



The Master Plan for the Shiawassee Basin Preserve reflects distinctions that were observed at the site analysis phase. The 500+ acre property to an extent is two separate parcels, bisected by an active railroad easement. The northern property is planned to be a nature preserve, characterized by hilly, knob and basin topography and significant natural features. The southern property is gently rolling and is currently home of some of the Township's active recreation facilities.

The document provides an extensive analysis of the important natural and cultural features across the site. While preserving the ecosystems in the northern section, some passive recreation amenities are planned for this part of the preserve. For example, a small gravel lot, picnic shelters and comfort stations are to be constructed at the entrance on Eaton Road. A series of three trail loops, totaling over three (3) miles is also proposed. These trails would have interpretive signage for nature walks, describing the globally-significant prairie fen and other rare ecosystems. The Plan also includes a management chapter, discussing how to address invasive species and other potential threats to the habitat and ecology of the area.

In contrast, the southern 90 acres is proposed as an active recreation complex. Four ball diamonds and two soccer fields are planned. A trail to connect picnic areas with shelters and parking lots as well as provide access to meadow areas from the elementary school are also proposed. Two existing ponds are to be improved, and a pedestrian bridge is planned to separate vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

