

Village of Morley

Park & Recreation Plan

2024-2028



Prepared by the Village of Morley

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Introduction

The Village of Morley developed a Park Plan in 1996 but no Plan has been in place since then. The Village Council would like to improve their parks and recreation activities but has not had the funding to accomplish this. Morley is a small village but has three parks in its village limits and additionally has the White Pine Trail through its center.

Community Description

The Village of Morley is located approximately 40 miles north of Grand Rapids in Mecosta County, and in an area referred to as West Central Michigan. Morley was established as a village in 1869 with the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad recording the first plat in 1870. Lumber was one of the earliest industries in the area.

A distinctive feature in the Village is the Little Muskegon River which flows through the Village to a dam that is owned by the Village. The impoundment behind the dam offers a great fishing area. Since there is only two boat launches, all fishermen with boats and recreational boaters use the Latimer Park or the alley behind the stores to launch their boats.



Administrative Structure

Village Council

The Village Council Trustees and President are elected and govern the Village of Morley property. The Village Council has the authority to commit funds for parks and recreation, accept grants, and purchase land on behalf of the community.

Council members include:

Henry Petersen, President
Paul Block, Trustee
Linda Kizer, Trustee
Austin Korpala, Trustee
Sandra Leal, Trustee
Serine Petersen, Trustee
Steven Weed, Trustee

Parks & Recreation Committee

The Parks & Recreation Committee oversees the parks and recommends actions concerning the parks to the Village Council. The Committee includes:

Serine Petersen, Co-Chair
Steven Weed, Co-Chair
Linda Kizer, Trustee
Henry Petersen, President
Terry Stilson, Clerk

Budget Information

The table on page 5 is the 2024-25 general fund budget information for the Village of Morley. In fiscal year 2024-25, the budget for the Parks is just over \$28,000. This amount pays for the electricity and other maintenance of the three parks owned by the Village of Morley.

2024-25 General Fund Budget

General Fund Revenues		2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Projected	2024-25 Proposed
390	Fund Balance	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00
402	Current Real Property Taxes	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 82,500.00	\$ 83,000.00
403	In Lieu of Taxes	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
410	Personal Property Taxes	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
411	Delinquent Real Property	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,500.00
447	Tax Admin Fee	\$ 830.00	\$ 875.00	\$ 900.00
574	State Shared Revenue	\$ 66,500.00	\$ 64,500.00	\$ 65,000.00
580	Other Grants	\$ 4,980.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
655	Fines - County	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
656	Fines - Ordinance Violations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
665	Interest Income - Other	\$ 140.00	\$ 1,425.00	\$ 1,500.00
668	Rents & Royalties	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,700.00
670	Franchise Fees Income	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 4,000.00
671	Other Revenue	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
675	Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
676	Reimbursements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
687	Insurance Refunds	\$ -	\$ 530.00	\$ -
752	Events & Festivals Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTALS		\$ 176,450.00	\$ 179,250.00	\$ 177,720.00

General Fund Expenditures				
101	Village Council	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 4,950.00	\$ 5,850.00
171	President	\$ 975.00	\$ 975.00	\$ 975.00
172	Administration	\$ 19,900.00	\$ 17,910.00	\$ 21,700.00
215	Clerk	\$ 11,725.00	\$ 11,725.00	\$ 12,150.00
253	Treasurer	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,750.00
265	Building & Grounds	\$ 6,840.00	\$ 5,150.00	\$ 5,650.00
266	Attorney	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,560.00	\$ 1,075.00
301	Police Dept	\$ 13,380.00	\$ 6,395.00	\$ 22,120.00
336	Fire Dept	\$ 16,550.00	\$ 13,105.00	\$ 13,600.00
441	Village Maintenance	\$ 11,300.00	\$ 10,900.00	\$ 11,700.00
448	Street Lights	\$ 13,700.00	\$ 13,900.00	\$ 14,250.00
751	Parks	\$ 42,980.00	\$ 24,150.00	\$ 28,200.00
752	Events & Festivals	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,600.00
757	Dam	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 7,250.00	\$ 55,900.00
865	Misc - FICA/MED	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 4,000.00
TOTALS		\$ 176,450.00	\$ 125,070.00	\$ 202,520.00

Recreation Inventory

The Village of Morley owns three dedicated parks: Latimer, Frank Deyo Dam Park, and Kinney Park.

Latimer Park is the oldest Village park, approximately 2.6 acres, and is located on a peninsula along the north bank of the Little Muskegon River at the south end of Webster Street. The park contains a boat ramp, pavilion with a fireplace, playground equipment and picnicking facilities. It once held a thriving beach area where youth spent their days in the sun and water.

Frank Deyo Dam and Clyde Clark Park is located at the southern end of the Village on Cass Street (Northland Drive) and contains the Village dam, and is approximately 1.5 acres in size which includes the dam structure. The Park features a War Memorial holding names of area veterans. The park is a popular area for fishermen.

Kinney Park was dedicated in 1996 and is in the center of the village adjacent to the White Pine Trail. It is approximately 0.2 acres. A pavilion, benches, and picnic tables are popular locations during the summer. Basketball courts are used extensively.

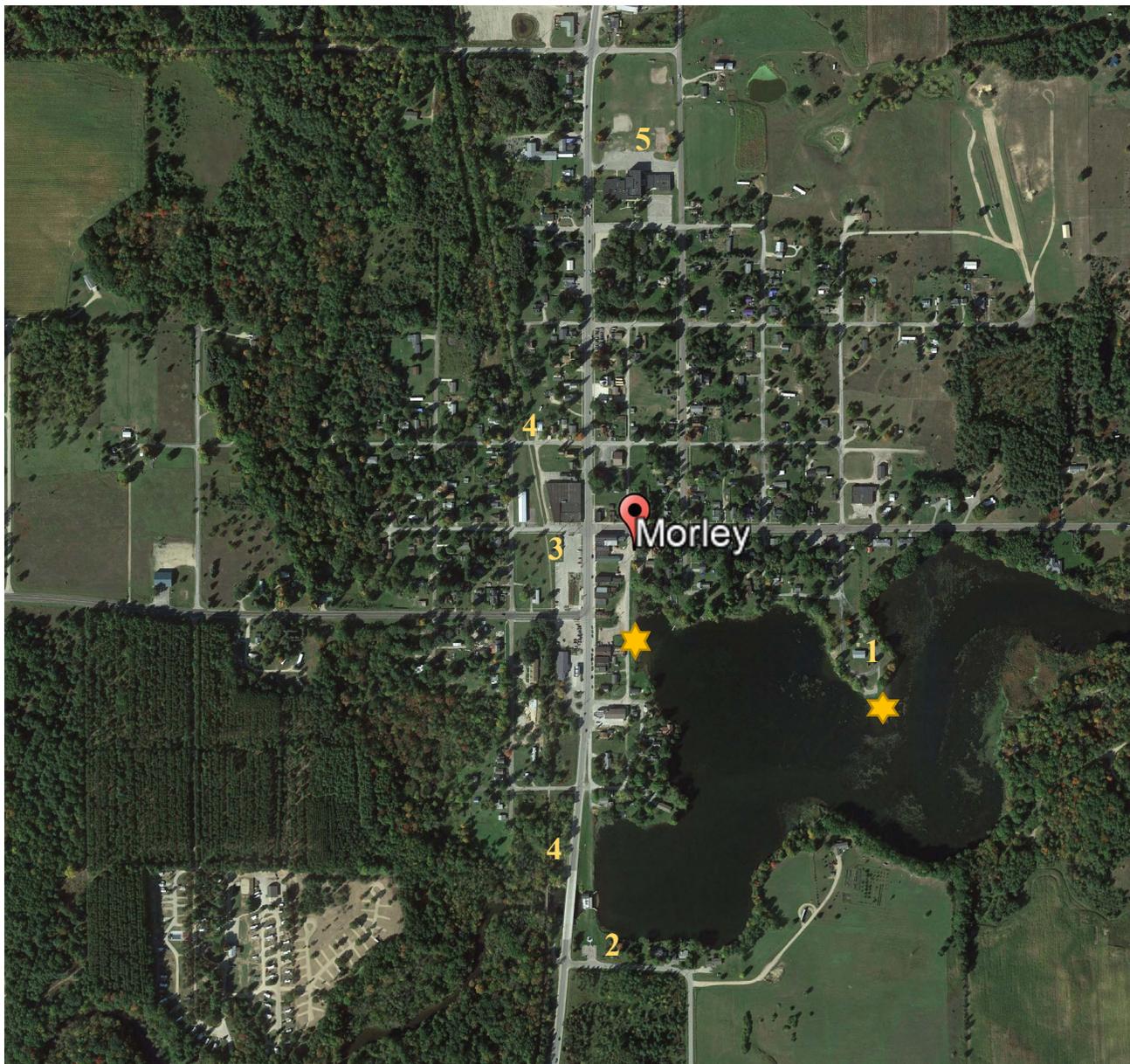
Other Facilities in the Village of Morley

The railroad began to run trains from Grand Rapids to Morley in 1869. After the train tracks were removed in the late 1900s, the track area became the **White Pine Trail**. This trail is also an important linear “park” within the Village of Morley which is owned by the State of Michigan, and is used for hiking, bicycling, and snowmobiling. It was paved during 2023.

Morley Community Center is a volunteer, nonprofit organization that is revitalizing the old Morley School that was closed in 2012. The size of the facility and grounds is approximately 7.5 acres. Several ball fields and a playground are being maintained by the organization and they have recently installed an ice rink. A portion of the outside area is used for flea markets in the summer.

Following Maps: The map on page 7 reflects the existing recreational boating facilities in Mecosta County. The Village of Morley is uncertain as to the criteria of the facility requirements, but the Village has two boating access points. One is located at Latimer Park and the other in the alley behind the Cass Street stores. These access points have ramps and supporting infrastructure (noted on the map on page 7

with stars). An unimproved water access location is also located at the dam area (2 on map on page 7).



Parks and Recreation Areas within the Village of Morley, Mecosta County, Michigan

- 1 Latimer Park
- 2 Frank Deyo Dam & Clyde Clark Park
- 3 Kinney Park
- 4 White Pine Trail (State)
- 5 Morley Community Center (nonprofit)

*Boat Access Points

Accessibility Assessment

Latimer Park

<i>DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks & Recreation Facilities</i>	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

The Village of Morley plans to make the pavilion more accessible by designating a handicapped parking area and making a cement pathway to the pavilion. Future indoor bathroom design will include handicapped accessibility.

Kinney Park

<i>DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks & Recreation Facilities</i>	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

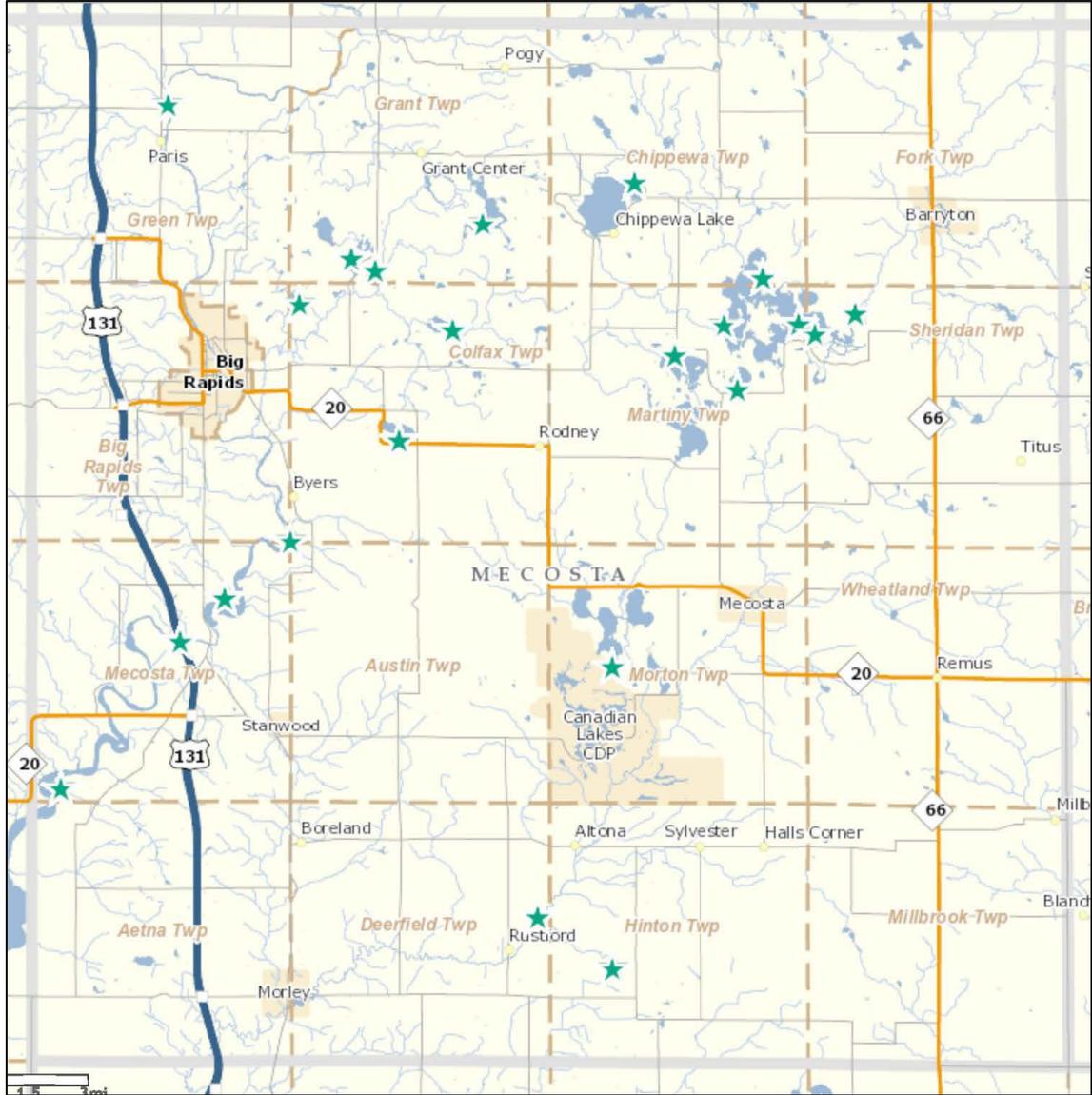
Clyde Clark Park (dam)

<i>DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks & Recreation Facilities</i>	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

Future development of Clyde Clark Park will meet accessibility guidelines.

Inventory of Existing Recreational Boating Facilities

Mecosta County



The above map is from the Michigan DNR website that shows boating access points in Mecosta County. A boating access point is defined as “a designated boat launch location with a ramp and supporting infrastructure.”

Description of the Planning Methods

The following planning methods were used to develop this Five-Year Parks and Recreations Plan for the Village of Morley in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) guidelines.

Comparison to Recreation Standards.

Because of the size of the Village of Morley’s three parks, they would all be considered “Mini-Parks” according to the MDNR “Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space and Trails” classifications. The Village of Morley parks are all contained within a residential area and are less than five acres. But with the population of Morley being just over 500, the acreage of the parks for our size of village is considerable.

According to the MDNR “Suggested Facility Development Standards”, the Village of Morley statistics follow. The existing units are not exclusively property of the Village of Morley but are contained within the Village.

Activity/Facility	No of units required per population	Required to meet Morley’s population of 500	Existing in the Village of Morley
Badminton	1/5000	0	0
Basketball	1/5000	0	5
Handball	1/20,000	0	0
Ice Hockey	1/100,000	0	1
Tennis	1/2000	0	0
Volleyball	1/5000	0	1
Baseball	1/5000	0	2
Field Hockey	1/20,000	0	0
Football	1/20,000	0	0
Soccer	1/10,000	0	0
Golf-driving range	1/50,000	0	0
¼ mile running track	1/20,000	0	0
Softball	1/5,000	0	2
Trails	1 per region	1	1
Archery range	1/50,000	0	0
Skeet and Trap Field	1/50,000	0	0
Golf	1/25,000	0	0
Swimming pool	1/20,000	0	0
Beach areas	N/A	0	0

Public Input Process

Our original survey was initiated during the 2020-2021 COVID pandemic. Due to the COVID pandemic restrictions, much of the input process was done through surveys and emails.

A new survey was distributed in late 2023 and early 2024. It was accessible on Morley's website and advertised on Facebook. It was also distributed in the January 2024 newsletter and handed out to residents. The survey is included on the following page. Compilation of the survey (pages 13-16) was completed in March 2024.

Distribution of the Village of Morley Park & Recreation Plan was conducted through the Village website. Notices of the availability of the Plan were inserted in the April newsletter, Facebook, and Village kiosk. This review process was provided for more than 30 days.

A public hearing on May 13, 2024, was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. A resolution will be passed by the Village Council to complete the process.

Morley Park Survey – 2023-24

The Village of Morley is seeking input from citizens about our parks. Please take a minute and complete the survey. Thank you!

1. How often do you or members of your family visit any Morley park?
 Weekly
 Monthly
 Never
Other: _____

2. What Village Parks have you used (check all that apply)
 Latimer
 Kinney
 Clyde Clark (dam)

3. How do you use Morley’s parks?
 Playground
 Fishing
 Picnic
 Boating
Other: _____

4. On a 1 to 10 scale with 10 being best, how important are Morley’s parks?

5. Do you use parks outside the village of Morley?
 Yes No

6. I would use Latimer Park more if there were:
 more playground equipment
 better bathroom facilities
 better access to water
 better picnic facilities
Other: _____

7. I would use Clyde Clark Park (dam) more often if there were:
 picnic tables
 better access to water
 bathroom facilities
Other: _____

8. I would use Kinney Park more if there were: _____

9. I would like to be involved in the planning and funding of Morley’s parks.
 Yes No

10. Are you a Village of Morley resident?
 Yes No

11. Please provide any additional input on how we can improve our parks in the Village of Morley: _____

12. Please provide your name, phone or email address:



Scan the QR code to the left and go immediately to the Village website and get a link to an online survey.

This survey can be mailed to the Village of Morley, dropped off during business hours or at WeeBee’s Party Store.

Village of Morley
189 S. Cass Street
Morley MI 49336

real security cameras, basketball hoops, benches to sit on, better boat ramp, electricity, no splash pad.

Question 7 - I would use Clyde Clark Park (dam) more often if there were: 38 answered

picnic tables	24	63.16%
better access to water	18	47.37%
bathroom facilities	27	71.05%
Other: Expansion of war memorial, access to water, grills. Need to replace parking lot barrier fence. Things for youth to use, running water to water plants, trash cans, a sidewalk across the dam, need area for canoes to be pulled out - currently too muddy, get geese under control, more benches and better parking, fishing dock.		

Question 8 - I would use Kinney Park more if there were:

Better basketball equipment
 improve gaming activities for kids, upgrade basketball area, paint courts
 better playground equipment
 Not having a garden in the middle
 Activities for children to do. Not enough parking to host community activities. Garden deters me.
 Safer area to play basketball.
 splash pad
 better playground equipment & more tables
 Don't know where Kinney Park is - 3

Question 9 - I would like to be involved in the planning and funding of Morley's parks. 39 responded

Yes	11	28.21%	No	28	71.79%
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Question 10 - Are you a Village of Morley resident? 48 responded

Yes	33	68.75%	No	15	31.25%
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Question 11 - Please provide any additional input on how we can improve our parks in the Village of Morley:

Improve the boat ramp to allow better access for fishing

Continual revitalization will keep families using the parks which will keep families close and revenue to the community. Upgrading fishing access points around the pond, upgrade basketball hoops/courts/activities for the kids, add more picnic areas/update charcoal grills for families to hold gatherings, etc. Need trash receptacles at Clyde Park, upgrade fencing so it's a durable and safe barricade along the parking area.

I would love to see more activities for our youth to be involved.

Hire someone to help keep them clean, flowers watered, areas picked up. find a way to use the dam building.

The parks are so important to the village economy in the summer I think. The amount of people they bring in during the summer months is really important. The improvements over the last few years have been great and I hope we continue to do those types of things.

Get rid of bad houses and burnt down ones

Lattimer Park - Fence playground area. Not one of the Morley parks is safe for small children.

Stock the pond with more decent sized blue gill.

Keep them clean 100% of the time. Daily grounds crew at each park to keep them clean. Playground equipment needs to be inspected regularly.

Having clean, safe bathroom facilities and regular upkeep of the grounds to make them more visually appealing would be awesome. Morley doesn't have the best reputation for being safe, and that's something I'd like to see change.

Evening lighting that better covers the park

More equipment for all age kids.

We need something to bring families to the parks, maybe bringing more families in would keep out the ones who just want to cause trouble.

We would love to see a dog park.

Grills and better setup for group gatherings.

I took my son to the Latimer park and the wooden equipment is broken. Like it was barley hanging on by a screw we had to screw back in my hand that would come out easy. I think it be better if we could get real park equipment that was made of metal. The swings I think are great, but maybe a teeter totter as well. Also, there is no where to park besides on the side of the road. Another concern I have is that the park is surrounded by water so having a better fence would also be really great because kids run off so fast. Other things that could be added could be, a sand box, things for kids to climb, maybe more equipment that toddlers could use. The only thing my son can really do is go down the slide or on the swings.

The only park that has anything for people to do is Latimer. It would be nice to see some play ground equipment at Kinney park as well, especially with the school doing the free lunches there in the summer.

Have a splash pad for summer fun.

Splash Pad would be a welcome addition.

Boardwalk around boat launch.

Dredge pond - add fishing & swimming.

put a fishing dock in at Latimer Park

Put steps down the west bank (of Latimer Park)

Put fishing dock in at Clyde Park.

Clean up swimming area.

ask local businesses to donate monies for advertising signs...and put into park...like Canadian Lakes does.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTION PROGRAM

The Village of Morley is a low-income area and parks are important to its residents and the public for recreation, relaxation, exercise, social gatherings, etc.

Goal #1 – The Village of Morley desires to provide recreational opportunities to its residents and public in Latimer Park.

Objectives	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Objective – Provide more playground equipment.		X			
Objective – Improve and promote the boat ramp facility.		X			
Objective – Improve the pavilion bathrooms	X				
Objective – Obtain funding to provide Splashpad for youth			X		
Objective – Provide the park with fencing to prevent traffic on grass.		X			
Objective – Improve Swimming Area				X	X
Objective – Create a Boardwalk				X	X
Objective – Build a dock in conjunction with a boat launch			X		

Goal #2 – The Village of Morley desires to improve Clyde Clark Park at the Deyo Dam.

Objective	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Objective – Fix and repair the dam according to EGLE specifications.	X	X			
Objective – Encourage the group that has jurisdiction over the Veteran Monument to repair the monument.	X				
Objective – Provide better fencing around the parking area.		X			
Objective – Place more picnic tables and benches at the park		X			
Objective – Improve an area for a kayak launch		X	X		

Goal #3 – The Village of Morley desires to improve Kinney Park.

Objective	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Objective – Signage placed along White Pine Trail		X	X		
Objective – Improve the bathroom facilities.		X			
Objective – Improve the basketball facilities by painting free shot lines.	X				

Goal #4 – The Village desires to improve the pond area in the alley behind the stores.

Objective	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Objective – Improve the boat launch and kayak area			X		
Objective – Create Pontoon Tie-ups		X	X		
Objective – Install benches		X	X		

Action Program

Because the Village of Morley is a small rural village, general funds are limited. The Village of Morley plans to submit grant proposals to accomplish the goals and objectives as previously stated. The Village submitted a SPARK grant that was not funded in 2023 to construct a Splashpad, boat launch, and other items at Latimer Park. The Village will continue to seek funding for park improvements.

Supporting Documentation

Notice of Draft Plan for 30 Days of Public Comment

In April newsletter (mailed April 10):

We have been working on a Park & Recreation Plan for the last few years. It is finally in the public review phase. Please check our website to review the plan or ask for a copy. The Village will conduct a Public Hearing on May 13 at 6:45 PM for any input and questions.

On Website (March 20):

The Village of Morley has created a draft Park & Recreation Plan for our three parks. This Plan is available for review for at least 30 days by the public. Then a public hearing will be held to approve the Plan for submittal to the State. After the State approves the Plan, the Village will be able to apply for State funding for our parks. Please review the Plan and send any comments to the email above. The Plan can be obtained by clicking [HERE](#).

On Facebook (March 20):

[Village of Morley](#)

The Village of Morley has drafted a Park & Recreation Plan and is in the process of public review. After the review period, a public hearing will be scheduled for further comments before the Plan is submitted to the State for their approval. The plan can be found on the Village website at villageofmorley.com and comments can be made by emailing the Village Clerk. Once the Plan is approved by the State, the Village will be able to apply for State funding for our parks.

Notice of the Public Hearing

In newsletter:

Monday, May 13, 6:45 PM at Village Hall
Public Hearing for Village Park & Recreation Plan.

In local newspaper:

0032 Public Notices

**ATTENTION VILLAGE OF
MORLEY RESIDENTS
NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING**

A Public Hearing is scheduled for May 13, 2024 at 6:45 PM before the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Morley Village Hall for the purpose of discussing the adoption of the Village of Morley Park & Recreation Plan.

Pioneer 4/29/24

The Village of Morley has drafted a Park & Recreation Plan to submit to the State. It has been under public review and public input will be officially received at this Public Hearing. For a copy of the Park & Recreation Plan please contact the Village of Morley or visit their website.

Public comments either oral or written, are welcome at the Public Hearing. Persons with disabilities who need assistance or aid should contact the Morley Village Hall during regular working hours at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.

Terry Stilson
Village of Morley Clerk

Minutes of the Public Hearing:

Morley Village Public Hearing
Village of Morley Park & Recreation Plan

MINUTES

189 S Cass St (Village Hall)

May 13, 2024 6:45 PM

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: at 6:45 PM by President Petersen

Present: Henry Petersen, President; Austin Korpala, Trustee; Serine Petersen, Trustee; Sandra Leal, Trustee; Paul Block, Trustee; Linda Kizer, Trustee, Terry Stilson, Clerk/Deputy Treasurer and Abbey Kooiman, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk.

Absent: None.

Guests: Ron & Jane Irwin, Michelle Lewis, Chad Leal, Teresa O’Neil, Dana Myers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC MATTERS AND COMMENTS: None.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- **Village of Morley Park & Recreation Plan** – Suggested changes:
 - **Page 3** – first paragraph, last sentence, change “his” to “its”. Last paragraph on page should read “Since there are only two boat launches, all fishermen with boats and recreational boaters use Latimer Park or the alley behind the stores.”
 - **Page 4** – Add Steve Weed to Parks & Recreation Committee as co-chair.
 - **Page 6** – Add “and Clyde Clark” after “Frank Deyo Dam”. Last sentence in this paragraph should read “The park is a popular area for fishermen.”
 - Under Kinney Park change “town” to “village” and add “Basketball courts are used extensively.
 - Last paragraph – change “page 8” to read “page 7.”
 - **Page 7** – Add “Clyde Clark” after “Frank Deyo Dam”.
 - **Page 10** – first sentence – change “was” to “were”.
 - **Page 11** – after review process is done – update.
 - **Page 17** – Under Goal 1 add “Improve Swimming area” for years 2027 and 2028. Add “Boardwalk” to years 2027 and 2028. Add “Dock” to 2027 and 2028.
 - **Under Goal 2 add “Clyde Clark Park” to the verbiage.** Add “benches and picnic tables” to objectives. Add “improve area for kayak launch”.
 - **Page 18** – Remove first objective and add “signage for stores” and city limit “Welcome to Morley” along the trail.
 - **Add Goal #4** – Behind Alley – and objectives as “Improve boat launch” “Kayak area” and “Pontoon boat ties” and “benches.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: H. Petersen adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by: Terry Stilson, Village of Morley Clerk

Minutes from the Meeting to Pass Resolution

Copies of Letters to County and Regional Planning Agencies

Resolution for Village of Morley Park and Recreation Plan

Village of Morley, Mecosta County

WHEREAS, the Village of Morley has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering 2024-2028, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Morley began the process of developing a community park and recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Village of Morley were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on May 13, 2024 to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Village of Morley Park and Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Morley has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Village of Morley, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Village of Morley voted to adopt said Village of Morley Park and Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Village of Morley hereby adopts the Village of Morley Park and Recreation Plan.

Yeas:

Nays:

Absent:

I, Terry Stilson, Village Clerk, do certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Village of Morley at a regular meeting thereof held on the 10th day of June, 2024.

Signature