

Approved:

Midland County Parks & Recreation Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 7, 2025

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Lynn Evans, Roy Green, Terry Hall, Jim Malek, Jeanette Snyder, Joe Sova

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Atton, Larry Schuelke, Leah Ziemis

STAFF PRESENT

Patrick Clark, Interim Director Midland County Parks and Recreation, Manager Midland County Parks and Recreation

OTHERS PRESENT

N/A

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Parks Commission Chairman Green at 6:00 PM. A quorum declared present and the Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission could officially conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion to adopt the agenda made by Commissioner Hall and supported by Commissioner Snyder; Agenda approved by unanimous voice vote.

MINUTES

The motion to adopt Approval of May 7, 2025 Minutes the motion was made by Commissioner Malek, and supported by Commissioner Hall; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

Parks and Recreation Department Notes: 7-9-25

PARK PROJECTS/UPDATES

May

Patrick partnered worked with Road Commission GIS to promote Midland County Parks and Recreation (see attached) properties on the latest Midland County road maps.

CPR/AED & First Aid Training with all field staff took place at Great Lakes Safety Training Center on 6/6.

Large open field parcels in Coleman that have previously been mowed with a Kubota front mounted F-3990 mower will now be brush hogged once per month to save on equipment maintenance and usage.

Staff replaced deck timbers on Salt River bridges #1 and #2 as well as the Tittabawassee River Bridge

The Sanford Trailhead bathroom entrances were mud-jacked (the concrete lifted) pro-bono by Great Lakes Concrete Pumping.

Landscaping and mowing was conducted on the entirety of the Rail Trail, downtown properties, Sanford Lake Park and all other parks and properties.

Picnic tables were moved under pavilions, pavilions were power-washed, building and sidewalks in main pedestrian walkways were power washed and the roofs cleaned on both the main bathrooms and concession building.

All seasonal staff were taken through orientation and trained on equipment (for a total of 4 seasonal staff).

Health Department approved the operation of the Splash Pad prior to the Memorial Day weekend opening.

Staff prepped the courthouse war memorial and the Sanford Trailhead memorial in honor of Memorial Day.

River Trails Heritage Park, the Equestrian Trail Girl Scout, River Trails Heritage Park and Coleman field properties were brush hogged by staff.

Final inspection of the Sanford Lake Playground was conducted and the playground opened several weeks prior to Memorial Day.

The sprinkler irrigation system as the Sanford Trailhead blown out and turned on.

Staff met with Greg from Lakeside Services to brainstorm boat launch dock systems- quotes are in process.

Patrick worked with Wendy Robertson (Central Michigan University) to install a flood gage at Manitou Park in Lee Township; project associated site: <https://mifloodresilience.org/partners>.

June

Staff is prepping for seal-coating on the Rail Trail to begin at the end of July/early August.

Landscaping, mowing, and maintenance continues at all park properties, downtown and the Rail Trail.

River Trails Heritage Park, Girl Scouts Property, Pine Haven and the Horse Trail were all brush hogged.

Patrick worked with Pam Blough (Engineer/Architect) to finalize the concrete pour at the Duck Hunter's Memorial to correct the issue of slope in order to meet ADA standard. The trail is fully open.

Restoration work was finally completed at River Trails Heritage Park after Right-Of-Way clearing was conducted. Simple restoration from the Consumer's Power sub-contractor CC Power took over 20 requests/e-mails over a period of seven months.

The last Seasonal Staff person started on 6-5-25, relieving the pressure of Pro Staff mowing all downtown property sites.

Construction on the Laur Stair System is at 60%.

Deck timber was replaced on the Tittabawassee River Bridge and Salt River #1 and #2 bridges.

2005 52" Toro Pro-Line mower was sold to Gateway MFG (Amish Farm Store) with \$1300.00 going to the General Fund.

EVENTS

Central Michigan Mountain Biking Association: Volunteer Trail Clearing Event (5/17), 5 total attendees, blew leaves, trimmed back branches and removed downed trees from the trail.

His House Christian Fellowship: Fundraising Bike Ride (5/31), 111 total participants.

Chris D.: Disk Golf Tournament (5/31), 59 total participants & (6/1), 72 total participants

Relay for Life (5/10), 107 total participants

Daughters of the American Revolution: Plaque Dedication (5/31), 70 total participants

Meridian High School: Dollar General Volunteer Clean Up (5/23), 14 total participants

DIRECTORS REPORT

Old Business

N/A

New Business

John Schmude resigned from his position as Director of the Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission effective June 30th. Patrick Clark will serve as Interim Director beginning July 1.

Motion: Resolution by the Midland County Parks & Recreation Commission to communicate our appreciation and to thank John Schmude for his years of service. Motion was made by Commissioner Hall Supported by Commissioner Sova; Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The pump that runs splash pad system malfunctioned on 6-6 (pump replaced via Vortex/Michigan Recreation Construction) and 6-23 (pump pulled, inspected and restarted) all was functioning correctly. On 7-6 a flange cracked and the splash pad went down again. Director is in conversation with Vortex on the reliability of the system that was purchased and installed (4 breakdowns in 2 yrs.) Clark is pursuing correctional options to be paid on behalf of Vortex.

Schmude and Clark met with Debra Reiber (Lee Township Trustee) on Wednesday, May 21 to discuss a Kayak launch request at Manitou Park. It was pointed out that due to the extreme embankment on the west side of the park and the distance to traverse to the east side of the park any project would be a costly affair. It was also noted that approximately 3.5 miles to the east is an ADA accessible kayak launch operated by Chippewa Nature Center, which would cause possible duplication of service. Reiber was going to continue the discussion at her end.

Interim Director Proposed Mission Statement for Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission: *"Midland County Parks and Recreation strives to create park facilities and steward land making our community better than it was yesterday. It is our goal to provide visitors with the best recreation experience possible, on properties that capitalize on local natural resources. Midland County Parks and Recreation properties are a mix of amenity rich parks and rustic/passive use properties. Midland County Parks and Recreations goal is to serve*

all visitors with a focus on stewardship of land and financial resources, accessibility and provision of quality outdoor spaces that enrich the health of the individual and the community of Midland County overall.”

The 2026 Budget has been submitted to the Midland County Finance Office.

ADJORNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 P.M. was made by Commissioner Hall and supported by Commissioner Sova. Meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Evans

Secretary

Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission

7/29/2025