



*Old Facefull, Thirteen Mile Road
End, Pierport*



Glen Park Wellhouses



North Point Park Bench Area

Parks and Recreation Inventory

Conducting the Parks and Recreation Inventory

The inventory of parks and recreation sites and opportunities contained in this Five-Year Plan was conducted in 2008 by listing and numbering the sites, most of which had also been photographed in 2008. All of the parks were described from observation as to the park type, park name, purpose and use, recreation opportunities and support facilities, accessibility to people with disabilities, and general accessibility of the site in regard to roads and road surfaces. Also described from observation were the recreation sites not designated as parks, including the Onekama School, for which similar information was gained. The sizes of the parks and recreation sites were derived from deeds and plat maps; the addresses, from address directories and telephone books. The information for the private recreational sites and opportunities was found in tourism guides.

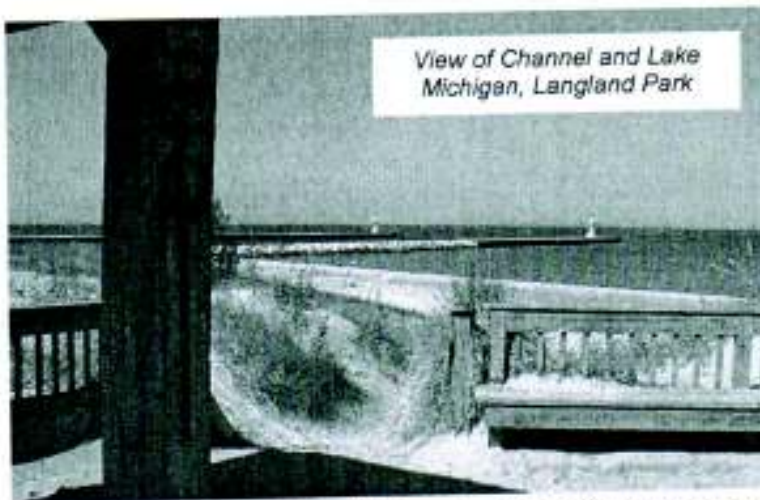
Inventory of Public Recreation Sites and Opportunities within the Political Boundaries of the Community (See Maps on Page A-23)

Public Parks

Captain John Langland Park (The Turnaround at the Lake Michigan Shoreline North of the Channel)—#5 on Map) West End of Second Street, Portage Point, Onekama Township.

- ❖ Community park, natural resource area
- ❖ Over a half mile of Lake Michigan Shoreline, acreage unknown
- ❖ Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare
- ❖ Beaches, swimming, access to Channel north pier for fishing and walking, picnicking, Lake views, watching sunset

This popular area with over a half mile of Lake Michigan Shoreline includes a large, asphalt-paved parking lot, a deck with two gazebos that is handicap accessible, and stairs to the Lake Michigan beach. The beach, which is a public land that is platted as Lake Michigan Avenue in Portage Point Resort, leads southward to the north pier of the Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel, where fishermen congregate and others walk to obtain a better view of the waters. The beach is extensively used during the warmer months for walking, sunbathing, and swimming. Portable toilets are provided here during the summer months.



View of Channel and Lake Michigan, Langland Park

People also watched sunsets from their cars until a dune built up along the west edge of the parking lot, making it impossible to see the Lake from that location in all but the northwest corner, where the dune was removed for an access road when the Channel piers were renovated beginning in 2001. Many young people like to assemble in this Park at night during the summer.

Maintenance of this area, which includes sand removal, placing trash containers, and renting portable toilets, is shared by Onekama Township and the Manistee County Road Commission, which has jurisdiction over this public land. Some volunteer help for sand

removal has been available in the past. Since 2006, the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation has had the sand removed from the gazebo complex, which was completed in 1994 with funds provided by a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Coastal Zone Grant and Onekama Township. An historical marker honors Captain John Langland, the first and only keeper of the north pierhead light on the Channel (1891-1917).

The Park is named for Langland, being designated as "Captain John Langland Park" by the Township Board in 1995. Because it includes the shoreline beach, which is Lake Michigan Avenue that is open to the public, the boundaries are unlimited and the actual acreage is unknown. The area is often called "no man's land." The Park serves the residents and seasonal residents of Onekama Village and Township, and draws visitors from neighboring Townships, as well as those visiting the area from far and wide. As has been stated, it is in the Portage Point Resort; it is also very near Portage Park Resort. It is, therefore, used extensively by much of the resort population of Onekama Village and Township. It could, therefore, be classified as a "community park." However, with its open space, aesthetic views, and critical sand dunes, it is also a natural resource area.

The Park is very accessible, being at the end of Second Street, which connects to Portage Point Road, a thoroughfare that is the only access road to Portage Point. Second Street and Portage Point Road are asphalt paved. As far as accessibility for those with disabilities, the park would be rated as having some of the facilities and park area meeting accessibility guidelines. The gazebo complex is the only accommodation that was built for this purpose, although it can only be accessed by those with disabilities from the parking lot. Stairs lead from it to the beach.

North Point Park—(#10 on Map) Northeast of West and South Greenway Off of Seymour beyond Lake Park Drive, Onekama Township.

- ❖ Community park
- ❖ 60 acres+-
- ❖ Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved and graveled roads
- ❖ Asphalt-paved, stone-paved, and primitive walking and biking trails, nature walking

This land, a former golf course that was deeded to Onekama Township in 1946, was designated as "North Point Park" in 2002 by the Township Board. It has been a project of the Parks and Recreation Committee since that time. A conceptual master plan was created in 2001-2002 by Landscape Architect Warren Rauhe from ideas and models by Landscape Architecture Program students in Rauhe's Small Town Design Initiative at Michigan State University. Included in this Park is the Blanche Miller Trail, which has an asphalt-paved 3,203-foot Long Loop, a crushed-stone 1,134-foot Short Loop, and a 2,730-foot unpaved Primitive Loop.

The Trail (see map on A-10) leads people through open areas, and lightly and heavily wooded areas. The Long Loop and Short Loop Trails, which are 8 feet in width, can be used by those walking, jogging, bicycling, cross-country skiing, and snow shoeing. Roller blading also can be accomplished on the Long Loop. Bicyclists and those roller blading would find the 4-foot wide Primitive Trail difficult for use. A brochure, [Walking with Nature](#), has been published and contains descriptions of fifty-eight plants, shrubs, and trees growing along the Trail, which is marked as to their locations. The North Point Park Appreciation and Awareness Day is held during Onekama Days in August, which is a Community celebration of the work that has been done by volunteers and through funds from grants and generous donations to the Park.



The Park is named for North Point on which it is located. North Point extends into nearby Portage Lake and is also known locally as "Andy's Point." It is a community park, as it is extensively used by the residents and seasonal residents of Onekama Village and Township. It also serves many visitors to the area. The Park is approximately 60 acres in size and is bounded on the west, north, and east by platted but unopened roadways. On the south is South Greenway, which leads to the 20-car asphalt-paved parking lot for the Park.

From Portage Point Road, a thoroughfare that extends from M-22 to the Channel and that is the only access to Portage Point, asphalt-paved Seymour leads five blocks east to the Lake Park intersection and South Greenway, on which the Park is located to the north in the next block, making it very accessible. South Greenway, which is gravel surfaced, must be traveled only a block to reach the parking lot of the Park. An entrance at Willow Way from Bayview, which is asphalt-paved and also leads off of Portage Point Road, provides pedestrian access on an asphalt-paved path to the Park. This path leads from a short distance of gravel two-track extending from Bayview. The entrances are marked with large stones on which bronze markers have been placed.

A fence surrounds the Long and Short Loops of the Trail, and the entrances have baffles to prevent the entrance of motorized vehicles that might damage the surfaces of these loops. However, owing to the flatness of the topography, these loops were designed and paved with accessibility for those with disabilities and special needs in mind. Wheel chairs can enter the fenced area of the park through the baffles, so most of the facilities and park area meet accessibility guidelines. The Primitive Loop is not designed for those with disabilities. Another purpose of providing the Trail facilities in the Park is to reduce the pedestrian and bicycle traffic on the shoulders of Portage Point Road.

Glen Park—(#13 on Map) West Side of Fourth Avenue above Main Street (M-22), Onekama.

- ❖ Natural resource area
- ❖ 12 acres+-
- ❖ None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Remnant landscape—including a creek, springs, and wellhouses—recalling a significant part of the area's historical past; trails to observe flora and fauna
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare



Glen Park Lower Entrance

Glen Park marks the site of the first bona fide resort in Manistee County. The area was developed in the 1880's because of the mineral springs that existed. Today, the mineral springs still run, with several of them originating under wellhouses that were reconstructed in 1976. The wooded parkland was donated to Onekama Township in 1961, although it had been used by the public for many years. Unpaved trails with wooden footbridges run along and across spring-fed Glen Creek; a stairway connects the Springs and valley with unpaved trails along the wooded ridge in the upper areas of the Park and the parking lot. The Park is used by students of the Onekama School, who also have assisted in its maintenance, to observe wildlife and identify plants. Students in the Onekama Community Corps made repairs in the Park during 2000. The Township is responsible for maintaining this Park, even though it is within Village limits.

Glen Park is named for the Springs and Creek that are its central features. It is a natural area that has been set aside for the preservation of significant flora and fauna, and a landscape that recalls a significant part of the Town's historical past. The Park, which is a delight for Village and Township residents and seasonal residents as well as visitors to the area, is a 12-acre site that is accessible from asphalt-paved Fourth Avenue that

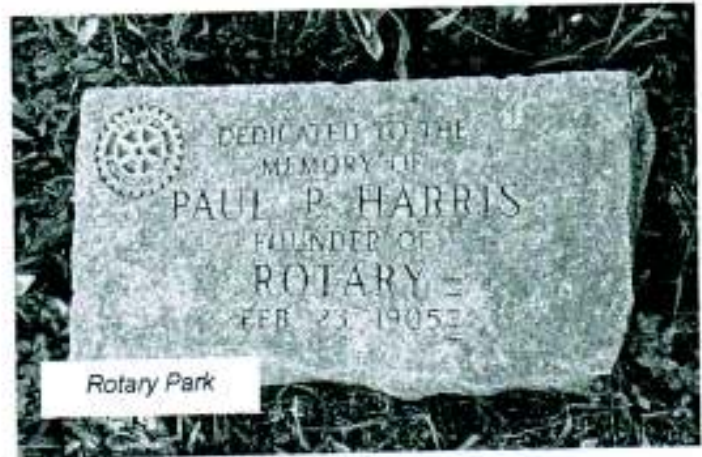
connects with M-22 (Main Street) in the Village. One entrance is off of Fourth Avenue around a block north of M-22. The entrance is at a mown area before Fourth Avenue makes the steep rise to the hilltop. An unpaved parking lot adjoins Fourth Avenue on the hilltop overlooking the Park, where the other entrance is located. None of the facilities and the Park areas meet accessibility guidelines; because of the Park's erratic topography and historical landscaping, it would not be practical or appropriate to have it meet accessibility guidelines.

Rotary Park—(#14 on Map) Northeast Corner of Main Street and First Avenue, Onekama.

- ❖ Mini-park
- ❖ .303 of an acre+-
- ❖ Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare

- ❖ Recalling the area's historical past with Rotary's founder, enjoying open space with trees and flowers, picnicking

A bubbling stream runs at the eastern edge of this mini-park that has two historical markers telling of Rotary Founder Paul P. Harris, who summered for many years nearby. The markers are surrounded by ornamental plantings. Shade trees also have been planted in Rotary Park, which was dedicated in memory of Harris in 1991, when the Park was developed by the Manistee Rotary Club. This area, which provides open space, is marked as a park in the 1903 Standard Atlas of Manistee County, Michigan, George A. Ogle & Co., Chicago, in the plat of the West Addition to Onekama.



This mini-park, which is on an approximately .303-acre site maintained by the Village of Onekama, is used by residents and seasonal residents as well as visitors to the area. It is a stopping point for many who are interested in the history of the Rotary Club; it also has picnic tables. The Park fronts on M-22 (Main Street) and is very accessible. It is flat, except for the area along the stream, which is on the east side of the Park. First Street borders the west side, and an alley is on the north side. All of these roadways provide access to Rotary Park, which would be considered as mostly meeting accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities.

Onekama Village Park—(#15 on Map) South Side of 4700-4800 Blocks of Main Street, Onekama.

- ❖ Community park
- ❖ 3.914 acres+-
- ❖ Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare
- ❖ Swimming beach, boating, picnicking, multi-purpose sports area, concerts, children's play area, enjoying open space with trees and flowers, and recalling the area's historical past

The Onekama Village Park, which was first developed in 1939 by WPA crews, is located on Portage Lake, and has facilities for parking forty cars and boat trailers. Parking also is available for thirty-two additional cars. There are a boat-launching ramp, a bathhouse with indoor toilets and sinks that are handicap accessible, a swimming beach, a multi-purpose sports area, a children's play area, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, and grills. The Park is landscaped with many trees for shade. The Park also contains the historical marker, "The Portage Lake Region"; the Memorial Fountain, which is on the National Register of Historic Places; and the "Music" propeller. The Park is owned, operated, and maintained by the Village of Onekama.



In 2008, a jetty was completed adjacent to the existing Village Park boat launch. The jetty was added to help decrease the necessity for annual dredging of the natural drifting of sand by the boat launch. The project was accomplished through a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Waterways Division in the amount of \$63,000.

Although the Onekama Village Park is not large (approximately 3.914 acres), it is a community park, which serves Village and Township residents and seasonal residents as well as visitors to the area. It can be easily accessed from M-22 (Main Street), which borders it on the north. A paved extension of Portage Street borders it on the east. Some of the facilities and Park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities.

Zosel Street Walk-in Park—(#17 on Map) South End of Zosel Street at Portage Lake, Onekama.

- ❖ Mini-park
- ❖ .181 of an acre+-
- ❖ Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare
- ❖ Enjoying open space, Lake access and views, viewing nature

This is a mini-park at the end of Zosel Street that provides access to Portage Lake. Of interest to many is the waterfowl from Portage Lake that flock here, even though there is a Village ordinance in Onekama that prohibits the feeding of this wildlife. This .181-acre park is flat and is very accessible for those with disabilities. It is used, for the most part, as an observation area for Village residents. Maintained by the Village of Onekama, it is only a block south of Main Street (M-22); Zosel Street is asphalt paved.

Feldhak Park—(#21 on Map) Southwest of Eight Mile Road and M-22, Onekama Township.

- ❖ Natural resource area
- ❖ 2.415 acres+-
- ❖ Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare
- ❖ Enjoying open space and wetlands, lake views, viewing nature, picnicking

This parkland was donated to Onekama Township in 1993, by members of the Harry F. Feldhak family with provision that no structures are to be placed on the property. This open space surrounded by wetlands provides a view of Portage Lake at the south entrance to the Village. It was designated as a Park by the Township Board in 2005 and named in honor of the late Harry Feldhak. It is approximately 2.415 acres of Lakefront property and contains a picnic table and a monument with a bronze plaque indicating the Park's name. A unpaved parking lot is at the edge of the Park just beyond the shoulder of M-22 on which the Park fronts; it is most enjoyed by people driving past it who have a view of the lawn, wetlands, and Portage Lake.

Feldhak Park is flat with grass that is kept mowed and therefore is mostly accessible for those with disabilities. This Park would be classified as a "natural resource area" that is providing open space and preserving wetlands, which border the Park on the north, west, and south, and contain cattails. A boardwalk to access Portage Lake through these wetlands on the west was designed by students in Michigan State University's Small Town Design Initiative of the Landscape Architecture Program in 2007 for enVision Manistee County.

Carden Park—(#22 on Map) East Side of Kay Street near Its Intersection with John Street behind Manistee County Fairgrounds, Onekama Township.

- ❖ Natural resource area
- ❖ 1.138 acres+-
- ❖ None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved and graveled streets
- ❖ Fishing in wooded stream, observing nature

With the fast-flowing waters of Schimke Creek rippling and winding through this wooded setting, Carden Park offers an excellent opportunity for fishing in a natural setting. Lots 24 and 25, totaling approximately 1.138 acres in the Hugh Kenny Subdivision, were donated by members of the Carden family in 1994 to Onekama Township in honor of the late Clarence C. "Bud" Carden. This park, which is used by nearby residents for fishing, would be classified as a "natural resource area" that is preserving a wooded stream. It was dedicated as "Carden Park" in 2005. The Park is marked with a rustic wooden sign and is easily accessible from Kay Street, on which it fronts. Kay Street is gravel surfaced and intersects with asphalt-paved John Street; John Street leads from M-22. However, the Park is not accessible by those with disabilities because of its heavily wooded terrain and its being interrupted by the Creek.



Road Ends, Public Lands, and Public Recreation Facilities

Burnham Street Road End at Lake Michigan—(#1 on Map) West End of Burnham Street, Hopkins Addition to Pierport, Onekama Township.

- ❖ .537 of an acre+-
- ❖ None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from graveled roads
- ❖ Lake views, swimming beach

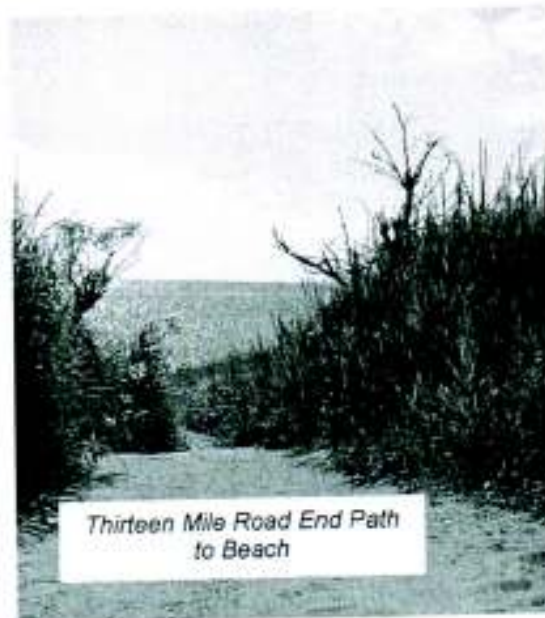
This approximately .537-acre Road End with only 66 feet of lakefront runs to the water's edge; beaches and lands surrounding it are private property. It is a public access under the jurisdiction of the Manistee County Road Commission and is heavily used by neighboring and area residents and seasonal residents for viewing the lake and swimming. A gravel road leads into the Burnham Street Road End from gravel-surfaced Lakeview, which is the principal access road to the neighborhood. The Road End then turns to grass and then to sand as it nears the Lake Michigan Shore. A steep bluff with a path among the beach grass leads to the shore and is not accessible by those with disabilities.

Lake Michigan Beach at Thirteen Mile Road End Turnaround—(#2 on Map) West End of Thirteen Mile Road, Pierport, Onekama Township.

- ❖ .274 of an acre+-
- ❖ Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare
- ❖ Lake views, viewing sunsets, artesian well, swimming beach

Facilities include a paved parking area and public access to the Lake Michigan beach. A short distance away from the beach at the end of Thirteen Mile Road, the "Old Facefull" artesian well has supplied drinking water for many years. Swimming, viewing the Lake, and watching the sunset are favorite activities in this area, which was once the waterfront of a nineteenth century lumber-era town that had two piers for Lake shipping.

This approximately .274-acre Road End is currently under the jurisdiction of and maintained by the Manistee County Road Commission. A gift of additional Lake Michigan shore to the north of this Road End is anticipated; it is planned for this area to be designated as a park to legally allow residents, seasonal residents, and visitors, who come from surrounding Townships as well as the local area, to enjoy the full use of the beach, which is slightly below the level of the parking area and is difficult for those with disabilities to access it. The parking area, which is paved, does afford a view of the Lake. Thirteen Mile Road is a major east-west asphalt-paved road near the northern boundary of Onekama Township.

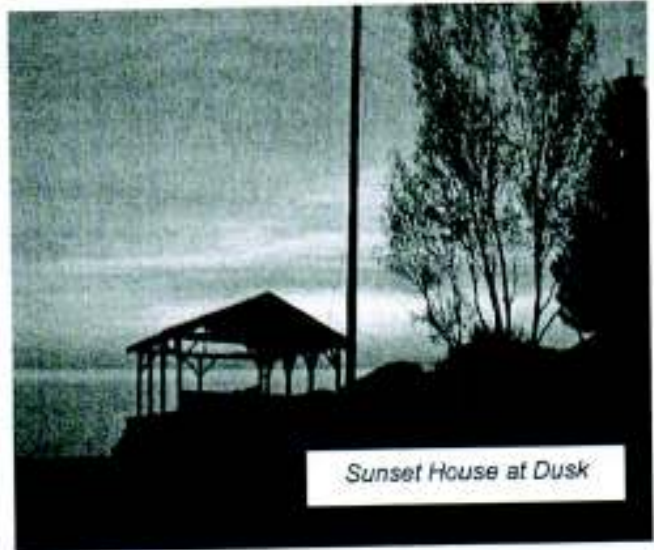


Thirteen Mile Road End Path to Beach

Sunset House—(#3 on Map) Lakeisle Avenue Road End at Lake Michigan, Onekama Township.

- ❖ .202 of an acre+-
- ❖ None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfares
- ❖ Lake views, viewing sunsets, swimming beach, sunbathing, picnicking

This traditional public access to Lake Michigan in Portage Park Resort has boardwalks and stairs leading to a small structure with benches from which to watch the sunset, and leading onto the beach for picnicking, sunbathing, swimming, and walking by the water in the platted shoreline area designated as "Lake Michigan Avenue." Fire rings are provided to contain fires. This Road End, which is approximately .202 of an acre, is under the jurisdiction of the Manistee County Road Commission but is maintained through agreement by the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation, the property owners association for Portage Park subdivisions and Portage Point. The area contained the waterfront and pier for the small lumber-era village of Portage, which was located in what is now Portage Park during the nineteenth century. A few years after Portage Park Resort's 1915 platting and at least by the 1920's, the original Sunset House was constructed of rustic log timbers at this Road End.



Sunset House at Dusk

Lakeisle Avenue is asphalt paved, extending around two blocks westward from Portage Point Road, which is a paved thoroughfare from M-22 to the Channel and the only access to most properties along Portage Lake and Lake Michigan west of M-22. Lakeisle ends at Lakeside, another asphalt-paved road from which the stairs and boardwalks for the Sunset House begin. Most seasonal residents of Portage Park Resort use this Road End. Many area residents and seasonal residents use it as well, although parking is limited to the edges of the roads. The north side of Lakeisle near the intersection has been marked "no parking." There has been no attempt to make this area accessible to those with disabilities.

Ninth Street Road End at Lake Michigan—(#4 on Map) West End of Ninth Street, Portage Point, Onkama Township.

- ❖ .096 of an acre+-
- ❖ None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare and road
- ❖ Lake views, viewing sunsets, swimming beach, sunbathing, picnicking

This Road End is under the jurisdiction of and maintained by the Manistee County Road Commission, and is another traditional public access to the Lake Michigan beach along Lake Michigan Avenue for picnicking, sunbathing, swimming, and walking by the water. Fire rings are provided to contain fires. It is extensively used by guests of the Portage Point Inn and resorters of Portage Point, although there does not seem to be as much use by area residents, seasonal residents, and visitors. Early photographs taken just after Portage Point Resort's 1902 platting show this Road End's descent to the beach and Lake Michigan as very steep, but nonetheless being used for access by resorters of that era who had to walk on boardwalks in the unopened but platted roads to reach this and other areas on the Point.

It currently is not marked with public access posts because the entrance has been in litigation for sometime. There are no boardwalks, stairs, or structures of any kind at this Road End, which is approximately .096 of an acre. Ninth Street is asphalt paved and is one block long leading westward from Portage Point Road, a main thoroughfare, to Lakeside Avenue, which is unpaved, and on to this recreational area. Ninth Street Road End's entrance is somewhat obscured because of a sharp turn in Ninth Street leading northwesterly to a private garage, which is next to another sharp turn required to begin the path westward down to the beach. There is very little parking space along the sides of the roads. The bluff at this Road End slopes gently to the beaches on Lake Michigan, providing a sandy path for access, although it is a challenge for the elderly and those with health problems. There are no provisions for accessibility by those who are disabled.

Community Dock—(#8 on Map) Outlet Avenue Road End at Portage Lake East of South Portage Point Drive, Onkama Township.

- ❖ .148 of an acre+-

- ❖ None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare
- ❖ Dock for swimming, sunbathing, fishing, and boating

A dock has for many years been placed at this traditional Portage Park Resort public access to Portage Lake. The Community Dock is open to the public and is for the use of swimmers, sunbathers, fishermen, and boaters. Boats are not to be moored in the waters of this Road End. The beach on what is Lakeview Avenue, which was at one time well groomed with excess sand from the Sunset House being placed on it, has become a weedy wetland due to the low waters of Portage Lake. The beach itself is no longer popular for sunbathing. The Road End, which is approximately .148 acres, and Dock are maintained by the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation through an agreement with Onekama Township, which has jurisdiction over this Road End.

This Road End and Dock are used mostly by the seasonal residents of Portage Park, although there is some use by area residents, seasonal residents, and visitors. A wooden stairway at the edge of Portage Point Road leads from the entrance of this Road End down to the cement sidewalk that was placed at the north edge of this Road End in the early years of Portage Park Resort, which was platted in 1915. This sidewalk leads through a tall stand of arbor vitas to the Dock. The area is not accessible to those with disabilities.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Launch Site—(#9 on Map) West End of Lake Park Drive, Onekama Township.

- ❖ 1.240 acres+-
- ❖ Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved road
- ❖ Boating



The M-DNR maintains this facility on North "Andy's" Point for launching fishing and pleasure boats into Portage Lake. Toilets and parking are provided. Because of the large unpaved parking lot leading to the boat ramp directly from Lake Park on level ground, it is accessible by those with disabilities. This facility is on lots in Portage Park Addition that comprise an area of around 1.240 of an acre. It can be reached by taking Seymour five blocks east from Portage Point Road and then turning south on Lake Park, driving one block, and then on into the M-DNR Launch Site right after Lake Park intersects with West Fairway. The roads are all asphalt.

Artesian Well—(#11 on Map) Portage Point Road Northwest of Little Eden Camp, 3721 East Portage Point Drive, Onekama Township.

- ❖ Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare
- ❖ Artesian well

In a shady semi-circle of cedars right at the edge of the Road is an artesian well that has flowed since the early years of the twentieth century. Before Portage Point Road was widened in 1989, the rockery contained an iron kettle as a basin from which horses could drink in the early years. Pleasant-tasting water from this well that is owned by Little Eden Camp is collected in containers by many area and local residents, seasonal residents, and visitors, and has been considered an important part of life in the resort areas for many years. It is easily accessible, as it is located on the shoulder of Portage Point Road, the asphalt-paved thoroughfare that leads from M-22 to the Channel and that is the only access for Portage Point. There is some parking along the unpaved shoulder of the Road, where it has been widened. The Manistee County Road Commission assists in maintaining this well.

Farr Center—(#20 on Map) 5283 Main Street, Onekama.

- ❖ Community park

- ❖ .577 of an Acre+-
- ❖ Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare
- ❖ Public hall, Library, lake views, Butterfly Garden, memorial patio, landscaped areas, children's play area, Community Christmas Tree, picnicking

The former Onekama Farm Bureau Building and land for Farr Center were donated to the Village by Newton C. Farr in 1949. Farr made this donation in honor of his father, Marvin A. Farr; sister, Barbara Farr Chinnock; and uncle, Augustine W. Farr, who was the first president of Onekama when Village Government was organized in 1891. The facility houses Village offices, records, and meeting rooms; provides a hall for meetings and social events, and has a wing for the Onekama Branch of the Manistee County Library.

Several Village study clubs and the Portage Lake Garden Club, which has done much of the landscaping surrounding the building, meet in the hall of Farr Center, which also has kitchen facilities. Meals are served to senior citizens here, too, three times a week through a program of the Manistee County Council on Aging. There is a stone mural in this room that was designed by Anice Guimond and installed by the Clio Club, which met in the Hall. The hall, which recently has been upgraded with the addition of new heat and air conditioning, is for rent to individuals and organizations.



Stone Mural in Hall of Farr Center

Farr Center is located on a number of lots, several of which have been added since the original gift of the building; these lots total .577 of an acre. It is easily accessible as the property is adjacent to asphalt-paved Main Street (M-22). The landscaped grounds contain an asphalt-paved parking lot that was planned for twenty-nine cars, picnic tables, children's play animals, a Butterfly Garden and memorial patio with a metal butterfly seat as its centerpiece, and a large spruce tree that becomes the Community Christmas Tree when lighted by the Portage Lake Association in November. The grounds front on Portage Lake affording a beautiful view of the Lake from inside and outside of the building. A high seawall (from the surface of the water) with a railing at the Lake precludes access to it from this property. A wetland is at present at the edge of the Lake, due to the low water. Watching a variety of birds on the Lake from this location is an entertaining experience for many.

The Library was added to the building in 1965; this wing was completely rebuilt and rededicated in 1997. Besides offering books that are currently on its shelves from the County Library, the Branch Library has access to any of the materials offered by the County Library; all items can be checked out by anyone having an address in the County. There is also a great selection of audio tapes and audio CD's as well as music CD's, magazines, videos, and DVD's. Interlibrary loan is available for patron's requests that cannot be located in the County system. The Portage Lake Garden Club has a special section for books on gardening and nature that the Club has donated.



Farr Center

An active summer reading program is provided for youngsters in addition to summer programs for entertainment, including story times, puppet shows, and occasionally a live band. There are also craft shows that provide hands-on activities for young and old alike. There are six up-to-date computers available for use; all have internet access. Wireless access is also available for people to use laptops inside or at any time outside of the building. The library has become more of a community gathering place that has brought a variety of people together through various programs and the love of reading.

Farr Center is widely used by Village and Township residents and seasonal residents. Most of it is accessible by those with disabilities. It is all on one floor and can be accessed from Main Street or the parking lot over level terrain.

Manistee County Fairgrounds—(#23 on Map) Northeast of M-22 and Jones Road, Onekama Township.

- ❖ 20 acres+-
- ❖ Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare
- ❖ Fairs, racetrack events, pavilion for social and Community events

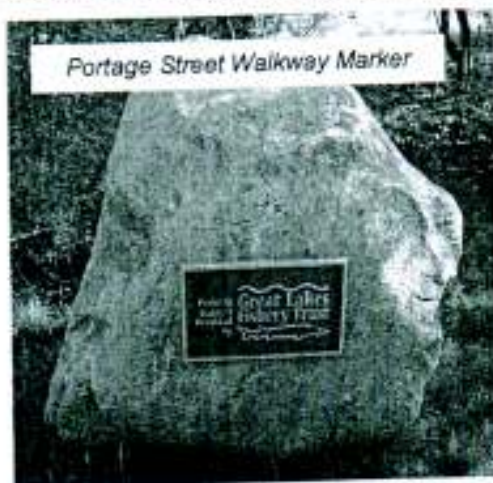
Owned and operated by the Manistee County Fair Board, this 20-acre facility includes concession stands; buildings for 4-H, livestock, and other displays during the annual Manistee County Fair, a horse/auto racetrack; a grandstand; and parking. A pavilion for horticultural displays and dancing has been renovated by the Onekama Lions Club and is used by them throughout the year for their meetings, public dinners, and weekly Bingo games. It also is offered for rent for private parties and Community events. Events, such as the Energy Fair, are also offered to the public on the Fairgrounds throughout the year. Because the Fairgrounds front on M-22, the main entrance of the Fairgrounds is just off of M-22, making events scheduled there very accessible. The entrance road is asphalt paved; parking areas are not paved. Some of the Fairgrounds and buildings are accessible by those with disabilities. The entire acreage is flat. Residents and seasonal residents of the entire County use and/or attend events at the Fairgrounds.



Portage Street Walkway—(#28 on Map) Portage Street Road End Located near 2046 Crescent Beach Road, Williamsport, Onekama Township.

- ❖ .963 of an Acre+-
- ❖ Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from gravel-paved road
- ❖ Lake views, historical views, access to south pier of Channel, fishing

This concrete 12-foot-wide Walkway leads from Crescent Beach Road 656 feet to the south pier of the Portage Lake-Lake Michigan Channel. The Walkway only connects to the pier with a short crushed stone path, because further construction work is anticipated on the Channel piers. This Walkway leads those using it by some of the



historic resort homes of Williamsport, which was established after the 1871 opening of the Channel and named for the first vessel entering the Channel, the tug "Caroline Williams." The walkway also affords a beautiful view of Portage Lake and access to the south pier for fishing. The view of Lake Michigan from the south pier as well as the north pier also is spectacular.

The Walkway, which was constructed in 2007 through a \$86,208 Great Lakes Fishery Trust 2006 grant and a \$14,000 match from Onekama Township, is widely used. Improvements also were made to the partially paved parking area along Crescent Beach Road across from the entrance to the Walkway. The land area of this Road End, which is under Township jurisdiction, is around .963 of an acre. The Walkway, which is on the flat areas of the Road End, has railings near the pier to prevent people using the Walkway from entering the stone embankments where it is near Portage Lake.

The Walkway is accessible by those with disabilities, although some difficulty might be encountered on the short connection with the south pier, which is paved with crushed stone. The Walkway also is accessible to emergency vehicles because of its width. Crescent Beach Road, which is graveled, is the only access to the Williamsport area. It leads around a half a mile to the Portage Street Walkway from asphalt-paved Crescent Beach Road, at the point where it intersects with asphalt-paved Lakeshore Road. The paved Crescent Beach and Lakeshore Roads are scenic thoroughfares between M-22 and Manistee that serve many resort homes. The Walkway is used by residents and seasonal residents from Onekama Village and Township, and Manistee Township to access the piers for fishing.

Other Road Ends and Public Lands—

- ❖ Areas and widths vary
- ❖ Some of these facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- ❖ Most are accessible from paved thoroughfares and roads
- ❖ Lakes views, open space, swimming, and boating

Fifty-three platted road ends and public lands that are perpendicular or parallel to Lake Michigan, Portage Lake, and the Channel piers are dedicated to the use of the public as access to the water in Onekama Township. These include the six road ends previously listed—Ninth Street, Portage Point, at Lake Michigan; Lakeisle Avenue, Portage Park, at Lake Michigan; Thirteen Mile Road, Pierport, at Lake Michigan; Burnham Street, Hopkins Addition to Pierport, at Lake Michigan; Outlet Avenue, Portage Park, at Portage Lake; and Portage Street, Williamsport, at the Channel.

Twenty-five of these road ends and public lands are under the jurisdiction of Onekama Township and are in the Onekama Township Road End Ordinance As Amended June 6, 2006, (Ordinance Amendment No. 2006-01). The Township has kept paths cut through most of these road ends along Portage Lake for access to the water. All of the Township Road Ends along Lake Michigan have been designated in the Ordinance as having the permissible use of "observation area," because of the steepness of the sand dunes through which they are platted. Road ends with the permissible use of "observation area" are not prohibited as pedestrian-only access to the water, however, direct access to the water's edge may be detrimental to the environment and/or dangerous to pedestrian use. These areas are to be maintained in a natural state. No boat mooring is permitted in the waters of the Township road ends. Only one non-exclusive private dock is permitted, that being the Community Dock in Portage Lake at the Outlet Avenue Road End.

Twenty-eight of the road ends are under the jurisdiction of the Manistee County Road Commission, which regards them as being only for the ingress and egress of those entering or leaving a lake and for reasonable public use of the water for boating, fishing, and swimming—restrictions that have resulted from Michigan court cases.

Most of the road ends in Onekama Township have been marked at two or four corners with galvanized steel 4-inch by 4-inch posts having the letters "PUBLIC ACCESS" cut in them. These posts extend approximately 8 feet out of the ground. One post for each observation area on the Township's Lake Michigan road ends has a sign attached to it indicating that the road end has the designated use of "observation area." The Onekama Township Road End Ordinance Map appears on page A-25.

Historical Resources—The maps on pages A-27-A-29 indicate the sites that have been included in the Parks and Recreation Committee's Historic Sites—Pierport, Portage Lake, Onekama, which has been widely distributed in the Onekama area and at the Manistee County Historical Museum in Manistee. All of the sites are visible from public roads, which makes the viewing of them an informative tour. There is one site that is on the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites; one site that is on the National Register of Historic Places; and three sites that are on both the State and National Registers. Eight Michigan Centennial Farms are listed. Vintage and current photographs keyed to this brochure have been placed on Onekama's web site,



Historical Marker, Onekama Village Park

Special and Unique Environments and Natural Features—Special and unique environments and features were identified on a Countywide basis by conducting a survey of known natural, unique, and significant features and areas that might warrant special attention in the future. The environments and features for Onekama Township are listed as follows: Lake Michigan shore (dunes, erosion, history, geology, scenery); Lakeview Road in the Pierport area (scenic, designated natural beauty road); M-22 (scenic, historic, part of Lake Michigan Circle Tour); Portage Point Road (scenic, historic buildings); Portage Point Road historic district (historic summer homes, but not officially designated); Red Park historic district (historic summer homes, but not officially designated); and Lakeshore Road (scenic, sand dunes).

School Properties and Facilities

Onekama School—(#18 on Map) 5016 Main Street, Onekama.

- ❖ 20 acres+-
- ❖ All of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines for those with disabilities
- ❖ Accessible from paved roads
- ❖ Community-accessible indoor walking track; fitness equipment; recreation and fitness classes; recreation opportunities on the football, baseball, softball, track, and soccer fields, meeting facilities; computer offerings



The Onekama Consolidated Schools operates the Onekama School on around 20 acres in the Village of Onekama. The School includes facilities for kindergarten through the twelfth grade, which are a gymnasium/auditorium, library and media center, and cafeteria as well as classrooms and outdoor athletic facilities. The outdoor athletic facilities include a football field, six-lane asphalt track, baseball diamond, and elementary playground.

In the fall of 2008, voters in the School District passed a \$14.1 million bond issue for the School District to renovate the classrooms in the 1950's and 1960's sections of the Onekama School, to demolish the 1930's sections of the School, and to build new a gymnasium (at a projected cost of \$4.6 million) and a cafeteria (at a projected cost of \$1.9 million) as well as an art studio and daycare rooms. Athletic fields are being renovated at a projected cost of \$725,000. The construction projects were started in the spring of 2008. For recreation, the new gymnasium will have a Community-accessible walking track and fitness equipment that will be available throughout the year. Fitness and recreation classes will be offered during the evenings and summer through the community education program; there also will be recreational opportunities on the football, baseball, softball, track, and soccer fields on the School campus.

Most of the other school facilities are also available for use by the public when the School is not using them. People often walk in the School hallways for exercise and have meetings in various facilities, including a big-screen and video conferencing room and a community room in the media center. Use of computers is offered to the public on a regular basis. Project Net Gap brought seniors into the School to learn computer skills from the students. This program also gave the seniors a chance to record accounts of events in their lives; some of these accounts involving local history were written up and put in the *Wellspring*, an area history that has been published and distributed locally.

Special programs are offered at the School for all ages of young people. A children's garden club, the Garden Spirits, has been organized by the Spirit of the Woods Garden Club. It takes care of the School's community garden. The Leo Club is a junior Lions Club at the School. Piano labs as well as chess clubs also have been offered after school. Youth summer recreation programs have included canoeing, cooking, art and tennis lessons, dancing, and safe-sitter training.

Community service has been emphasized in School programs, several of which assist in maintaining recreational facilities in Onekama Township and Village. Summer community clubs for youngsters have brought help with recreational activities, such as when the participants assembled historical brochures for the Parks and Recreation Committee. Adopt-a-Park has brought help during the school year with clearing leaves from the trails, bridges, and stairs in Glen Park.

A grant program enabled the schools one summer to hire young people to assist with recreation projects in the Township and Village, which included helping with painting of the Memorial Fountain in the Onekama Village Park, and rebuilding bridges and painting the stairs in Glen Park. The Community Tide Beach Sweep has organized young people for keeping the beaches clean. These programs also serve to keep young people busy with activities, which is a form of recreation in itself.

Although the School has a lot fronting on Main Street from which the property is addressed, most of the campus adjoins Baker Street on the east, Spring Street on the north, and Brandt Street on the west above Spring Street. All of these streets are asphalt paved; Baker and Spring Streets end in the campus and make it very accessible. There also are some sidewalks for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. All of the building facilities and campus at the Onekama School are accessible by those with disabilities. Local residents and seasonal residents use the facilities of the Onekama Schools, which are supported with taxes from property owners in the Village of Onekama, and the Townships of Onekama, Manistee, Brown, Bear Lake, and Arcadia who have lands in the School District.

Warren Vaughan Tennis Courts—(#18 on Map), Onekama School, 5016 Main Street, Onekama.

- ❖ All of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- ❖ Accessible from paved thoroughfare
- ❖ Tennis for the Community and the Students of the Onekama School

Built in 1994, the Warren Vaughan Tennis Courts were donated by the late Warren Vaughan, who was a prominent summer resident in Onekama Township. His love for tennis led him to provide courts that could be used by the public; they are maintained for this purpose and also for the use of the Onekama School's students. There are currently no other public facilities for tennis in Onekama Village and Township. The Courts, which are asphalt paved and enclosed with chain-link fencing, are in the flat area below the hillside on which the Onekama School is located. They are on Baker Street between Main Street (M-22) and Brook Street, all of which are asphalt paved. The Courts can be seen from Main Street and are easily accessed. Those with disabilities can enter the Courts.



Inventory of Private Recreation Sites and Opportunities within the Political Boundaries of the Community (See Maps on Page A-23)

Private Properties and Facilities

Portage Lake Yacht Club—(#6 on Map) Northeast of Portage Point Road and Second Street, Portage Point, Onekama Township. The Portage Lake Yacht Club has a Clubhouse, tennis court, swimming beach, and waterfront for members, many owning sailboats and participating in the races here.

Portage Point Inn—(#7 on Map) 8567 South Portage Point Drive, Onekama Township. This century-old Inn, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is on Portage Lake, and has both condominium and hotel accommodations, with tennis and shuffleboard courts available for its clientele. Dockage is available for boats. The indoor swimming pool may be used by the public on a fee basis. A fitness room and hot tub also are offered. Sailboat races are held here during the summer. A ball park several blocks north of the Inn often is the site of activities of the Manistee Recreation Association, in which Onekama Village and Township youngsters participate.

Portage Point Inn



Little Eden Camp—(#12 on Map) 3721 East Portage Point Road, Onekama Township. Operated by a Mennonite Church group, the Little Eden Camp Grounds Association of Archbold, Ohio, this Camp is used mostly by families of the Mennonite faith. It has a large lodge with accommodations as well as meeting and dining facilities. The headquarters of the Camp are in this building, which is used year-around. Cabins are scattered throughout this wooded tract for summer use. Several newer ones can be used the entire year. Being on the north shore of Portage Lake, boating and swimming are popular activities at the Camp.

Fishing Charter Boat Services—Operating on Portage Lake are **True Blue Charters**, Captain Denny Blue, (231) 889-3684; **Captain Dave's Charters**, Captain Dave Combs, (231) 889-0833; **Sandpiper Charters, LLC**, Captain Kevin Hughes, (231) 889-3201; and **Netminder Charters**, Captain George Peplinski, (231) 889-3688.

Coho Center Resort—(#16 on Map) 8175 Portage Street, Onekama. This complex of cottages, which is also advertised as a motel as well as a resort, is across the Street from the Onekama Village Park and fronts on Portage Lake, where it has facilities for lakefront activities.

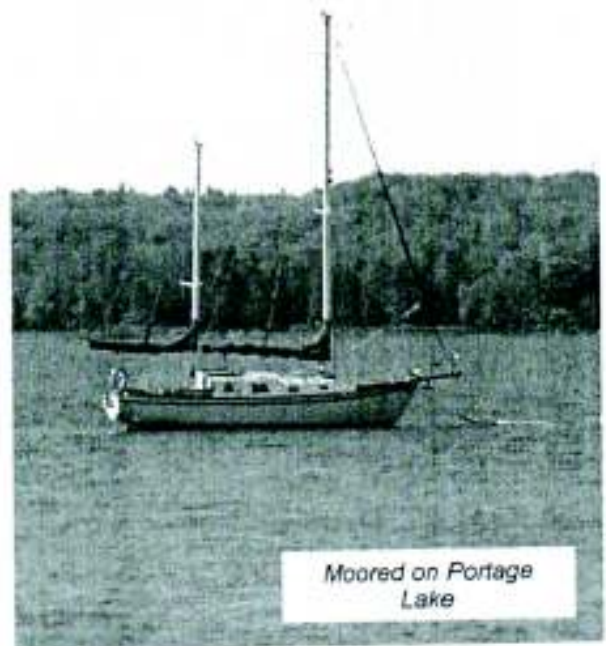
Portage Lake Marina—(#19 on Map) 5159 Main Street, Onekama. The facilities of this Marina are centrally located in Onekama and adjoin the Portage Lake Café and a bait shop.

Portage Lake RV Park—(#24 on Map) 4555 Crescent Beach Road, Onekama Township. Trailers and recreational vehicles are offered space at the Portage Lake RV Park; some vehicles are left here year-around to accommodate those visiting Onekama Township and Village.

Boathouse Marina—(#25 on Map) 4472 Crescent Beach Road, Onekama Township. Many of the boaters using the facilities of this small Marina have accommodations nearby.

Onekama Marine, Inc.—(#26 on Map) Headquarters at 4376 Crescent Beach Road, Onekama Township. This full-service marina has facilities for boats in several locations on the south and north shores of Portage Lake. The marina also operates in Manistee near the north end of Cedar Street at the Riverwalk on the Manistee River. Boats are sold as well as stored at Onekama Marine, which also has dockage available.

Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp—(#27 on Map) 4158 Camp Delight Road, Onekama Township. The Great Lakes Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church operates this Camp year-around for Covenant Church members, but also rents facilities to school groups for band camps and for recreational programs. The Camp is on the south shore of Portage Lake, which affords boating and swimming, and has its own dining facilities.



Moored on Portage Lake