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ERIE COUNTY

# PARKS, TRAILS + RECREATION

PLAN



Adopted July 2020

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 33, 2020**

**Amending the Erie County Comprehensive Plan with an Updated Erie County  
Parks Trails and Recreation Plan**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Erie has prepared and adopted a comprehensive plan in accordance with the requirements of Section 301 of Act 247 of 1968, as amended, known as the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 301 (a, 4) of Act 247 of 1968, as amended, requires a county comprehensive plan to include a plan for the community facilities which may include parks and recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Erie has prepared the Erie County Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan as it relates to parks, trails and recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Erie County Department of Planning has presented the above referenced plan to the Erie County Planning Commission for review and approval; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 302 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the Erie County Planning Commission held a public meeting on February 27, 2020 regarding the proposed plan; and

**WHEREAS**, no adverse public comments regarding the proposed plan were received at said public meeting nor during a subsequent 45 day review and comment period; and

**WHEREAS**, the Erie County Planning Commission has recommended that the Erie Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan be adopted; and

**WHEREAS**, after due and timely notice by publication in accordance with Section 302 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Erie County Council held a public hearing on July 21, 2020 regarding the proposed plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Erie County Council, after consideration, has determined that the proposed plan should not be substantially revised in whole or in part.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Erie County Council does hereby adopt the document known as the Erie County Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan, and furthermore, does hereby adopt it as an element of the Erie County Comprehensive Plan, in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247 of 1968, as amended, for the County of Erie, Pennsylvania, to become effective immediately thereafter.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 33, 2020

**Amending the Erie County Comprehensive Plan with an Updated Erie County  
Parks Trails and Recreation Plan**

On the motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Rastetter, this Resolution  
was approved on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 2020 by a vote of 7 to 0.

*Andre R. Horton*

Andre Horton  
Chairman, County Council

*Kathy Dahlkemper*

Kathy Dahlkemper  
County Executive

ATTEST:

*Douglas R. Smith*

Douglas R. Smith  
County Clerk

Date:

*July 21, 2020*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County Executive**

## **Erie County Council:**

**Carl Anderson III**  
**Kim Clear**  
**André R. Horton**  
**Scott R. Rastetter**  
**Mary Rennie**  
**Ellen Schauerman**  
**Brian Shank**

## **Erie County Planning Commission:**

**Lisa Austin**  
**Jim Cardman**  
**Charles Casey**  
**Don Crenshaw**  
**John Groh**  
**Russ LaFuria**  
**Lacie Luddy**  
**Jeanne Miller**  
**Paul Pangratz**  
**Matt Waldinger**  
**Cindy Wells**

## **Erie County Parks, Trails & Recreation Steering Committee:**

**Erin Wiley Moyers**, Regional Advisor, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PA DCNR  
**Kim Thomas**, Northwest Regional Director, PA DCED  
**John E. Morgan**, Supervisor, Millcreek Township  
**Sarah (Galloway) Peelman**, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Erie  
**LeAnn Parmenter**, Transportation Engineer, City of Erie  
**Matt Greene**, Operations Manager, Presque Isle State Park, PA DCNR  
**Nicole Bolash**, Health Promotion Director, Erie County Department of Health  
**Patrick Gehrlein**, Borough Manager, North East Borough  
**Patricia Davis**, Borough Council Member, Edinboro Borough  
**Tim May**, Supervisor, Harborcreek Township  
**Michael McMullen / Tom McClelland / Lyndsie DeVito** (alt.), PennDOT

## **Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development Staff:**

**Honey Stempka**, Director  
**Joy Fronzoli**, Project Manager  
**John McGranor**, Editing Support  
**Mike Baker**, Plan Design & GIS Support

## **Alta Planning + Design**

Project Consultant

## **Additional Contributors**

**Amy Murdock**  
**Kathy Wyrosdick**  
**Brittany Prischak**  
**Christopher Friday**



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Front Cover: Six Mile Creek Park - *Alta*  
 Back Cover: Edinboro Lakefront - *Mike Baker*



Presque Isle State Park  
 -*Mike Baker*

Walnut Creek  
 -*Mike Baker*

Della Bayle Park  
 -*Alta*

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# INTRODUCTION



# Introduction

## Why is this plan important?

Parks, trails and recreational opportunities are an essential part of our community. They are strong factors that influence where people want to live, work, make friends, raise a family and enjoy life. Studies have shown that parks increase property values, have a positive impact on community health, and help to attract and retain businesses and industry. Today, businesses can locate anywhere that internet access is available. As a consequence, the quality of life of a community has become an increasingly important factor in determining where businesses locate and where skilled and educated workers want to live.

Erie County recognizes the importance of parks, trails and recreation in the lives of its residents. Our vision is to be a Choice Community which improves public health through recreation, offers recreational opportunities for every resident and visitor, collaboratively sets countywide priorities, strategically invests in green space and play space, and tells the story of Erie County's unique assets and events.

This plan is an important step towards achieving our desired vision. Its purpose is to set a new direction for the involvement of Erie County government in the planning and support of parks, trails and recreation throughout the County. Specific actions relate to improving the health and well being of its residents and the overall economy of the County. The County will implement this plan by providing supportive programming, funding, and expert assistance to municipalities and organizations.

### Erie County's Vision for Tomorrow

*Erie County is a Choice Community which improves public health through recreation, offers recreational opportunities for every resident and visitor, collaboratively sets countywide priorities, strategically invests in green space and play space, and tells the story of Erie County's unique assets and events.*

## The Planning Process

### Data Gathering and Needs Assessment

In 2017, the County, acting through the Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development (ECDP), retained Alta Planning & Design to facilitate the planning process, perform background research, provide recommendations, and develop a Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan for Erie County. Alta was selected for the project due to its experience in planning for parks and recreation, and with the expectation that the firm would bring value to the process in the form of fresh ideas and strong recommendations. A steering committee, consisting of representatives from local municipalities and key stakeholder groups, was formed to provide input, and to help guide the process.



Project kickoff meeting  
-Alta

The process began with a “kick-off” meeting in October 2017. Following the meeting, the consulting team, with the assistance of ECDP, began collecting data and community input in order to identify the County’s key issues and needs related to parks, trails and recreation. As part of this process, the team visited over 35 parks and trails throughout the County, conducted numerous interviews with municipal officials and key stakeholders, and held public workshops at Wintergreen Gorge, Asbury Woods and Corry Winterfest.

The data and input received through this process was reviewed and evaluated by the consulting team, and was presented to the steering committee in June 2018. Four key focus areas were recommended, including promoting health and equity, improving communication, setting countywide priorities and improving funding support.



Public Workshop at Asbury Park  
-Alta

## Community Engagement and Plan Development

The next phase of the planning process was devoted to developing a plan to address each of the County’s priority issues, and included an extensive community engagement campaign. A public survey was conducted to gather data on the public’s preferences, usage and needs related to parks, trails and recreation. A total of 501 responses were received.

In addition to being available online, the survey was also distributed at recreational events held at locations throughout the County. This included the Cherry Festival, Waterford Heritage Days, Dan Rice Days, the Erie Blues and Jazz Festival, National Night Out at Gridley Park, and Erie Downtown Partnership’s Block Parties.

The consulting team also conducted interviews with park, trail and recreation organizations and other key stakeholder groups to solicit their expert advice and input on how best to address the County’s priority issues.

On June 13, 2019, Alta presented an initial draft of the plan to the steering committee, and later that month, on June 27th, ECDP presented the draft to the Erie County Planning Commission. Both groups provided feedback which helped to contribute to the final plan.

### Purpose of the Plan

*The purpose of this plan is to set a new direction for the involvement of Erie County government in the planning and support of parks, trails and recreation throughout the County. Specific actions relate to improving the health and well-being of its residents and the overall economy of the County. The County will implement this plan through support in programming, funding, and expert assistance to municipalities and organizations.*

On February 27, 2020, the Erie County Planning Commission hosted a public meeting to announce the pending completion of the plan. Public comments were generally positive, but it became clear that the final plan still needed some refinements in order to clearly present the County’s vision and to adequately address the County’s goals related to parks, trails and recreation.

The Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development, in consultation with the Erie County Planning Commission, made the necessary revisions and finalized the plan. Upon completion, the Erie County Planning Commission approved the plan, and recommended that the County adopt it as a component of the Erie County Comprehensive Plan.

## Public Engagement Events July- September 2018

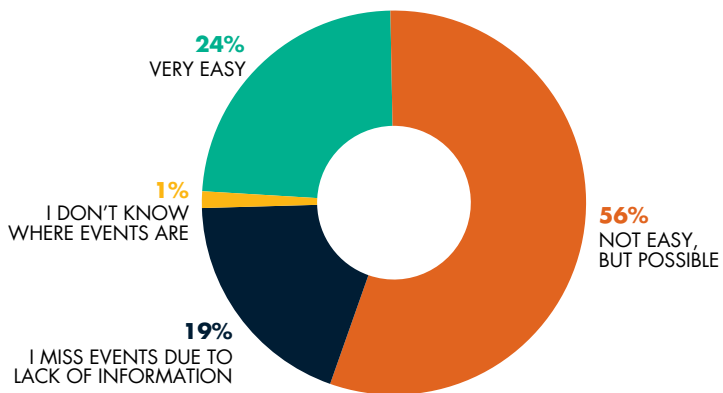
- 7/10-7/13, 2018 Cherry Festival, North East Fire Department
- 7/21/2018 Waterford Heritage Days, Fort LeBeouf Historical Society
- 8/4/2018 Dan Rice Days, Girard Borough
- 8/4/2018 Erie Blues and Jazz Festival, Frontier Park, Erie Arts & Culture
- 8/7/2018 National Night Out, Gridley Park, Our West Bayfront
- 8/30/2018 Downtown Block Party, Griswold Park, Erie Downtown Partnership
- 8/31/2018 Radio Interview, JET Radio AM1400
- 9/6/2018 Live Studio News Interview, WICU 12

## Stakeholder Organizations Interviews October 2018

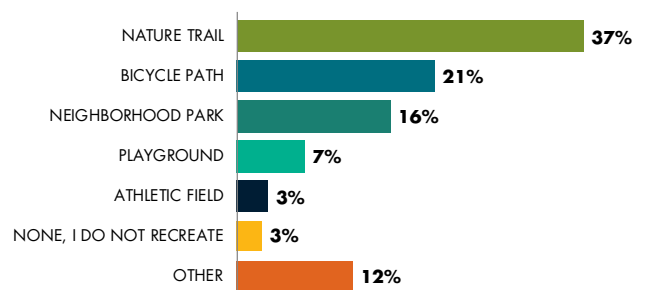
- Erie County Health Department (ECHD)
- Erie County Conservation District (ECCD)
- Visit Erie
- Erie Area Council of Governments (COG)
- Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA)
- Greater Erie Regional Trails (GERT) Committee
- Neighborhood Resource Organization (NRO)
- Bayfront East Side Taskforce (BEST)
- SONS of Lake Erie (Fishing Club)
- Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance (EPTA)
- Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association

## SAMPLE PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

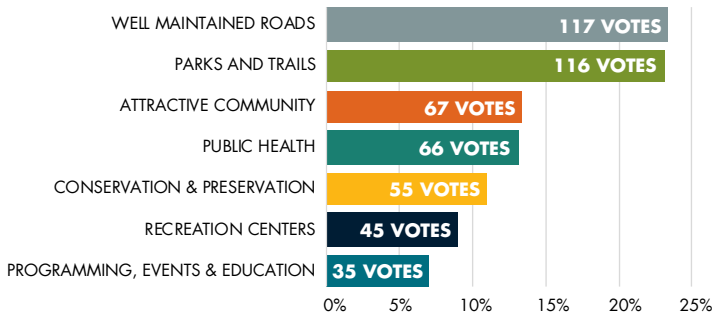
### HOW EASY IS IT TO FIND OUT ABOUT COMMUNITY EVENTS?



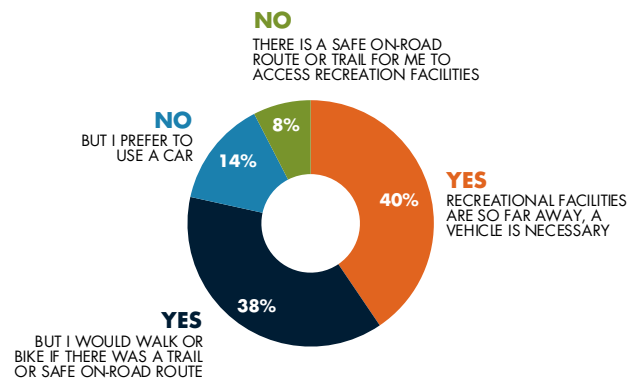
### RECREATION AMENITY POPULARITY



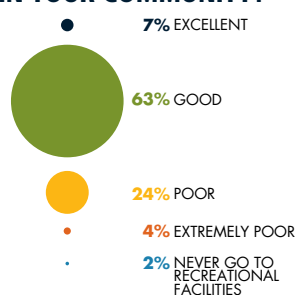
### VALUED AMENITIES



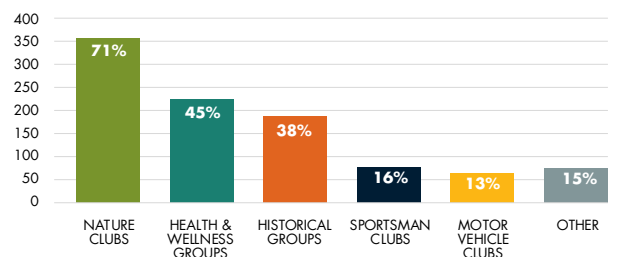
### DO YOU DEPEND ON A CAR TO GET TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES?



### HOW DO YOU RATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



### VALUED ORGANIZATIONS:



\*PARTICIPANTS COULD SELECT MULTIPLE RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTION

# Summary of Goals

## BUILD CAPACITY TO ADDRESS PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION IN ERIE COUNTY

1. Establish a governance structure dedicated to parks, trails and recreation in Erie County.
2. Build the human capacity needed to implement the Erie County Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan.
3. Build the financial capacity needed to implement the Erie County Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan.
4. Assist municipalities and local organizations with parks, trails and recreation planning and project implementation.

## PROMOTE HEALTH AND EQUITY

1. Improve public health through access to recreation opportunities for every resident and visitor.
2. Promote social equity by prioritizing park, trails and recreation opportunities for underserved populations.

## PRIORITIZE PROJECTS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

1. Establish regional priorities, and plan for implementation of park, trails and recreation (PTR) projects.
2. Create and enhance a countywide parks, recreation and trails system by implementing PTR projects of regional significance.

## PROMOTE ERIE COUNTY'S PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATIONAL ASSETS

1. Promote and enhance tourism, and increase park, trails, and recreation usage by residents.
2. Establish a website listing all parks, trails and recreational opportunities and events throughout Erie County.
3. Establish a cohesive, countywide, parks and recreation signage and wayfinding program.



Our West Bayfront  
-Alta



Parks Plan Block Party  
-Alta

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SECTION 1

# BUILDING CAPACITY



# Build Capacity to Address Parks, Trails and Recreation

Harborcreek Community Park  
-Alta

## Why this is important

During the planning process, municipal officials, key stakeholder groups and members of the public all expressed a need for greater coordination between Erie County government and municipalities in order to enhance, promote, and leverage the county’s recreational and parks assets. The Erie County government does not own or maintain any park facilities. However, it can play an active role in parks and recreation by partnering with municipalities and by helping to facilitate communication and collaboration. By working together, Erie County and its municipalities can improve local and regional recreational facilities as well as pursue new opportunities for parks, trails and recreational projects of regional significance.

In order to effectively address Erie County’s parks, trails and recreational needs, and to implement the goals of this plan, it will be necessary for the County to first build the capacity needed to accomplish these tasks. This capacity building must include both human and financial capacity. By investing in its parks, trails and recreation, Erie County can improve the fitness and wellness of its residents, help preserve its natural environment, and make itself more attractive to businesses and industry.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

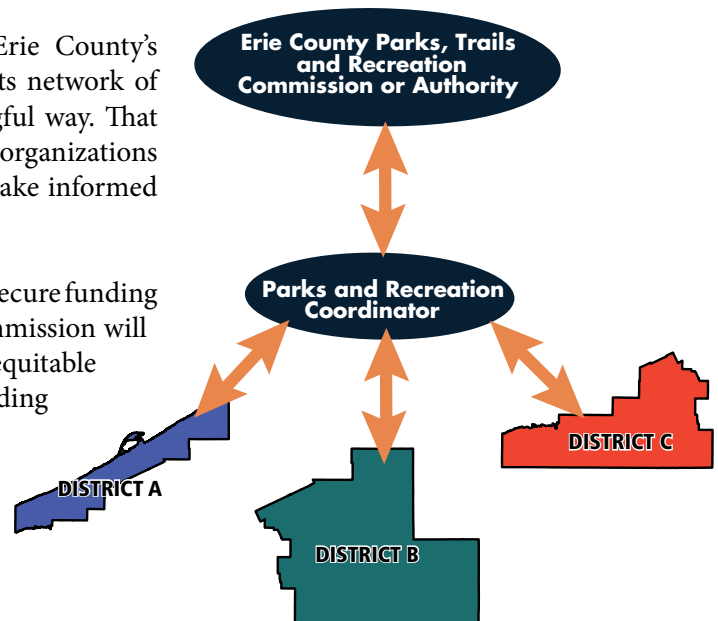
### Goal #1: Establish a governance structure dedicated to parks, trails and recreation in Erie County

#### Task 1.1: Establish an Erie County Parks and Recreation Commission or Authority

Erie County has 38 municipalities and numerous park, trails and recreation (PTR) organizations. In most cases, our municipalities and PTR organizations operate independently when it comes to providing parks, trails and recreation. This has resulted in competition for the limited funding that is available; and has also resulted in numerous, small projects, that while beneficial, often lack the value and impact of larger, regional scale projects.

One of the primary objectives of this plan is to improve Erie County’s economy and the quality of life of its residents by improving its network of parks, trails and recreation in a focused, strategic and meaningful way. That means it is imperative for the County, municipalities, and PTR organizations to communicate effectively, collaborate, and work together to make informed decisions about the most effective use of available resources.

An Erie County Parks Commission or Authority will be created to secure funding for parks, trails and recreation projects in Erie County. The Commission will be responsible for distributing and investing these funds in an equitable manner throughout Erie County, and for ensuring that the funding is strategically directed towards the most beneficial projects. A priority will be given to projects with regional significance.





## **Task 1.2: Establish Recreation Districts**

As noted previously, municipalities and PTR organizations have, in most cases, been operating independently. In order to facilitate communication and collaboration between these entities, Recreation Districts will be established.

Municipalities and PTR organizations participating in the Recreation Districts will work together on PTR projects within their districts. These districts will be created by inter-municipal agreements. Participation by municipalities is strongly encouraged, but will be voluntary.

Recreation Districts will also enable municipalities to communicate more effectively with the County when it comes to initiating and promoting PTR projects. Each District will have representation on the Erie County Parks Commission/Authority, and will therefore have a voice in determining the best use of the County's available funding for parks, trails and recreation.

A total of three Recreation Districts will be established, as identified by the Proposed Recreation Districts map. The proposed districts are organized with consideration given to the common needs and goals of participating municipalities, the location of existing regional assets, and the potential for new projects of regional significance. The 3 districts are as follows:

- **District A: Lakefront** – District A will be comprised of municipalities located along or near Lake Erie. This district will focus on the establishment of a connected trail system along the lakeshore, including the Seaway Trail to the Erie Bluffs State Park, in addition to creating access to park areas and the lake.
- **District B: Southeast Erie County** – District B will be comprised of municipalities located in southeast Erie County. The Erie to Pittsburgh Trail will be one of the main focus areas within this district.
- **District C: Southwest Erie County** – District C will be comprised of municipalities located in southwest Erie County. Potential priorities within this district include a Route 6N trail from Edinboro to Albion, a bicycle route along Route 98 leading north to Route 5, conservation area planning in McKean Township, and improvements to the Albion Park and Fairgrounds.



## **Goal #2: Build the human capacity needed to implement the Erie County Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan**

### **Task 2.1: Create a Parks and Recreation Coordinator (PRC) Position**

The creation of the Erie County Parks Commission/Authority and Recreation Districts, as described in goal #1, will be a great start towards building the human capacity that is needed to implement this plan. However, the work needed to implement this plan is substantial, and these entities will be volunteer based. It is unrealistic to expect these volunteer groups to effectively move this plan forward without some dedicated staff support provided by the County.

It is recommended that the County hire a Parks and Recreation Coordinator (PRC) as a staff position within the Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development. The PRC should preferably hold a degree in Parks and Recreation or have significant experience with parks and recreation management. The PRC should also possess exceptional communication skills, and be well versed in grant writing and submission as well as project management.

The PRC will provide support for the Parks Commission/Authority and Recreation Districts in the following ways:

- Establishing annual goals for each Recreation District
- Encouraging multi municipal coordination and goal setting
- Identifying grant/funding opportunities
- Grant writing, submission and administration
- Planning recreational programs and events
- Improving and maintaining regular communication between municipalities, their districts and the county
- Planning and leading public engagement efforts
- Developing action plans for priority projects for each Recreation District
- Facilitating quarterly meetings of the Parks Commission/Authority
- Maintaining a parks and recreation inventory



### ***Task 2.2: Establish and develop partnerships with conservation organizations, municipalities, municipal park and recreation boards, trail groups and other key stakeholder groups***

Erie County is fortunate to have numerous conservation organizations, municipal park and recreation boards, trail groups and other key stakeholder groups actively working to improve parks, trails and recreation within the county. These organizations have the passion and expertise needed to help the County move forward with implementation of this plan, and the County is committed to partnering with them on projects associated with the implementation of this plan.

## **Goal #3: Build the financial capacity needed to implement the Erie County Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan**

### ***Task 3.1: Establish funding source to support the PRC position***

The creation of a Parks and Recreation Coordinator (PRC) position is a critical investment that is needed to move plan implementation forward. One potential source of funding for the PRC position is the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Peer Review and Circuit Rider Grant Program. The DCNR Circuit Rider Grant program is designed to assist municipalities by funding a full time staff member. This is a 4-year grant program. In the first year, 100% of the PRC's salary will be paid by the grant. Each year the percentage of grant funding will decline, with only 25% of the PRC's salary being paid by the grant in the fourth year. The intent is that by the fifth year, the success of the program will justify retention of the PRC position, and that other funding sources may be made available to support it.

### ***Task 3.2: Establish a sustainable funding source for regional park, trail and recreation projects***

In order to fully support the recommendations identified in this plan, sustainable sources of parks and recreation funding must be identified and secured. This will be a responsibility of the Erie County Parks Commission/Authority, with assistance provided by the PRC and Recreation Districts. The County's goal is to establish sustainable funding sources totaling approximately \$1 to \$2 million per year.

The County currently receives Act 13 funds, which have been used to support the Erie County Greenways Program. In early 2017, the County reevaluated the investment impact of these funds and determined that a more focused investment strategy was needed. It is anticipated that some or all of those funds will now become available to fund regionally significant projects that are associated with the implementation of this plan.

Another potential funding source that may become available in the future is the Local Use Fund (\$5 car registration fee). These funds are currently allocated for the repair of structurally deficient bridges, and it is anticipated that this will continue for the foreseeable future. However, they can also be used for trails. Therefore, in the future, this could become a source of funding for regional trails.

Partnerships and philanthropic endowments are also important sources of funding for park and recreation facilities and programming. This includes partnerships with local employers, health systems, insurance companies, etc. Philanthropic endowments have been used in other jurisdictions to fund park improvements. A parks endowment, if established by the Erie Community Foundation or another philanthropic organization, could provide another source of funding for regionally significant projects.

### ***Task 3.3: Research and pursue available funding opportunities***

During the implementation of this plan, the County, in partnership with the Parks Commission/Authority and Recreation Districts will be pursuing park, trail and recreational (PTR) projects of regional significance. There are often many grant funding opportunities available. The PRC will work to identify and match available grant opportunities with PTR projects that are identified as a priority of this plan and/or are determined to be a priority of the Recreation Districts.

## **Goal #4: Assist municipalities and local organizations with parks, trails and recreation planning and project implementation**

### ***Task 4.1: Provide parks, trails and recreation planning advisory and consulting support to municipalities and local organizations***

Planning for parks, trails and recreation should be ongoing, and should be done at all levels, including countywide/regional, municipal, and neighborhood. Municipalities and neighborhood organizations are encouraged to plan for parks, trails and recreation. Adequate planning is essential prior to any large investment of time or money, and in many cases is a necessary first step towards securing grant funding.

The PRC, as his/her capacity allows, will provide planning advisory and consulting support to municipalities, municipal parks and recreation boards and neighborhood organizations. This may include serving on a planning advisory committee at the request of the organization, or may be limited to informal consultations or the review of draft plans.

As part of its mission, the Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development (ECDP) assists municipalities with updates to their comprehensive plans. Planning for parks, trails and recreation at the municipal level can be incorporated into these planning projects, if desired by the municipality(s).

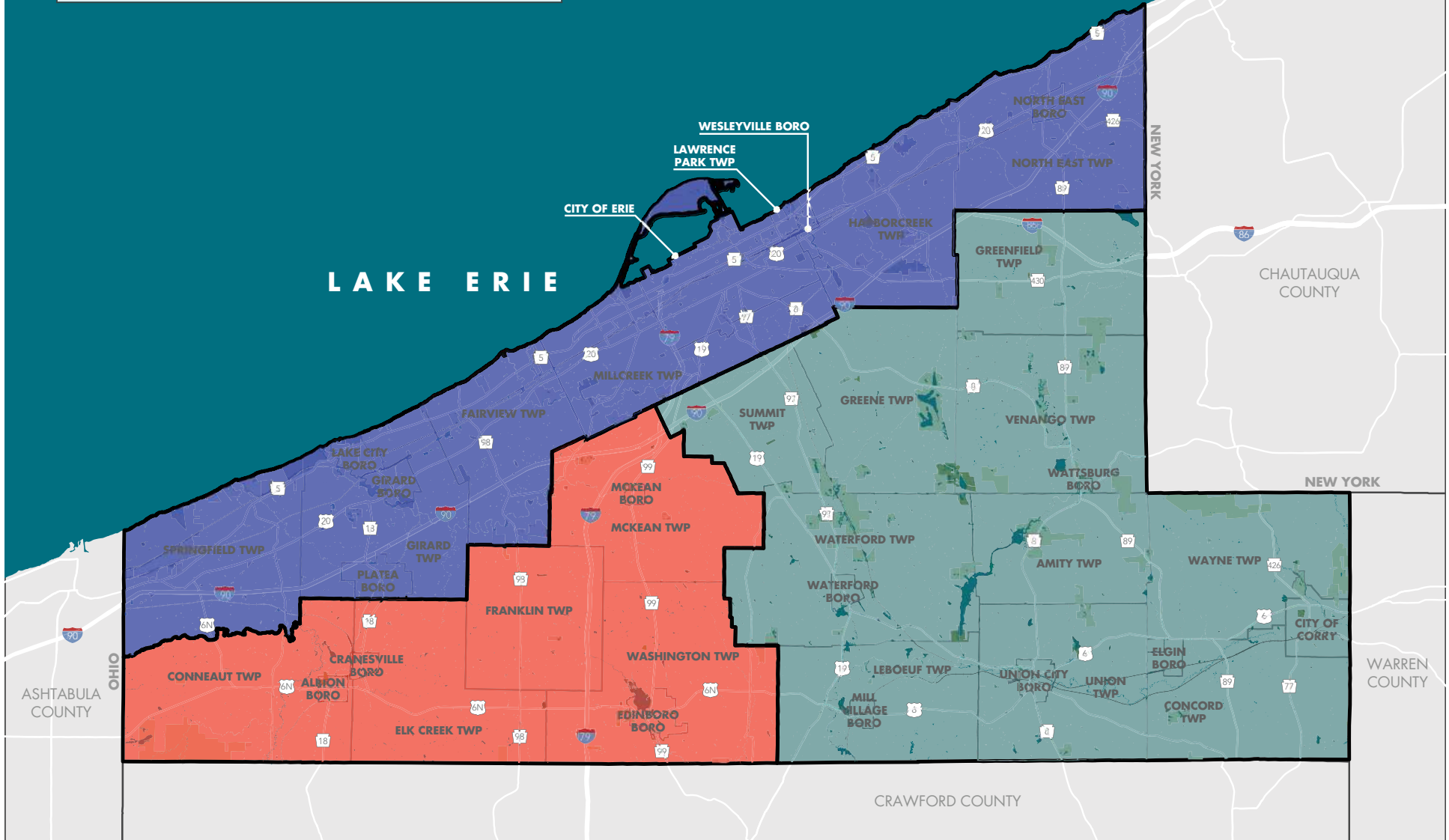
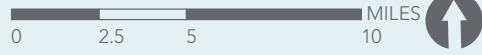
### ***Task 4.2: Support the efforts of municipalities and local organizations to obtain grant funding for parks, trails and recreation projects***

In Pennsylvania, most of the funding for public parks and recreation comes from the general funds of local municipalities. However, at the present time, most Erie County municipalities have limited funding available for parks and recreation. The good news is that there are many grant opportunities that can be used to supplement municipal budgeted funds. During municipal outreach conducted as part of this planning process, many municipalities expressed a desire for assistance with grants. Many of them lack the staff capacity to research and pursue available grant opportunities.

The PRC, with the assistance of other ECDP staff, will assist municipalities by identifying grant opportunities, and by assisting, to the extent staff capacity allows, with grant writing, submission and administration. This assistance may include training sessions on how to write and submit grants for parks and recreation projects. The PRC will also be able to help guide municipal employees through the grant writing process either by “one on one” consultations, or via group sessions. The PRC will be available to help municipalities through the grant process, from application to closeout.

# PROPOSED RECREATION DISTRICTS

- DISTRICT A
- DISTRICT B
- DISTRICT C



# ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

<b>Build Capacity to Address Parks, Trails and Recreation in Erie County</b>				
	<b>Goal / Objective</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Assistance Provided By</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Goal #1</b>	<b>Establish a governance structure dedicated to parks, trails and recreation in Erie County.</b>			
Task 1.1	Establish an Erie County Parks and Recreation Commission or Authority.	Erie County Government	Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development (ECDP), Erie County Planning Commission (ECPC)	Year 1
Task 1.2	Establish Recreation Districts	ECDP, PRC	Municipalities, ECPC	Year 1
<b>Goal #2</b>	<b>Build the human capacity needed to implement the Erie County Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan.</b>			
Task 2.1	Create a Parks and Recreation Coordinator (PRC) Position.	Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development (ECDP)	Erie County Government, Erie County Planning Commission (ECPC)	Year 1
Task 2.2	Establish and develop partnerships with conservation organizations, municipalities, municipal park & recreation boards, trail groups and other key stakeholder groups.	Recreation Districts, PRC	Municipalities, Municipal Park & Recreation Boards, Local Organizations	Year 1, then on-going
<b>Goal #3</b>	<b>Build the financial capacity needed to implement the Erie County Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan.</b>			
Task 3.1	Establish funding source to support PRC position.	Erie County Parks Commission, ECDP	Erie County Government, Recreation Districts	Year 1
Task 3.2	Establish a sustainable funding source for regional park, trail and recreation projects.	Erie County Parks Commission	Erie County Government, Recreation Districts, Local Organizations	Year 1
Task 3.3	Research and pursue available funding opportunities.	PRC	Erie County Parks Commission/Authority, Recreation Districts, ECDP, Erie County Department of Health, Erie MPO	Year 1, then on-going
<b>Goal #4</b>	<b>Assist municipalities and local organizations with parks, trails and recreation planning and project implementation.</b>			
Task 4.1	Provide parks, trails and recreation (PTR) planning advisory and consulting support to municipalities and local organizations.	PRC	Recreation Districts, ECDP	Year 1, then on-going
Task 4.2	Support the efforts of municipalities and local organizations to obtain grant funding for PTR projects.	PRC, ECDP	Recreation Districts	Year 1, then on-going

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SECTION 2

# PROMOTE HEALTH AND EQUITY



# Promote Health and Equity

Kayaks on Lake LeBoeuf  
-Mike Baker

## Why this is important

### Improving the health of Erie County Residents

In 2018, the Erie County Department of Health conducted an Erie County Community Health Needs Assessment to evaluate the health of Erie County residents and to identify potential areas of concern in relation to health. This assessment included a multitude of health factors such as demographic information, maternal and child health, mortality, infectious and chronic diseases, health services, mental and physical health trends, quality of life measurements, crime and safety statistics, and environmental health. The assessment identified multiple chronic diseases that are associated with inactivity and obesity. Key findings from the assessment include:

- During the 2016-2017 reporting period, 45% of Erie County adults aged 18 and above reported their physical health was not good for one or more days in the past month. This was up from 39% in the 2011-2013 reporting period, and exceeded the Pennsylvania state rate 39% (2016).
- Cardiovascular disease, which is caused by factors such as inactivity, obesity, high blood pressure, cigarette smoking, high cholesterol, and diabetes, was the leading cause of death for Erie County residents from 2012 to 2014. Increased access to recreational opportunities can help to mitigate these risk factors, and ultimately the rate of cardiovascular disease.
- Diabetes, which often stems from obesity and inactivity, was the seventh leading cause of death from 2012 to 2014 in Erie County.
- The percentage of Erie County adults aged 18 and above who were obese (BMI  $\geq 30$ ) increased from 32% in 2011-2013 to 35% in 2016-2017. This is higher than the state of Pennsylvania at 30% (2016), the United States at 30% (2016).
- The self-reported percentage of Erie County adults, aged 18 and above, whose poor physical or mental health prevented their usual activity for one or more days in the past month increased from 25% in 2011-2013 to 37% in 2016-2017. This was higher than Pennsylvania state rate of 24% (2016).

*“A 30 minute visit to a park can improve heart health, circulation and lower cholesterol, blood glucose, and blood pressure. Walking in nature reduces inflammation and boots your immune system, which decreases the risk of certain diseases and cancers. Interacting with a green space increases social interactions which can prevent diseases like dementia”*  
- National Park Service

Parks, trails and other recreational facilities provide opportunities for activity and exercise that can improve physical and mental health. By increasing access to parks and recreational amenities, the County will help to improve the health and wellness of its residents, and help to mitigate the community health issues identified by the Erie County Health Needs Assessment. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention states: “Having access to places for physical activity, such as parks and trails, encourages community residents to participate in physical activity and do so more often. The closer you live to a park, the more likely you are to walk or bike to those places and use the park for exercise.”

### The need for improving equitable access to parks and recreation

Erie County has an abundance of park and recreational amenities. This includes, but is not limited to, Presque Isle State Park, Lake Erie and several small lakes, numerous municipal parks, trails, state game lands and other natural areas. Unfortunately, access to these recreational amenities varies throughout the county. Some communities have an abundance of accessible recreational opportunities while others have very limited access or none at all.



Communities with low income populations often have large numbers of residents who lack access to a motor vehicle. This increases the importance of locating parks and recreational amenities within a convenient distance, and with adequate access via sidewalks and public transportation. Rural communities can also face challenges with access to recreational facilities. In these areas, recreational amenities are sometimes clustered into small pockets, leaving greater distances between residents and public recreation.

Studies show that populations with limited resources will often benefit the most from increased access to parks, trails and recreational offerings. As part of this planning process, the project team prepared an equity analysis in order to help identify vulnerable populations within the county that may have greater needs for prioritization of resources. The equity analysis utilized data from the US Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) and analyzed populations based on the following characteristics:

- Non-white
- Under the age of 18
- Over the age of 65
- Households below the poverty line
- No high school diploma
- Limited English proficiency
- No access to a motor vehicle

*" Research shows that recreation programs in parks can change the way people interact with their environment. By providing the community with ways to get involved and stay invested in its green spaces, effective park programming offers better health and increased well-being for residents"*  
**- National Recreation And Park Association**

The results of the equity analysis are illustrated in a composite "heat map" shown on page 19 and based on an overlay of the characteristics noted above. The heat map illustrates the areas of highest need in regards to equity. Residents living in the deepest blue areas on the composite map would benefit the most from additional access to recreational assets.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

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### **Goal #1: Improve public health through access to recreation opportunities for every resident and visitor**

#### ***Task 1.1 Provide a variety of affordable recreational programs and opportunities suitable for all age groups***

The County and its municipalities should explore ways to improve recreational opportunities for residents throughout the County. This includes improving access to public recreation spaces and free or affordable recreational programs and events. Everyone should have access to recreational opportunities regardless of the socioeconomic status of their neighborhood, or of their physical abilities.

Programming should be designed for all ages and abilities so that there will be opportunities for everyone. Programming should be made available at locations, such as parks and trails, which are easily accessible so that all residents can participate. Access to these events and public programs will give residents the opportunity to live healthier lifestyles. Organizations like the Erie County Department of Health that already provide this type of programming should strive to hold events and programs at parks and trails in order to help residents combine active recreation with health and wellness programming.

#### ***Task 1.2 Promote communication and collaboration between the Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development and the Erie County Department of Health to improve public health through parks, trails and recreation***

The Erie County Department of Health (DOH) strives to promote healthy lifestyles, reduce preventable illnesses, eliminate health safety hazards, and promote the protection of the environment that nurtures Erie County citizens. As educators in the community, staff from the DOH are especially active in community programming and promoting health and wellness in the County.

The Department of Planning and Community Development (ECDP) works to improve communities, assist municipalities and support economic development. As part of ECDP's planning efforts, it works with the Erie County Planning Commission to prepare and maintain the County's comprehensive plan, including the County's plans for transportation, parks and recreation, and natural areas. The department also assists municipalities with their planning needs.

Improving public health through recreation opportunities is a shared goal of both the ECDP and the DOH. Additional communication and collaboration between these two departments will help to enable the County to more effectively address public health and the recreational needs of Erie County residents.

## **Goal #2: Promote social equity by prioritizing park, trails and recreation opportunities for underserved populations**

### ***Task 2.1 Identify and remove access barriers to parks, trails and recreation opportunities***

Access to park and recreation amenities is important to a community's overall health, wellness, and equity. Studies show that there are direct health benefits to having parks and trails accessible to people.

The public survey revealed that 77% of participants depend on a car to get to parks and recreational facilities. Providing safe and convenient walking and biking access to recreational areas will ensure that these amenities are available to residents of all ages, especially children and seniors who don't drive, or lower income residents who may not have access to a private vehicle.

Ideally, residents should be within walking or bicycling distance of a park, trail, or other recreational asset. Access to parks and trails should be provided by an interconnected, non-motorized transportation system made up of sidewalks, paths, bicycle facilities, and trails.

Non-motorized transportation infrastructure should include on-road facilities such as bike lanes. Like trails and sidewalks, these on-road connections will help to improve public health, and will decrease the need to use motorized vehicles to access Erie County's key destinations.

In addition to linking park and recreational facilities, the County should also work with municipalities, schools and community organizations to create connections with schools and other key destinations throughout the county. A connected, non-motorized transportation system will encourage people of all ages and abilities to use active transportation when traveling to and from key destinations such as employment centers, schools, shopping and eating destinations, healthcare facilities, and civic and public facilities. For example, sidewalks and trails connecting to schools help to facilitate safe routes to school, and promote exercise and active transportation methods for young adults.

Municipalities will play a key role in helping to identify and remove barriers to parks, trails and recreational opportunities. They should undertake efforts to evaluate the maintenance needs of their sidewalks, and identify gaps in their sidewalk system. They should also help to evaluate their bicycle facilities, and help to identify where additional bike lanes are appropriate and feasible. Connections with their own parks, key destinations, and with parks in neighboring municipalities should be a priority.

### ***Task 2.2 Prioritize parks, trails and recreational projects and opportunities in communities with underserved populations and/or limited resources***

The County should make parks, trails and recreation projects, programs and events a priority in communities that have the greatest need. The Erie County Equity Analysis map is based on US Census and ACS data, and is limited by the data available. Therefore, it is not considered to be a fully complete depiction of Erie County communities, and is not intended to be a strict recommendation. However, it is a valuable tool to generate discussion, and to help identify areas where additional analysis may be beneficial.

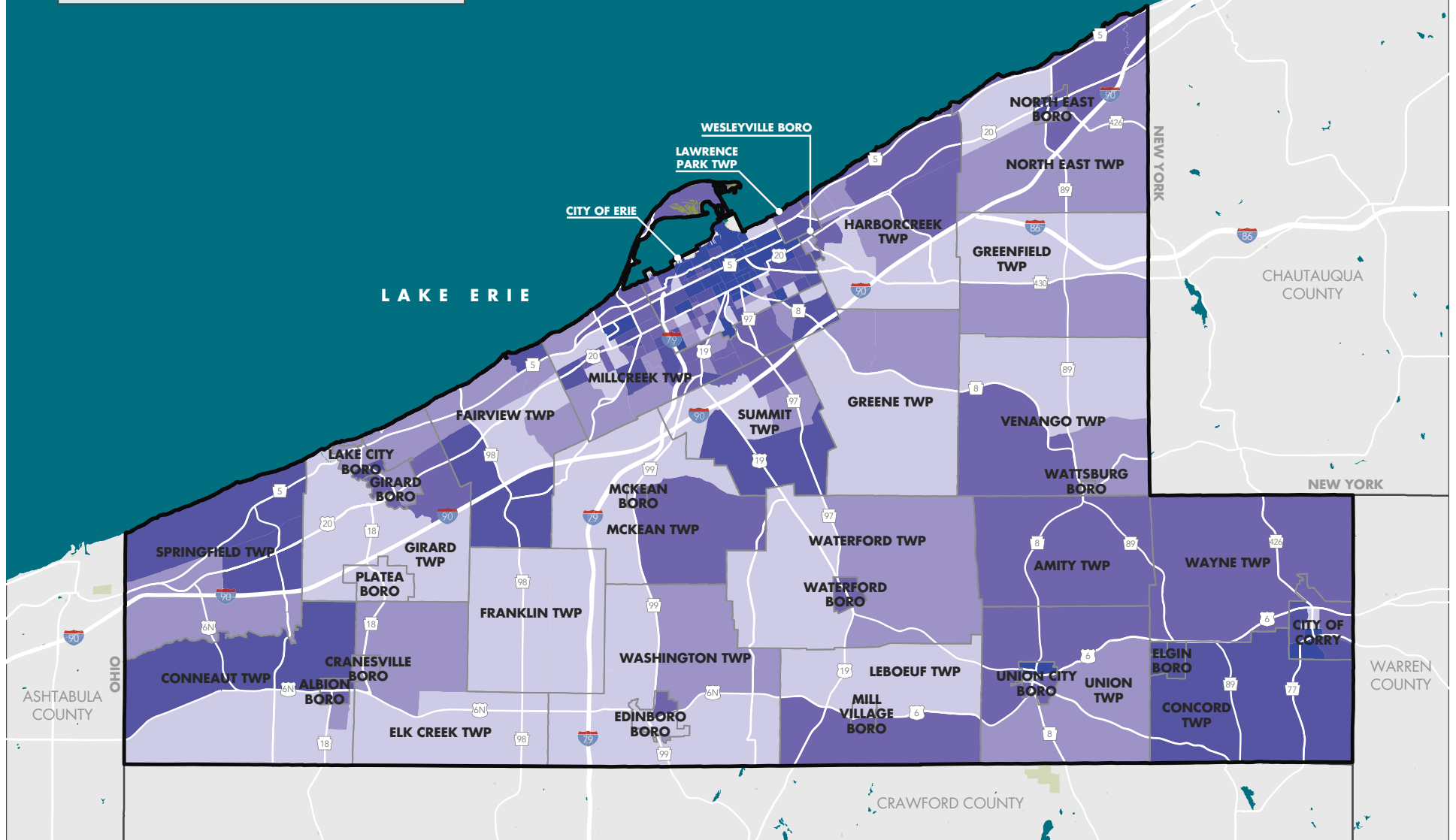
Deveraux Park swingset  
-Alta

### COMPOSITE EQUITY

- HIGHER CONCENTRATION
- 
- LOWER CONCENTRATION



The Equity Analysis map helps to identify populations with limited resources that will benefit the most from increased access to parks, trails and recreational offerings. Areas with the greatest need include Erie City, Corry City, Elgin Borough, and Union City Borough. Other areas in need include Concord Township, Conneaut Township, and parts of Lake City Borough, North East Borough, Springfield Township, Millcreek Township, Fairview Township and Summit Township.



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# ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Promote Health and Equity				
	Goal / Objective	Responsible Party	Assistance Provided By	Time
<b>Goal #1</b>	<b>Improve public health through recreation opportunities for every resident and visitor.</b>			
Task 1.1	Provide a variety of affordable recreational programs and opportunities suitable for all age groups.	Recreation Districts	Parks and Recreation Coordinator (PRC), Municipalities, School Districts, Local Organizations	Year 1, then on-going
Task 1.2	Promote communication and collaboration between the Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development (ECDP) and the Erie County Department of Health to improve public health through parks, trails and recreation.	ECDP, Erie County Department of Health	PRC	Year 1, then on-going
<b>Goal #2</b>	<b>Promote social equity by prioritizing park, trails and recreation opportunities for underserved populations.</b>			
Task 2.1	Identify and remove access barriers to parks, trails and recreation (PTR) opportunities.	Municipalities	Erie MPO, Recreation Districts	Year 1, then on-going
Task 2.2	Prioritize PTR projects and opportunities in communities with underserved populations and/or limited resources.	Recreation Districts	PRC, Municipalities, School Districts, Local Organizations	Year 1, then on-going

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SECTION 3

# PRIORITIZE PROJECTS



# Prioritize Projects of Regional Significance



## Why this is important

Erie County desires to improve its economy and the quality of life of its residents by improving its network of parks, trails and recreation in a focused, strategic and meaningful way. One of the challenges to achieving this goal is the limited funding that is available to invest in parks, trails and recreation.

One source of funding that has been available is Act 13 funding. Between 2013 and 2017, this funding was used to support the Erie County Greenways Program, and through this program, the County invested over a million dollars in parks, trails and recreation projects throughout the County. Funds were awarded to municipalities via an annual competitive grant program.

In 2017, the County reviewed and evaluated the results of the Erie County Greenways Grant Program. It was concluded that while the projects funded were beneficial, they were primarily small projects with little or no regional impact. Also, since our municipalities typically operate independently when it comes to providing parks, trails and recreation, the projects lacked a unified focus.

In order to maximize the investment potential of available funding, and in order to achieve the greatest benefit to the County as a whole, it was determined that a more focused investment strategy was needed, and that larger, regional scale projects should be prioritized.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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### Goal #1: Establish regional priorities, and plan for implementation of park, trails and recreation (PTR) projects

#### *Task 1.1: Prioritize/rank the implementation of potential parks, trails and recreation projects of regional significance based on available funding and resources*

This plan recommends several parks, trails and recreation (PTR) projects of regional significance, and it's likely that additional project opportunities will be identified in the future. Due to limitations in funding availability and staff capacity, it may not be feasible to pursue all of these very worthwhile projects simultaneously.

The Erie County Parks Commission/Authority, in collaboration with the Recreation Districts, will be responsible for prioritizing PTR projects based on available funding and resources. Priority will be given to projects of regional significance, and every effort will be made to ensure that the County's investments are made in an equitable manner throughout the County, and that the funding is strategically directed towards the most beneficial projects.



#### *Task 1.2: Develop action plans for implementation of prioritized PTR projects of regional significance*

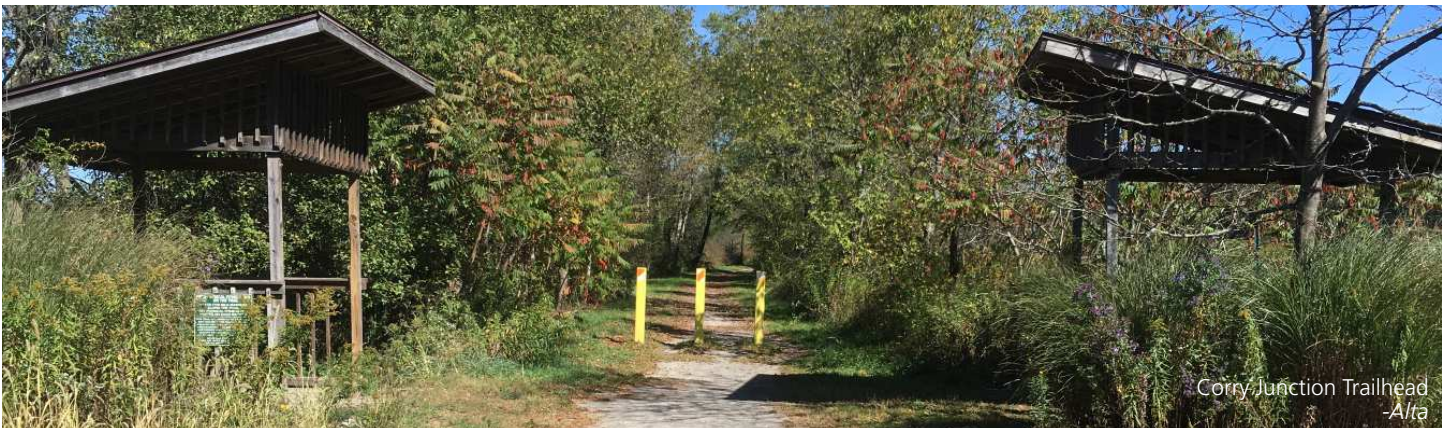
Adoption of this plan will be an important first step for the County as it pursues its goals related to parks, trails and recreation. The plan provides a list of realistic and achievable goals, and establishes a positive direction for the County to take as it works to achieve its desired future. However, more detailed planning will be needed in



order to effectively pursue the projects of regional significance that are identified in this plan. The Parks and Recreation Coordinator (PRC), in collaboration with the Recreation Districts and key stakeholder groups, will create the actions plans needed to implement all prioritized PTR projects.

### ***Task 1.3: Encourage additional planning for parks, trails and recreation as part of Erie County and municipal comprehensive plans, transportation plans and other planning efforts***

All municipalities are encouraged to plan for parks, trails and recreation. These plans can be incorporated into municipal comprehensive plans, or can take the form of a stand alone plan, such as a master plan for a specific park, trail system or project. Adequate planning is encouraged prior to any large investments of time or money. Planning for walking trails and bicycle routes is an important consideration that should be included as part of any County or municipal transportation plan. The County updates its Long Range Transportation Plan every five years. These plans have always included plans for pedestrians and bicycles, and this practice should continue. The Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development provides planning assistance to municipalities, and will continue to advocate for parks, trails and recreation planning by municipalities.



## **Goal #2: Create and enhance a countywide parks, recreation and trails system by implementing PRT projects of regional significance**

### ***Task 2.1 Transform abandoned rail corridors into trails by implementing Rails-to-Trails projects***

Communities across the country have transformed abandoned rail corridors into trails for bicyclists and pedestrians. These corridors usually provide prime connections to and from town centers, provide smooth and safe passage through otherwise steep or challenging terrain, traverse picturesque landscapes, and are often unbroken by streets and waterways. Unlike street corridors, rail trails are separated from the conflicts associated with automobile traffic (with the exception of occasional road crossings) and provide a safe space for pedestrian and bicycle travel. Transforming abandoned rail corridors into trails is a great opportunity, and the potential for these trails should be more thoroughly explored to determine feasibility.

### ***Task 2.2 Connect with the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail by establishing a trail connection between the City of Erie and the City of Corry***

The Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, when completed, will connect Dobbins Landing on Erie's Bayfront to Point State Park in Pittsburgh with one unified non-motorized route. It will connect to a network of trail systems, and help to promote our region as a destination. The development of this trail is being coordinated and promoted by the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance (EPTA).

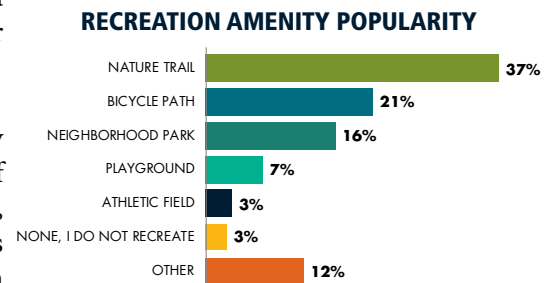
The trail is proposed to run along the Corry Junction Greenway Trail and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail (PA Route 5) in Erie County. The Bayfront Parkway Trail will also be part of the trail system as a spur in the City of Erie, and another segment will connect the City of Corry to Spartansburg, PA.

The specific route that this trail will take between the cities of Corry and Erie has not yet been determined. The County, in collaboration with Recreation District B, should explore the options and opportunities that are available, and should play a leading role in the development of this trail. If needed, the Erie County Parks and Recreation Commission could potentially act as the real estate and management agency for the trail system.

### **Task 2.3 Create additional bicycling and walking trails**

In communities all across America, walking trails and bicycle paths are often the most popular and most frequently used of all recreational amenities. They promote health and wellness, and give residents an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. The public survey confirmed that Erie County is no exception. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of respondents indicated that they would use natural trails and bicycle paths more than neighborhood parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, or other recreational amenities.

Additional walking trails and bicycle paths and routes should be a priority throughout the County. They benefit residents living in all types of communities, including rural areas. During the development of this plan, numerous residents from rural areas voiced concerns about having access to a “safe” place to walk and bicycle. Rural roads are often unpaved, with inadequate berm area to safely support pedestrians and bicyclists.



Walking trails and bicycle routes can often be “on-road” routes or be installed as improvements to existing corridors. In fact, this is often the best option when there is no clear support for “off road” options. Improving bike routes is considered to be a priority by the Erie County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Bike route improvements mentioned in the LRTP include a bike loop from Route 6 to downtown Corry and an Erie Loop Bikeway with bike lanes and traffic calming.

### **Task 2.4 Connect key destinations as well as natural and cultural heritage areas via non-motorized transportation**

Throughout Erie County, there are numerous key destinations, including schools, employment centers, shopping and eating destinations, healthcare facilities, parks and other recreational amenities, and natural and cultural heritage areas. Unfortunately, many of these destinations lack a means of safe, non-motorized access. Improving pedestrian access with sidewalks, trails and bicycle paths will encourage people of all ages and abilities to use active transportation when traveling to and from these destinations.

In addition to improving connections between these key destinations and their surrounding neighborhoods, there are also benefits that can be realized by connecting these destinations to each other via non-motorized, multi-use trails. A regional network of trails linking the County’s most important assets will have economic benefits in the form of increased tourism, health benefits to our residents, and environmental benefits by helping to reduce automobile usage.



### **Task 2.5 Design trailheads for “blue” trail routes**

Blue trails are trails that exist on the water. They commonly include one or more trailheads and a mapped and/or identified route along the water. They help to improve recreational access to streams and other bodies of water, and provide opportunities for family recreation such as fishing, boating, kayaking, and wildlife watching. Blue trails will help to increase public awareness and appreciation for our water resources. They can provide economic benefits in the form of increased tourism. They are also likely to contribute to the protection and conservation of these valuable resources as well as their access points and sensitive natural areas along which they are located.



Snowmobilers at Corry WinterFest  
-Alta

***Task 2.6 Pursue long term (20 years or greater) easements for snowmobile trails and “all season” trails for public use***

Erie County’s snowy winters are ideal for snowmobiles, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and other winter sports. With the permission of landowners, snowmobile clubs have established snowmobile trails and are actively maintaining them. In rare cases, landowners allow these trails to be used during the spring, summer, and fall for other types of recreational uses such as running, hiking and bicycling. However, this is not common practice.

The County is in need of more multi-use trails, especially within its rural areas. Many existing snowmobile routes have the potential to serve this need. In order to acquire year-round, public access to these trails, it will be necessary to obtain the permission of landowners. It is recommended that the County, in collaboration with snowmobile clubs and other trail groups, pursue long term easements (20 years or more) with interested landowners.

***Task 2.7 Pursue designation of the Lake Erie Quadrangle as a National Marine Sanctuary***

Currently, there are 14 protected National Marine Sanctuaries. The NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as a trustee for these sites, which are chosen for their scenic beauty, cultural heritage or ecological significance.

In 2016, Erie County submitted a nomination for the proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary (NMS). This proposed sanctuary will encompass approximately 759 square miles of Pennsylvania’s Lake Erie waters. Designation as a NMS will bring awareness of the significant and expansive shipwreck graveyard present within the Lake Erie Quadrangle.

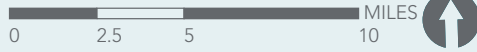
This underwater museum is believed to hold one of the densest collections of shipwrecks within the Great Lakes. Designation will also help to protect these cultural and historical artifacts by encouraging endeavors by federal, state, educational and other organizations to locate, identify, interpret and preserve them.



National Marine Sanctuary image  
-Erie County Planning Department

### EXISTING AND POTENTIAL TRAILS

- HIKING
- BIKING
- MULTI-USE
- RAIL TO TRAIL
- WATER TRAIL
- SNOWMOBILE
- POTENTIAL TRAIL
- INACTIVE RAIL



Great Lakes Seaway Trail  
BicyclePA Route Z

Presque Isle Park Trails

WESLEYVILLE BORO

LAWRENCE PARK TWP

CITY OF ERIE

LAKE ERIE

Behrend to Bayfront Trail

Corry Junction Greenway Trail

BicyclePA Route A

Union City Reservoir Trail

BicyclePA Route Y

Washington Trail

French Creek Water Trail

CITY OF CORRY

# ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Prioritize Projects of Regional Significance				
	Goal / Objective	Responsible Party	Assistance Provided By	Time
<b>Goal #1</b>	<b>Establish regional priorities, and plan for implementation of park, trails and recreation (PTR) projects.</b>			
Task 1.1	Prioritize/rank the implementation of potential PTR projects of regional significance based on available funding and resources.	Erie County Parks Commission	Parks and Recreation Coordinator (PRC), Recreation Districts, Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development (ECDP),	Year 2, then on-going
Task 1.2	Develop action plans for implementation of prioritized PTR projects of regional significance.	PRC	ECDP, Recreation Districts, ECPC	Year 2, then on-going
Task 1.3	Encourage additional planning for bicycle and pedestrian trails as part of Erie County and municipal comprehensive plans, transportation plans and other planning efforts.	ECDP	PRC, Erie MPO, Recreation Districts, ECPC	Year 1, then on-going
<b>Goal #2</b>	<b>Create and enhance a countywide parks, recreation and trails system by implementing PTR projects of regional significance.</b>			
Task 2.1	Transform old rail corridors into trails by implementing Rails-to-Trails projects.	Recreation Districts	PRC, ECDP, Trail Organizations, Municipalities	Dependant on available funding, resources and opportunities
Task 2.2	Connect with the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail by establishing a trail connection between the City of Erie and the City of Corry.	Recreation Districts A & B	PRC, ECDP, Trail Organizations, Municipalities, Erie MPO	Dependant on available funding, resources and opportunities
Task 2.3	Create additional bicycling and walking trails along existing roadways.	Recreation Districts	PRC, ECDP, Trail Organizations, Municipalities, Erie MPO	Dependant on available funding, resources and opportunities
Task 2.4	Connect key destinations as well as natural and cultural heritage areas via non-motorized transportation.	Recreation Districts	PRC, ECDP, Trail Organizations, Municipalities, Erie MPO	Dependant on available funding, resources and opportunities
Task 2.5	Design trailheads for "blue" trail routes.	Recreation Districts	PRC, ECDP, Trail Organizations, Municipalities, Erie MPO	Dependant on available funding, resources and opportunities
Task 2.6	Pursue long-term (20 years or greater) easements for snowmobile trails and "all seasons" trails for public use.	Trail Organizations	Recreation Districts, PRC	Year 2, then on-going
Task 2.7	Pursue designation of the Lake Erie Quadrangle as a National Marine Sanctuary.	ECDP	Erie County government	Year 1, then on-going

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SECTION 4

# PROMOTE ASSETS



# Promote Erie County's Parks, Trails and Recreational Assets

Erie Jazz Festival  
Mike Baker

## Why this is important

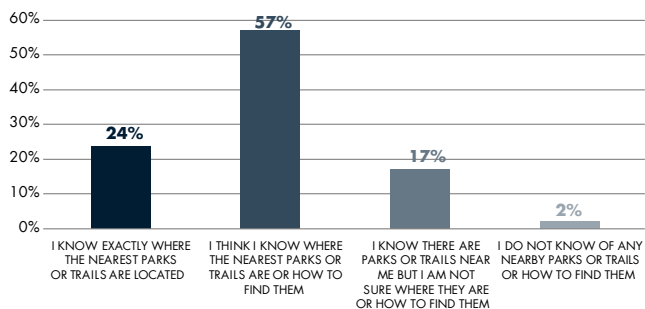
Erie County is the only county in Pennsylvania with frontage on Lake Erie, and each year, the lake draws visitors from surrounding areas, including Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Buffalo. However, Erie County has an abundance of parks, trails and recreational assets that are less well-known. We have a great opportunity to attract visitors to these other assets through strategic marketing and promotion. Even short trips by residents and visitors can increase awareness and appreciation for these assets, and stimulate spending throughout the county on travel services (gas, lodging, food, etc.), retail goods, and more.

Erie County experiences four distinct seasons, including mild summers and snowy winters. This allows for a wide variety of recreational opportunities throughout the entire year. However, according to statistics from VisitErie, 70% of visitors come during the summer months. Clearly, an effort needs to be made to increase awareness of all the wonderful recreational opportunities and events that Erie County has to offer throughout the year.

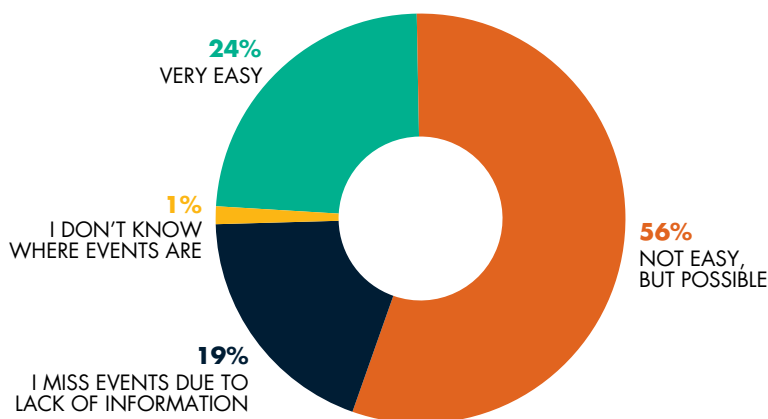
*"Parks and trails will enhance our tourism product"*  
- VisitErie

Promotion of our parks, trails and recreational events and assets will not only benefit visitors, but will also benefit our residents. During the planning process, many residents expressed difficulty with finding information about recreational opportunities in their own communities. In fact, only 24% of respondents to the public survey found it easy to find out about community events, and only 24% knew where the nearest parks or trails are located. By helping our residents become more aware of parks, trails and recreational assets in their communities and throughout the county, we can encourage our residents to become more active, promote healthy living, and increase community pride.

### HOW EASY IS IT TO LOCATE NEARBY PARKS OR TRAILS?



### HOW EASY IS IT TO FIND OUT ABOUT COMMUNITY EVENTS?





# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## Goal #1: Promote and enhance tourism, and increase usage of park, trails and recreation amenities by residents

During the planning process, the project consultant, Alta Planning & Design, compared Erie County with nine counties that were similar to Erie County in terms of population, median household income, and overall landscape. These are a few of their key findings:

- Most of the comparable counties maintain parks and recreation websites with inventories of recreation facilities and programs that exist throughout the county.
- The comparable counties market their assets to citizens, visitors, and businesses.
- Most of the comparable counties promote countywide parks, recreation amenities, and trails via robust social media and marketing campaigns.

A strategic marketing effort is needed to promote awareness of Erie County's parks, trails, recreational opportunities and events. This marketing campaign will help residents and visitors become more aware of recreational opportunities and their benefits. This campaign should publicize the many benefits of parks, trails and other recreational amenities, including health, transportation and livability, environment and conservation, economy, and historic preservation.



Tall Ships, Erie Bayfront  
-Mike Baker

## Goal #2: Establish a website listing all parks, trails, recreational opportunities and events throughout Erie County


There is a need for a single, online location where residents and visitors can access information about the parks, trails and recreational opportunities available in Erie County. The County will develop and maintain a webpage on the County website that will provide an inventory of parks, trails and recreational events and programming.

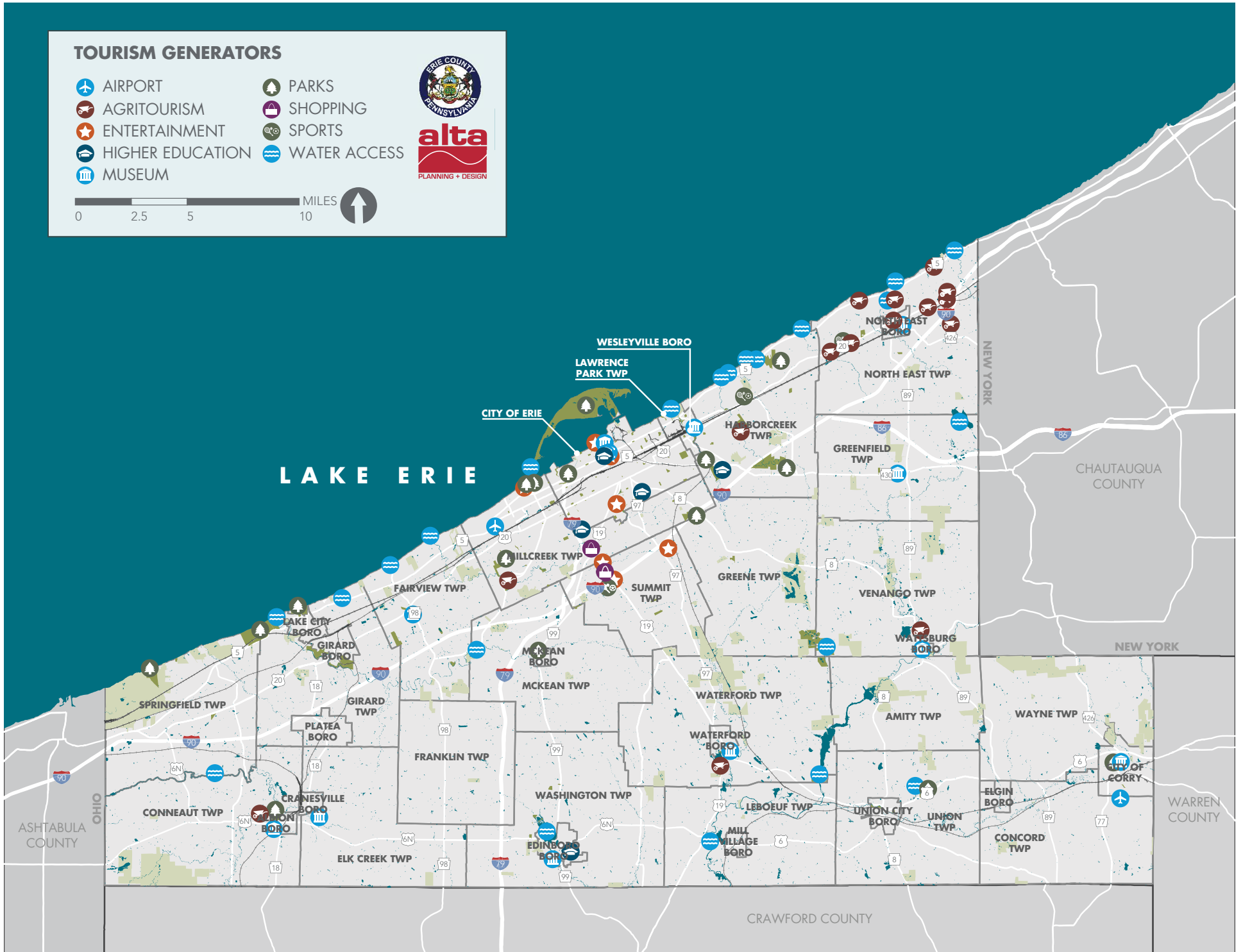
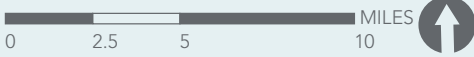
In order for this online inventory to be successful, it will need to be complete and up-to-date. Regular maintenance will be required. Municipalities and PTR organizations should assist with this effort by notifying the County of new recreational events or any changes and/or updates that may be needed.

## Goal #3: Establish a cohesive countywide parks and recreation signage and wayfinding program

A cohesive countywide parks and recreation signage and wayfinding program will help residents locate and appreciate the parks and trails around them. This will become increasingly more important as Erie County's network of parks and trails develops and expands. This signage should be part of a cohesive branding strategy for Erie County. The intent is to create a noticeable countywide park and trail system.

### TOURISM GENERATORS

-  AIRPORT
-  AGRITOURISM
-  ENTERTAINMENT
-  HIGHER EDUCATION
-  MUSEUM
-  PARKS
-  SHOPPING
-  SPORTS
-  WATER ACCESS



# ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Promote Erie County's Parks, Trails and Recreational Assets				
	Goal / Objective	Responsible Party	Assistance Provided By	Time
<b>Goal #1</b>	Promote and enhance tourism, and increase park, trails, and recreation usage by residents.	Parks and Recreation Coordinator (PRC)	VisitErie, Recreation Districts, Municipalities	Year 2, then on-going
<b>Goal #2</b>	Establish a website listing all parks, trails and recreational opportunities and events throughout Erie County.	PRC	Erie County Information Technology Department, Erie County Department of Planning & Community Development (ECDP), Erie County Department of Health, Recreation Districts	Year 2, then on-going
<b>Goal #3</b>	Establish a countywide, themed, parks and recreation signage and wayfinding program.	Recreation Districts	PRC, Municipalities	Years 3-5

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*Chickadee Lakeside Assoc.*  
**Enjoy the lake!**  
  
Leave nothing  
behind but your  
footprints!