact that the City is surrounded by mostly rural areas, there is wildlife present. The wildlife in the area is typical of that found in most of lower Michigan, including deer, opossums, raccoons, muskrats, cottontail rabbits and other small mammals. A variety of birds are also found in and near St. Louis, including owls, ruffed grouse, woodcock,



Existing playground equipment at Lions Park.



Triangle Park Area

thrushes, meadowlark, field sparrow and herons. The area is also a seasonal home to many migratory birds including ducks and geese.

### **Climate**

Because different types of recreation have seasonal limitations, it is important to understand the community's

climate. St. Louis experiences seasonal changes, just as the rest of the region. As a result of the prevailing westerly winds, the City does experience some lake effect snow, however, this is minimal and essentially limited to increased cloudiness during the late fall and early winter. Because the day-to-day weather is controlled by the movement of pressure systems across the nation, this area seldom experiences prolonged periods of hot, humid weather in the summer or extreme cold during the winter. Based on the 1951-80 period supplied by the Michigan Department of Agriculture Climatology Program, the average date of the last freezing temperature in the spring was May 8, while the average date of the first freezing temperature in the fall was October 7. The freeze-free period, or growing season, averaged 152 days annually. January is generally the coldest month, with temperatures averaging 22° F. The month of July is on average the warmest month, with temperatures averaging 71.5° F. Snow generally falls in seven of the 12 months, with January having the highest average snowfall, averaging almost 11 inches. Four months of the year average more than three inches of precipitation, with August averaging 3.31 inches. February has the least precipitation with 1.26 inches. Annually, thunderstorms will occur on an average of 33 days. Michigan is located on the northeast fringe of the Midwest tornado belt. The lower frequency of tornadoes occurring in



Michigan may be, in part, the result of the colder water of Lake Michigan during the spring and early summer months, a prime period of tornado activity. During 1950-87, Michigan has averaged 15 tornadoes each year. During this same period, nine tornadoes occurred within the county. The prevailing wind is from the southwest with an annual average windspeed of 10.4 miles per hour.

### **Historic Sites**

There is one historic site listed on the Michigan Register of Historic Places. The Stiles Kennedy House, at 310 West Washington Street, was listed in 1991. There are other sites of historic interest in the area but there are no others identified by the State.

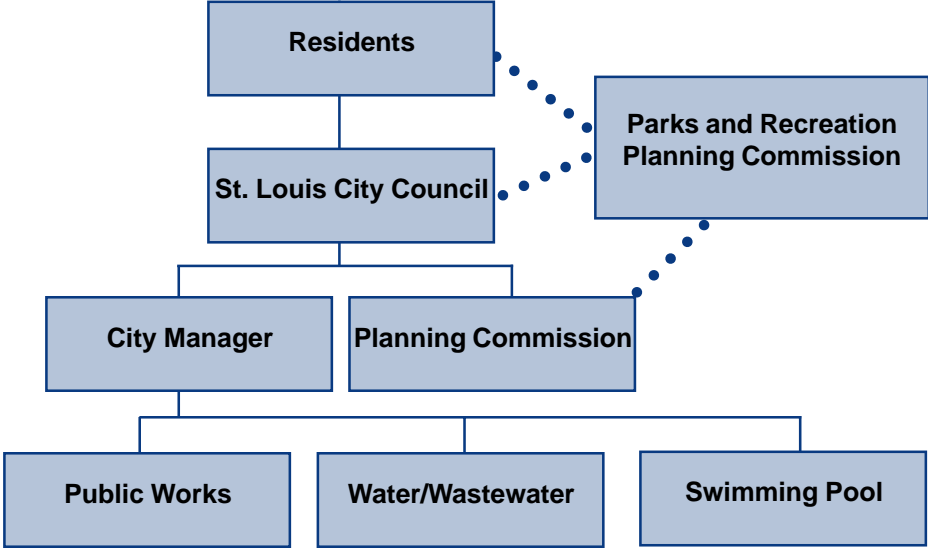


Phoenix Park



# Administrative Structure

The community parks, recreation and community education programs are supervised by the Parks and Recreation Planning Commission for the City of St. Louis. The commission is comprised of members appointed by the City Council. The City of St. Louis is



responsible for park maintenance and for the management and staffing of the W.T. Morris Swimming Pool. The City of St. Louis School District provides recreation programming and community enrichment activities. The school district provides funding for capital improvements on its properties.

## Financing

The park and recreational facilities of the City of St. Louis are funded through donations and general funds, or tax dollars. A parks and recreation millage is not levied to support the recreational facilities of the City. In 2001, the City budgeted a total of \$86,350. This budget encompasses the development of this plan, park maintenance and pending park improvements.



## *The Planning Process*

The purpose of the 2001 City of St. Louis Recreation Plan is to provide direction for the City regarding the future development of recreational resources. The plan is intended to be used by the Parks Committee as well as the City as a whole for guiding decisions concerning recreation, parks and public open space.

This plan should be updated every five years to meet the eligibility guidelines set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for obtaining state and federal grants.

### **Plan Development**

The 2001 City of St. Louis Recreation Plan was prepared by Spicer Group under the direction of the Parks Committee. Work on the Plan was completed in the summer of 2001. The plan was completed in stages and presented to the committee at a series of meetings. Major steps in the development of this plan were as follows:

1. Initial meeting of the City with the consultant.
2. Review of the community survey by the consultant.
3. Site visits of the park by the consultant.
4. Meeting with Parks Committee to review recreation inventory.
5. Recreation provider interviews.
6. Meeting with Parks Committee to discuss goals for next five years.
7. Public workshop to identify goals and discuss needs.
8. Initial draft of plan presented and discussed with Parks Committee and Township Board at a public hearing. Revisions were made based on discussion.
9. Plan adopted and submitted to the State Department of Natural Resources for approval.



The results of the planning process are separated into three categories: community input, comparison to standards and discussed recreation opportunities.

### **Community Input**

A public participation meeting was held in March 2001. Efforts were taken to ensure that local residents, representatives of the school district, local leaders and students were present and participating. Several items were identified during this meeting. Local residents expressed a desire for passive recreation facilities, specifically walking trails and/or paths. Updating playground equipment was also discussed, with the end goal being to improve safety and provide different play equipment geared toward different age groups. A number of students and younger residents identified a need for recreation to provide activities for teenagers. One specific suggestion was a facility for in-line skating. In addition, it was generally discussed that soccer would be a worthwhile program and would garner participation.

Other items expressed by the school representatives during the community input meeting included a need for tennis courts in order to meet demand for recreation programming, and soccer fields, as mentioned earlier.

### **City of St. Louis School District**

Because all of the school district's facilities are located within the City of St. Louis and students and their families use the City's parks system for recreation and recreation programming, the City felt it was important to specifically involve representatives from the School District when developing goals and action items for recreation. During these meetings, several goals were identified. They include:

- developing the Smith Farms Property to include ball diamonds, soccer fields and a campground
- constructing tennis courts near the middle school
- developing the Carrie Knause Property



## Discussed Recreation Opportunities

In addition to the goals identified with the help of community residents and participation by the School District, the members of the steering committee identified a number of additional goals. They include:

- repairs to the W.T. Morris Swimming Pool
- making Clapp Memorial Park the focal point of the City's park system
- developing the Smith Farms property

## Comparison to Standards

Item	State Standards*	City of St. Louis	Deficiency*
Park Land (acres)	10 acres/1000 population	121	0
Ball Field	1/3000	2	1
Outdoor Basketball	1/5000	2	0
Tennis	1/4000	2	0
Volleyball	1/5000	-	2
Soccer	1/10,000	-	1
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1	0
Outdoor Ice Rink	1/20,000	-	0
Picnic Areas	1/5,000	7	0
Playground	1/3,000	9	0

*based on 2000 population of 10,437 (City of St. Louis, Bethany Township and Pine River Township)*



## Recreation Inventory

An inventory of existing recreation within the City of St. Louis was performed to determine the existing level of recreational facilities and to compare the existing facilities with nationally accepted standards of recreation. The inventory also identifies nearby recreation opportunities, such as Township and County facilities. Regional recreation is also discussed in this portion of the plan.

	Symbol	Acreage	Ball Diamonds	Basketball	Football/Soccer	Tennis Courts	Picnic Area	Playground Equipment	Playfield (open)	Nature Trails	Waterfront Property	Shelter	Boat Launch	Restrooms	*Classification	Comments
<b>PARKS</b>																
<b>Local Parks</b>																
Clapp Memorial Park	1	4														Wooded
Penny Park	2	1.2														
Michigan Avenue Park	3	3														1500 linear feet of riverfront
Phoenix Park	4	1.1													NP	
Westgate Park	5	3.7													NP	350 feet of riverfront access
Magic Square	6	2														skateboard park, ice skating
W.T. Morris Memorial Pool	7															swimming pool
Dam Park	8															
Hubbell Field	9	1														
<b>Golf Courses</b>																
Hidden Oaks Golf Course	9															18 holes, public course
<b>Schools</b>																
St. Louis High School	10	10														Outdoor track, gym, showers
T.S. Nurnberger Middle School	11	6														Soccer field, multipurpose gym
Carrier Knause Elementary	12	10														multipurpose room
Westgate Elementary	13	9.53														multipurpose room
Nikkari Elementary	14	8.18														multipurpose room
School Woods Property	15	20														
Camp Monroe	16															
Smith Farms	17	40+														
<b>Regional/County Parks</b>																
Reeds Park																Swimming, fishing, softball



## **Classification System and Standards**

A recreation inventory is the foundation for developing an action program. A comparison of the existing parks and facilities to accepted national standards provides a good indication of additional recreational resources needed to meet the needs of the Township residents.

The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association guide. It recognizes types of parks based on size, service area, facilities and use groups. Furthermore, it lists definitions and sets standards for the various park levels established for use in this plan. These standards are based on nationally accepted criteria.

### **Local/Close to Home Space**

#### **Mini Parks**

Parks in this classification are typically specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as small children or senior citizens. The service area is a one quarter mile radius or less; the park size is an acre or less.

Mini parks are ideally within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouses or housing for the elderly. The standard acreage for mini parks is .25 to .50 acres per 1000 population.

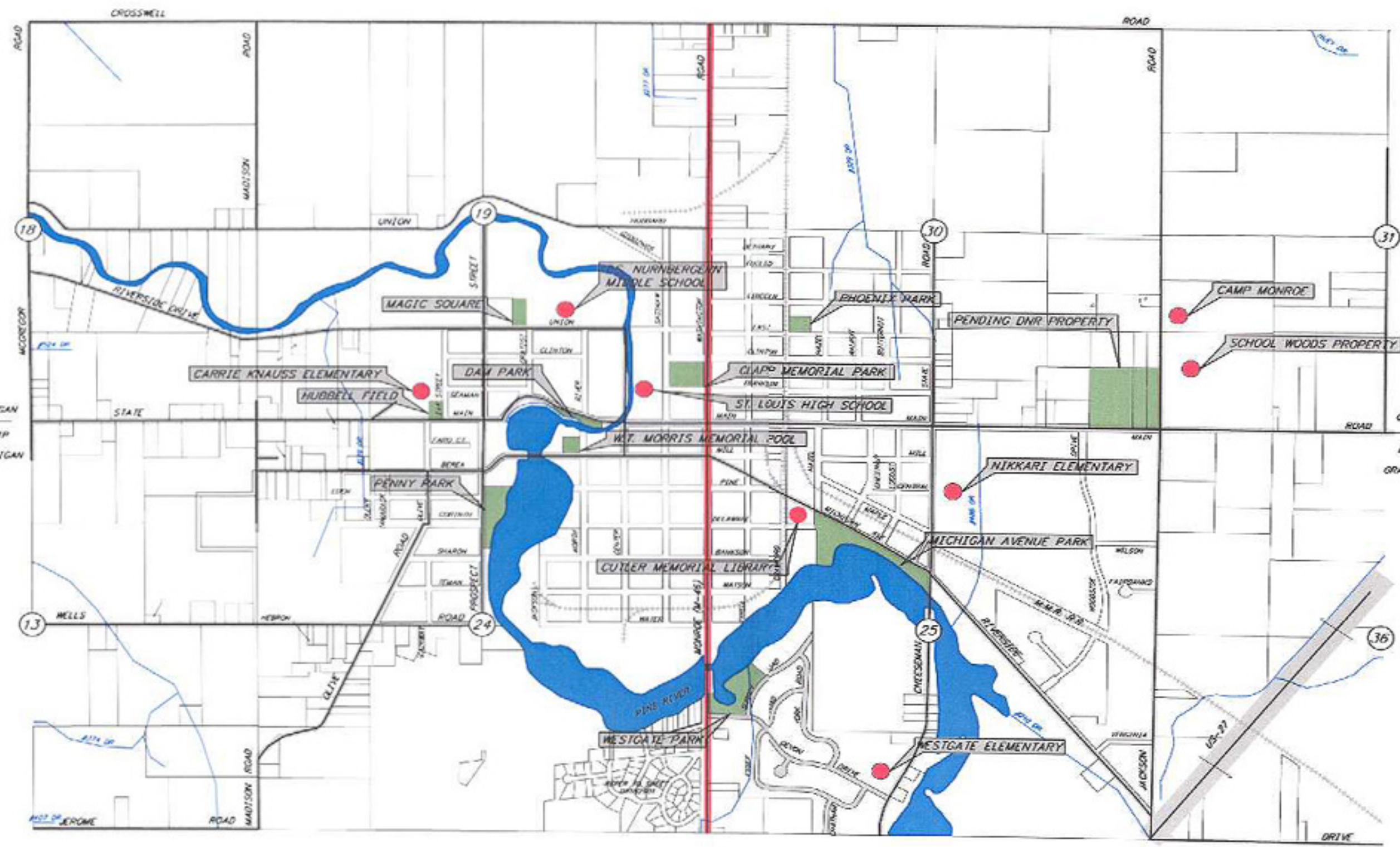
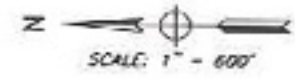
#### **Neighborhood Parks**

Parks in this classification are normally suited for intense development. That is, they are designed for more intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground equipment, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.

Neighborhood parks are easily accessible to neighborhood populations and geographically centered within safe walking distance and bike access. The majority of existing park facilities within the City of St. Louis are in this category.



# CITY OF ST. LOUIS RECREATION MAP



BETHANY TOWNSHIP  
T.12N - R.2W  
GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PINE RIVER TOWNSHIP  
T.12N - R.3W  
GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

BETHANY TOWNSHIP  
T.12N - R.2W  
GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PINE RIVER TOWNSHIP  
T.12N - R.3W  
GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

- ROADWAYS
- PUBLIC PARKS
- PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- WATER



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P.O. Box 1000  
Saginaw, Michigan 48605-1000  
Tel. 517-754-4717  
Fax. 517-754-4440

## *Regional Recreation*

### **State Parks**

#### **Newaygo State Park**

This park is located west of St. Louis in Newaygo County. This 257 acre park has 99 rustic campsites and offers fishing, boating and hunting.

#### **Ionia Recreation Area**

Located southwest of St. Louis in Ionia County, this 4,085 acre park has 50 campsites, including modern sites and horseman's sites. Amenities include picnic facilities, playground, a beach house and boat launch. Activities at the park include swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, hiking and horseback riding.

#### **Sleepy Hollow State Park**

This 2,678 acre park has 181 campsites and is located south of St. Louis in Clinton County. The park offers picnic shelters, playgrounds, a beach house and a boat launch. Activities at the park include swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking and cross country skiing.

#### **Wilson State Park**

This 36 acre park is located north of St. Louis in Clare County. The park offers 160 campsites, picnic shelters, picnic areas, playgrounds and a beach house. Activities include swimming and fishing on Budd Lake.



## *Barrier Free Compliance*

In order to ensure compliance with state and federal barrier free guidelines, the City will comply with these rules in the design and construction of future parks and park amenities. Specifically, the township will be sure to address the following issues in design and construction of its park facilities:

- pathways to and from parking
- pathways to and from activity areas
- activity areas
- support facilities
- surfacing

### **Accessibility Targets**

Accessibility issues have been identified. As listed in the chart on page 18, these issues include the lack of pathways to and from parking and from activity areas, and lack of hard surfacing. All of these items have been identified as targets the City intends to remedy.

### **Targets Included in Action Plan**

Demonstrating their commitment to providing a park that is accessible to as many park users as possible, the City has included several of its accessibility targets in their Action Plan and their Capital Improvement Schedule. It is the intention of the City to improve accessibility at each of their facilities as money allows.



### Barrier Free Compliance Inventory Chart

Facility	Parking	Pathways to/from parking	Pathways to/from activity areas	Activity Areas	Restrooms	Amenities	Surfacing	Signage
Clapp Memorial Park								
<i>compliant</i>	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
<i>deficient</i>			█		█			
<i>recommendations</i>								
Included in Action Program			█		█			
Penny Park								
<i>compliant</i>	█	█	█	█		█		█
<i>deficient</i>					█		█	
<i>recommendations</i>								
Included in Action Program								
Michigan Avenue Park								
<i>compliant</i>	█							
<i>deficient</i>		█	█	█	NA	█	█	█
<i>recommendations</i>								
Included in Action Program								
Phoenix Park								
<i>compliant</i>	█			█		█		
<i>deficient</i>		█	█		NA		█	█
<i>recommendations</i>								
Included in Action Program								
Westgate Park								
<i>compliant</i>	█	█	█			█	█	█
<i>deficient</i>				█	NA			
<i>recommendations</i>								
Included in Action Program								
Magic Square Park								
<i>compliant</i>	█					█		
<i>deficient</i>		█	█	█	NA		█	█
<i>recommendations</i>								
Included in Action Program								
W.T. Morris Memorial Pool								
<i>compliant</i>	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
<i>deficient</i>								
<i>recommendations</i>								
Included in Action Program								
Dam Park								
<i>compliant</i>	█					█		
<i>deficient</i>		█	█	█	NA		█	█
<i>recommendations</i>								
Included in Action Program		█	█					

## *Rationale and Action Program*

The City of St. Louis has eight parks, most of which are neighborhood parks by definition, size and use. The City's challenge is to continue to provide a variety of recreation to its residents, and to its stakeholders, which includes the St. Louis School District and residents in two surrounding townships. Because the number of park users exceeds the local population, the City has established an aggressive but realistic program to increase the amount, variety and intensity of recreation in the City. The rationale and action program for the City of St. Louis is examined below by park and/or property.

### **Magic Square Park**

Improvements to Magic Square Park include the design and construction of a skateboard park and the resurfacing of the basketball courts. The City currently has no skating facilities and this was a shortcoming identified by the students present at the community input meetings. Additionally, the City wants to discourage skating in parking lots.

### **Clapp Memorial Park**

The underlying goal for Clapp Memorial Park is to make it the community park centerpiece. In order to accomplish this, a number of improvements are planned. They include: refurbishing horseshoe pits, constructing a new pavilion, remodeling the existing pavilion, adding a fountain, landscaping and a clock tower. Constructing new restrooms and installing a drinking fountain were also identified as a goal.

### **Michigan Avenue Park/Lions Park**

Planned improvements at this park include purchasing and installing new playground equipment, paving the parking lot and constructing a new riverwalk.

### **Dam Park**

This site is earmarked for improvements to make its waterfront more accessible. Improvements planned for Dam Park include constructing a fishing platform, a canoe launch, purchasing and installing picnic tables and paving and expanding parking.



### **W.T. Morris Swimming Pool**

The City's pool receives a high level of use and has been in need of updates and minor repairs for some time. During the summer season, the pool averages 80 to 100 swimmers per day and 40 to 50 register for swimming lessons each session.

### **Smith Farms**

The Smith Farms property is currently not under the control of the City of St. Louis. The property is currently owned by the State and is being cleaned due to environmental contamination. Discussions have been held with the Department of Natural Resources, who is responsible for the site, and it has been agreed that the City will take possession of Smith Farms once it is clean. The City is excited about this pending development and is eager to undertake an adaptive reuse of a formerly contaminated site. Plans for the site include three ball diamonds, restrooms and concession stand. The City also hopes this park can offer some passive recreational opportunities by constructing walking paths throughout the property.

### **School Woods Property**

Already owned by the City, the plans for this property focus on passive recreation. Goals include improving the existing trails and adding fitness stations.

### **Westgate Park**

Two soccer fields are planned for this area. The high demand for soccer fields by organized sports for school age children necessitates the improvements.

### **T.N. Nurbergern Middle School**

The middle school currently has two tennis courts. The goals for this site include updating the two existing courts and adding four additional courts, due to existing and projected demand.

### **Hubbell Field**

This small site located in the northern third of the City is intended for use as a ball diamond. A rough diamond exists on the site now.



## Capital Improvement Program

Year	Location	Improvement	Cost	Funding/Source	Rationale
2001	Magic Square Park	Design and construct skateboard park	\$15,000	General Fund	III
		Resurface entire square	\$4,000	General Fund	IV
	Clapp Memorial Park	Refurbish horseshoe pits	\$1,000	General Fund	I, III, IV
		Construct new sidewalks	\$5,000	General Fund	I, IV
	Michigan Avenue/Lions Park	Add landscaping	\$9,000	General Fund	IV
		Construct new pavilion	\$20,000	General Fund	IV
	Dam Park	Construct fishing platform	\$42,000	Grant, General Fund	III
		Purchase and install picnic tables	\$2,000	General Fund	IV
		Pave and expand parking	\$20,000	General Fund	IV
2002	W.T. Morris Swimming Pool	Repair outdoor swimming pool	\$93,000	Grant	IV
		Heat outdoor swimming pool	\$7,500	Grant	IV
	Clapp Memorial Park	Remodel pavilion	\$50,000	General Fund	I, IV
	Michigan Avenue/Lions Park	Purchase and install new playground equipment	\$25,000	General Fund	III, IV
		Pave parking lot and construct new riverwalk	\$57,000	General Fund	IV
	Acquisition	Acquire Smith Farms Property through the Department of Natural Resources	unknown	Donation	II, III

### Rationale

- I. Clapp Memorial Park should be “the” city park
- II. The City and the School District should continue/strengthen their relationship
- III. Increasing the variety of recreational opportunities was identified as a goal
- IV. Current facilities receive a high level of use and should be upgraded whenever possible



**Capital Improvement Program, continued**

Year	Location	Improvement	Cost	Funding/Source	Rationale
2003	Smith Farms	Develop Smith Farms Property: construct parking lot, restrooms and concession stand, three baseball diamonds	\$440,000	Grant, General Fund, Foundations, Donations	II, III
2004	T.S. Nurnbergen Middle School	Improve two existing tennis courts and construct four new courts	\$120,000	General Fund, Foundations, Donations	II, III
	Hubbell Field	Construct softball field	\$75,000	General Fund, Donations	II, III, IV
	Westgate Park	Construct two soccer fields	\$60,000	General Fund, Foundations, Donations	II, III
2005	Clapp Memorial Park	Add new fountain	\$30,000	General Fund	I, IV
		Install landscaping	\$7,000	General Fund	I, IV
		Construct new restrooms and drinking fountain	\$115,000	Grant, General Fund	I, IV
	Additional Development Project	Install new clock Develop property adjacent to Carrier Knause School for softball and baseball	\$10,000 \$95,000	General Fund General Fund, Foundations, Donations	I, IV II, III
2006	School Woods Property	Improve existing trails and add fitness stations	\$20,000	Foundations, Donations, General Fund	II, III
	Camp Monroe	Pursue development jointly with the School Woods and Smith Farms properties Construct basketball court	\$18,500	Foundations, Donations, General Fund	II, III II, III, IV

**Rationale**

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- II. The City and the School District should continue/strengthen their relationship
- III. Increasing the variety of recreational opportunities was identified as a goal
- IV. Current facilities receive a high level of use and should be upgraded whenever possible



## *Plan Review and Adoption*

During the creation of this plan, the City set certain guidelines for improvements in order to provide the greatest impact:

- Clapp Memorial Park should be “the” city park
- the City and the School District should continue and strengthen their cooperative relationship
- increase the variety of recreational opportunities
- current facilities receive a high level of use and should be upgraded as funds become available

Using these priorities as a guide, the following goals were identified:

### **2001**

Magic Square Park

Design and construct skateboard park

Resurface entire Square

Clapp Memorial Park

Refurbish horseshoe pits

Construct new sidewalks

Michigan Avenue Park/Lions Park

Add landscaping

Construct new pavilion

Dam Park

Construct fishing platform

Construct canoe launch

Purchase and install picnic tables

Pave and expand parking

### **2002**

W.T. Morris Swimming Pool

Repair outdoor swimming pool

Heat outdoor swimming pool

Additional Development Projects

Construct a new tennis court at middle school

Acquisition

Acquire Smith Farms Property through the Department of Natural Resources

Clapp Memorial Park

Remodel pavilion



Michigan Avenue Park/Lions Park  
Purchase and install new playground equipment at Michigan  
Pave Parking Lot  
Construct new riverwalk

Phoenix Park  
Purchase and install playground equipment  
Pave existing parking lot  
Add landscaping

### **2003**

Develop Smith Farms Property  
Construct Parking Lot  
Construct restrooms and concession stand  
Construct three baseball diamonds

### **2006**

School Woods Property  
Improve existing trails and add fitness stations

### **2004**

T.S. Nurnbergen Middle School  
Improve two existing tennis courts and construct four new tennis courts  
Hubbell Field  
Construct softball field  
Westgate Park  
Construct two soccer fields

### **Additional Development Projects**

Develop property adjacent to Carrie  
Knause School for softball and baseball  
Camp Monroe  
Pursue development jointly with the School Woods and Smith Farms properties  
Construct basketball court

### **2005**

Clapp Memorial Park  
Add new fountain  
Add landscaping  
Construct new restrooms and drinking fountain  
Install new clock tower



**Resolution of City of St. Louis**

**City Council**

WHEREAS, the CITY OF ST. LOUIS did authorize the establishment of the CITY OF ST. LOUIS Recreation Committee, pursuant to Public Act 156 of 1917, as amended,

and,

WHEREAS, the CITY OF ST. LOUIS Recreation Committee is empowered to diligently pursue the development and improvement of recreational opportunities in the City

and,

WHEREAS, the CITY OF ST. LOUIS Recreation Committee recognized that in order to carry out its mandate in an orderly, intelligent and financially responsible manner it must first prepare a long and short range planning and development program,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Louis City Council does approve of the Community Recreation Plan as its official guide to the development of facilities and acquisition of land for recreational purposes in the City of St. Louis, Michigan.

Date

Clerk



