

Charter Township of Garfield

Grand Traverse County, Michigan

2012 - 2017

Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Expires December 31, 2017



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

The Charter Township of Garfield has developed this 5-year parks and recreation master plan after undertaking a thorough process of inventory, analysis, and public input collection. This plan is a road map for the parks and recreation decisions to be made over the next five years and beyond. This plan also makes the Township eligible for grant programs administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The process of preparing the plan has given the Township a better understanding of its residents' needs and desires for parks, recreation, and open space. The plan contains the following components:

- Community Description
- Administrative Structure and Funding
- Recreation Inventory
- Description of the Planning and Public Input Process
- Goals and Objectives
- System Wide Recommendations
- Action Plan

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Community Description is simply intended to describe the jurisdiction and focus of the recreation plan. This section does not include a report of the social and physical characteristics of the community, which are included later in the plan to describe how these factors relate to the goals and objectives that have been developed.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

The Administrative Structure and Funding section contains a description and illustration of the Township's parks and recreation organization. The current and projected expenditures are discussed in this section. Additionally, this section discusses the Township's Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant history, and describes recreation partnerships and other recreation providers.

RECREATION INVENTORY

The Recreation Inventory is a compilation of all Township, local, regional, and private parks and recreation facilities that are understood to be commonly used by Township residents. It is not intended as an exhaustive inventory of every individual park in the Grand Traverse region. This section also includes descriptions of the park facility classification system that was used to describe the park system. An accessibility analysis for Township-owned properties is provided in this section. Maps that show the locations of the parks and recreation areas are provided near the end of this plan.



DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

This section outlines the methods that were used to assess the community's parks, recreation, and open space needs.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The section begins with a Basis for Goals and Objectives discussion, including the various factors that led to the formation of the particular goals and objectives, such as natural and manmade features, demographic characteristics, impacts of invasive species on the region, land use patterns, and the recreation inventory analysis. Following this discussion, a number of Goals and Objectives are presented, starting with a broader goal such as increasing non-motorized access, and then identifying a number of narrower Objectives that the Township should pursue to help reach its Goal. The results presented in this section create the basis for the System Wide Recommendations and Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Recommendations discussion begins with the System Wide Recommendations section, which highlights four overarching considerations that must be pursued over the life of this plan. This section also includes a summary of Park-Specific Recommendations, which are not developed to the point of individual site development plans, but rather outline the current understanding of park functions, opportunities, and challenges. This section also includes the Non-Motorized Plan and the Green Infrastructure Plan.

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is the result of the extensive information gathered and analyzed through the planning process. The capital projects and investments identified in the Action Plan identify how the Township intends to meet, or work towards meeting, the Goals and Objectives over the next five years.



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COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

This Recreation Plan was prepared for the Charter Township of Garfield, Grand Traverse County which is located in Michigan’s northwest Lower Peninsula.

See Map 1 – Regional Location Map

Garfield Township is abutted by the City of Traverse City to the north and east. The Township is also bordered by Elmwood Township to the north, Long Lake Township to the west, Blair Township to the south, and East Bay Township to the east. All are located in Grand Traverse County with the exception of Elmwood Township, which is in Leelanau County.

See Map 2 – Grand Traverse County Map

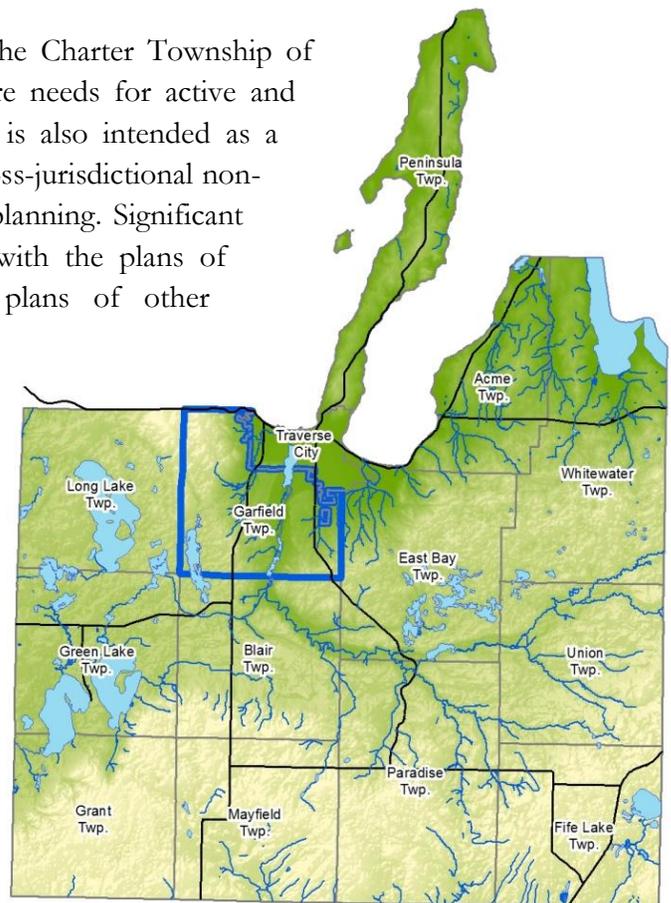


Map 1 Regional Location Map

PLAN JURISDICTION AND FOCUS

This plan was prepared primarily for the use of the Charter Township of Garfield Township in evaluating current and future needs for active and passive recreation within its borders. However, it is also intended as a regional recreation planning tool, particularly for cross-jurisdictional non-motorized transportation and green infrastructure planning. Significant efforts have been made to coordinate this plan with the plans of surrounding municipalities, and also with the plans of other recreation providers in the region, including Grand Traverse County, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and Traverse Area Recreational Trails, Inc (TART Trails).

The plan is focused on all aspects of public recreation within Garfield Township, including trailways, active recreation areas, and passive recreation and natural areas. The plan also includes a green infrastructure element, which prioritizes opportunities to protect and preserve undeveloped or minimally developed wetlands, riparian lands, forests, woodlands, and other natural areas within the urban setting.



Map 2 Grand Traverse County Map



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The elected Township Board is ultimately responsible for recreation planning. The Parks and Recreation Commission, an appointed body, meets monthly to make recommendations that are carried out by the Township Board.

The Township does not have a formal parks and recreation department. Administration and day-to-day management of recreational facilities is the responsibility of the Township Supervisor's office, with Staff support from the Planning Department. Maintenance of infrastructure within the parks, such as restrooms, tennis courts, and picnic pavilions, is primarily conducted by Township Staff appointed to a building committee. As described in greater detail below, the Township also contracts with the Grand Traverse Conservation District for parkland management. The structure is shown on Page 3 – "*Figure 1 – Administrative Structure.*"

The Parks and Recreation Commission was established in 2010 under the Parks and Recreation Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917). The Commission consists of five members appointed by the Township Board, and serves as the recommending body for policy decisions on the Township's parks and recreation system. Some specific duties of the Parks and Recreation Commission include:

- Develop and maintain a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Develop park-specific management plans
- Make annual recommendations regarding appropriate budgets for parks and recreation expenses
- Encourage public involvement and stewardship
- Prepare grant applications
- Work in partnership with other stakeholders

The Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance (Articles of Incorporation) is attached to this plan within *Appendix B*.

The Township does not currently provide formal recreational programming for its residents: those services are provided by other agencies, as further described beginning on Page 4 - "*Partnerships and Other Recreation Providers.*"

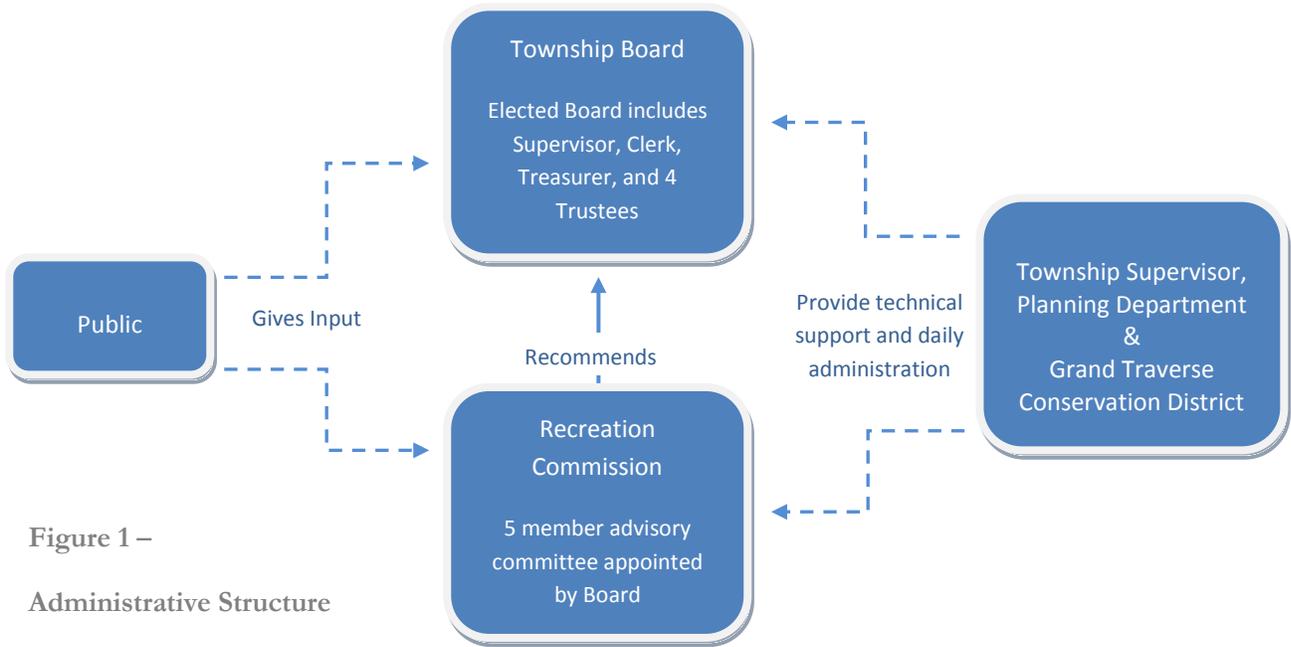


Figure 1 –
Administrative Structure

Garfield Township contracts annually with the Grand Traverse Conservation District for the management of its parklands. The Conservation District’s duties include the periodic maintenance and construction of non-motorized trail networks within the parks and green spaces, establishing and maintaining informational kiosks at trailheads throughout the recreational system, and the preparation of grant applications related to natural resource protection and improvement, such as tribal funding to eliminate fish passage impediments in the Township’s tributaries or Trout Unlimited funding to construct fishing platforms along the Boardman River. The Conservation District’s staff is instrumental in organizing and leading volunteer labor for single-day outings such as invasive species removal, trail maintenance, and stream bank restoration, and has also initiated a trail-steward program where volunteers observe and report on park conditions on a regular basis. The Grand Traverse Conservation District’s approved schedule of services, including a description of how volunteer service is incorporated, is attached to this plan as *Appendix F*.

SOURCES OF FUNDING AND PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

Garfield Township has a significant track record of budgeting funds on an annual basis for parks and green infrastructure improvements and maintenance. It is contemplated that this commitment will continue into the future.

General funding for parks and recreation within Garfield Township is via a Park System Fund. Additional sources of revenue include a Garfield Township Park Millage, which was initially used to repay a loan the Township incurred to purchase the Silver Lake Recreation Area. In 2011, the Township fulfilled that loan obligation, and the Park Millage (0.1 Mill) is now used to generate



additional funding to support the general development and maintenance of the parks and trail network. The 0.1 Mill will generate an estimated \$273,749.00 in 2012.

The following budget is built on the assumption that this 0.1 mill general operating millage will be maintained for the 5-year life of this Plan. Budget expenses for 2012 and 2013 focus on improvements to Township Parks, followed by a transition to maintenance and upkeep activities and a focus on non-motorized trail development.

Table 1					
Garfield Township Recreation Budget					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Contracted Services	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
S.L.R.A	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
B.V.N.P	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
M.C.N.R.	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
G.T. C.	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
K.C.P.	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Boardman River	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Maintenance	\$20,500	\$20,500	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Land Acquisitions	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Contingencies	\$31,749	\$31,749	\$83,749	\$83,749	\$83,749
Total	\$273,749	\$273,749	\$273,749	\$273,749	\$273,749

SLRA = Silver Lake Recreation Area BVNP = Boardman Valley Nature Preserve MCNR = Miller Creek Nature Reserve
 GTC = Grand Traverse Commons KCP = Kid's Creek Park Boardman River = general watershed wide improvement fund

The Township also maintains a Cable Television Franchise Fee Fund, which is not tapped consistently for parks revenue but has been used for one-time expenses such as the local match commitment for a grant opportunity.

PARTNERSHIPS AND OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

The Township is a major provider of recreation within the Township by way of five parks or passive recreation greenspace areas, and has also formed partnerships with several other providers of recreation within the community. A brief description of each of the various non-Township recreation providers follows. Please refer to the Recreation Inventory for further discussion



regarding facility ownership and an inventory of all facilities in the Township including those not publicly owned.

Active recreation opportunities for Garfield Township residents are primarily provided by private organizations, including the YMCA, Traverse City Youth Football, Traverse City Little League, Traverse Area Girls Softball, Traverse Area Community Sailing, Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer, and the Grand Traverse Hockey Association. With the exception of the YMCA, which maintains its own facilities, the programming offered by these organizations generally occurs within parks that are owned by area governmental units.

In early 2011, a coalition named the Community Recreation Group was formed. This group consisted of representatives from area municipalities, park commissions, school districts, and other recreational providers such as those listed in the paragraph above. The primary intent of the group was to develop, implement, and analyze a community recreation needs survey, which would then be used to improve the level of collaborative planning among organizations providing recreational services in Grand Traverse County.

Building on the momentum generated by the Community Recreation Group (which dissolved after project completion), the first meeting of a Grand Traverse Area Parks and Recreation Network was held in December 2011. The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Network is to create an ongoing relationship among interested parties to regularly share information, engage in collective assessments, brainstorm potential opportunities, collectively discuss community need and formulate cross-sector solutions to realize a shared vision for Grand Traverse County that most efficiently, effectively and affordably meets identified community needs for recreation programming and facilities. A summary of the formation of the Parks and Recreation Network, including an executive summary of the public survey commissioned by the Community Recreation Group, is attached as *Appendix G*.

The Grand Traverse County Parks system includes a network of parks and natural areas, including Medalie Park and the Grand Traverse County Nature Reserve within Garfield Township. The County also owns and operates the Grand Traverse County Civic Center, a regional recreational resource located within the limits of the City of Traverse City.

In 2003, the City of Traverse City and Garfield Township Joint Recreational Authority (JRA) was formed under the Recreational Authorities Act of 2000. In 2004, Traverse City and Garfield Township voters approved a millage to fund the acquisition and improvement of three properties under the guidance of the Joint Recreation Authority. Two of these properties, the Commons Barns Area and Hickory Meadows, are now public parks within Garfield Township's borders (the third, the Open Space, is within City limits). The capital projects were financed through a 20-year General



Obligation Bond, after which the JRA will dissolve and the two parks within the Township will be dedicated to the Township for public use in perpetuity.

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy is a local organization dedicated to protecting and preserving valuable natural resources and farmlands. The Land Conservancy also offers nature hikes and permits respectful public use of its properties for passive recreation. Presently, this organization owns and maintains 125-acres of wetland and natural area within the Township, named the Mitchell Creek Nature Preserve. Should the Land Conservancy cease to exist, this preserve would be dedicated to the Township for preservation in perpetuity. Through a land donation, the Land Conservancy also provided a critical local match for the Township's 2002 Trust Fund grant to establish the Boardman Nature Education reserve.

Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) and Garfield Township have developed a close working relationship to facilitate continued development of the local trail network. Many of the existing and planned trails within Garfield Township lead to, from, or across TCAPS properties and connect to Township parks. Teachers use the Township's parks for educational opportunities, and track coaches use the trail network for cross-country training. The continued relationship between the two organizations is viewed as beneficial to all.

Traverse Area Recreational Trails (TART) is a local non-profit organization that builds trails, advocates for active living and outdoor recreation, and provides assistance to units such as Garfield Township and TCAPS to see proposed projects through from conception to completion.

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) is an indirect but important partner in the preservation and improvement of the Township's natural resources. The Grand Traverse Conservation District is regularly successful in leveraging GTB funding towards projects such as fish passage improvements (e.g. drop culvert removal) in the Boardman River watershed.

Please refer to the Recreation Inventory for further discussion regarding facility ownership and an inventory of all facilities in the Township including those not publicly owned.



NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT HISTORY

Garfield Township has received and successfully completed one Trust Fund Grant, which was awarded in 2002 for the acquisition of several parcels along the Boardman River to provide natural resource protection, passive recreation, and non-motorized connectivity between the Grand Traverse County Nature Reserve to the South Airport Road corridor and the south end of Boardman Lake. Specifics of the grant are detailed below:

Grant Number: TF-02-220
 Project Title: Boardman Nature Education Reserve
 Acreage acquired: 83.21 acres – refer to Page 52 for a map of the park area
 Grant Amount: \$505,000.00
 Project Status: Closed
 Current use: The park is used for hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, canoeing/kayaking, nature watching, and natural resource preservation.

For the 2009 project year, the Township was awarded a second acquisition grant for an expansion of the Nature Education Reserve and an extension of the Boardman Lake Trail. As of the adoption of this plan, the Township is diligently pursuing the successful completion of this project, which includes the acquisition of three parcels on the east side of the Boardman River and the establishment of trail easements from South Airport Road south to the southernmost acquisition property.

Grant Number: TF-09-173
 Project Title: Boardman Lake Trail and Nature Reserve Expansion
 Acreage acquired: Not yet acquired; 61 acres planned
 Grant Amount: \$1,231,800.00
 Project Status: Active

For the 2011 project year, the Township was awarded a development application grant for the Grand Traverse Commons Barns Area. The grant included the construction of a bike path, interpretive center, and picnic grove within the Historic Barns Park.

Grant Number: TF-11-109
 Project Title: Historic Barns Park and Garden Development
 Grant Amount: \$300,000.00
 Project Status: Active



RECREATION INVENTORY

INTRODUCTION

A thorough inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities is essential to the development of a meaningful Parks and Recreation Plan. This inventory is intended to help the Township identify the adequacy of various recreational opportunities available to our residents, including any surpluses and deficiencies thereof, which will assist in the development of the Parks and Recreation Plan Goals and Objectives.

The Parks and Recreation Inventory begins with an explanation of the park facility classification system that was used to conduct this inventory, followed by the recreation inventory itself, which details the park type, park name, accessibility rating, park acreage, likely service area, and available recreational activities. The inventory includes all resources that are available within the Township, whether or not they are owned by the Township, such as private facilities, semi-public facilities, or public facilities managed by another entity.

Because users will often cross political boundaries to take advantage of a particular resource or amenity in a neighboring municipality, the inventory also includes certain recreational resources offered by Grand Traverse County, Leelanau County, surrounding townships, villages, and the City of Traverse City. The inventory is not intended to identify every park within neighboring municipalities, but highlights certain regional recreational resources that are likely to be used by Township residents, such as community pools, beaches, biking trails, campgrounds, or ski areas.

The Inventory is followed by the Parks and Recreation Area Descriptions, intended as more detailed narrative of the recreational resources available to Township residents, regional residents, and visitors.

This inventory was completed in August of 2011. Information used in the inventory was collected from the Township Green Infrastructure Plan (adopted in 2007), the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan, aerial photo interpretation, current and previous plans of surrounding municipalities, field verifications, and internet research. The *Recreation Inventory, Table 2*, begins on Page 12 of this Plan.



PARK FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

The Parks and Recreation Inventory is based on the following classification system:

Mini Parks are used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs. They generally measure between 2,500 sq. ft and one-acre in size, and serve a population within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in a residential setting.

School Parks are facilities that are owned and managed by Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS). In addition to providing play and athletic opportunities for students, school parks can help fulfill an identified need for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, or special use. The size and location of school parks is variable depending on function.

Neighborhood Parks are the basic unit of the park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood, and provide informal active and passive recreation. They generally measure between five to ten-acres in size, and serve a population within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in a residential setting.

Community Parks serve a broader purpose than Neighborhood Parks and are used to meet both active and passive recreational needs, as well as preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. The location of a Community Park is determined by the quality and suitability of a site. Community Parks generally serve the entire community and measure at least 50-acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.

Natural Features are significant natural resources such as streams, rivers, lakes, or substantial topography that provide an opportunity for recreation.

Natural Resource Areas are lands set aside to preserve significant Natural Features, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. The location and size of a Natural Resource Area is dependent upon resource availability and opportunity. These areas also include opportunities for passive recreation such as hiking, nature watching, hunting, and fishing.

Greenways tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment. The location, size and characteristics of a Greenway are dependent upon resource availability and opportunity.

A **Sports Complex** consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community. Sports complexes usually measure at least 25-acres, with 40 to 80-acres being optimal.

A **Private Park/Recreational Facility** is privately owned but contributes to the public parks and recreation system. The location and size of a Private Park / Recreational Facility is dependent upon the specific use and the perceived need for the use.



State Parks, State Forests, and State Forest Campgrounds are facilities owned and operated by the State of Michigan, and often include opportunities such as camping, swimming, fishing, hunting, boating, biking, nature watching, and other outdoor recreation activities.

TRAIL FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

A **Park Trail** is a multipurpose trail located within a greenway, park, or natural resource area, intended to provide a recreational opportunity for walking, running, cycling, or rollerblading. A Type I Park Trail is a separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trail for pedestrians or cyclists/in-line skaters. A Type II Park Trail is a multipurpose hard-surfaced trail. A Type III Park Trail is a nature trail for pedestrians which may be hard-or-soft-surfaced.

A **Trailway** is a multipurpose trail that provides a recreational experience and also emphasizes safe non-motorized transportation between parks, residences, schools, shopping, entertainment, and employment. A Type I Trailway is a hard-surfaced trail located in an independent right-of-way (i.e. separate from a roadway). A Type II Trailway is also located within an independent right-of-way but is soft-surfaced. A Type III Trailway is a hard-surfaced trail located within or very near to a road right-of-way.

On-Street Bikeways are segments of roadways designated for use by cyclists. A Bike Route is a segment of roadway that is shared with motor vehicles. A Bike Lane is a striped, signed, or otherwise marked portion of the roadway that has been designated for use by cyclists from which motorized traffic is generally excluded.

Mountain-Bike Trails are off-road trails generally designed and intended for biking, but also provide opportunities for hiking where conflicts can be avoided. Equestrians and mountain biking are not usually compatible uses. Mountain Bike trails may also be used for cross-country skiing (non-maintained) or snowshoeing in the winter, and are usually looped networks located in larger parks and natural resource areas.

Cross-Country Skiing Trails are developed for maintained (i.e. groomed) traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing, usually looped networks in larger parks and natural resource areas.

Equestrian Trails are trails developed for horseback riding, usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Equestrian trails may sometimes be developed as multipurpose trails including hiking, but are not usually compatible with mountain biking.

Off-Road Vehicle Trails are designated trail systems for use by motorized recreational traffic, including Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) of all sizes, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), motorcycles, and snowmobiles.



ACCESSIBILITY ANALYSIS

The Recreation Inventory also lists an accessibility rating for each recreation facility owned by the Township. Most of the facilities do not meet accessibility guidelines. Following is a summary of a scoring system generally in accordance with MDNR standards.

- Level 1. None of the facilities in the park meet accessibility guidelines. Little pavement is provided and access routes to the facilities are not easily accessible.
- Level 2. Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines, but many of the facilities or the access routes to them are not easily accessible.
- Level 3. Most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Parking areas and walkways are paved; and while most facilities are generally accessible, some barriers may exist for certain people because of age, ability or situation.
- Level 4. All of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines. The park is accessible and the routes to facilities within the park are accessible, but some play or other equipment may not be designed for everyone.
- Level 5. Universal design guidelines were used to design the entire park.



Table 2 – Recreation Inventory

Facility Name		Facility Type	Size (acres)	Likely Service Area	Description of Amenities (Accessibility Rating also provided for Township-owned parks)
Garfield Township Parks	Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area	Natural Area	142 ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Accessibility Rating: 1 Amenities: Hiking Trails; Walking Trails; Cross Country Skiing; Mountain Biking
	Boardman Valley Nature Preserve	Natural Area	92 ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Accessibility Rating: 1 Amenities: Hiking Trails; Walking Trails; Cross Country Skiing; Hunting; Fishing; Boardman River Access; Tennis; Beach Volleyball; Pickleball
	Silver Lake Recreation Area	Community Park	84 ac	Less than 3 Miles	Accessibility Rating: 2 Amenities: Hiking Trails; Walking Trails; Picnic Pavilions; Playgrounds; Restrooms; Tennis; Basketball; Sledding Hill; T-Ball Field; Multi-purpose field
	Miller Creek Nature Reserve	Natural Area	67 ac	Less than 3 Miles	Accessibility Rating: 1 Amenities: Hiking Trails; Walking Trails; Cross Country Skiing; Mountain Biking; Nature Watching; Hunting
	Kid's Creek Park	Natural Area	20 ac	Less than 3 Miles	Accessibility Rating: 3 Amenities: Hiking Trails; Walking Trails; Nature Watching; Fishing Pond
	Hughes Drive Natural Area	Natural Area	7.5 ac	Less than ½ Mile	Accessibility Rating: 1 Amenities: None, not developed
Rec. Authority Parks	Grand Traverse Commons Barns Area	Community Park / Natural Area	53 ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Currently under development. Once complete will include renovation of historic barns; outdoor amphitheater; interpretive center; community gardens; trails.
	Hickory Meadows	Natural Area	110 ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Hiking Trails; Cross Country Skiing; Nature Watching.
County Parks	Civic Center	Sports Complex	45 ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Walking Trails; Indoor Pool; Skate/Bike Park; Baseball and Softball Fields; Ice Rink; Playgrounds.
	County Nature Education Reserve	Natural Area	505 ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Hiking Trails; Walking Trails; Cross Country Skiing; Fishing; Boardman River Access.
	Keystone Soccer Complex	Sports Complex	15ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Soccer Fields; Playground.
	Maple Bay Park	Natural Area	n/a	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Hiking Trails; Nature Watching; Lake Michigan Beach



Table 2 – Recreation Inventory

Facility Name		Facility Type	Size (acres)	Likely Service Area	Description of Amenities
County Parks	Medalie Park	Community Park	15 ac	Less than 3 Miles	Amenities: Picnic shelter; Restrooms; Walking Trails; Fishing; Boardman River Access; Boardman Lake Access; Canoe Launch
	Power Island /Bassett Island	Natural Area	202 ac	Statewide	Amenities: Lake Michigan Beach; Picnic Areas; Hiking Trails; Primitive Camping
	Twin Lakes Park	Community Park	175 ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Community Lodge; Soccer Fields; Swimming
GT RLC	Mitchell Creek Nature Preserve	Natural Area	128 ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Hunting; Fishing; Nature Watching
School Parks	Traverse City Central High School	School Park	n/a	Less than 3 Miles	Amenities: Multi-Purpose Fields; Baseball and Softball Fields; Running Track; Tennis Courts; Basketball Court
	Traverse City Central East Middle School	School Park	n/a	Less than 3 Miles	Amenities: Baseball and Softball Fields; Running Track; Tennis Courts;
	Traverse City West Middle School	School Park	n/a	Less than 3 Miles	Amenities: Multi-Purpose Fields; Baseball and Softball Fields; Running Track; Tennis Courts
	Traverse City West High School	School Park	n/a	Less than 3 Miles	Amenities: Multi-Purpose Fields; Baseball and Softball Fields; Running Track; Tennis Courts ; Basketball Court
	Former Sabin Elementary	School Park	n/a	Less than ½ mile	Amenities: Playground
	Carlisle Field	School Park	n/a	Less than 3 miles	Amenities: Baseball Field
	Silver Lake Elementary	School Park	n/a	Less than ½ mile	Amenities: Playground



Table 2 – Recreation Inventory

Facility Name		Facility Type	Size (acres)	Likely Service Area	Description of Amenities
Other Local Township Parks	Blair Township Park	Community Park	n/a	Less than 3 miles	Amenities: Baseball Fields; Tennis Court; Basketball Court; Picnic Area; Playground
	Grace MacDonald Park	Community Park	42 ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Baseball Field; Multi-Purpose Field; Pickleball; Volleyball Court; Skate Park; Ice Rink; Picnic Area; Sledding Hill; Hiking Trails; Playground
	Grelickville Harbor Park	Community Park	n/a	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Lake Michigan beach; Picnic Pavilions; Playground; Restrooms
	Elmwood Township Park	Community Park	n/a	Less than 3 miles	Amenities: Baseball Field; Multi-Purpose Field; Pickleball; Volleyball Court; Skate Park; Ice Rink; Picnic Area; Sledding Hill; Hiking Trails; Playground
City of Traverse City Parks	Brown Bridge Quiet Area	Natural Area	1,300 ac	Statewide	Amenities: Baseball Field; Multi-Purpose Field; Pickleball; Volleyball Court; Skate Park; Ice Rink; Picnic Area; Sledding Hill; Hiking Trails; Playground
	Bryant Park	Community Park	3 ac	Statewide	Amenities: Lake Michigan beach; Playground; Picnic Area; Restrooms
	Clinch Park	Community Park	7 ac	Statewide	Amenities: Lake Michigan beach; Playground; Picnic Area; Restrooms
	East Bay Park	Community Park	3 ac	Statewide	Amenities: Lake Michigan beach; Playground; Picnic Area; Restrooms; Boat Launch
	Hickory Hills	Recreation Facility	123 ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Disc Golf; Downhill Skiing; Hiking Trails; XC Skiing; Restrooms
	Hull Park	Community Park	6 ac	Statewide	Amenities: Boat Launch; Picnic Areas; Community Sailing; Fishing; Restrooms
	West End Beach	Community Park	4 ac	Statewide	Amenities: Lake Michigan beach; Restrooms
Federal Park	Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore	National Lakeshore	71,000ac	Statewide	Amenities: Lake Michigan beach; Restrooms; Bike Trails; Hiking Trails; Visitor Center; Hunting; Campground



Table 2 – Recreation Inventory

Facility Name		Facility Type	Size (acres)	Likely Service Area	Description of Amenities
State of MI Parks	Arbutus No. 4 State Forest Campground	State Forest Campground	n/a	Statewide	Amenities: Fishing; Rustic Camping
	Interlochen State Park	State Park	187ac	Statewide	Amenities: Inland lake beach; Modern Campground; Hiking; Fishing; XC Skiing
	Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park	State Park	47ac	Statewide	Amenities: Lake Michigan beach; Modern Campground; Hiking; Fishing; XC Skiing
	Lake Dubonnet State Forest Campground	State Forest Campground	n/a	Statewide	Amenities: Fishing; Rustic Camping
	Sand Lakes Quiet Area	Natural Area	2,800ac	Statewide	Amenities: Fishing; Rustic Camping; Hiking; XC Skiing
Private Recreational Facilities	YMCA (future)	Recreation Facility	20ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Swimming Pool; Tennis Courts; Racquetball Courts; Soccer Fields;
	Centre Ice	Recreation Facility	n/a	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Ice Rink (2)
	Hickory Hills	Recreation Facility	125ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Downhill Skiing; Disc Golf; Hiking
	Mt. Holiday	Recreation Facility	n/a	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: Downhill Skiing
	Bay Meadows Golf Course	Recreation Facility	83ac	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: 9-Hole Golf Course; Driving Range
Elmbrook Golf Course	Recreation Facility	n/a	Entire Township and Surrounding Areas	Amenities: 18-Hole Golf Course	



Table 2 – Recreation Inventory

Trail Facilities	Trailway Type	Length	Description
Leelanau Trail	Type I & II	15.5 mi	The Leelanau Trail is a non-motorized pathway connecting Traverse City at its southern end point with Suttons Bay at its northern end point.
Mall Trail	Type III	2 mi	The Mall Trail parallels US-31 from 14th St to South Airport Rd near the Grand Traverse Mall. The Mall Trail connects downtown Traverse City residents with many commercial businesses and restaurants.
Boardman Lake Trail	Type I&II	2 mi	The heavily wooded, serene trail along the east side of Boardman Lake is paved for the northern mile. The southern mile has a crushed limestone surface. The vision for this trail is a pathway that encircles Boardman Lake.
Boardman River Trail	Type II	24mi (planned)	The Boardman River Trail Committee formed in 2010 to explore the feasibility of developing a 24-mile trail that follows the Boardman River Valley from Traverse City to the North Country Trail (NCT). Most of the proposed trail is in forested area on existing dirt paths and two-tracks. From the NCT users can continue on to connect with the Vasa Pathway and head back to Traverse via the TART Trail, resulting in a 46-mile loop.
Buffalo Ridge Trail	Type I	2.7 mi (planned)	The Buffalo Ridge Trail is a proposed 2.7 mile trail connecting Division Street to South Airport Road. The trail will link to the existing Mall Trail and Boardman Lake Trail by way of Griffin Street. The trail will provide access to three schools, numerous natural areas, the Commons, Historic Barns Park, Great Wolf Lodge and the new YMCA. It will allow thousands of residents in Garfield Township and Traverse City to get where they want to go without a car.
3-Mile Trail	Type I&II	2 mi	The 3-Mile trail follows Three Mile Road from the State Park beach on US 31 to South Airport Road.
TART Trail	Type III	10.5 mi	The TART Trail is a paved urban transportation and recreational corridor with an eastern end point at M-72 (Bates Road) in Acme Township and a western end point at the M-22/M-72 intersection in Traverse City.
Lake Ann Pathway	Type II	5.8 mi	The Lake Ann Pathway is divided into two loops; the first, at 3.5 miles, is more strenuous and often used by mountain bikers, and passes Mary’s Lake and Shavenaugh Lake. The second loop, at 1.8 miles, meanders more gently along Platte Lake and Lake Ann.
Lost Lake Pathway	Type II	6.3 mi	Starting from the Lake Dubonnet State Forest Campground, this trail offers a loop for mountain bikers, hikers, and XC skiers to enjoy.
North Country Trail	Type II	4,600mi	The North Country Trail (NCT) is America’s longest National Scenic Trail, running from New York to North Dakota, linking 7 states, 10 National Forests, and more than 150 public lands. The NCT passes through Grand Traverse County to the east of Garfield Township.
Shore-to-Shore Trail	Type II	220 mi	A hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trail that runs between Oscoda, on Lake Huron, and Empire, on Lake Michigan. The trail also meets with the North Country trail in Kalkaska.
VASA Pathway	Type II	25 K	Located in the Pere Marquette State Forest, the Vasa Pathway features a series of loops (3K, 5K, 10K, 25K) that offer users a variety of challenges from easy to difficult. The Vasa Pathway is maintained and groomed for cross country skiing by TART Trails under an agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Grand Traverse County. The Vasa Pathway is used by cross country skiers, runners, hikers, mountain bikers, walkers, and naturalists year round. It is the home of the North American Vasa cross country ski race and the annual Iceman Cometh mountain bike race also uses a portion of the trail.
VASA Singletrack	Type II	13mi	A trail loop primarily used for mountain biking but also available for hiking and Cross Country skiing.



PARKS AND RECREATION AREA DESCRIPTIONS

TOWNSHIP-OWNED PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

Garfield Charter Township owns five properties that are actively used for recreational purposes. Of the five properties, two contain active recreation facilities, including baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis fields, and sledding hills, along with restrooms, picnic tables, and pavilions. The remaining three properties are primarily undeveloped greenspace and natural resource preservation areas enjoyed for activities such as nature watching, hiking, biking, hunting, and fishing.

Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area – Natural Resource Area



The Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area measures 142-acres and is located in the north-central portion of Garfield Township, adjacent to the Grand Traverse Commons Redevelopment District and the City of Traverse City. The park is managed for natural resource preservation and passive recreation. Miles of unpaved trails provide walkers, mountain bikers, skiers, and nature watchers with access to significant woodlands, hills, streams, and wetlands. The park was formerly part of the Traverse City State Psychiatric Hospital and was obtained from the State of Michigan in the early 1990s. Numerous trailheads provide access to the park.

Kids Creek Park – Natural Resource Area

Kid's Creek Park is a 20-acre park along US-31, one of the busiest arterial roads in Grand Traverse County. Historically, the land was used by the Oleson family for a number of purposes, including a buffalo pasture and a commercial trout fishing pond. An historic grist mill is also present on the site, but has fallen into heavy disrepair. A recent structural analysis performed by a structural engineer concluded that the foundation is not in a condition that would lend to a restoration of the existing structure. However, given the historic value of the grist mill, in particular the waterwheel and drive system, the Township should place a high value on preserving whatever is possible, or consider constructing a replica grist mill which could serve as an historic interpretive center, gift shop, or fishing tackle store.



The land that would become Kid's Creek Park was dedicated to Garfield Township for parkland and open space preservation when the Great Wolf Lodge Planned Unit Development was approved in 2002. In the time since, the park has been the site of extensive volunteer efforts to restore the banks of Kids Creek, which meanders through the park. The stream banks had been damaged by decades of buffalo traffic (the former buffalo herd was once the largest east of the Mississippi River), but



volunteer efforts have made an incredible difference to the stream's health, and ultimately, West Bay's health by reducing sedimentation and increasing shade and habitat for fish and insects.



Buffalo Pasture: Before and After

Today, this park is a hidden gem along US-31. The $\frac{3}{4}$ mile nature trail network includes wooden bridges and boardwalks following Kids Creek. Development of this park into a passive recreation resource is an ongoing process, including development of a fisheries management plan for the fishing pond, which was dredged in 2009 and subsequently stocked with brown trout and bluegill by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Boardman Valley Nature Preserve (BVNP) – Natural Resource Area and Community Park

The 90-acre Boardman Valley Nature Preserve follows the west bank of the Boardman River south from South Airport Road. This park currently includes both active and passive recreational opportunities, including hiking, fishing, canoeing/kayaking, tennis, pickleball, beach volleyball, soccer, cross-country skiing, hunting, and nature watching. The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA has occupied the northern portions of the site for a number of years and currently uses the site through a lease agreement with Garfield Township. Following completion of the YMCA's new facility on Silver Lake Road, the YMCA's use of the site will greatly diminish.



The Boardman Valley Nature Preserve was established in 2002 with Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund assistance, and includes over one-mile of Boardman River frontage and 1.5 miles of nature trails. The Grand Traverse County Natural Education Reserve abuts the park to the south, and in total the two parks offer more than 500-acres of natural area and over eight miles of hiking trails. The BVNP is anticipated to act as a key connection in a future regional trail network.



As further discussed below, public use and enjoyment of the Boardman River is anticipated to increase greatly as a series of dams on the river are removed. The Township is committed to protecting and enhancing public access to this great resource.

Miller Creek Nature Reserve – Natural Resource Area



The Miller Creek Nature Reserve measures 67-acres and serves as a key piece of natural resource preservation between some of the most densely-developed areas in the center of Garfield Township. The reserve was established in phases, first as an open space and natural resource protection area within the Grand Traverse Crossings Planned Unit Development and subsequently expanding as an open space element of the Arbors Planned Unit Development.

Recreational opportunities at this park include hiking, nature watching, hunting, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. The nature trails at the Miller Creek Natural area pass through a former Red Pine plantation, skirt the edges of open meadows, cross boardwalks through cedar swamps, and follow Miller Creek, a tributary of the Boardman River.

Silver Lake Recreation Area – Community Park

The 84-acre Silver Lake Recreational area is located on East Silver Lake Road and was established in 2004 to provide additional opportunities for active and passive recreation to Township residents. Amenities within the eastern half of the park include three picnic pavilions, restrooms, a tee-ball field, two playgrounds, basketball



courts, tennis courts, an 0.7 mile Type II park trail loop, a sledding hill, and general all-purpose athletic fields. The western half of the park remains heavily wooded and offers 4,400 feet of Type III nature trails. At this time, the Silver Lake Recreation Area is viewed as far from “built out” and is a prime candidate for expanded recreational opportunities.

The Silver Lake Recreation Area is one of two remaining publicly owned properties with frontage on Silver Lake (the other being the MDNR boat launch). Currently, the roughly 100-foot shoreline within the park is in a natural state. The public has expressed interest in this shoreline being developed into a public beach area, which would be the only public swimming opportunity on the lake.



OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN GARFIELD TOWNSHIP

The following narratives describe facilities that are not owned by Garfield Township but are public, semi-public, or private opportunities for recreation within Garfield Township.

Boardman River Nature Center – Private Recreation Facility

This facility is owned and operated by the Grand Traverse Conservation District, and is located within the County Nature Education Reserve. Created as a way to help foster the exploration, appreciation and conservation of the natural world, the Boardman River Nature Center has become a destination for the Grand Traverse community to nurture their connection to nature. Inside, the Boardman River Nature Center features an exhibit gallery, nature theater, and activity area for kids. Outside, there are picnic pavilions, native plant gardens, a demonstration wetland and access to hiking trails in the 505-acre Natural Education Reserve. Nature themed programs for families, children and adults occur regularly on evenings and weekends and custom programs are available for schools and groups. The facility is directly accessible from the BVNP.

Grand Traverse Commons Barns Area – Large Community Park

Owned and operated by the City of Traverse City and Garfield Township Joint Recreational Authority¹, portions of this 54-acre property were once used by Traverse City State Psychiatric Hospital patients for farming activities as a form of therapy. The property was acquired for public use in 2004. Future plans for the Barns Area include the rehabilitation of the two large barns into public assembly places, an outdoor amphitheater, additional trails, botanical gardens, and community educational and agricultural activities. The Barns Area is adjacent to the Township-owned Commons Natural Area and includes a trailhead and parking to increase access to that park.

Grand Traverse County Natural Education Reserve – Natural Resource Area

Nearly every natural cover type in the state is found in the 505-acre Natural Education Reserve along the Boardman River, which abuts the Township's Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. Features include bog, marsh, true swamp, level terrain, upland forest, pine forest, creek, river, and an active beaver pond. 7 miles of improved trails provide access to bridges, boardwalks, canoe portage sites,

¹ The City of Traverse City and Garfield Township Recreational Authority was formed in 2003 under the Recreational Authorities Act of 2000. In 2004, Garfield Township and Traverse City voters approved a ballot measure to fund the acquisition and improvement of three properties under the guidance of the Joint Recreational Authority. Those properties included the former Smith-Barney Building in Traverse City (now the Open Space), the Historic Barns at Grand Traverse Commons in Garfield Township, and Hickory Meadows in Garfield Township.

The capital projects were financed through a 20-year General Obligation Bond, after which the Recreational Authority will dissolve and the parks will be dedicated to the City and Township for public use in perpetuity.



boat launches, picnic areas, and opportunities for hiking, photography, nature watching, and other forms of quiet recreation.

Hickory Hills Ski Area – Special Use

Owned and operated by the City of Traverse City, the 126-acre Hickory Hills Ski Area is located in Garfield Township at the west end of Randolph Road. A number of rope-tows provide access for families to enjoy downhill skiing within minutes of home. Hickory Hills also includes a highly-rated 24-hole disc golf course that is available for public use at no charge. Future plans include development of a tubing run. The Hickory Meadows Natural Resource Area abuts Hickory Hills to the east.

Hickory Meadows – Natural Resource Area

Hickory Meadows is owned and operated by the City of Traverse City and Garfield Township Joint Recreational Authority. The natural area is adjacent to Hickory Hills Ski Area, and may be accessed either by Randolph Road or M-72. The 113-acre parcel offers miles of Type III park trails that wander over hills, across meadows, and through woodlands. A Cross-Country Ski Trail loop was groomed in the past but has not been maintained since 2010. Dependent on funding, maintenance of the ski loop may resume at some point in the future.

Keystone Complex – Sports Complex

The Keystone Complex is a 77-acre parcel along Keystone Road and is home to a 40-acre soccer complex. This complex has 15 soccer fields and is home to over 3,000 soccer enthusiasts in the Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS) organization. Future developments on this property may include baseball fields and trails. The facility is owned by Grand Traverse County.

Medalie Park – Community Park

Located on South Airport Road where the Boardman River enters Boardman Lake, Medalie Park is an 8-acre peninsula of land owned by Grand Traverse County. Recreational facilities include a boat launch for canoes and kayaks, a paved Type II Park Trail, three overlooks/fishing platforms, and a picnic shelter. Indoor restrooms are also available.

Mitchell Creek Preserve – Natural Resource Area

The 132-acre Mitchell Creek Nature Preserve is located in the heart of the Mitchell Creek Watershed and is owned and managed by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. The preserve is open to the public for passive recreation, nature watching, trapping, fishing and hunting. The property is located along the east boundary of Garfield Township off of Townline Road.



Traverse City West Middle School

Traverse City West Middle School is located on Silver Lake Road. Recreational facilities at the site include a running track, multi-purpose athletic fields, tennis courts, and baseball and softball fields. The school also figures prominently into trail planning in regard to the Buffalo Ridge Trail.

Traverse City West High School

Traverse City West High School is located on North Long Lake Road. Recreational facilities at the school include a running track, multi-purpose athletic field, tennis courts, and baseball and softball fields.

Former Sabin Elementary School

The former Sabin Elementary is located at the corner of Hartman Road and Cass Road, and shares a short portion of its northwest property line with the Miller Creek Nature Preserve. The school has been closed, and is now used by TCAPS as a data center. However, a playground remains on the site and is still used by area residents, including families from the nearby Arbors Apartments complex. The Township has expressed interest to TCAPS regarding preservation of the playground despite the school now being closed.

The property is also anticipated to provide a critical connection in a planned trail link between the Miller Creek Nature Preserve and the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve.

REGIONAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Lake Michigan Beaches

The Grand Traverse region is renowned for its sandy Lake Michigan shoreline. Public beaches that are frequented by Garfield Township residents include Bryant Park, Clinch Park, East Bay Park, and West End Park (all owned and operated by the City of Traverse City). Additional beaches within close proximity include Grelickville Harbor Park (Elmwood Township), Acme Township Park and Bayside Park (Acme Township), and the Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park (East Bay Township). In the spring, fall, and winter, these beaches are also frequented by surf fishermen targeting species such as salmon, brown trout, and steelhead.

Hull Park

Hull Park is found on the north end of Boardman Lake, within the City of Traverse City. The park is accessible to Township residents either by car or via the existing East Boardman Lake Trail. Hull Park is notable because it includes the only public boat launch on Boardman Lake, and also is home



to the Traverse Area Community Sailing club, which offers sailing instruction to community residents.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is located roughly 20 miles to the west/northwest of Garfield Township. The park includes over 71,000 acres, 65 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, 26 inland lakes, 12 miles of rivers and streams, 105 miles of trails, 357 campsites, and two islands (North and South Manitou). The National Lakeshore draws over 1.1 million annual visitors. The planned US Bicycle Route 35 will provide an opportunity for Township residents to cycle to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore along a designated bike route.

Boat Launches/Marinas

The only publicly accessible boat launch within Garfield Township is located on East Silver Lake Road and is owned and operated by the Michigan DNR. The launch provides access to Silver Lake. A launch within Hull Park in Traverse City provides access to Boardman Lake. Kayaks and other light boats are often hand-launched from Medalie Park on the south end of Boardman Lake.

Public marinas in close proximity are located within the City of Traverse City (Duncan L. Clinch Marina) and Elmwood Township (Elmwood Marina), each of which provide access to West Grand Traverse Bay.

Civic Center – Large Community Park

Grand Traverse County owns and operates the 45-acre Civic Center Park, which is located in the City of Traverse City within close driving or biking distance of many Township residents. The Civic Center includes Howe Arena with one sheet of ice, an outdoor 25,000 sq. ft. skate and bike park, 8 baseball and softball fields, and the only public swimming pool in the region.

Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park

The Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park is located in East Bay Township, to the east of Garfield Township. The park includes a campground with 343 modern camp sites, and ¼ mile of beach frontage on East Grand Traverse Bay. The TART Trail provides non-motorized access to the park.

Interlochen State Park

The Interlochen State Park is located in Green Lake Township, to the southwest of Garfield Township. The park includes a modern campground with 421 sites, and a rustic campground with 59 rustic sites. The park is located on two fishing and swimming lakes; Green Lake and Duck Lake.



The park was established as Michigan's first state park in 1917 to preserve one of the last virgin pine stands for the people of Michigan.

Brown Bridge Quiet Area

Brown Bridge Quiet Area is located in East Bay Township, to the east of Garfield Township. The park measures approximately 1,300 acres, and is maintained in a natural state for public enjoyment of the woodlands and the Boardman River. The planned Boardman Valley Trail will provide a direct non-motorized connection between Garfield Township and the Brown Bridge Quiet Area.

TART Trail

TART Trails stands for Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails, Inc. The term "TART Trail" is commonly used to refer to the overall regional network of non-motorized trailways. Currently, the TART Trail network includes a number of trails located within Garfield Township but also branching out to the regional community, including connections from the Traverse City area north to Suttons Bay, and east to Acme. Future plans include connections northeast to Elk Rapids, southeast to the North Country Trail, southeast to Cadillac (linking to the White Pine trail), and southwest to Interlochen, Beulah, and the Lake Michigan shoreline.

C.E.N.T.R.E. Ice

The Centre Ice Arena, in East Bay Township to the east of Garfield Township, is the only facility in the region other than the County Civic Center to offer ice rinks for sports and recreation. The facility includes two sheets of ice.



DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Overview

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community, as they serve as a basis for the development of an action plan. In creating this Plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission utilized a compilation of several methods, including comparing the community to national recreation guidelines, compiling information gathered from the public involvement process, and institutional knowledge and insight into the community offered by the Parks and Recreation Commission and Township Staff.

There were a number of opportunities for public involvement as the plan went from draft to final form. Information gained from public involvement efforts, in conjunction with the standards set forth by NRPA guidelines, helped to shape the Goals and Objectives element of this Plan.

Planning Methods

The first method of the planning process focused primarily on the *Comparison to Recreation Standards* planning approach. The standards used in conducting this approach were based on those developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), as detailed within Appendix E of the Michigan DNR's 2009 publication, "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans." However, it is important to recognize that the NRPA recommended standards must be taken in context when applying local knowledge of a particular community's built and planned nature, noted recreation interests, and recreational opportunities that are available in neighboring communities.

The Plan also includes a Green Infrastructure element. Though no standards exist to determine how much open space a community needs, the Green Infrastructure element is reflective of earlier open space and natural area plans, the 2007 Comprehensive Plan's Stream, Environment, and Wetland land use category, and noted public desire for the preservation and protection of natural resource areas.

Preliminary Public Input

The Parks and Recreation Commission sought preliminary public involvement during the preparation of the plan in a number of ways, including opportunity for comment at open meetings, via an online survey, and during in-person question and answer situations.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed updated drafts of the Plan on a monthly basis. The agenda of the Commission's business is published on the Township website in advance of each meeting so that the public is aware of an opportunity for involvement in any given discussion. Despite this opportunity for public involvement, public comment during regular Parks and Recreation Commission meetings did not prove to be an extensive public involvement element of



this Plan. To supplement public input, the Commission determined to develop an online survey and to seek out opportunities for face-to-face discussion with interested residents.

The online survey consisted of seven multiple choice and essay questions, and was posted on the front page of the Township website from July 6, 2011 to August 29, 2011. Over this period of time, the webpage had 2,476 visits. The opportunity to take part in the online survey was also published in an August 11, 2011 Traverse City Ticker article that highlighted the Township's park system. The Ticker is a free daily news email featuring Traverse City-area news, and has more than 25,000 subscribers. In total, 76 persons participated in the online survey, including a substantial jump in participation following publication of the Ticker article. The results of this survey are briefly summarized under the Basis for Goals and Objectives section of this Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Commission also developed a questionnaire to guide Commissioners in speaking with community members about the development of recreation goals and project priorities. On August 13, 2011, Commissioners took advantage of a planned Community Day and Fire Department Grand Opening at the Silver Lake Recreation Area to speak with area residents regarding their parks and recreation needs. In total, roughly 500 persons attended this event, and 24 questionnaires were submitted in whole or in part. The results of this questionnaire are also reflected under the Basis for Goals and Objectives section of this Plan.

The complete online survey and a full summary of the comments received is provided in *Appendix A*.

Development of Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

The Parks and Recreation Commission used the results of the of the preliminary Planning Methods and Public Input to develop the Plan's draft Goals and Objectives, which in turn provided the basis for the development of the Action Plan. Specific public comment received and how that comment impacted the development of the Plan are spoken to more thoroughly within the Basis for Goals and Objectives section of the Plan.

Public Notices, Finalization of Draft Plan, Opportunity for Final Public Input, and Adoption

In anticipation that the draft plan would be finalized by the Parks and Recreation Commission on January 12, 2012, a legal notice was published in the January 8, 2012 Traverse City Record Eagle that the draft 5-Year Recreation Plan would become available for a one-month review and comment period beginning January 13, 2012, either in person at the Township Hall or on the Township's website at www.garfield-twp.com.

The same January 8, 2012 notice also advised that the Garfield Township Board would hold a public hearing on February 14, 2012, to hear comments on and consider adoption of the draft Plan. The legal notice and affidavit of publication for the January 8, 2012 publication is attached as *Appendix D*.



In addition to the newspaper publication, the Township also invited public inspection of the plan via postings at the Township Hall, within kiosks at the various parks, and postings on the Township website.

As anticipated, the draft plan was finalized by the Parks and Recreation Commission on January 12, 2012, and the draft plan was made available for public inspection at the Township Hall and on the Township's webpage beginning January 13, 2012.

The draft plan was presented at a meeting of the Garfield Township Planning Commission on January 25, 2012. The Planning Commission meeting agenda and certified minutes are provided in *Appendix C*.

The draft plan remained available for public inspection until February 14, 2012. Over the month that the plan remained available, and other than Planning Commission input as described above, no additional public comment was received.

At a Special Meeting beginning at 4:30PM on February 14, 2012, and following the 30-day public review period as described above, the Parks and Recreation Commission adopted Resolution 2012-01-PR to recommend to the Township Board that the Plan be adopted. The meeting agenda, minutes, and certified resolution recommending adoption of the plan are provided in *Appendix B*.

At its regular meeting beginning at 6:00PM on February 14, 2012, and following conclusion of public comment, the Township Board passed Resolution 2012-04-T to adopt the 2012 Charter Township of Garfield Recreation Plan. The Township Board meeting agenda, meeting minutes reflecting final public comment received, and adopted Resolution 2012-04-T are provided in *Appendix E*.

Timetable of Adoption

- January 8, 2012. Newspaper publication of plan availability for review beginning on January 13, 2012. Also included notification of Township Board public hearing and opportunity for comment on February 14, 2012.
- January 12, 2012. Parks and Recreation Commission finalizes draft plan.
- January 13, 2012. Draft Plan made available for public review at Township Hall and online. Remains available until February 14, 2012.
- February 14, 2012 (4:30PM). Parks and Recreation Commission holds special meeting, passes Resolution 2012-01-PR recommending adoption of plan.
- February 14, 2012 (6:00PM). Township Board holds public hearing, passes Resolution 2012-04-T adopting plan.



BASIS FOR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A number of factors were analyzed during the preparation of this Plan. The following specific characteristics were considered as the particular goals and objectives were formulated:

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

As of the 2010 Census, Garfield Township had a population of 16,256. Roughly two-thirds of the population live to the west of the Boardman River and Lake, and the remaining one-third reside to the east. Specific population concentrations include the following:

- Numerous single-family residential neighborhoods in an area roughly bordered by Silver Lake Road, Barns Road, Zimmerman Road, North Long Lake Road, and South Airport Road
- Single-family and mobile home residential development near Silver Lake
- Single-family and multi-family residential development centered along Veterans Drive and near the Grand Traverse Crossings Mall
- Mobile home and multi-family residential developments in an area roughly bordered by Keystone Road, La Franier Road, Garfield Road, and Barlow Road.
- Single-family and multi-family residential development along Hartman Road.

The remaining areas of the Township are not as highly developed as the above population centers. A number of residential developments have been approved in the northwest and southeast areas of the Township, but are not yet been fully built out.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

As of the 2010 Census, the total population of Garfield Township was 16,256 persons, a 17.4% growth rate since the 2000 Census population of 13,840. The median household income in Garfield Township was \$39,589. The unemployment rate was 10.3%, and the percentage of families and individuals whose income was below the poverty level was 7.0% and 12.4%, respectively. Households that were most likely to have incomes below poverty level are those headed by a female householder.

Township residents averaged 43 years in age, with 20.1% of residents below 18 years, 59.5% from 18 to 65 years, and 20.4% aged 65 or older. Roughly 46% of residents were male, and 54% of residents were female.



7.1% of occupied housing units did not have a vehicle available. To commute to work, 82% of the workforce drove alone, 10% carpooled, and 3% walked, took public transportation, or commuted by other means. 5.3% of the workforce worked at home.

93.9% of the population was Caucasian, 0.8% was African American, 1.2% was Native American, 0.7% was some other race, and 2.4% was two or more races.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS - NATURAL FEATURES

The Boardman River and Boardman Lake are the most prominent natural features within Garfield Township. The river flows north through Garfield Township before emptying into Boardman Lake, which subsequently enters the City of Traverse City before draining to Grand Traverse Bay. The Boardman River and Boardman Lake divide the Township from east-to-west. Roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Township's geographic area lies to the east of the river and lake.

Topographic elevations fall from a high point of about 1,100-feet above sea level in the west of the Township to roughly 600-feet within the Boardman River valley, before rising once again to over 900-feet above sea level in the southeast corner of the Township.

BOARDMAN RIVER WATERSHED

The Boardman River flows north through Garfield Township before entering Boardman Lake at South Airport Road. An estimated 2 million user days are logged on the Boardman River each year (as a whole) for recreation opportunities such as canoeing, kayaking, hunting, and fishing. 36 river miles are presently designated as Blue Ribbon river sections for trout fishing.



Current and past planning efforts have strongly focused on the preservation and recreational value of the Boardman River Valley. The Township's Boardman Valley Nature Preserve includes over 100 acres, 1.5 miles of trail, and over a mile of river frontage on the west bank. The County's Natural Education Reserve, which abuts the BVNP to the south, includes an additional 505-acres and 7 miles of trail along both banks of the river.

The Boardman River has been impounded by a series of dams since the late 1800s. From upstream to downstream, the dams include Brown Bridge Dam, Boardman Dam, Sabin Dam, and Union Street Dam. Two of the dams, Boardman and Sabin, are within Garfield Township. The three



upstream dams have historically been used for hydroelectric power generation, but have not been in operation since 2006 and are now slated to be removed and an open river condition restored.

As the dams are removed, numerous environmental, community, regional, and educational benefits will be realized. The project will enhance and restore habitat for native and naturalized fish species and organisms that prefer cold water. Over 3.4 miles of free flowing river, roughly 2 miles of which are in Garfield Township, will be restored, and 160 miles of high-quality river habitat will again be linked, unencumbered by dams. More than 250 acres of wetland and nearly 60 acres of upland will be restored.

It is important to recognize that though the dams will be gone, ongoing management and restoration will be necessary for the decades to come, including streambank restoration, invasive species management, and management of pressures for anticipated commercial use of the river such as livery and guide services.



A number of tributaries in the Boardman River watershed are also located within Garfield Township. These tributaries include Miller Creek, Jack's Creek, and Kid's Creek. Mitchell Creek is located in the east of the Township and drains directly to East Grand Traverse Bay. The Township is Master Planned to protect and enhance these surface water resources, as well as associated wetland areas.

BOARDMAN LAKE

Boardman Lake is a 315-acre natural lake within the Boardman River watershed. The water elevation is approximately 9.1 ft. above its historic natural level due to the Union Street dam in Traverse City. The southern half of the lake is located within Garfield Township, while the northern half is located within the city limits of Traverse City.

There is a public boat launch at Traverse City's Hull Park on the north east end of the lake, as well as opportunities to launch canoes, kayaks, and other lightweight boats from the County's Medalie Park on the south end of the lake. The Boardman Lake Trail has been constructed along the entire east shore of the lake, and plans to complete the pathway all the way around the lake are ongoing.



Although a public use analysis has not been performed, the public's use of the resource is thought to be lower than what might be expected for a lake in the center of the Traverse City urban area. This is thought to be due to the public's perception of the environmental health of the lake, specifically



concerns over contamination resulting from the industrial uses that are adjacent to Boardman Lake. Past studies have indicated that there are elevated concentrations of contaminants in the sediments of Boardman Lake, and that the sediments in some areas are toxic to sediment-dwelling freshwater organisms. However, a 1992 Michigan Department of Natural Resources analysis found only minute concentrations of chemical contaminants within fish in the lake, and not at levels which warranted a specific consumption advisory for the lake.

The most recent DNR fisheries survey, conducted in 2003, indicated good populations of yellow perch, walleye, sunfish, and smallmouth bass that were from 1-to-2 inches above State averages in terms of growth rates. Because of past slow growth rates of northern pike, the DNR removed the minimum size limit of the species in 1983, and the northern pike in the lake are now also above State averages. In any case, even if fisherpersons choose not to keep their catch due to perceptions of contamination, the lake is an excellent in-town fishery.

By working to change the misconceptions about the health of Boardman Lake, and providing enhanced access opportunities such as fishing decks adjacent to bike paths, the Township can encourage greater public use and enjoyment of this in-town fishery and recreational resource.

SILVER LAKE

Silver Lake is a 645-acre waterbody in the southwest corner of the Township. The shoreline has been heavily residentially developed, and the lake is used primarily for boating opportunities for lakefront residents and the general public. Silver Lake is divided north to south between Garfield and Blair Townships.

The Township's Silver Lake Recreation Area is the only public park on Silver Lake. Presently, the park's Silver Lake shoreline (roughly 100-feet of frontage) is in a natural state and does not provide swimming or water access opportunities to the public.

The Michigan DNR maintains a boat launch on East Silver Lake Road; however, swimming is not permitted at the launch.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are non-native organisms that cause harm to people, the economy, or the environment. For example, the sap from wild parsnip can cause intense blistering after coming into contact with skin and being exposed to sunlight. These species can harm the economy by increasing costs for farmland management or acting as a host to common pests, and by degrading the natural resources that so many tourists visit the area to enjoy. Perhaps most importantly, invasive species harm the natural environment by displacing the native species which would otherwise support the



food web. Invasive species often out-compete and displace native species, reducing biodiversity and destabilizing ecosystems.

Over the past several years area land managers have grown increasingly concerned about how invasive plant species impact the Grand Traverse region. As a result, the Grand Traverse Regional Invasive Species Network (ISN) was formed to survey and manage species in regional natural areas over a five-county area, as well as to educate the public about our shared natural resources. One of the ISN's primary goals is to work to prevent the introduction and spread of new invasive species.

Two township parks, Kid's Creek Park and the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area, have been identified as already significantly impacted by invasive plants.

Water resources, including Silver Lake, have also been impacted by invasive aquatic species, including Eurasian Milfoil, the Round Goby and Zebra Mussel.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS - SIGNIFICANT MANMADE FEATURES

The majority of commercial and industrial development has occurred in the north-central portion of the Township, although these uses do exist in smaller pockets and corridors throughout the Township. Residential development is also most dense in the north-central portion of the Township, but includes other significant population centers, particularly near Silver Lake. The northwest and southeast areas of the Township are home to a number of larger-lot subdivisions, rural residences, and remnant agricultural areas.

Garfield Township is crossed from north to south by two major roadways, US-31 and Garfield Road. Each carries high volumes of traffic between the Traverse City region and the downstate population centers. The majority of the US-31 corridor functions as a heavily developed commercial and industrial corridor. The Garfield Road corridor transitions from rural in the south to urbanized in the north. Other significant north-south roadways include Silver Lake Road, Cass Road, and Keystone Road. Major east-west roadways include South Airport Road, North Long Lake Road, and Hammond Road. There are only two motorized crossings of the Boardman River within Garfield Township, being South Airport Road and Cass Road.

The Township has a moderate amount of existing non-motorized trails to provide alternate access between schools, residences, entertainment, parks, and centers of employment, but the existing network has much room for improvement.

The Township's 2007 Comprehensive Plan (Future Land Use Map) calls for future development that is generally reflective of the built environment. Commercial, industrial, and office development will be clustered around arterial roadways, while the highest density residential development will be encouraged to infill vacant land between existing residential developments.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Township encouraged early and often public involvement by way of open meetings, surveys, and questionnaires. The following is a summary of common public sentiments and comments that were used to help shape the Goals and Objectives section of this Plan.

- Walking, hiking, and nature watching were some of the most common results when participants were asked why they used the Township parks.
- Many comments focused on keeping the Township's natural areas in a largely undeveloped state for both recreation and open space purposes, and keeping the ball fields and other active-recreation facilities at the Silver Lake Recreation Area, or at a future park elsewhere in the Township.
- Proximity/convenience to parks was an important consideration for many respondents. Some comments highlighted the lack of a Township-owned community park on the east side of the Township.
- Participants generally were of the opinion that the parks were well clean and well maintained. Some comments did raise concerns about poor cleanliness, or about the need for improved maintenance of facilities such as trails, garbage disposal, or the need for improvements such as better trail signage and way finding markers.
- Many comments highlighted opportunities for greater improvements to the Silver Lake Recreation Area, including things such as improved ball fields, a beach area, a dog park, a splash pad, additional picnic pavilions, etc.
- Many comments focused on increasing non-motorized access to the Township parks. One comment in particular encouraged the Township to require the installation of bike paths or sidewalks when new development occurs.
- Increasing public awareness and use of the Township's park system was encouraged. The Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area was the most well-known of all parks, with 85% of respondents aware that the park existed. The Boardman Valley Nature Preserve was also well known. On the other hand, nearly 60% of respondents did not know that the Miller Creek Nature Preserve existed.
- The Commons Natural Area and the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve were the most visited parks, with roughly 40% of respondents visiting the respective park from 1-5 times within the last two years. Despite being adjacent to some of the region's largest shopping centers, the Miller Creek Nature Reserve and Kid's Creek Park were the least visited of the Township's Parks.
- The majority of respondents rated the Township park system as "Good" or "Great" when considering the amount of parkland, the number of parks, park distribution and convenient location, beauty, cleanliness and maintenance, variety of recreational opportunities, safety,



and size. Many respondents felt that Handicap Access to the parks was in need of improvement.

- When asked if there was a need for certain facilities, the majority of respondents replied “Yes” to the need for the following: Beach Access, Dog Park, Mountain Bike Trails, Nature Center/Gardens, Outdoor Ice Rink, Paved Bike Paths, Picnic Shelter, Playgrounds/Equipment, Sledding Hill, Swimming Pool, Walk/Hike/Jog Trail, and XC Skiing Trails. The majority of respondents were “Neutral” to the need for the following: Baseball/Softball Fields, Basketball Courts, Beach Volleyball, Disc Golf, Pickleball Courts, Shuffleboard/Bocce Ball, and Tennis Courts. The majority of respondents replied “No” to the need for the following: Amphitheater/Bandstand, Equestrian Trails, Skateboard/Bike Park, and Snowmobile Trails.
- When asked to consider recreation priorities for the next five years, over 80% of respondents identified building pathways (both locally and regionally) as either “Important” or “Very Important.” Over 70% of respondents identified the acquisition and protection of sensitive natural areas and habitats as either “Important” or “Very Important.” The next highest priorities included improving the maintenance at existing parks, improving barrier-free access at parks, and expanding the amenities and activities available at parks. Some support was shown to acquire more parkland and developing additional parks throughout the Township. Little support was shown of the need for increased hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities.



Table 3 – Inventory Analysis

	Facility Standard per Population	Recommended for Garfield Township	Existing Facility	Standard Met?	Comments
Badminton	1/5,000	3-4	No designated courts known in area	No	
Basketball	1/5,000	3-4	Silver Lake Recreation Area; GT Bay YMCA	Yes	
Handball	1/20,000	1 for area	Several courts at GT Bay YMCA facility	Yes	
Ice Hockey	1/100,000 (indoor)	1 for region	Center Ice Howe (Civic Center)	Yes	
Tennis	1/2,000	8	Silver Lake Recreation Area; GT Bay YMCA	Yes	
Volleyball	1/5,000	3-4	GT Bay YMCA; West End Park	Yes	
Baseball	1/5,000	3-4	Several fields in adjacent Townships	No	Fields are not within recommended Service Radius
Field Hockey	1/20,000	1 for area	No known area public fields	No	
Football	1/20,000	1 for area	5 fields serving region (Thirlby Field, West Senior High, East Middle School, West Middle School, NMC)	Yes	
Soccer	1/10,000	2 for area	Regional facilities such as Keystone soccer complex have 15 fields. Also GT Bay YMCA, West Middle School	Yes	
Golf-Driving Range	1/50,000	1-2 for region	Several in the region	Yes	
¼ Mile Running Track	1/20,000	1 for area	Several in region at TCAPS facilities	Yes	
Softball	1/5,000	3-4		-	
Multiple Recreation Court	1/10,000	2 for area	Silver Lake Recreation Area	Yes	
Trails	1 system per region	1 for region	TART Trail Network; VASA Trail; NCT	Yes	
Archery Range	1/50,000	1-2 for region	1 private indoor facility in Blair Township	Yes	
Combination Skeet and Trap	1/50,000	1-2 for region	No known in region	No	
Golf Par 3 9 Hole 18 Hole	n/a 1/25,000 1/50,000	1 for area 1 for region	Bay Meadows	Yes	
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1 for area	County facility has pool, no other public pool in region	Yes	
Beach Area	½ - 1 hour travel time		Multiple within Federal, State, County, and Local Parks	Yes	



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following recreation goals and objectives were developed based on the outcome of public input and based on their understanding of the community and its residents. The Action Plan is informed by and reflects these goals.

Goal 1. *Improve non-motorized connectivity within the Township and to neighboring communities.*

Objectives.

- Invest in non-motorized improvements and connections between existing parks and natural areas.
- Identify and pursue funding for additional sidewalks, trails, and pathways.
- Encourage the Planning Commission and Township Board to develop non-motorized facility requirements in Zoning Ordinance.
- Recognize the limitations of the existing built environment along major roads by providing pedestrian and bicycle paths that are separate from vehicular routes where possible, but which provide both recreation and transportation opportunities between areas serviced by major roadways.
- Utilize natural feature areas and parks as connections where possible.
- Work with project partners such as TART Trails and neighboring communities to provide regional trail connections.
- Explore the possibility of a joint authority for management of the regional non-motorized trail network.
- Invest in safe, family-friendly non-motorized crossings of major roadways.
- Support a Complete Streets policy of including paved shoulders (bike lanes) and/or separated pathways on all road reconstruction projects as a means of “filling the gaps” between existing pieces of the non-motorized trail network.

Goal 2. *Continue to improve existing resources through regular maintenance and by providing a greater variety of active and passive recreational opportunities.*

Objectives.

- Provide continuous improvements to existing township parks
- Identity and provide funding for annual improvements to township facilities that maintain or exceed current levels



- Develop annual maintenance plans to maintain park and recreational facilities to a high standard so that major repairs or complete replacement of a resource is rarely necessary
- Develop management plans for each of the parks
- Continue to improve safety and barrier free accessibility at parks
- Include a broad range of recreation facilities within each park where feasible, provided that the facility meets the spirit and intent of the park
- Develop amenities in park facilities to include those identified by the Township as well as by residents through the public input process
- Maintain a logical balance between active and passive pursuits in the parks
- Continue to collaborate with partners such as adjacent municipalities, the Grand Traverse Conservation District, Regional Land Conservancy, Joint Recreational Authority, and the Parks and Recreation Network to provide broadly beneficial improvements to the active and passive regional recreation network
- Within all parks, the development of a self-guide nature education tour would be relatively simple, cost effective, and broadly beneficial

Goal 3. Explore opportunities and provide funding for the acquisition, protection, and preservation of natural areas, wetlands, habitat areas, and other similar resources.

Objectives.

- Identify important and recognized natural features and open spaces in the Township
- Enhance the green infrastructure network by expanding on and providing enhanced buffering to already protected areas
- Plant additional native vegetation and plants at all parks to protect water quality and improve habitat
- Continue to invest in water quality improvements such as stream bank stabilization and restoration projects
- Work with neighboring communities to identify and protect cross-jurisdictional natural areas which enhance the regional green infrastructure
- Encourage the Planning Commission and Township Board to develop and maintain Zoning Ordinance standards and Master Plan policy which encourage recognition and preservation of sensitive natural areas
- Identify priorities for acquisition as well as priorities for non-acquisition preservation. Priorities for acquisition should be areas that can also provide a recreational resource to



Township residents, such as the opportunity for expanded non-motorized connections, or where the acquisition would protect and buffer already protected lands. Priorities for non-acquisition preservation (i.e. a conservation easement) should be identified where preservation is important, but acquisition is not critical to the recreational infrastructure.

- Continue to work with the Grand Traverse Regional Invasive Species Network to prioritize and remove invasive species, prevent the spread of new invasive species, and educate the community about the stewardship of its natural resources.

Goal 4. *Provide a range of safe and convenient parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of all segments of the population.*

Objectives.

- As the Township continues to develop, acquire additional land for future park development and to provide more uniform distribution of the facilities, in terms of both geography and population.
- Develop facilities to meet the physical needs and ability levels of all park users
- Provide facilities for park users of all ages
- Increase barrier-free accessibility at parks
- Increase non-motorized access to parks
- Provide a variety of recreation opportunities, including active and passive recreation.
- Improve recreational opportunities for underserved areas of the Township, particularly on the east side of the Township
- Continue to educate the public about leash laws for dogs in parks

Goal 5. *Develop stable sources of funding and practice sound fiscal management of the parks and recreation system.*

Objectives.

- Pursue all available funding sources for capital improvements and operations and maintenance, including local sources, a parks and recreation millage, state and federal grant programs, local business, and other sources
- Adopt policies that any money generated by the Park System, such as reservation and rental permits, shall be redirected towards park funding
- Explore the possibility of a regional recreational authority which will manage and maintain the regional trail network



- Coordinate efforts with local interest groups and recreation providers and create partnerships for providing these resources
- Encourage the Township Board to maintain a small millage to maintain consistent funding for the purpose of general maintenance, improvements, acquisition, and for local match purposes for grant opportunities

Goal 6. Increase public use, access to, and enjoyment of natural resources including the Boardman River, Boardman Lake, and Silver Lake.

Objectives.

- Invest in the restoration of bottomlands within former backwater areas as the three Boardman River dams are removed.
- Invest in the acquisition of properties with Boardman River frontage, or properties that will buffer previously protected parkland within the Boardman River valley.
- Continue to participate as an ex-officio member in the Boardman River Dams Implementation Team.
- Plan for anticipated commercial pressures on the Township's parkland and natural resources, such as kayaking or canoeing liveries utilizing the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve for launch and recovery, or the potential to develop a whitewater park similar to the Bear River project in Petoskey. Consider permitting managed commercial pressure as a method of increasing public access to resources while incorporating a commercial fee structure to provide expanded Township-wide recreation opportunities
- Continue to seek funding and easements for the completion of the Boardman Lake Trail and Boardman Valley Trail. Incorporate water access elements with trail planning, such as fishing decks or swimming platforms.
- Consider development of a public beach area on Silver Lake within Silver Lake Recreation Area, but take care to involve neighborhood stakeholders early and often in the consideration of this objective.
- Work with landowners, the DEQ, the DNR, and other stakeholders to manage the spread of invasive aquatic species within these waterbodies.

Goal 7. Promote public awareness and usability of the park system

Objectives.

- Continue to promote the park system via the Township website, Facebook page, newsletter articles, and by including information about the entire park network at trailhead kiosks



- Optimize the availability of mobile park information by taking advantage of technology such as Smartphone applications and Tag barcodes. For example, a Tag barcode (see example to the right) could be used to link users to digital park maps. On a more advanced level, an application could be developed to provide interactive directions to trailheads or even GPS-based trail guidance systems. Development costs could be shared through partnerships though other regional recreation providers who would also benefit from this technology.





SYSTEM WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to capital investments into programs and facilities, Garfield Township must also evaluate the current system and review long-range options for providing parks and recreation. The following are system wide recommendations that should be evaluated annually and used in the long-range planning of parks and recreation.

- **Non-Motorized Connections.** Garfield Township is committed to providing non-motorized connections with pedestrian and bicycle pathways and expanding the existing trail systems. The development of more connections is a high priority to residents in the Township as well, indicated through the public input process. The Township should continue to develop connections, particularly linking the parks, neighborhoods, schools, and areas of concentrated employment.
- **Barrier-Free Accessibility.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has established guidelines to provide barrier-free accessibility at all public facilities. It is important to provide access to Township facilities according to these guidelines so that all residents may enjoy them. As parks and facilities are improved or developed, a high priority must be placed on upgrades that improve barrier-free accessibility including proper surfaces for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables, and play equipment that provides universal access.
- **Continued Public Involvement.** The Township should continue to solicit residents' suggestions on planning, use, and improvement of parks and recreation facilities. This can be accomplished with focus groups, public meetings, surveys, or through resident feedback solicited at Township events. The Parks and Recreation Commission itself, as an appointed citizen body, is a very important way to maintain public involvement.
- **Acquisition of Park Land and Green Infrastructure Parcels.** New opportunities to acquire land should be explored, both for recreational and green infrastructure purposes. Priority should be placed on portions of the Township furthest from existing park facilities, areas near significant residential development, and acquisition of land that will buffer already existing parks or natural areas.



PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

General comment on the known function, challenges, and opportunities of the various township parks and natural areas is provided below. As time and funding allows, the Township should invest in detailed development and management plans for its various recreation areas.

BOARDMAN VALLEY NATURE PRESERVE (BVNP)

The Boardman Valley Nature Preserve is intended to remain primarily in a natural, undeveloped state as an in-town opportunity for hiking, nature watching, hunting, and fishing.

Sentiment expressed by the Parks and Recreation Commission has generally supported the use of this park as a key element in the regional trail system, but wide asphalt bike paths are not envisioned as compatible with this nature area. Rather, the existing single-track type trail system would be more appropriate, or perhaps a crushed limestone pathway similar in nature to the Boardman Lake Trail. Care must be taken to avoid conflict between cyclists and other trail and park users. It will be necessary for the Township to plan in advance for the type of trail that will be permissible, as well as the location of the trail.

The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA currently occupies space on the northern area of this park, including a large building, parking lot, athletic fields, and volleyball courts. As the YMCA is currently conducting a capital campaign to construct a new facility on Silver Lake Road, the Township must immediately start to plan for the removal, maintenance, and/or improvement of the various YMCA facilities. These plans should be coordinated closely with the YMCA administration.

With the removal of the Boardman dams, the BVNP may experience a surge in commercial pressure, such as requests by livery services to launch or recover boats from the parkland. If managed properly, this commercial use of the property could both increase public use and enjoyment of the river while also bringing revenue to the Township.

Ongoing efforts have focused on the acquisition of key parcels that will either buffer the existing BVNP, such as acquisition of the rear acreage of industrial parcels along Cass Road, or that will greatly enhance the recreational and environmental protection values of the park, such as the acquisition of large holdings on the east bank of the River. These acquisition efforts are expected to continue.

Non-motorized access to this park would be greatly enhanced by a grade-separated crossing of South Airport Road at Medalie Park, as more thoroughly discussed under the Non-Motorized Plan element of this Master Plan.

GRAND TRAVERSE COMMONS NATURAL AREA

The Commons Natural Area is intended to remain in a natural state to provide opportunities for nature watching, hiking, and mountain biking.



Because much of the woodland within this park is of like species and maturity, the health of the woodland is at risk for a catastrophic event such as a wind storm, ice storm, or disease. Woodland management plans must be developed and implemented in order to increase variety in species and maturity to lessen the risk of such a catastrophic event. Removing mature, healthy trees from the parkland will likely generate great public concern. Therefore, prior to proceeding, the Township must make great effort to educate the public on why forest management is necessary and in the best long-term interest of this park.

The trails within the Commons Natural Area have been and will continue to be challenging to manage, including “bandit” trails that are neither desirable nor sustainably constructed, and difficult from a navigation standpoint. The Township has undertaken efforts to close some of the bandit trails, but some are so well established that they may never be completely abandoned. Improvements to navigation, including trail markers, waypoints, and improved mapping will increase the user experience of this park.

A 40-acre parcel of land to the west of the Commons (the “State 40”) is presently owned by the Michigan DNR, but has been slated for disposal. As this land is already broadly used by the public as a natural extension to the Commons, the Township should place a very high value on the acquisition of this property.

One of the primary users of the State 40 is a group named the Copper Ridge Riders Association (CRRA), which is an organization of dedicated mountain bike riders and trail advocates committed to mountain bike trail advocacy and the development of urban mountain bike trail systems and bike skills park. The CRRA is envisioned as a key stakeholder in the future of this park. Properly managed, the existing mountain bike trail system on the State 40 will provide recreational opportunities that are beneficial to Township residents and statewide visitors alike. Prior to and during the acquisition of the State 40, the Township should work with the CRRA to develop and adopt a vision and development plan to manage the existing trail network, including trail maintenance, safety standards, trail standards, and difficulty levels.

KIDS CREEK PARK

The amenities at Kid’s Creek Park have been largely established. Accordingly, much investment in the near future should focus on the maintenance and improvement of features such as the walking trails and fishing pond.

The fishing pond, which was dredged and restored in 2009, will continue to be one of the primary focus points of this park. Development of a management and stocking plan for the pond will ensure the continued availability of this in-town fishing resource. The fishing pond will provide an opportunity for families of all ages and income levels to introduce children to the sport of fishing. Stocking efforts should focus on hardy, easy-to-catch species such as bluegill or sunfish.



The Kid's Creek Park can be used as an educational opportunity on a number of levels. The stream bank restoration that has occurred on the site provides countless examples of the benefit of riparian buffer practices. Planned removal of invasive species such as common buckthorn and autumn olive will provide an additional educational opportunity on the need to prevent and manage the spread of these species. The park's close proximity to Traverse City West Middle School and the new Grand Traverse Bay YMCA provides a great opportunity for these institutions to use the park as an outdoor classroom and recreation opportunity.

The Township should continue to increase the public visibility and awareness of the park. A new sign was installed in 2011 along the park's US-31 frontage, which helped a great deal. A sign at the Kohl's parking area and trailhead is highly desirable and would greatly increase visibility.

MILLER CREEK NATURE RESERVE

The Miller Creek Nature Reserve will continue to function primarily as a natural resource area. The Township has identified a number of neighboring properties that, if acquired or protected via a conservation easement, will protect existing parkland, increase recreational opportunities, increase access to the park, and provide greater protection to Miller Creek. As time and funding allows, the Township should invest in the acquisition or protection of these additional properties.

The Township should also continue to invest in the maintenance and improvement of the trail system within the MCNR. To increase the user experience, some trails should be rerouted further away from adjacent development, such as the proximity of single-family homes to the Beech Ridge Trail and the proximity of some Arbors Apartments buildings to the Sabin School Trail. Ease of navigation will continue to benefit through ongoing improvements to trail mapping and navigational markers. A mountain biking trail could be developed at this park by using a combination of existing and future trails.

The MCNR will function as a key connector in the regional trail network. To the west, the trails will provide a connection to existing and planned trails along and to the west of US-31. The park already provides non-motorized connectivity between residential development along Hartman Road to the south and commercial development such as the Grand Traverse Mall and the Crossings along South Airport Road. To the east, connections will be made across Cass Road and to the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. It will be necessary for the Township to consider the location and trail type of the "connector" trails within the Reserve.

SILVER LAKE RECREATION AREA

The Silver Lake Recreation Area will continue to be improved upon as an active and passive recreation resource. The park has much room for active recreation improvements such as an irrigated and maintained multi-purpose athletic field, an additional ball field or improvements to the existing ball field, and multi-striped hard surfaced courts for activities such as basketball and



pickleball. Additional opportunities here may include an outdoor ice rink, splash pad, or a dog park. Disc golf may be appropriate, but likely at a smaller scale than a full 9-hole course.

To increase enjoyment along the pathways, the Township should invest annually in the planting of additional trees to provide shade. Exercise stations could be installed at regular intervals to create a “fitness trail” that would provide park goers of all ages and abilities with opportunities to increase health and wellness. The Township may also wish to consider extending the paved portions of the existing 0.7 mile loop to create an option for an even 1-mile loop.



As noted earlier in this Plan, the Silver Lake Recreation Area includes 100-feet of frontage on Silver Lake, which is presently in a natural state. Given the public desire for a swimming area on Silver Lake, the Township should consider developing a small beach on this frontage. However, any beach development plans should be closely coordinated with adjacent property owners and neighborhood associations.

NON-MOTORIZED PLAN

A high quality non-motorized transportation system may consist of a series of interconnected sidewalks, trails, bike paths, and other means by which the public can travel without using automobiles. This system provides not only alternative transportation options for the public but also provides many recreational opportunities. Recent real estate trends also indicate that prospective home buyers generally prefer to live in communities with nearby sidewalks, bike paths, or other similar facilities.

Due to constraints such as budget, right-of-way limitations, and desired timeline, different types of trails are appropriate for different areas of the Township. For example, it may be possible to quickly and economically establish a singletrack-type trail within the power line easements running from the Spring Hill neighborhood to the Keystone Recreational Complex in the southeastern corner of the Township. Another example of planned singletrack-type trails includes a connection between the Commons Natural Area and Hickory Meadows. Along South Airport Road, which is not bike-lane friendly but where the built environment limits potential trail building area, a narrower sidewalk would be the most appropriate trail type.

Two particular trail development projects are envisioned as the highest priority items over the 5-year life of this plan. One of these priority projects is the Buffalo Ridge Trail, which will connect numerous neighborhoods, schools, parks, and the new YMCA facility on Silver Lake Road. The other high-priority trail is completion of the West Boardman Lake Trail, which will result in a 5-mile loop encircling Boardman Lake. The **Non-Motorized Plan Map** is found on page 57.

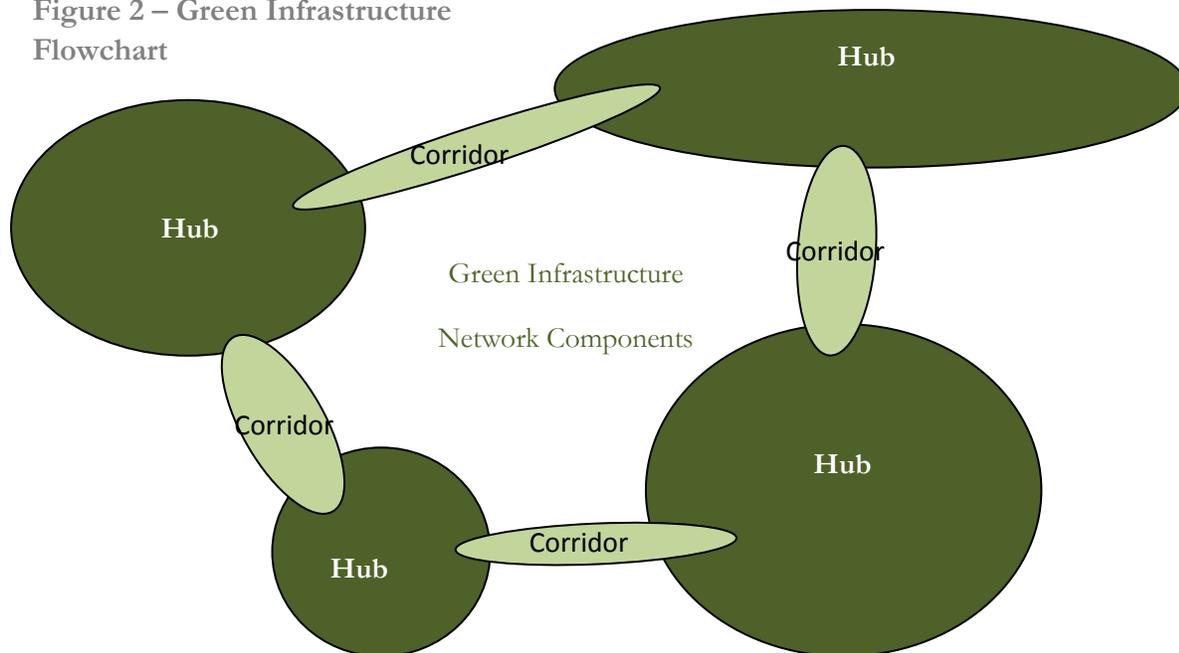


GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Green Infrastructure is a planned and managed interconnected network of natural areas, undeveloped land, and open space. The goal of a green infrastructure network is to conserve regional ecosystem values and functions, thereby benefitting both the environment and the human population. Some benefits of maintaining a green infrastructure include improved water quality, habitat preservation, and often, recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, nature observation, and opportunities for trailways.

The foundation of a green infrastructure system includes elements such as woodlands, wetlands, streams, rivers, and grasslands. The network is anchored by a number of “hubs,” or large areas of protected lands, which are then linked by a series of natural resource corridors.

Figure 2 – Green Infrastructure Flowchart



Over the past decade, the Township, County, and other partners have established a significant backbone of green infrastructure hubs, and designated a number of corridors to link the hubs. The existing hubs are made up primarily of parks and natural areas, such as the Miller Creek Nature Reserve, Boardman Valley and County Nature Education Preserve, Mitchell Creek Nature Preserve, Hickory Meadows, Kid’s Creek Park, and more. The proposed green infrastructure action plan identifies a number of properties that, once acquired or protected through tools such as a conservation easement, will strengthen the foundation of the green infrastructure network.

Though this plan identifies the desired green infrastructure at a broad scale, focus should all be placed on the preservation of the green infrastructure at smaller scales, including individual site and parcel development. Incorporating design practices such as low-impact development (LID) or open



space development can protect and enhance the green infrastructure, while often creating useable nature areas for Township residents. When evaluating any application for land use development, the Township should analyze the existing natural characteristics of the development site, as well as the relation of those natural features to surrounding properties, to identify and encourage the preservation of these natural features. Table 4, below, identifies priority properties that have been identified for acquisition or protection through a conservation easement. **The Green Infrastructure Plan map** (see page 58) shows the location of each priority property, as well as other natural features such as streams and wetlands. As time permits, the Township should perform greater analysis of other green infrastructure elements such as significant woodlands. As noted above, though a particular property may not be indicated on the plan, efforts should be made to protect green infrastructure at all scales.

Map Index	Name	Method of Protection
A1	Silver Lake Connection to W. Silver Lake Road	Acquisition
A2	Commons State 40, Ransom Parcel	Acquisition
A3	Oleson PUD Open Space and Wetlands	Donation
A4	Oleson, Schmude Wetlands	Acquisition
A5	Applebees Parcel	Acquisition, Access Emnt
A6	Commerce Center Wetland	Donation , Access Emnt
A7	City-Owned Boardman Parcel	Acquisition
A8	Kroupa	Acquisition
A9	Traverse Software	Acquisition
A10	Cass Road Self Storage	Donation or Cons. Emnt, Access Emnt.
A11	Miller Creek Corridor; BVNP / Miller Creek Connector	Donation or Cons. Emnt, Access Emnt.
A12	BVNP Parcels	Acquisition
A13	Logan Valley Pond	Donation or Cons. Emnt
A14	Misc. West Boardman River Parcels	Acquisition
A14-A	Logan Valley Development	Acquisition
A15	Misc. East Boardman River Parcel Easements	Easement
A16	Fraser Parcel	Acquisition
A17	Future East Side Community Park?	Acquisition
A18	SVEC, McClain, Godziewski Parcels	Acquisition
A19	Airport Approach	Donation
A20	Boydz	Acquisition
A21	Kukla	Acquisition
A22	Onthank	Acquisition
A23	Anderson	Acquisition
CE1	Lewis, Church, Outlet Mall, Tireland Parcels	Donation or Conservation Emnt
CE2	Sleder Wetlands	Donation or Conservation Esmt
CE3	C D F, Chelsea Park	Donation, Acquisition via PUD, Cons. Emnt
P1	S. Airport Road	Protected
P2	Silver Lake Road Conservation Easement	Protected
P3	Lowes Wetlands	Protected
P4	Hughes Drive	Protected
P6	Misc. Ongoing Acquisitions	Protected
PUB 1	Future East Side Community Park?	Publicly Owned (BPW)
SP1	Silver Lake Elementary School	School Park
SP2	TC West High School	School Park
SP3	TC West Middle School	School Park
P4	Former Sabin Elementary Playgrounds	Donation
SP6	Traverse Bay Christian School	School Park

Table 4 – Green Infrastructure Program



ACTION PROGRAM

Table 5

Proposed Recreation Projects

Table 5			
Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan			
Year	Facility/Improvement	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
2012	Contracted Services	\$30,000	TF
2012	Park Trail Development/Maintenance	\$50,000	TF
2012	SLRA Irrigation System	\$113,000	TF
2012	Boardman River Misc.	\$5,000	TF
2012	Maintenance	\$20,500	TF
2012	Land Acquisition	\$30,000	TF
2012	Contingencies	\$32,000	TF
2013	Contracted Services	\$30,000	TF
2013	Park Trail Development/Maintenance	\$50,000	TF
2013	Trail Development – Buffalo Ridge	\$300,000	TF, G, PD
2013	Boardman River Misc.	\$5,000	TF
2013	Maintenance	\$20,500	TF
2013	Land Acquisition	\$30,000	TF
2013	Contingencies	\$32,000	TF
2014	Contracted Services	\$30,000	TF
2014	Park Trail Development/Maintenance	\$50,000	TF
2014	Trail Development – Boardman Lake	\$300,000	TF, G, PD

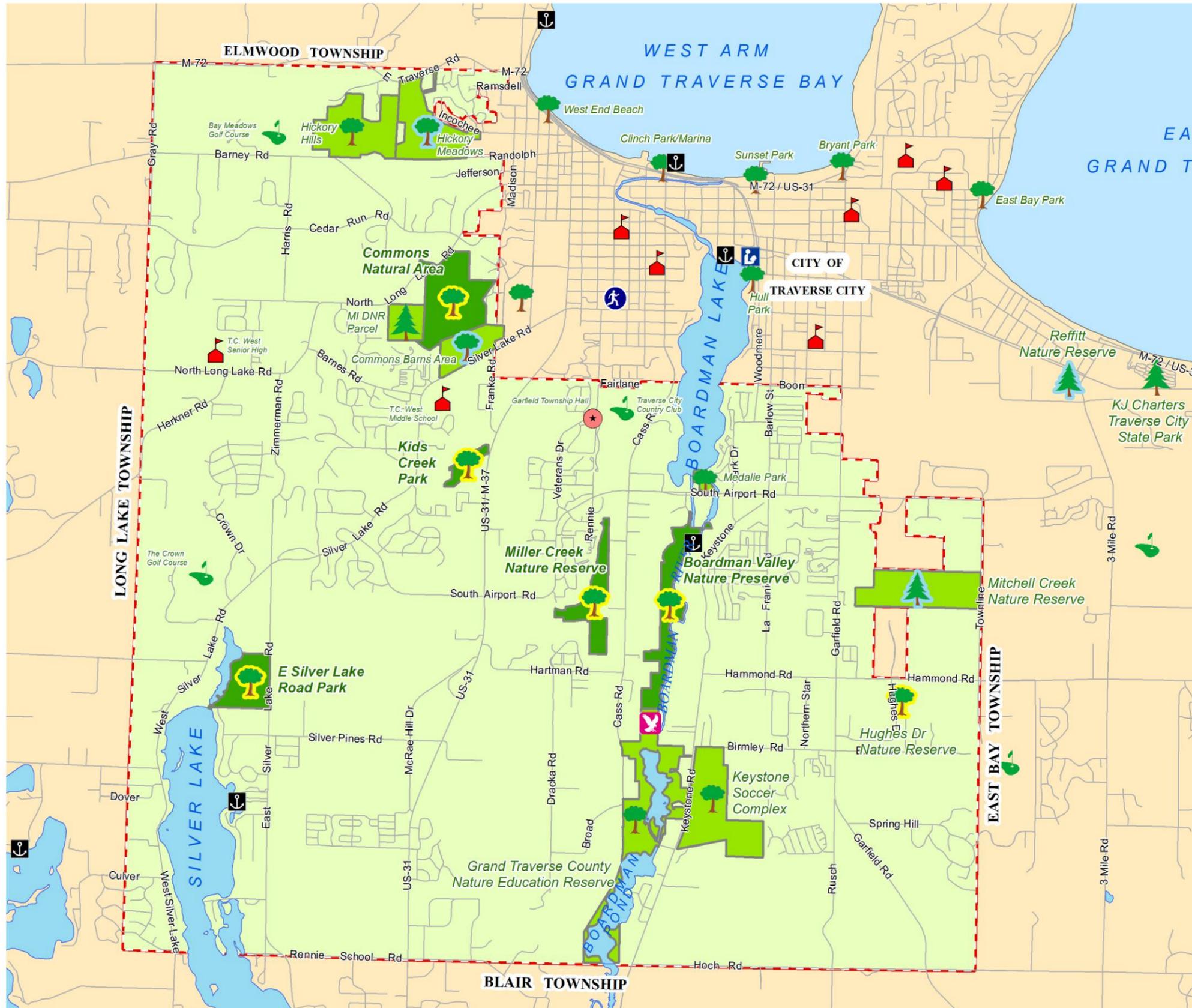
Funding Sources:

TF: Township Funds; G: Grants; PD Private Donations



Table 5			
Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan			
Year	Facility/Improvement	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
2014	Boardman River Misc.	\$5,000	TF
2014	Maintenance	\$50,000	TF
2014	Land Acquisition	\$30,000	TF, G, PD
2014	Contingencies	\$83,000	TF
2015	Contracted Services	\$30,000	TF
2015	Park Trail Development/Maintenance	\$50,000	TF
2015	Trail Development – Boardman Lake	\$300,000	TF, G, PD
2015	Boardman River Misc.	\$5,000	TF
2015	Maintenance	\$50,000	TF
2015	Land Acquisition	\$30,000	TF
2015	Contingencies	\$83,000	TF
2016	Contracted Services	\$30,000	TF
2016	Park Trail Development/Maintenance	\$50,000	TF
2016	Trail Development – Boardman Lake	\$300,000	TF, G, PD
2016	Boardman River Misc.	\$5,000	TF
2016	Maintenance	\$50,000	TF
2016	Land Acquisition	\$30,000	TF, G, PD
2016	Contingencies	\$83,000	TF

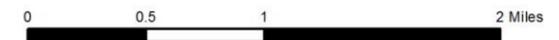
Funding Sources:
 TF: Township Funds; G: Grants; PD Private Donations



Local Park Map

Legend

- Township Park
- Joint Rec. Authority Park
- GTRLC Preserve
- Other Municipal Park
- State Land/Park
- Township Hall
- Boat Launch/Access Site
- Golf Course
- Library
- Nature Center
- School
- School Sports Facility
- Township Parkland
- Other Public Parkland
- Township Boundary



Prepared by: Garfield Township Planning Dept - January 2012
 Data Source: Garfield Township, 2012



Regional Recreational Resources and Trailways Map

Legend

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Type

-  State Land/Park
-  Nature Preserve
-  National Lakeshore
-  Planned/Existing Regional Trail
-  Ferry Line
-  Major Roads
-  Town or City



Prepared by: Garfield Township Planning Dept - January 2012
 Data Source: Garfield Township, 2012



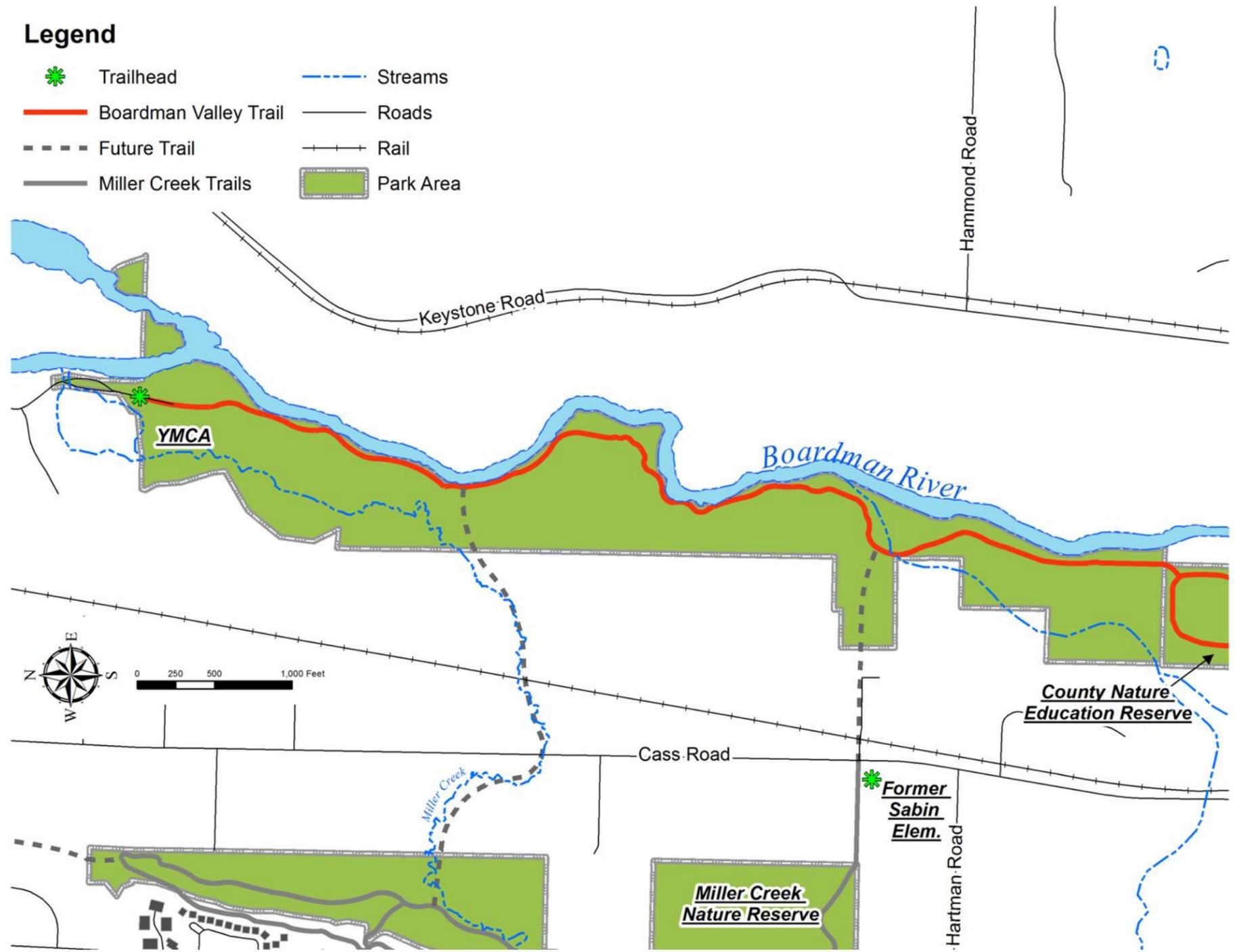
Park Map

Boardman Valley Nature Preserve



Legend

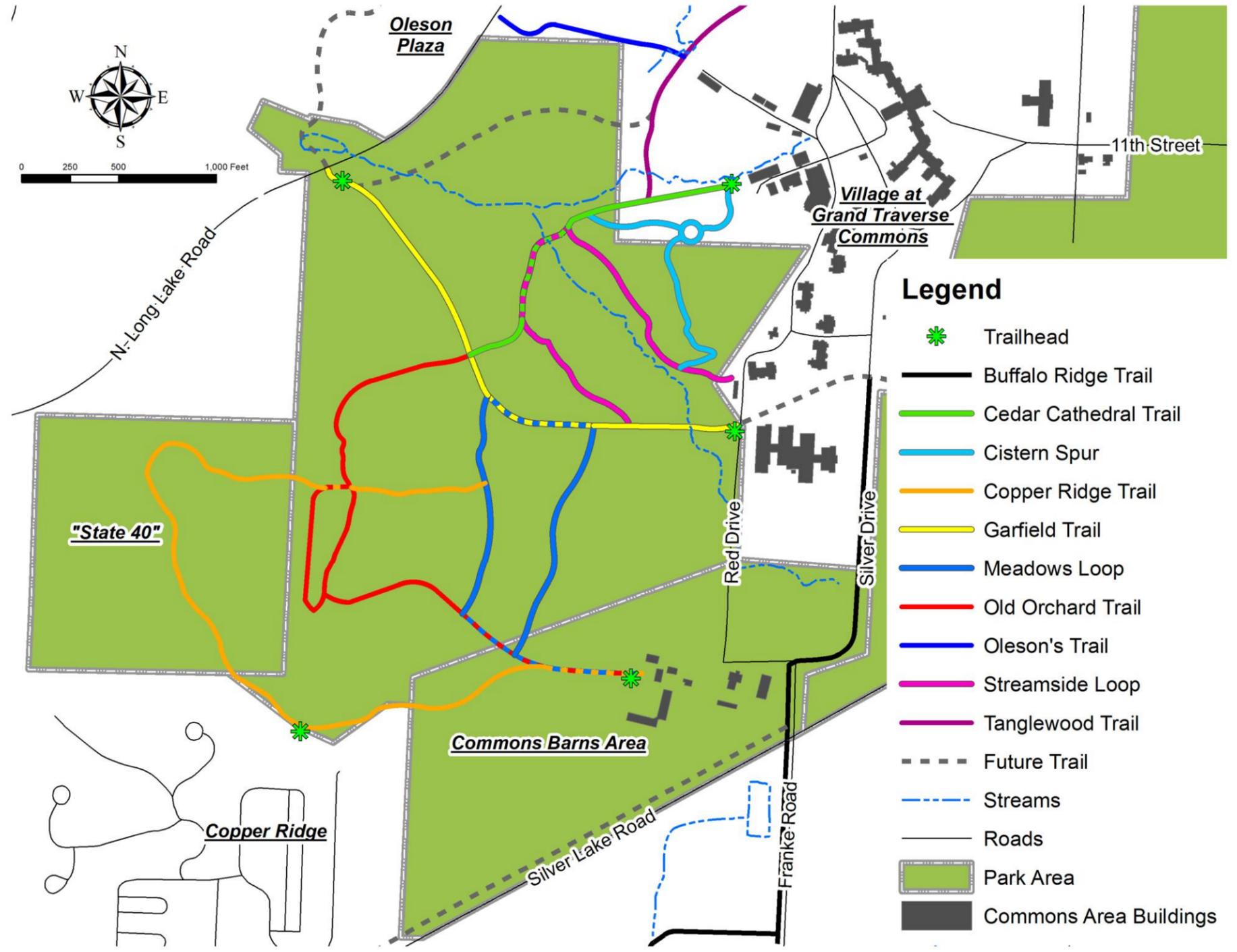
- Trailhead
- Boardman Valley Trail
- Future Trail
- Miller Creek Trails
- Streams
- Roads
- Rail
- Park Area





Park Map

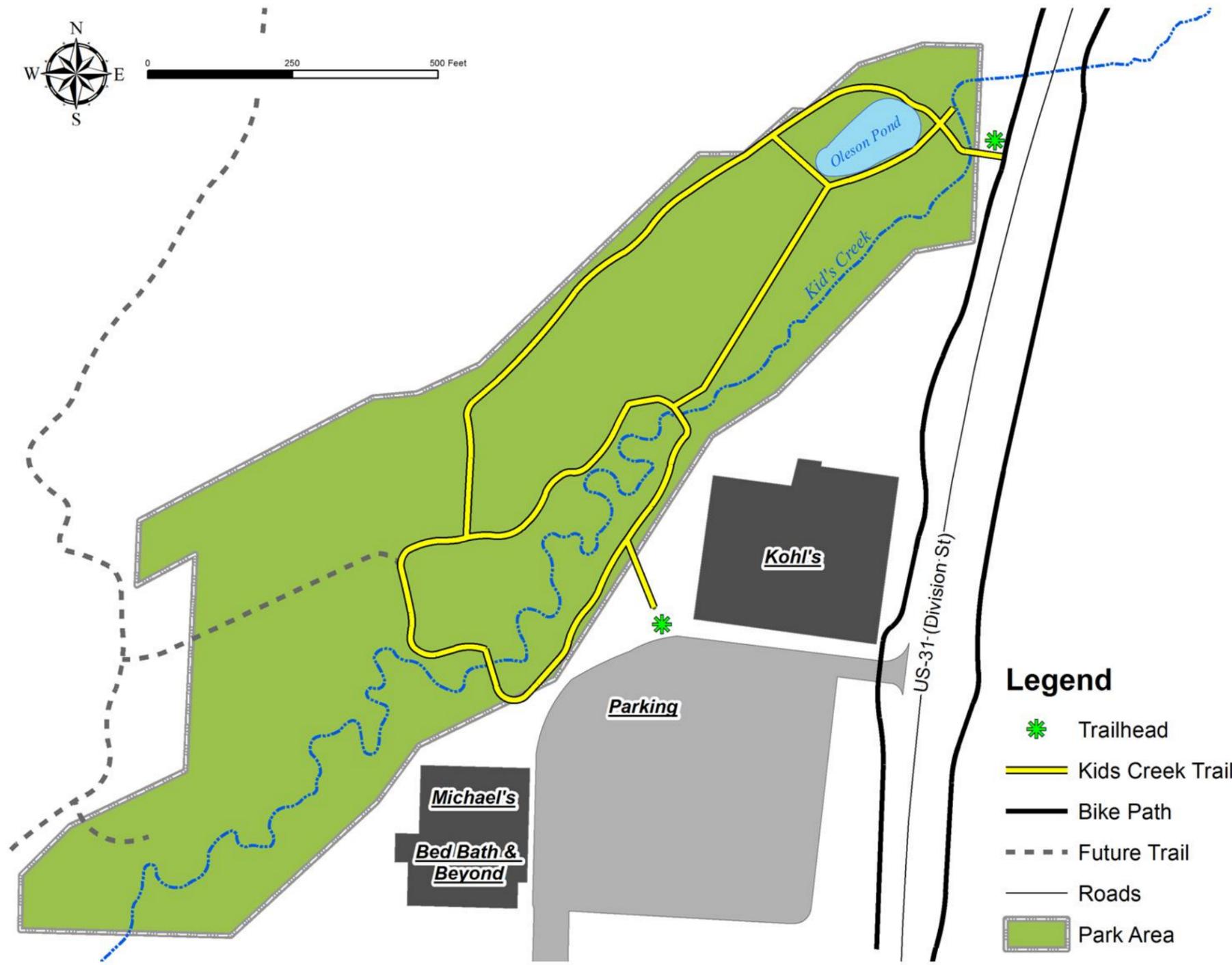
Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area





Park Map

Kid's Creek Park



0 250 500 Feet

Legend

-  Trailhead
-  Kids Creek Trail
-  Bike Path
-  Future Trail
-  Roads
-  Park Area



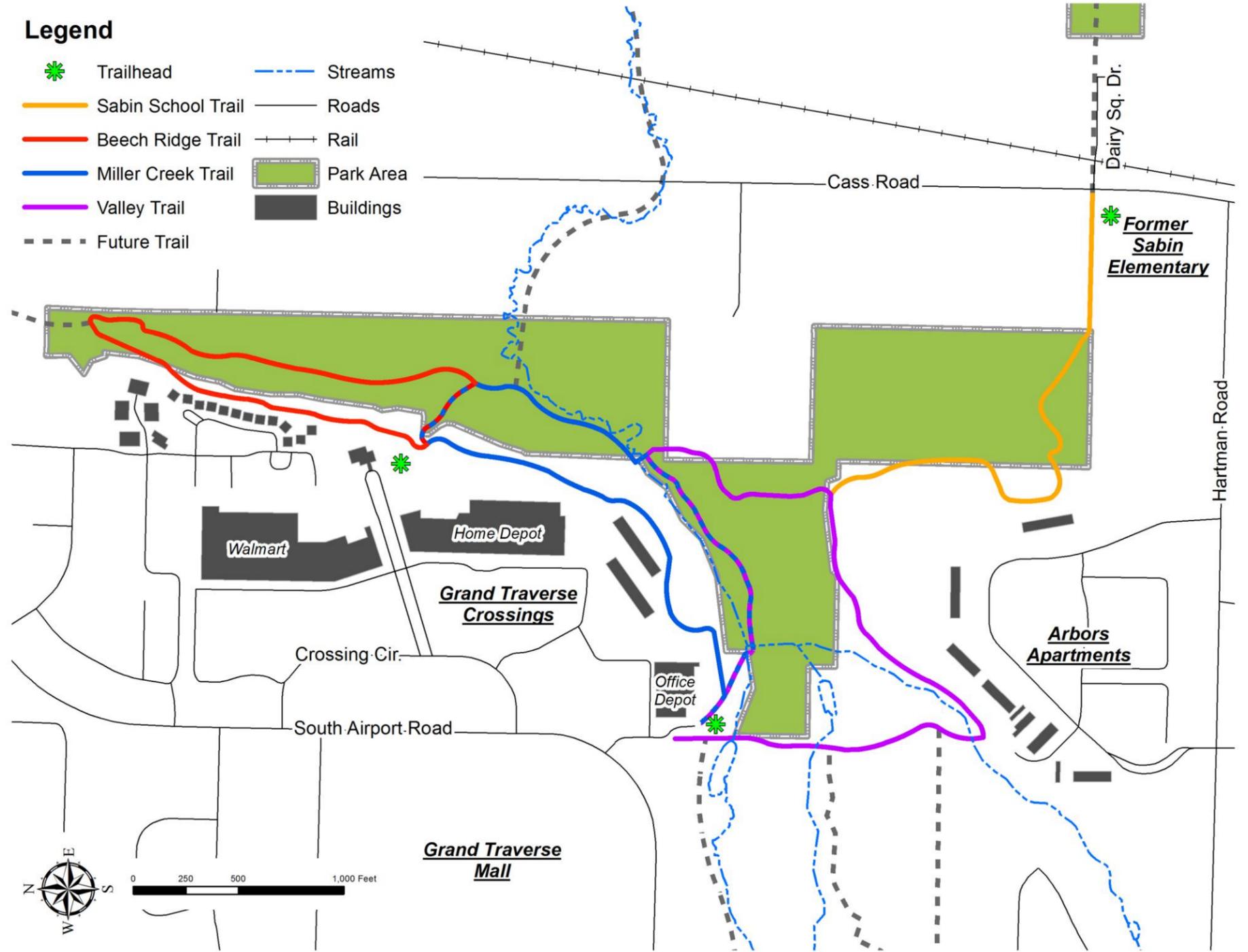
Park Map

Miller Creek Nature Reserve



Legend

- Trailhead
- Sabin School Trail
- Beech Ridge Trail
- Miller Creek Trail
- Valley Trail
- Future Trail
- Streams
- Roads
- Rail
- Park Area
- Buildings



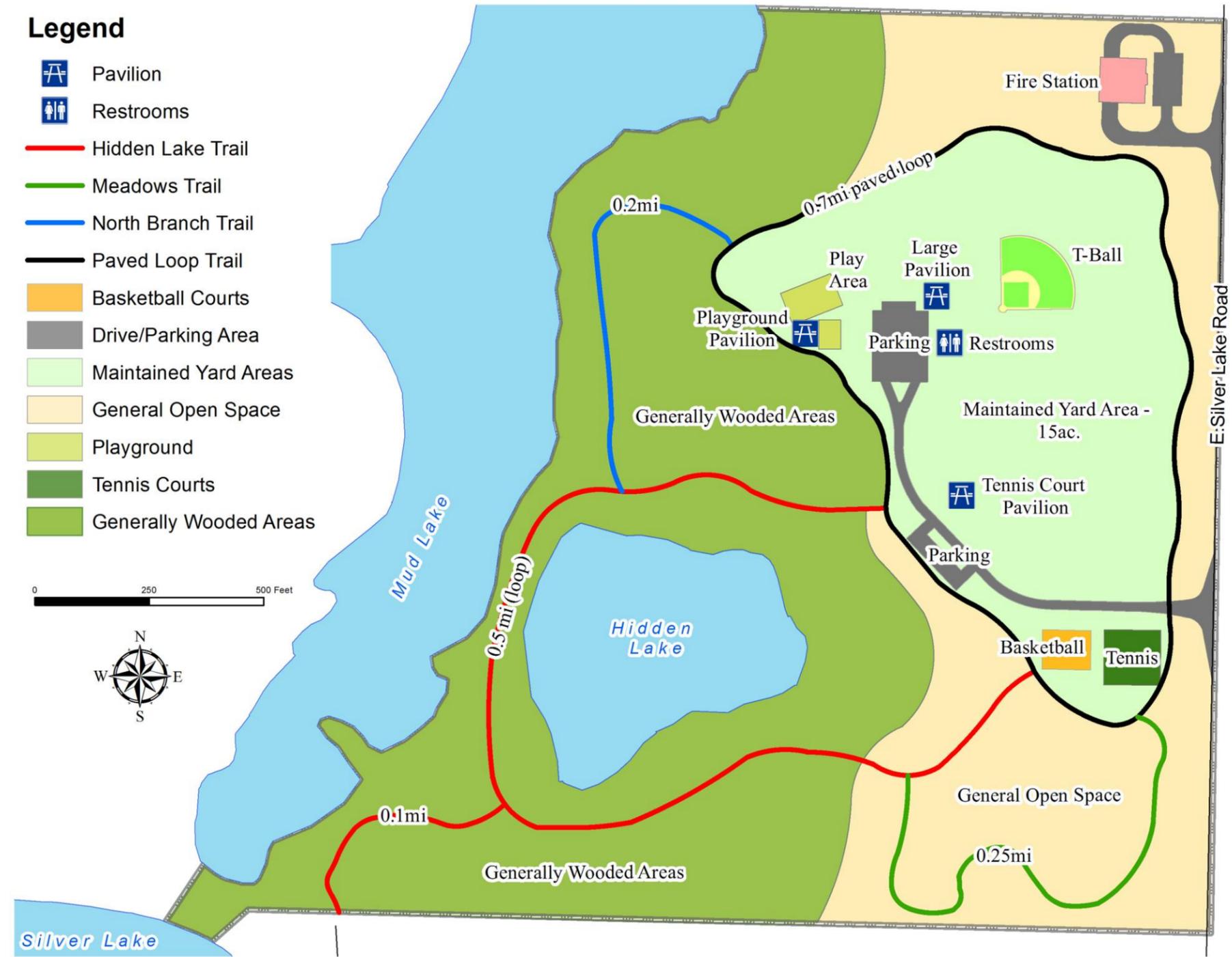
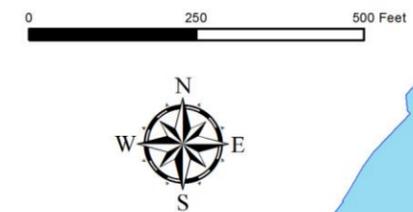


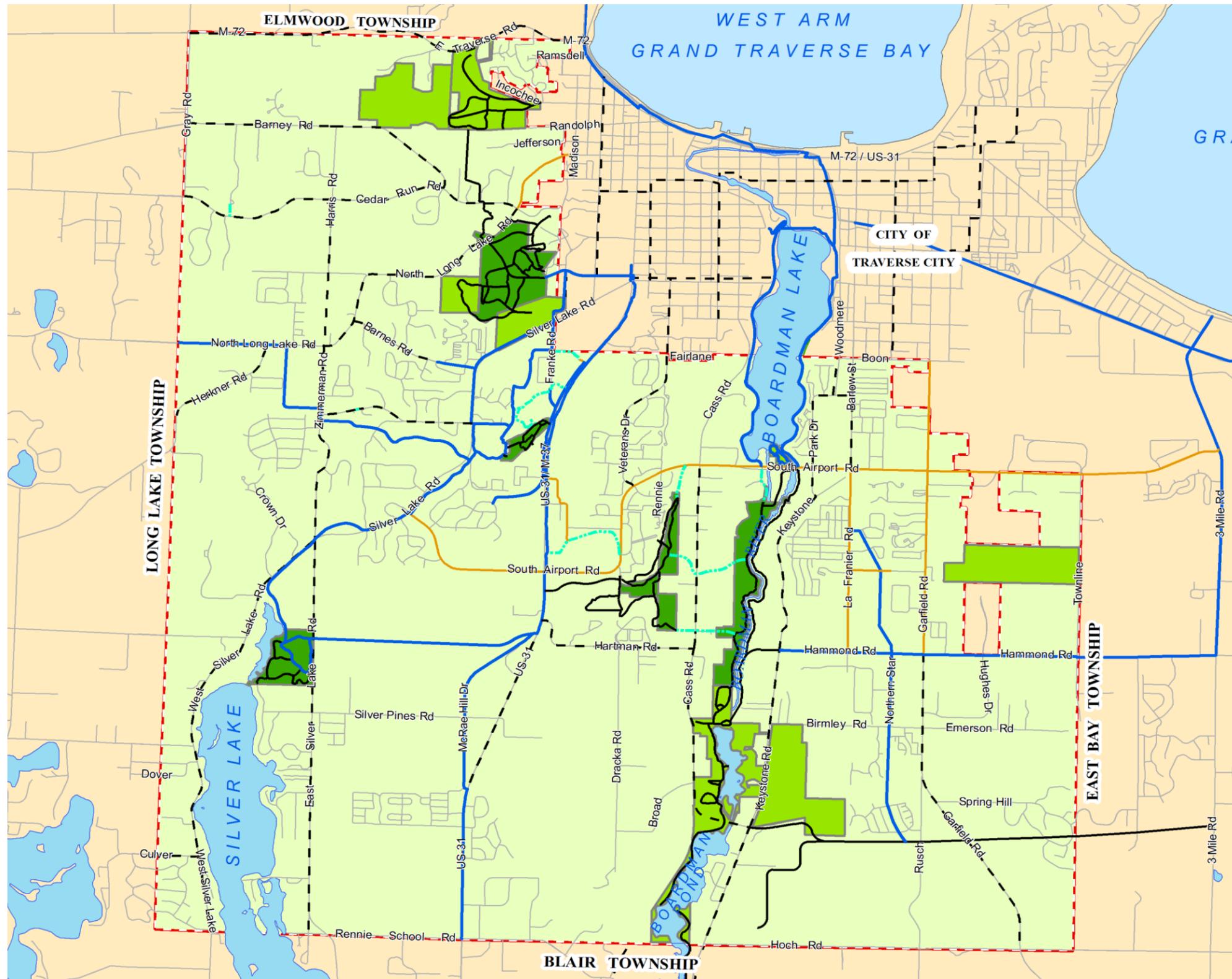
Park Map

Silver Lake Recreation Area



- ### Legend
- Pavilion
 - Restrooms
 - Hidden Lake Trail
 - Meadows Trail
 - North Branch Trail
 - Paved Loop Trail
 - Basketball Courts
 - Drive/Parking Area
 - Maintained Yard Areas
 - General Open Space
 - Playground
 - Tennis Courts
 - Generally Wooded Areas





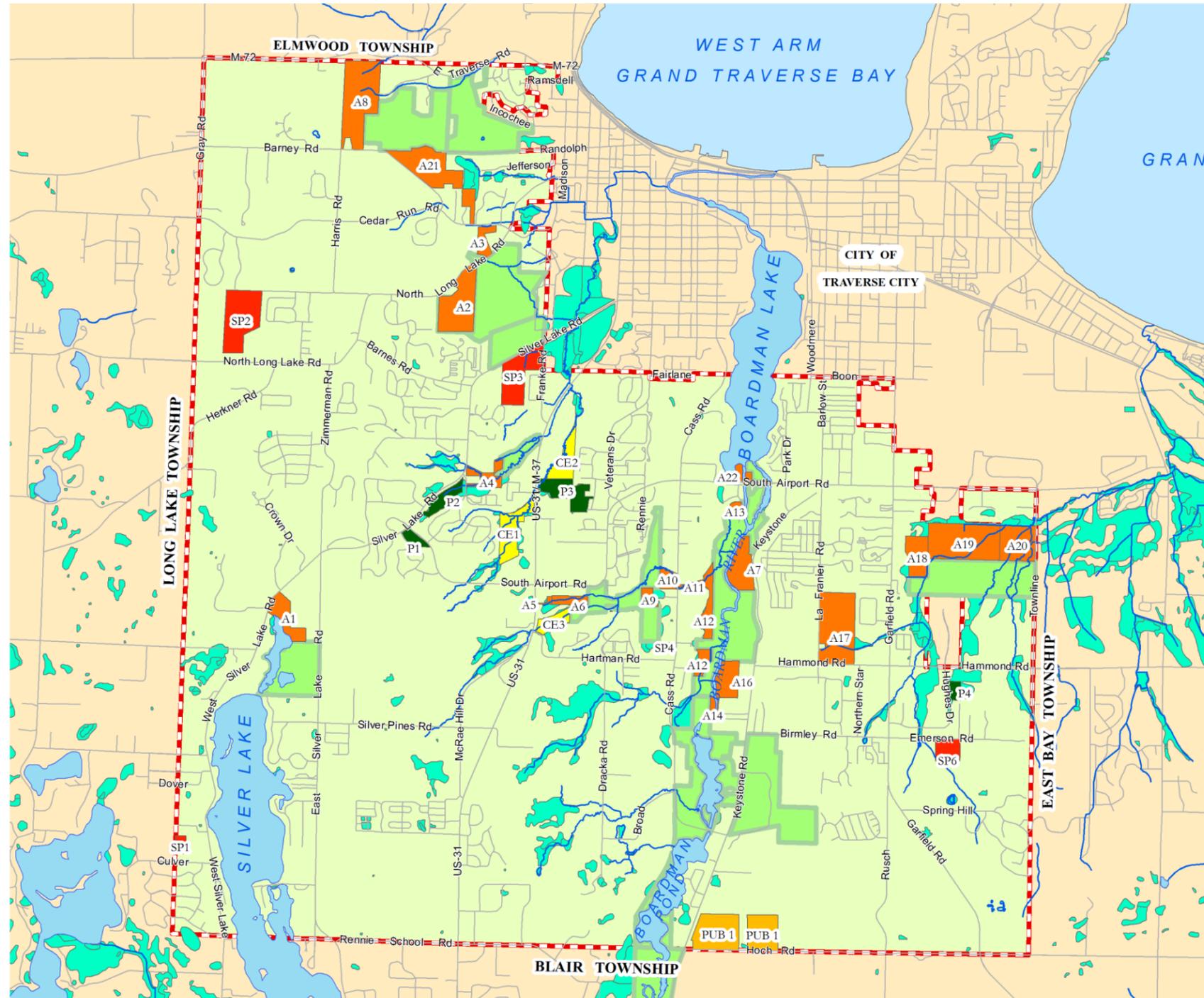
Non-Motorized Plan Map

Legend

-  Bike Path
-  Nature Trail / Singletrack
-  Sidewalk
-  Connector Trail
-  Bike Lane / Route
-  Street
-  Township Parkland
-  Other Public Parkland



Prepared by: Garfield Township Planning Dept - January 2012
 Data Source: Garfield Township, 2012



Green Infrastructure Plan Map

As Amended February 2015

Legend

Green Infrastructure Plan

- Acquisition Property ("A")
- Conservation Easement ("CE")
- Currently Protected Property ("P")
- Publicly Owned Property ("PUB")
- School Park ("SP")
- Existing Public Parkland

Wetlands

- Wetlands
- Stream



Prepared by: Garfield Township Planning Dept - February 2015
Data Source: Garfield Township, 2015

Document Path: K:\PLAN\Parks and Recreation\PR Master Plan\Amendment 2\Revised Green Infrastructure Plan Map 95x17.mxd





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Township Parks and Recreation Survey [Edit](#)

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Default Report + Add Report

Response Summary

Total Started Survey: 76
 Total Completed Survey: 76 (100%)

PAGE: 2

1. The following is a list of Township-owned parks: - Boardman Valley Nature Preserve; - Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area; - Kids Creek Park; - Miller Creek Nature Reserve; - Silver Lake Recreation Area For the purposes of this study, please consider ONLY the above Township-owned parks. Of the Township-owned parks, which parks did you know existed? [Create Chart](#) [Download](#)

	I Knew This Park Existed	I Did Not Know This Park Existed	Response Count
Boardman Valley Nature Preserve	78.4% (58)	21.6% (16)	74
Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area	85.1% (63)	14.9% (11)	74
Kids Creek Park	60.0% (45)	40.0% (30)	75
Miller Creek Nature Reserve	40.3% (29)	59.7% (43)	72
Silver Lake Recreation Area	68.0% (51)	32.0% (24)	75
	answered question		75
	skipped question		1

2. Roughly how many times did you go each of the following Township Parks within the last two years? [Create Chart](#) [Download](#)

	0 times	1-5 times	6-10 times	11-20 times	More than 20 times	Response Count
Boardman Preserve	38.0% (27)	40.8% (29)	7.0% (5)	9.9% (7)	4.2% (3)	71
Commons Natural Area	29.4% (20)	35.3% (24)	8.8% (6)	7.4% (5)	19.1% (13)	68
Kids Creek Park	58.2% (39)	32.8% (22)	4.5% (3)	1.5% (1)	3.0% (2)	67
Miller Creek Reserve	75.0% (48)	25.0% (16)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	64
Silver Lake Rec. Area	38.9% (28)	30.6% (22)	8.3% (6)	5.6% (4)	16.7% (12)	72
	answered question					75
	skipped question					1



41. hiking, take pictures
42. To meet friends, the parks are good places for kids to play while adults talk. To eat lunch while birdwatching. And just to escape from the rest of the world for awhile.
43. I love the hiking trails! I walk them with my dog.
44. I enjoy the proximity of them to where I live and the fact that it gives me a quick way to get out into the woods and enjoy some wildlife at my whim.
45. kids functions
46. Relaxing afternoon out.
47. To walk the trails
48. I LIKE TO HIKE
49. to walk,
50. For walking and the playground for my child.
51. Like to hike, walk outside and not have to drive far.
52. just looking
53. walking
54. I did not.
55. Hiking & snowshoeing
56. To be outdoors and determine if I could access the areas with my power wheelchair.
57. MT'n
58. Mostly to do volunteer work.
59. Running trails. Snowshoeing.
60. Generally curious & to admire the area, sometimes for gatherings or friends.
61. walking, hiking, picnics, playground equipment
62. Exercise - first Fun with my children - second Parties or gatherings - third
63. For hikes, picnics
64. My administrative professionals club held their annual meetnigs at the Silver Lake area. Was nar the Boardman Preserve during the Conservation District's plant sale.
65. Walking trails.
66. To see what was there.
67. I was looking for a quiet place to take my dog for walks.
68. hiking, child stuff at silver lake also close to home

4. What do you like about the Township parks? What could be done to improve the Township Parks?		Download
	Response Count	
Show Responses		65
answered question		65
skipped question		11

Written Responses to Question 4:

1. Like that they are there. Make them more publicly known.
2. same as above ; clean as well;
3. Cross country skiing
4. they are quiet and peaceful
5. Love the beauty, quiet. People are friendly. Generally feel safe. I hate having dogs off leashes, dog poop on trails.
6. Silver Lake feels welcoming and everyone I meet there seems to enjoy it. I love the natural area of the Commons and hope that it is not "overly developed" into something more commerical. It is wonderful to have it remain rustic. I think that the Kids Creek park is very pretty, but only go there if I stop at Michael's, I don't always think about this park and I guess I feel the same about Miller Creek, HOWEVER, I love seeing that there is open and undeveloped land when I go to the stores. Keeping these natural areas makes Traverse City feel well-rounded and Garfield Township in particular which is so very developed. I think if Garfield



43. I think that the Boardman Valley area has great trail signs and maps. I'm not sure if the other parks do. It would be great to get more information out about the other parks to more of the public. Now that I've heard about the other spaces I will go and check them out.
44. silver lake needs better field for football, baseball etc., irrigation/maintenance.
45. They are quiet and relaxing. Other than making them more well known to the rest of the public, they are nice parks.
46. I like that they are quiet and generally easy to walk. I also like that they are close enough so that I can get to them quickly.
47. I LIKE THE HIKING TRAILS, THEY ARE CLOSE TO HOME. WITH THE BUDGET SO TIGHT I COULD LIVE WITH HOW THEY ARE NOW.
48. all very quiet, different terrain, hills, creeks ,
49. I like that they aren't too crowded and seem well maintained.
50. Thanks for making it more well known. I think that is the key for more people to utilize the parks.
51. I like the easy access to them all. Better signage for what modes of use can be on the trails. IE walking biking cross country skiing snow shoeing
52. closest to the town
53. This is the best thing to do, let the people know they are there. And why is the biggest majority on the west side?
54. The beauty, trails, deer/wildlife, etc. Keep the parks natural.
55. More accessible trails
56. They are a great asset and the public are fortunate that preservation and development of parkland is a high priority. Slow and steady development with solid planning to meet various needs.
57. Better signage at the Commons - how long are each of the colored trails, where do they go, etc.
58. Personally, I enjoy a small creek that I can go wading in barefoot, maybe sit & watch the babbling brook in peace & quiet with nature. Big old trees that are not butchered by trimming & areas scared with power lines - yuck, might as well stay in the city if your going to spoil nature with ugly utility lines.
59. Like - clean, good parking, playground in good shape Improve - a DOG park would be great, another shelter by playground at Silver Lake
60. I love the walking paths. I would enjoy guided tours on weekends that I could take my family to that would help us learn more about the wildlife, plants and history of our area - especially in some of the lesser known parks. I would love to see another covered pavilion near the playground at Silver Lake Park. I would like to have a garbage receptacle up by the playground. Current ones are too far to walk to when you are trying to watch children. Also, a more defined walk way from playground to parking lot would be helpful.
61. better maintenance of trail
62. Silver Lake has nice amenities, it is close, parking is good. Not sure what else.
63. Availability.
64. The signs at the boardman preserve are few and far between and it's easy to get lost in the woods.
65. hiking, child stuff at silver lake also close to home



6. Do you believe there is a need for the following facilities in Garfield Township? (If the facilities already exist, are more needed?) [Create Chart](#) [Download](#)

	No	Neutral	Yes	Response Count
Amphitheater/Bandstand	35.7% (25)	31.4% (22)	32.9% (23)	70
Baseball/Softball Fields	29.6% (21)	42.3% (30)	28.2% (20)	71
Basketball Courts	31.0% (22)	50.7% (36)	18.3% (13)	71
Beach Access	9.6% (7)	21.9% (16)	68.5% (50)	73
Beach Volleyball	23.2% (16)	56.5% (39)	20.3% (14)	69
Disc Golf	16.9% (12)	57.7% (41)	25.4% (18)	71
Dog Park	22.2% (16)	22.2% (16)	55.6% (40)	72
Equestrian Trails	44.9% (31)	37.7% (26)	17.4% (12)	69
Mountain Bike Trails	21.1% (15)	33.8% (24)	45.1% (32)	71
Nature Center/Gardens	6.8% (5)	35.6% (26)	57.5% (42)	73
Outdoor Ice Rink	21.1% (15)	28.2% (20)	50.7% (36)	71
Paved Bike Paths	14.1% (10)	22.5% (16)	63.4% (45)	71
Pickleball Courts	26.8% (19)	63.4% (45)	9.9% (7)	71
Picnic Shelter	6.9% (5)	30.6% (22)	62.5% (45)	72
Playgrounds/Equipment	11.3% (8)	43.7% (31)	45.1% (32)	71
Shuffleboard/Bocce Ball	27.1% (19)	51.4% (36)	21.4% (15)	70
Skateboard/Bike Park	46.5% (33)	39.4% (28)	14.1% (10)	71
Sledding Hill	16.9% (12)	16.9% (12)	66.2% (47)	71
Snowmobile/ATV Trails	65.7% (46)	22.9% (16)	11.4% (8)	70
Swimming Pool	31.9% (23)	29.2% (21)	38.9% (28)	72
Tennis Courts	27.8% (20)	51.4% (37)	20.8% (15)	72
Walk/Hike/Jog Trail	5.5% (4)	15.1% (11)	79.5% (58)	73
XC Skiing Trails	13.0% (9)	18.8% (13)	68.1% (47)	69
		Other (please specify)		9
		Show Responses		
		answered question		75





Ordinance # 63

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ORDINANCE

Preamble

An ordinance to establish a Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*; provide for the composition of that parks and recreation commission; and provide for the powers, duties and limitations of that parks and recreation commission.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD, GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

Section 1: Scope, Purpose and Intent

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority granted the township board under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, to establish a parks and recreation commission with the powers, duties and limitations provided by that Act and subject to the terms and conditions of this ordinance and any future amendments to this ordinance.

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide that the Charter Township of Garfield Township Board shall hereby establish under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission; to establish the appointments, terms, and membership of the parks and recreation commission; to identify the officers and the minimum number of meetings per year of the parks and recreation commission; and to prescribe the authority, powers and duties of the parks and recreation commission.

Section 2: Establishment

The township board hereby establishes under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission shall have five members.

Section 3: Membership

Membership of the parks and recreation commission shall be comprised as follows:

1. One member of the township board may be appointed to the parks and recreation commission as an ex officio member. The Township Supervisor shall not serve as the ex officio member.
2. One member of the Garfield Township Planning Commission may be appointed to the parks and recreation commission.
3. One member of the City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield Joint Recreational Authority may be appointed to the parks and recreation commission.
4. All other parks and recreation commission members shall be qualified electors of the township.
5. No other elected officer or employee of the township is eligible to be a member of the parks and recreation commission.



Section 4: Appointments and Terms

- A. The township supervisor, with the approval of the township board by a majority vote of the members elected and serving, shall appoint all parks and recreation commission members, including the ex officio member, in accordance with the following:
1. The parks and recreation commission members, other than the ex officio member, shall serve for terms of 3 years each.
 2. The ex officio member shall serve for a term of 1 year.
 3. A parks and recreation commission member, other than the ex officio member, shall hold office until his or her successor is appointed.
 4. The ex officio member's term and the term of any member appointed from a separate board or commission shall expire with his or her term on the board from which he or she was appointed.
 5. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.
- B. All members, inclusive of the ex officio member, shall have full voting rights.

Section 5: Solicitation for Membership

- A. By November of each year, the township shall determine which members' terms of office expire.
- B. If the township does not have at least two candidates for each office, an advertisement(s) shall be placed in a newspaper of general circulation within the township, seeking applications for appointment.
- C. In December of each year, the township board shall consider the applications and appoint members to the parks and recreation commission by a majority vote. All three year terms shall expire on December 31.
- D. These procedures need not be followed for initial appointments establishing the parks and recreation commission or to reappoint a current member of the parks and recreation commission.

Section 6: Removal

The township board may remove a member of the parks and recreation commission for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office upon written charges and after a public hearing. Failure to repeatedly attend parks and recreation commission meetings shall be considered nonfeasance in office.

The secretary of the parks and recreation commission shall report any member who has missed three regular meetings in a row to the Township Board.

Section 7: Conflict of Interest

Before participating in parks and recreation commission deliberations or casting a vote on a matter on which a parks and recreation commission member may reasonably be considered to have a conflict of interest, the member shall disclose the potential conflict of interest to the parks and recreation commission. Failure of a member to disclose a potential conflict of interest as required by this ordinance constitutes malfeasance in office.

Conflict of interest shall be addressed in the parks and recreation commission By-laws.

Section 8: Compensation

Parks and recreation commission members shall serve without compensation. Subject to funding as may be provided for by township board resolution, the parks and recreation commission may adopt bylaws relative to compensation and expenses of its members for travel when engaged in the performance of activities authorized by the township board, including, but not limited to, attendance at conferences, workshops, educational and training programs and meetings.



Section 9: Training

Appointed members of the parks and recreation commission may attend educational programs designed for training members of parks and recreation commissions if the adopted Garfield Township budget for that fiscal year includes funds to pay for tuition, registration, and travel expenses for the training.

Section 10: Officers and Committees

The parks and recreation commission shall elect a chairperson and a secretary from its members, and may create and fill other offices as it considers advisable. The ex officio member of the parks and recreation commission is not eligible to serve as chairperson. The term of each office shall be 1 year, with opportunity for reelection as specified in the parks and recreation commission bylaws.

The parks and recreation commission may appoint advisory committees whose members need not be members of the parks and recreation commission.

Section 11: Bylaws, Meetings and Records

- A. The parks and recreation commission shall adopt bylaws for the transaction of business.
- B. The parks and recreation commission shall hold at least 4 regular meetings each year, and shall by resolution determine the time and place of the meetings.

Unless otherwise provided in the parks and recreation commission's bylaws, a special meeting of the parks and recreation commission may be called by the chairperson or by two other members, upon written request to the secretary. Unless the bylaws otherwise provide, the secretary shall send written notice of a special meeting to parks and recreation commission members at least 48 hours before the meeting.

- C. The business that the parks and recreation commission may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, MCL 15.261, *et seq.*
- D. The parks and recreation commission shall keep a public record of its resolutions, transactions, findings, and determinations. A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by a parks and recreation commission in the performance of an official function shall be made available to the public in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, *et seq.*

Section 12: Staff

- A. The parks and recreation commission shall be assigned staff from the planning department to carry out the duties of Section 15.
- B. The appointment of all employees shall be subject to the same provisions of law, employment policies, employee roster, and employee or union contracts, if any, as govern other employees of the township.
- C. Employees that are assigned to work with the parks and recreation commission shall follow the directives of the parks and recreation commission in matters of park and recreation planning issues, but shall not be subject to parks and recreation commission directives concerning employment provisions of law, employment policies, employee roster, and employee or union contracts, if any.



Section 13: Liaisons

The parks and recreation commission, in its Bylaws, may name "liaisons" to the parks and recreation commission. The sole purpose of liaisons is to provide certain Garfield Township and quasi-Garfield Township officials the ability to participate in discussion with the parks and recreation commission in addition to speaking in public participation. At a minimum, liaisons shall include:

1. Garfield Township Planning Department staff, and their agents and consultants.
2. Garfield Township Zoning Administrator.
3. Garfield Township Building Department staff.
4. Garfield Township Attorney.

Section 14: Annual Report

The parks and recreation commission shall make an annual written report to the township board concerning its operations and the status of the parks and recreation activities, including recommendations regarding actions by the township board related to parks and recreation planning.

Section 15: Duties and Authority

It shall be the responsibility of the parks and recreation commission to:

1. Advise the township administration and township board concerning the parks and recreation needs of the citizens of the township.
2. Study existing programs and policies and plan for the future long-range development of a viable parks and recreation program for all of the citizens of the township.
3. Promote and encourage the implementation of any parks and recreation programs approved by the township board.
4. Make recommendations as to rules and regulations for public parks and recreation facilities in the township, to the township board for their review and approval.
5. Make recommendations to the township board regarding the parks and recreational programs and activities for the township, and the policies and rules governing these programs and activities.
6. Such other functions and duties as may be authorized by the township board from time to time.

Section 16: Severability

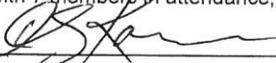
The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any part is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the remainder of the ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 17: Effective Date

This ordinance shall take full force and effect on the date of its publication.

CERTIFICATE

Passed by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Garfield on July 13, 2010, at its regular meeting with 7 members in attendance, 7 voting aye, 0 voting nay.

Signed: , Chair.

I hereby certify that the foregoing was duly adopted by the Township Board of Garfield Charter Township, Grand Traverse County, Michigan, at its regular meeting on the July 13, 2010, that of 7 members of the Township Board, 7 were in attendance, and 7 voted for the adoption of the Ordinance.

Signed 
 Kay Schumacher, Garfield Township Clerk



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

January 12, 2012 4:30PM
Garfield Township Hall
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684
Ph: (231) 941-1620

SPECIAL MEETING

A G E N D A

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call of Commission Members

1. **Review and Approval of the Agenda - Conflict of Interest**
2. **Nomination and Election of 2012 Officers**
3. **Minutes**
 - a. December 6, 2011
4. **Correspondence**
 - a. None
5. **Business to Come Before the Commission**
 - a. Nick Cobb, possible disc golf course at Silver Lake Recreation Area
 - b. Judy Ebel, donation of dedication bench at Silver Lake Recreation Area
 - c. PD-2012-01 Parks and Recreation Plan Final Draft and Recommendation
 - d. Preferred Trust Fund Application for 2012 cycle
6. **Review Status of Ongoing Projects**
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Items for Next Agenda – February 10, 2011**
 - a. To be determined
9. **Adjourn**

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting**

January 12, 2012

Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Belcher called the meeting to order at approximately 4:35pm.

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: Brian Belcher, Bill Scott, Valarie Handy, Alisa Kroupa

Staff Present: Brian VanDenBrand

Also present were 4 members of the public.

1. **Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest was noted.

Scott moved THAT the agenda be approved as presented. Kroupa seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. **Nomination and Election of 2012 Officers**

Chair – Scott nominated Belcher as Chair for 2012. Belcher accepted the nomination. Kroupa seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair – Belcher nominated Scott as Vice Chair for 2012. Scott accepted the nomination. Kroupa seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Secretary – Scott nominated Kroupa as Secretary for 2012. Kroupa accepted the nomination. Belcher seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. **Minutes – December 6, 2011**

Chairman Belcher asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. *Scott moved THAT the minutes of December 6, 2011 be approved. Handy seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

4. **Correspondence**

a. None

5. **Business to Come Before the Commission**

a. **Nick Cobb, possible disc golf at Silver Lake Recreation Area**

VanDenBrand said that Nick Cobb had submitted a proposal to build a 9-hole disc golf course at the Silver Lake Recreation Area as his Eagle Scout project. Nick Cobb was in attendance, and gave a presentation on his idea.

The Commission asked Nick if he would need to do a full 9-hole course, or if something to a lesser degree would still satisfy Scout Requirements. Nick said he wasn't sure, but thought a smaller course might work and he would check with his troop.



January 12, 2012 Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

After discussion, the Commission determined that disc golf may be possible at the park, but perhaps not in the location shown on the map that Nick had provided. The Commission directed VanDenBrand to meet with Nick on the site to further consider possible disc golf locations, and thanked Nick for his presentation and offer to install the holes.

b. Judy Ebelt, donation of dedication bench

VanDenBrand said that Judy Ebelt had contacted the Township in the interest of installing a dedication bench at the Silver Lake Recreation Area in honor of a friend who had passed away. Ebelt would raise all of the funds. VanDenBrand said he didn't think the Commission would have an issue with this, but was presenting the idea in case there were any concerns.

The Commission was supportive of the idea.

c. PD-2012-01 Parks and Recreation Plan Final Draft and Recommendation

VanDenBrand said that the final draft of the Parks and Recreation Plan was now complete, and presented the plan for final review. If the Commission was satisfied with the draft plan, the next step would be to start the 30-day public review and comment period, after which the Commission would consider any public comment that was received for possible incorporation into the plan prior to making a recommendation to the Township Board that the plan be adopted.

Handy moved THAT the draft 2012 Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Plan be made available for the required one-month public review period beginning on January 13, 2012; and THAT the Parks and Recreation Commission schedule a Special Meeting to be held on February 14, 2012 at 4:30PM at the Township Hall.

Scott seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

d. Preferred Trust Fund Application for 2012 Cycle

The Commission discussed possible grant targets for the upcoming Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Cycle. Options discussed included land acquisitions or trail development. Following discussion, the Commission identified the Buffalo Ridge Trail project as the preferred alternative.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Items for next agenda.

a. To be determined.

8. Adjourn

Belcher moved THAT the meeting be adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.



January 12, 2012 Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alisa Kroupa".

Alisa Kroupa , Secretary
Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

February 14, 2012 4:30PM
Garfield Township Hall
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684
Ph: (231) 941-1620

SPECIAL MEETING

A G E N D A

Call Meeting to Order
Roll Call of Commission Members

1. **Review and Approval of the Agenda - Conflict of Interest**
2. **Minutes**
 - a. January 12, 2011 Special Meeting
3. **Correspondence**
 - a. None
4. **Business to Come Before the Commission**
 - a. Consideration of Parks and Recreation Plan Recommendation for Adoption
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Items for Next Agenda – March 6, 2011**
 - a. Nick Cobb Disc Golf Update
 - b. To Be Determined
7. **Adjourn**

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting**

February 14, 2012

Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Belcher called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30pm.

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: Brian Belcher, Bill Scott, Valarie Handy, Alisa Kroupa

Staff Present: Brian VanDenBrand

Also present were 4 members of the public.

1. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was noted.

VanDenBrand requested that the agenda be amended to add discussion items “b” and “c” under Agenda Item #5 to discuss benches at Silver Lake Recreation Area and to allow opportunity for Ben Purdy to give a GTCD update.

Kroupa moved THAT the agenda be approved as amended. Handy seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Minutes – January 12, 2011

Chairman Belcher asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. *Scott moved THAT the minutes of January 12, 2011 be approved. Handy seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

3. Correspondence

- a. None

4. Business to Come Before the Commission

a. Consideration of Parks and Recreation Plan Recommendation for Adoption

VanDenBrand said that following the January Parks 12th Commission meeting, the parks and recreation plan was made available for a one-month public review period. No additional public comment was received over this period. The Planning Commission had reviewed the plan and recommended that the adjacent municipalities be made aware of the opportunity to provide final input on the plan. The Parks and Recreation Commission then considered a draft resolution to recommend to the Township Board that the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan be adopted.

Scott moved THAT Resolution #2012-01-PR, a resolution Recommending Adoption of a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, BE APPROVED. Kroupa seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.



February 14, 2012 Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

b. Judy Ebelt, donation of dedication bench

Following up on the January discussion, VanDenBrand said staff had received quotes for the cost of a dedication bench. The quote for one bench, including shipping, was \$620.52. The quote for two benches, including shipping, was \$1060.70. VanDenBrand asked if the Park Commission would like to consider splitting the cost to order two of the benches with Ms. Ebelt to help save on shipping costs, adding that the second bench could be installed on the opposite side of the T-Ball field from the dedication bench. The Commission was supportive of purchasing the additional bench.

c. Ben Purdy, Conservation District Update

Ben Purdy said that the Conservation District crew was keeping up on regular maintenance such as downed tree limb removal. The tree forester had begun the work on the Grand Traverse Commons forestry management plan, and would be including the invasive species maps that had been completed by the Invasive Species Network.

Purdy added that he was still working on the educational signage project for the Commons, and that the Conservation District had a good start on grant applications for projects for the coming year, such as working with the Home Depot for donations of lumber and building materials.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Items for next agenda.

- a. Nick Cobb disc golf update
- b. Invasives at Kid's Creek Park update – GTCD
- c. Spring Projects

7. Adjourn

Belcher moved THAT the meeting be adjourned at approximately 5:30 PM.

Alisa Kroupa, Secretary
 Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission
 3848 Veterans Drive
 Traverse City, MI 49684



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION # 2012-01-PR

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF A 5-YEAR PARKS AND
RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Garfield has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreational facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Garfield has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Parks and Recreation Commission having found that the Parks and Recreation Plan has been developed to a final form;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission does hereby recommend to the Township Board that it adopt the Charter Township of Garfield 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Charter Township of Garfield.

Moved: Scott

Supported: Kroupa

Ayes: Handy, Scott, Kroupa, Belcher

Nays: None

Absent and Excused: None

RESOLUTION 2012-01-PR DECLARED ADOPTED.

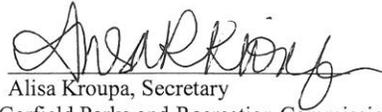
By: 
Alisa Kroupa, Secretary
Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission



CERTIFICATE

I, Alisa Kroupa, Secretary of the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 2012-01-PR which was adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Charter Township of Garfield at a Special Meeting on the 14th day of February, 2012.

Dated: 2-14-12

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alisa Kroupa'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alisa Kroupa, Secretary
Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
Garfield Township Hall
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684
Ph: (231) 941-1620

A G E N D A

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call of Commission Members

1. **Review and Approval of the Agenda - Conflict of Interest**
2. **Minutes**
 - a. January 11, 2012
3. **Correspondence**
 - a. None
4. **Reports** Township Board
 Planning Department
 Zoning Department
 Planning Commissioners
5. **Business to Come Before the Commission**
Discussion
 - a. PD-2012-05 Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Lighting
 - b. PD-2012-06 Parks and Recreation Plan Presentation
 - c. Zoning Department Annual Report
6. **Public Comment**
7. **Items for Next Agenda – February 8, 2012**
 - a. Draft Zoning Ordinance Text and Project Status
 - b. East Silver Lake Road Fire Station – Proposed Turnaround (tentative)
8. **Adjournment**

**Joe Robertson, Secretary
Garfield Township Planning Commission
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684**

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
January 25, 2012**

Call Meeting to Order: Chair John Racine called the meeting to order at 7:00pm at the Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: John Racine, Gil Uithol, John Nelson, Terry Clark, and Joe Robertson
Absent: Kit Wilson, Paul Jarboe

Staff Present: Brad Kaye, Brian VanDenBrand

1. **Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflict of Interest (7:00)**
Uithol moved and Robertson seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Clark, Robertson, Uithol, Nelson, Racine
Nays: None
2. **Minutes (7:01)**
 - a. **January 11, 2011**
Clark moved and Robertson seconded to approve the minutes of January 11, 2011 as presented.

Ayes: Nelson, Uithol, Clark, Robertson, Racine
Nays: None
3. **Correspondence (7:01)**
 - a. **None**
4. **Reports (7:02)**
Township Board Report
No report.

Planning Department

Kaye said that he tendered his resignation to accept a job in Midland and his last day in the Township office will be February 9th. Kaye thanked Clark for his support at the Township Board level.

Zoning Department

No report

Planning Commissioners

Nelson said that the County Road Commission may ask for one mill on the next ballot for road infrastructure preservation. The Hickory Meadows conservation easement will be running out soon and he is on the advisory board to recommend a plan for the conservation easement. Nelson attended a Dam



Removal meeting in which the replacement of the Cass Road Bridge was discussed.

5. **Business to Come Before the Commission (7:08)**

a. **PD-2012-05 Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Lighting**

The Planning and Zoning Departments are receiving numerous requests from Township businesses to adopt new lighting standards since lighting technology has changed drastically. Township Supervisor Chuck Korn has requested that this amendment move forward at this time rather than waiting for the new ordinance to be drafted and adopted. Authorization to proceed to a public hearing is needed from Commissioners at this time if they choose to move forward with this request. Commissioners discussed Section 7.12.4.3 regarding laser lights and agreed to prohibit laser lights and discussion of Section 7.12.4.7 took place and it was determined that research would be conducted to find a standard which matches the 150 watts allowed for incandescent lighting.

Clark moved to schedule a Public Hearing on PD-2012-05 on February 22, 2012 and Uithol supported the motion.

*Ayes: Clark, Uithol, Robertson, Nelson, Racine
Nays: None*

b. **PD-2012-06 Parks and Recreation Plan Presentation (7:16)**

This plan will replace the 2007 Green Infrastructure Plan. The plan finds that with a number of parks and natural areas having been established, the focus should be placed on improving and managing the existing resources and increasing public access to the parks. Brian VanDenBrand went over survey results that were posted on the website and then gave a presentation on the proposed plan. Goals included improvement of connectivity, maintenance, preservation of wetlands and natural areas, and increasing public access to and providing a range of safe and convenient parks to meet all needs. He noted that any barrier free accessibility needs to be complied with. Commissioners discussed the plan and recommended that other townships be allowed to comment on the plan via the website.

c. **Zoning Department Annual Report (7:57)**

Kaye said this was an informational packet. Commissioners commented a high percentage of ZBA issues were granted and Kaye said that adoption of a new zoning ordinance may help alleviate that problem.

6. **Public Comment**

None

7. **Items for Next Agenda – February 8, 2012 (8:45)**

a. **Draft Zoning Ordinance Text and Project Status**



Garfield Township Planning Commission Minutes

January 25, 2012

- b. **Brookside Commons PUD Extension**
 - c. **Signage for MC Sports building**
9. **Adjournment** Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.



Joe Robertson, Secretary
Garfield Township Planning
Commission
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

Garfield Township is preparing a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities, activities and programs over the next five years.

Notice is hereby given to any and all interested parties that the Draft Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be available for review and comment for a one-month period beginning January 13, 2012 at the Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, Michigan 49684, Ph: (231) 941-1620, and online at www.garfield-twp.com.

Notice is further given that the Garfield Township Board will hold a public hearing on February 14, 2012, at 6:00PM at the Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, to hear comments on and consider adoption of the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Garfield Township Planning Department at the above address during the Township's regular hours of 7:30am to 6:00pm Monday through Thursday. Written comments may be submitted to the Garfield Township Board, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, Michigan, 49684, from the date hereof through 12 noon, February 14, 2012. All interested persons may attend the meeting and be heard.

Kay Schumacher, Clerk
Charter Township of Garfield
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

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RECORD EAGLE:

Please publish one (1) time: Sunday, January 8, 2012
Send affidavit and bill to: Garfield Township
Received by the Record Eagle
VIA E-MAIL

Date: _____ By: _____



5508
Garfield, Township of
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

**LEGAL NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

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Kay Schumacher, Clerk
Charter Township of Garfield
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

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January 8, 2012-1T 283787

STATE OF MICHIGAN
County of Grand Traverse

John Totoraitis being duly sworn deposes and says the annexed printed copy of notice was taken from the Traverse City RECORD EAGLE, a newspaper printed and circulated in said State and County, and that said notice was published in said newspaper on the following dates:

01/08/2012

that he or she is the agent of the printers of said newspaper, and knows well the facts stated herein

Subscribed and sworn to before
this 9th of January, 2012 .

Dennis Thayer
Dennis Thayer
Notary Public, State of MI
County of Grand Traverse
My Commission Expires October 8, 2016
Acting in County of Grand Traverse



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 6:00pm
Garfield Township Hall
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684
Ph: (231) 941-1620

A G E N D A

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call meeting to order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll call of Board Members

1. **Public Comment**

Public Comment Guidelines:

Any person shall be permitted to address a meeting of The Township Board, which is required to be open to the public under the provision of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, as amended. MCLA 15.261, et.seq.) Public Comment shall be carried out in accordance with the following Board Rules and Procedures: a.) any person wishing to address the Board is requested to state his or her name and address. b.) No person shall be allowed to speak more than once on the same matter, excluding time needed to answer Township Board Member's questions. Where constrained by available time the Chairperson may limit the amount of time each person will be allowed to speak to (3) minutes. 1.) The Chairperson may at his or her own discretion, extend the amount of time any person is allowed to speak. 2.) Whenever a Group wishes to address a Committee, the Chairperson may require that the Group designate a spokesperson; the Chairperson shall control the amount of time the spokesperson shall be allowed to speak when constrained by available time.

2. **Review and approval of the Agenda - Conflict of Interest**

3. **Consent Calendar**

The purpose of the Consent calendar is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with in one Board motion without discussion. Any member of the Board, staff or the public may ask that any item on the Consent Calendar be removed there from and placed elsewhere on the Agenda for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected. If any item is not removed from the Consent Calendar, the action noted in parentheses on the Agenda is approved by a single Board action adopting the Consent Calendar.



- a. Minutes – January 10, 2012 (Recommend Approval)
- b. Bills -
 - General Fund \$ 209,965.34
(Recommend Approval)
- c. 2011 Annual Zoning Report (Recommend Approval)
- d. Schedule Public Hearing for February 28, 2012 meeting on the Request of Woda, for new construction of a 72 unit Housing Development at Brookside Commons, to be recognized as a “Qualified Project” as defined in the Charter Township of Garfield Amended and Restated Ordinance No. 18 – Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). (Recommend Approval)

4. Correspondence

- a. Memorandum from Treenan Sturman – Grand Traverse Conservation District’s Staff Report – January 2012

5. Reports

- a. Sheriff’s Report
- b. Metro Fire Report
- c. Personnel Committee Report
- d. Treasurer’s Report
- e. Clerk’s Report (December 2011 and January 2012)
- f. Recreation Authority Report
- g. MTA Annual Conference Report
- h. Supervisor’s Report

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration of Agreement for Supplemental Law Enforcement Services

7. New Business

- a. Presentation by Bob Osterhout, Grand Traverse County Resource Recovery Manager, regarding Amendment 2011-2 to the Grand Traverse County Solid Waste Management Plan. Consideration of Resolution 2012-03-T, a resolution to adopt Amendment 2011-2 to the Grand Traverse County Solid Waste Management Plan.
- b. Public Hearing - PD 2012-11- Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Consideration of Resolution 2012-04-T, a resolution adopting a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



- c. PD 2012-12 – Boardman River Parkland Acquisition – Grant Agreement Amendment. Consideration of Resolution 2012-05-T, a resolution in support of a project amendment to the Boardman Lake Trail and Nature Preserve expansion agreement.
 - d. Consideration of Resolution 2012-06-T, an Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority.
 - e. Report and recommendations from the Liquor License Review Committee.
 - f. Discussion regarding 2012 non-union wages.
- 8. **Public Comment**
 - 9. **Other Business**
 - 10. **Adjournment**

Kay Schumacher, Clerk

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 14, 2012**

Chuck Korn, Supervisor, called the Town Board Meeting to order on February 14, 2012 at 6:00p.m. at the Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, Michigan.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call of Board Members

Board Members Present: Chuck Korn, Jeane Blood, Molly Agostinelli, Bob Featherstone, Denise Schmuckal, Kay Schumacher and Kit Wilson

Staff Present: Brian VanDenBrand, Rob Larrea

1. Public Comment (6:02)

County Commissioner Herb Lemcool updated board members on matters of the County Commission. He said that the elected drain commissioner and surveyor positions would remain as elected positions and that the County is considering liquidation of surplus properties.

2. Review and approval of the Agenda - Conflict of Interest (6:06pm)

Schmuckal asked to move item 7.f. under New Business and address the matter under item 5.c. Personnel Committee Report.
Featherstone moved and Agostinelli supported to approve the agenda as amended.

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Agostinelli, Wilson, Featherstone, Schumacher, Blood, Korn
Nays: None*

3. Consent Calendar (6:07pm)

a. Minutes

Approval of January 10, 2012 Regular Meeting
(Recommend Approval)

b. Bills

General Fund	\$209,965.34
(Recommend Approval)	

c. 2011 Annual Zoning Report (Recommend Approval)

d. Schedule Public Hearing for February 28, 2012 meeting on the request of Woda for a new construction of a 72 unit housing Development at Brookside Commons, to be recognized as a "Qualified Project" as defined in the Charter Township of Garfield Amended and Restated Ordinance No.



18 – Payment in Lieu of taxes (PILOT). (Recommend Approval)

Agostinelli moved and Schmuckal seconded to adopt the consent calendar as presented. Wilson pointed out that the bills included voluntary employee donations to the United Way.

*Yeas: Agostinelli, Schmuckal, Wilson, Featherstone, Schumacher, Blood, Korn
Nays: None*

4. Correspondence (6:10)

- a. Memorandum from Treenan Sturman – Grand Traverse Conservation District's Staff Report – January 2012

5. Reports (6:11)

a. Sherriff's Report

Deputy Bryan Marrow stated that in the Month of January 2012, Garfield Township had 1,490 calls for service.

b. Metro Fire Report (6:14)

Chief Pat Parker stated that there were 270 calls for service in Garfield Township for the month of January. He thanked the board for its support and presented a picture of Station 12 to the Board, as well as, a LEED Certified Gold Certificate.

c. Personnel Committee Report (6:19)

Schmuckal reported that the Personnel Committee had met and discussed the four non-union positions. Raises were discussed for two employees and the elected officials have opted not to take an increase in 2012.

Schmuckal moved to recommend raises for two non-union employees at this time. Therese O'Brien, Deputy Treasurer, will receive a 2.8% increase in pay and Carl Studzinski will receive a 1.5% increase in pay. Blood seconded the motion.

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Blood, Schumacher, Featherstone, Wilson, Agostinelli, Korn
Nays: None*

Schumacher said there is much more to consider than SEV and population in completing a wage study. The amount of residential vs. business in a township, as well as, the number of accounts a Township has to deal with should be a consideration in determining appropriate compensation. Agostinelli recommended that staff find out what the cost would be for a CPA do a compensation study for the Township employees and Board members agreed to consider the issue.

d. Treasurer's Report 6:25)



Blood said that her report is included in the packet.

e. Clerk's Report (December 2011 and January 2012) (6:26)

Schumacher said that the December 2011 and January 2012 Clerk's reports are in the packet and that the audit went very well. She also reported that about 60% of the absentee ballots that have been mailed out have been returned.

f. Recreation Authority Report (6:28)

Agostinelli said there would be a June 22nd kick-off of fundraising for the Grand Traverse Commons Barns area. She added that the Board may want to discuss the ramifications of placing a conservation easement over Hickory Meadows at a future study session.

g. MTA Annual Conference Report (6:31)

Wilson, Agostinelli, Schumacher and Korn attended the MTA conference and commented on the various sessions they attended. Wilson indicated that course materials are available to share. Korn attended community collaboration and Cost Recovery for Emergency Services sessions. Agostinelli and Wilson commented on the medical marijuana sessions. Schumacher commented on the election sessions she attended.

h. Supervisor's Report (6:37)

Korn attended BPW meetings and they are moving forward to have a special assessment for the septage plant. He also reported on a County GIS and County Planning proposal to create a complete system map of water and sewer facilities.

6. Unfinished Business (6:39)

a. Consideration of Agreement for Supplemental Law Enforcement Services

Changes have been made to the agreement and Sheriff Bensley added that any time more officers were needed, amendments to the agreement could be discussed.

Schmuckal moved and Wilson seconded to approve the Agreement for Supplemental Law Enforcement Services.

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Wilson, Blood, Agostinelli, Featherstone, Schumacher, Korn
Nays: None*

7. New Business

a. Presentation by Bob Osterhout, Grand Traverse County Resource Recovery Manager, Regarding Amendment 2011-2 to the Grand Traverse County Solid Waste Management Plan. Consideration of Resolution 2012-3-T, a Resolution to Adopt Amendment 2011-2 to the Grand Traverse County Solid Waste Management Plan. (6:44)

Sonny Wheelock was present to discuss the amendment to the Solid Waste Management



Charter Township of Garfield

Township Board Meeting

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Plan. The revised plan stipulates that all haulers must provide recycling services.

Amendment 2011-2 to the Grand Traverse Solid Waste Management Plan is much more concise and easier to read.

Featherstone moved and Schmuckal supported to Adopt Resolution 2012-03-T, A Resolution to Adopt Amendment 2011-2 to the Grand Traverse County Solid Waste Management Plan.

*Yeas: Featherstone, Schmuckal, Agostinelli, Wilson, Korn, Schumacher, Blood
Nays: None*

b. Public Hearing – PD-2012-11 Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Consideration of Resolution 2012-14-T, a Resolution Adopting a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. (6:55)

Brian VanDenBrand said that this Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan will replace the 2007 Green Infrastructure Plan which has expired. There are seven goals proposed which include improved connectivity, opportunities for funding, maintenance and access to the parks for all.

Korn opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 pm. Herb Lemcool commented that The Silver Lake Improvement Association needs to be contacted and kept informed of any proposed plans affecting Silver Lake. Korn closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 pm.

Agostinelli moved and Wilson seconded to adopt Resolution 2012-04-T A Resolution Adopting a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

*Yeas: Agostinelli, Wilson, Blood, Schmuckal, Schumacher, Featherstone, Korn
Nays: None*

c. PD-2012-12 - Boardman River Parkland Acquisition – Grant Agreement Amendment. Consideration of Resolution 2012-05-T, A Resolution in Support of a Project Amendment to the Boardman Lake Trail and Nature Preserve Expansion Agreement. (7:07)

Brian VanDenBrand explained that the Board is being requested to authorize a proposed project agreement amendment to the ongoing grant project to acquire parkland along the east side of the Boardman River, south of Airport Road. This amendment would allow for the purchase of land to provide legal access to connect to the Boardman Lake Trail and the Nature Preserve Expansion.

Agostinelli moved and Schmuckal seconded THAT Resolution 2012-05-T in Support of a Project Agreement Amendment to the Boardman Lake Trail and Nature Preserve Expansion, BE APPROVED.

Yeas: Agostinelli, Schmuckai, Featherstone, Blood, Schumacher, Wilson, Korn



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Nays: None

d. Consideration of Resolution 2012-06-T, An Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority (7:15)

Chief Pat Parker asked the Board to table this item for further review by Metro's Attorney.

Wilson moved and Schmuckal seconded to table Resolution 2012-06-T.

Yeas: Wilson, Featherstone, Blood, Agostinelli, Schumacher, Schmuckal, Korn

Nays: None

The Board authorized Blood to pay Metro in the same manner that she pays all other taxing bodies.

e. Report and recommendations from the Liquor License Review Committee (7:22)

Schumacher reported that the Liquor License Review Committee had met on Feb. 8th to evaluate the four applications for the two liquor licenses granted to the Township based on the 2010 census review. The Board members reviewed the spreadsheet the committee had developed demonstrating how each of the businesses had complied with the criteria that had been established by Resolution 2012-02-T.

Representatives of each of the four business applicants for the liquor licenses introduced themselves and each gave a short history of their business in the Township and their reasoning as to how a liquor license would improve their business.

Wayne Deering spoke on the licensing process and the various types of licensing.

Schumacher informed Board members that the Township is not obligated to recommend awarding these licenses. Board members Schmuckal, Wilson and Blood discussed what they considered the most important factors for awarding the available licenses.

Blood moved and Wilson seconded to adopt Resolution 2012-07-T, recommending Omelette Partners, Inc. for approval for a New Full Year Class C License and SDM Liquor License with Sunday Sales (AM and PM), Official Permit (Food) and Outdoor Service Permit "above all others".

Yeas: Blood, Wilson, Featherstone, Agostinelli, Schmuckal, Schumacher, Korn

Nays: None



Charter Township of Garfield

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Board members discussed the second liquor license and their criteria for recommending the approval of the second license.

Featherstone moved and Schmuckal seconded to adopt Resolution 2012-08-T, recommending Opa 1, Inc. for approval for a New Full Year Class C License "above all others".

*Yeas: Featherstone, Schmuckal, Agostinelli, Blood, Wilson, Schumacher, Korn
Nays: None*

8. **Public Comment (8:03)**

Christine Maxbauer, County Commissioner, commented that she is the County Parks Board representative to the TBAYS Board which has a time conflict with this meeting, but will attend when the first meeting is finished.

Wayne Deering commented on recycling.

Fred Campbell, on behalf of Brickman Associates was present to ask the Board to endorse a petition for Brickman to appear on the Planning Commission agenda for a PUD amendment to the Grand Traverse Crossings PUD. Applications for SUP/PUD amendment are not accepted until at least 60% of the property owners within the project have consented to the application. Since Garfield Township owns a-property within the Crossings PUD. Mr. Campbell requested that the Board consent to the application so that the application could reach the 60% authorization requirement. The Board discussed the matter and agreed that they should not sign the petition as the Township prefers to remain neutral on the application. Campbell asked the Board to consider amending the PUD section of the ordinance so the percentage of signatures required for a PUD amendment would not include the Township property. VanDenBrand will research language to allow for the exclusion of Township-owned property from ownership calculations, at the discretion of the Township Board.

9. **Other Business (8:17)**

Schumacher said that there had been a civics student, Torin Flannery, present this evening, but that he had to leave.

10. **Adjournment (8:18)**

Schmuckal moved and Featherstone seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:18pm.



Chuck Korn, Supervisor
Charter Township of Garfield
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686



Kay Schumacher, Clerk
Charter Township of Garfield
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION # 2012-04-T

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Garfield has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreational facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, a public comment session was held on at the Garfield Township Hall on February 14, 2012 to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Garfield has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Parks and Recreation Commission having approved resolution 2012-01-PR recommending adoption of the Recreation Plan by the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, following the public hearing, the Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees voted to adopt said Recreation Plan:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Charter Township of Garfield 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Charter Township of Garfield.

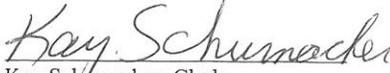
Moved: Agostinelli Supported: Wilson

Ayes: Agostinelli, Blood, Featherstone, Korn, Schumacher, Schmuckal, Wilson

Nays: None

Absent and Excused: None

RESOLUTION 2012-04-T DECLARED ADOPTED.

By: 
Kay Schumacher, Clerk
Charter Township of Garfield



CERTIFICATE

I, Kay Schumacher, Clerk of the Charter Township of Garfield, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 2012-04-T which was adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Garfield on the 14th day of February, 2012.

Dated: 2-15-2012

Kay Schumacher
Kay Schumacher, Clerk
Charter Township of Garfield



GRAND TRAVERSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S SCOPE OF SERVICES

The District shall provide land management services to the Township, which shall consist of:

1. Development and implementation of annual work plans and budgets for the following Township Parklands: Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, Grand Traverse Commons; Miller Creek Natural Area, Kids Creek Park and the natural area portion of Silver Lake Park; work plans and budgets will be presented to the Township Board for approval in July of each year. Assistance with projects on Township-owned lands other than those listed above, may occur at the mutual agreement of the District and Township.
2. Schedule and coordinate routine maintenance of existing structures and trails on the properties identified above.
3. Develop at least one grant proposal for funding a specific Township-approved project.
4. On behalf of the Township, obtain permits needed for the above activities.
5. Regularly monitor the public's activities within the properties identified above and report any abuse or misuse to the Township and/or the proper authorities.
6. Provide the Township with annual reports of time and activities.
7. Collaborate on projects of mutual interest with adjacent landowners, municipalities, and other entities.
8. Provide staff support to any advisory committees or working groups established by the Township.
9. Collaborate with other trail groups and interested parties to connect trail systems.
10. Promote Township parklands through media coverage of trail development, other improvements and student involvement in projects, unless otherwise directed by Township.
11. Provide administrative and clerical support necessary to accomplish the above tasks.
12. Coordinate, to the maximum possible extent, the acquisition of materials and the use of labor with projects on Township-owned lands.
13. Whenever possible, coordinate and utilize volunteers to accomplish work at Township parklands to garner greater community support, create better stewards of our environment, and to reduce labor costs.
14. The District will not be responsible for any activities listed above that are not accomplished due to inability to obtain permits, or to lack of funding, labor availability, or other factors beyond the District's control.
15. The District shall provide a final report and recommendations for program continuation to the Township Board prior to 1 August 2013.



Section I: Development of a Parks & Recreation Network

This document was developed as the final product of a project undertaken in March-September 2011 to study the 1) current situation regarding recreation facilities and programs in Grand Traverse County and 2) community perceptions and needs for recreation programs/facilities to assess the need/potential to find new ways to work together more efficiently, effectively and affordably to better meet community need (Executive Summary included as Appendix). NorthSky Nonprofit Network was engaged by TCAPS on behalf of Grand Traverse County recreation facility and program providers to facilitate the project-Debbie McKeon and Kevin Woods were the consultants. TCAPS was awarded a \$5,000 Rotary Charities planning grant to fund the work. TCAPS provided the mandatory \$1,250 cash match. The project leaders were Jayne Mohr and Alison Arnold, TCAPS, and Jason Jones, Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Department. The project team was developed through an open invitation to participate. Membership was comprised of representation from TCAPS, Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Departments and Nonprofit Organization Recreation Providers.

Phase 1 of the project included:

Development of a community survey tool, pre-test of the tool occurred with the Traverse City Noon Rotary Club, minor modifications were made.

Phase 2 of the project included:

Review of Park & Recreation Asset Inventories & Master Plans from local governments within Grand Traverse County, in particular for future facility or program enhancements.

Implementation of the survey tool targeted to persons in Grand Traverse County. 706 of households responded representing approximately 1.0% of the total households in the county therefore according to statistical sampling standards, the response accuracy rate is within 95% confidence limits +/- 5%.

Creation of a report summarizing the results of the review and survey and including a SWOT analysis-the final report, authored by Kevin Woods, is attached. Recommendations for potential projects and collaborations were provided for future consideration.

Phase 3 of the project included:

Convening and facilitation of two meetings to discuss the project purpose, phase 2 results and potential next steps. All persons involved in project development and those organizations that responded to the survey were invited to attend. Attendees included representatives of units of government, nonprofit recreation service providers and TCAPS.

Following significant brainstorming and discussion, the group determined the next step would be to create a Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Network. The group then developed the following draft materials in relation to this network to share in an invitation to all persons that it identified, or that a person could self-identify, as potential members of this network.



Section II: Grand Traverse County Park and Recreation Network

Purpose:

Create an ongoing relationship among interested parties to regularly share information, engage in collective assessments, brainstorm potential opportunities, collectively discuss community need and formulate cross-sector solutions to realize a shared vision for Grand Traverse County that most efficiently, effectively and affordably meets identified community needs for recreation programming and facilities.

Potential Shared Vision:

All of Grand Traverse County's built and natural recreation facilities are filled with users on a year-round basis.

Membership:

Units of government responsible for parks and recreation, nonprofit recreation service providers, for-profit recreation service providers, educational institutions with recreation facilities and/or programs and other persons that self-identify as contributors to the purpose of the network.

Potential Benefits/Goals Discussed to date:

- Meaningful time together builds trust & relationships that foster deeper understanding, innovative solutions & nimble responses
- Based upon survey results, there is a significant investment of resources in recreation facilities and programs, including parks, in Grand Traverse County-are there ways to leverage these resources to better meet community need?
- Enhanced Communications within network fosters better individual understanding & decision-making
- Efficient and effective means to connect with Parks & Recreation leaders
- Recognized vehicle to connect Parks & Recreation leaders with those in other sectors (Grand Vision, Grand ReImagine, Poverty Reduction Initiative, Business Atlas, etc.)
- Provides focus on Parks & Recreation to raise visibility of its initiatives and concerns through a collective voice, when appropriate
- Potential for developing services or forming contractual relationships that improve individual business models (i.e. background checks for volunteers, shared professional development sessions)
- Opportunity to foster a system of services/programs to better meet community need-to create a shared vision of parks and recreation for Grand Traverse County in which members could contribute as appropriate to further that vision.



- A broad and diverse active membership will assist in recognizing trends, brainstorming and developing responses to community needs, re-aligning programs and resources when needed
- Recognized as the place to go to get good information about parks and recreation-a hub
- Provides shared learning opportunities and ongoing leadership development

Examples of Member Collaborative Principles (to be discussed at the initial meeting):

Member responsibilities:

1. Participation in the network is voluntary
2. Recognition that members have distinct missions and business models
3. The purpose of the network will drive the creation of goals and strategies which result in activities.
4. Acceptance of the responsibility to ensure that the network does the best work possible in pursuit of agreed goals
5. Believe in the purpose of the network and serves as an ambassador
6. Act responsibly and prudently
7. Attend at least 75% of meetings, including committees/ project teams for which I volunteer.
8. RSVP my attendance for meetings or committee meetings to the meeting chair at least one day in advance.
9. Follow through on my commitments and assignments including deadlines
10. Communicate to leadership when I need additional guidance or support to fulfill an assignment.
11. Not to represent the network unless the network has explicitly approved it.
12. Not to pursue activities on behalf of the network that are outside of my assignment or committee responsibility without network approval.
13. Act in the best interests of the network, and excuse myself from discussions and votes where I have a conflict of interest.
14. Review and uphold all network policies and procedures.
15. If unable to fulfill my commitment to the network, to notify leadership immediately.
16. Agree that information gained from participation in the network will be used in a fair manner.

Sample Types of Topics to be Discussed/Considered

1. Realignment of recreation program providers to more efficiently, effectively and affordably provide 1) "elite" athletic opportunities 2) intramural athletic opportunities and 3) learning/experiential athletic opportunities
2. How will some long-standing models work in the future-such as parks & recreation departments and school-based athletic programs?
3. Are there ways to grow the competencies of the volunteers that are the life-blood of most recreation programs? Are there ways to share services and professional development needs? (background checks, coach training, governance, fundraising)(specifically-could NMC develop a coach training program) (could we have a shared database of those that have had background checks? Or utilize the same service so they could let us know if it has already been done and is on file)



4. Can we develop meaningful volunteer succession plans to assure quality and sustainability?
5. How do we give a voice to the silent majority-those that are not in competitive athletic programs? There are large numbers of people not engaged in recreation activities-they are potential customers-how do we meet those needs? What barriers must be overcome?
6. How are we responding to public health concerns, especially regarding obesity? Should our network have a relationship with the public health sector?
7. The survey responses indicate that the public is challenged to find the information needed about recreation and parks opportunities-there is a shared communications opportunity-central location that is the portal to link to individual websites.
8. Is it possible to provide some programming in alternate locations to ease the barrier of transportation that is reported on the survey results?



Appendix: Executive Summary of Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

The Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) and a coalition of local governments and providers of recreation services is seeking to improve the level of collaborative planning among organizations providing recreational services in Grand Traverse County. The collaborative planning is viewed as being more responsive to the needs of county residents while also being more efficient in the delivery of recreational services with a focus on youth.

The following statements/assumptions describe the current situation for recreational offerings in Grand Traverse County:

- County and local governments provide “passive” recreation space/facilities but offer limited programming to county residents
- There are a growing number of private recreation bodies (little league, sports clubs, recreation clubs) that rent/lease space from local government to provide recreational opportunities at public facilities; there are also private bodies that own/operate their own recreational facilities
- The county, city, villages, townships and school district do not have a recreation services delivery model similar to that found in down-state communities. Well-coordinated partnerships between the local government units and the school district do not exist in Grand Traverse County.
- Some of the private sector recreation bodies are losing key leaders (with a long-term view of the history of the organization) to retirement/turnover; there is concern for the long-term future of these organizations
- Local governments have completed and produced an inventory of facilities/parks available in the county; this does not include an inventory of program offerings and the target age group being served
- Grand Traverse county is experiencing growth in the number of baby boomer households (empty nesters), DINKs (double income/no kids), and young professionals with young children whose recreation needs may not be adequately met through the current arrangement.
- The facility inventory represents the initial step in collaborative recreational planning among governmental entities in the county; non-governmental recreational bodies have not yet been invited to participate in the planning process with a focus on growth.

Major Demographic Trends

The following describe the major demographic trends affecting Grand Traverse County based upon the 2000 Census and American Community Survey projections for 2009.

The total population of Grand Traverse County is forecast to grow at an annual rate of 0.77% from 2010-2015. The largest age segments are those 35-54 and 55-74. The “prime” youth sports market (ages 10-19) represent a declining segment of the market – shrinking from 14.9% in 2000 to 12.4% in 2015.

The county is primarily white with Hispanics being the largest minority. 93% of adults in the county have earned a high school diploma while nearly 30% have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher.



The school-age population is largest in grades 5-8 and 9-12. There are an estimated 6,175 children enrolled in pre-school through grade 4.

The largest number of households in the county are in the 45-64 age group. This may include both households with older children and “empty nesters.” This group also reports the highest median household income at \$54,509. Households that are most likely to have incomes below poverty level (8.8% of total households) are those headed by a female householder.

51% of the households in the county contain 1 or 2 persons while 30% of households contain 3-4 persons.

The “senior” households – those aged 65-plus – is the third largest grouping, in terms of size of group, and reports a median household income of \$36,259. This group is most likely to consist of 1 and 2-person households.

Over 50% of employed adults in Grand Traverse County work in the “Services” sector followed by “retail trade”, manufacturing, and construction. Nearly 90% of the working population work in the county of residence with 9.6% working outside of the county. Most drive alone to their jobs taking an average of 19.3 minutes in commuting time each way.

Overview of Community Survey Findings

707 household completed the community recreation survey posted on Survey Monkey. 563 of the responding households reported having children in the household. This represented an “over-sampling” of family households and an “under-sampling” of “adult-only” households.

The typical survey respondent was a female aged 30-59 with children ages 6-18 residing in the household who resides in Grand Traverse County, whose children attend TCAPS schools, and whose household annually earns \$50,000-\$149,999. The availability of quality recreation opportunities is important or very important to her respondents.

Respondents would like to see more recreational opportunities for youth offered at a lower cost in a more convenient location. Program providers need to improve their methods and consistency of communication to the households they serve.

Other major findings include the following:

- 68.7% of respondents rated program for adults as good-excellent; 68.9% rated programs for youth as good/excellent.
- Adult respondents were most likely to participate in team sports of basketball, soccer, and softball/baseball.
- Children at all grade levels most likely to participate in riding a bicycle, swimming, and downhill skiing



- High participation rates at all levels for sailing/boating and canoeing/Kayaking (reflective of unique physical resources of GT County)
- Baseball/softball and soccer have higher participation levels at grades K-2 and 3-5
- High participation rates were reported for “running” for middle school (Grades 6-8) and for high school youth.
- Tennis and basketball have good participation rates at high school, middle school and grades 3-5
- Ice skating has good participation rates at all grade levels.
- Adult respondents report enjoying wide-range of outdoor activities ranging from passive (time at beach) to cycling, hiking, running, walking, and downhill skiing
- Popular adult activities that demand “indoor” facilities include swimming and gym work-out
- The unique geographic and topographic features of Grand Traverse County contribute to reported high levels of sailing/boating, canoeing/kayaking, and downhill skiing.
- “Most popular” recreational activities among all youth (based upon parents’ perceptions) were time at the beach, swimming, cycling, downhill skiing, walking, soccer, baseball/softball, and sailing/boating. The “most popular” team sports are soccer, baseball/softball, and basketball.
- Adults are most likely to learn about activities through word-of-mouth, email, newsletter, and newspaper advertising. Youth are most likely to learn from school publications, word-of-mouth, newsletter, and email. Facebook is more likely to be a source for adults. Newspaper and radio are more important sources for adults vs. youth.
- Program pricing and location/convenience are the most important barriers to increased utilization of various recreation programs; program organization and ineffective communication are also important barriers.
- Respondents recommended that program costs be reduced for youth programs, increase the number of youth program offerings, improve communications about program offerings, better coordination of scheduling for youth programs, and locate programs closer to respondents’ homes.



- The availability of quality recreational activities is “somewhat important” to “very important” (in the decision to reside in Grand Traverse County) among 91-99% of all responding households.

Survey respondents offered many written comments and suggestions which are summarized in the detailed survey findings. These comments included recommendations on how to improve the current program offerings, ideas for new programs, and new recreational facilities.



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



RODNEY A. STOKES
DIRECTOR

March 8, 2012

Mr. Brian VanDenBrand
Deputy Planner
Garfield Charter Township
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

Dear Mr. VanDenBrand:

SUBJECT: Garfield Charter Township Recreation Plan

Please find attached your copy of the recreation plan checklist recently submitted to our office for approval. Your recreation plan has been approved.

Your recreation plan will expire December 31, 2017.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Our address is: **Grants Management, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.**

Sincerely,

Christie Bayus, Grant Coordinator
Grants Management
517-335-2253
bayusc@michigan.gov

CB:lh
Attachment



**APPENDIX H. COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY
PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST**



Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Grants Management

**COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND
GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST**

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

Name of Plan: FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
CHAPTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD	GRAND TRAVERSE	FEBRUARY 2012

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participating Communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. RECREATION INVENTORY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL) <u>GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS



6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice 1/8/2012

Type of Notice NEWSPAPER LEGAL NOTICE

Plan Location TOWNSHIP HALL; ONLINE

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 1/13/12 → 2/19/12

Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice 1/8/2012

Name of Newspaper TRAVERSE CITY RECORD EAGLE

Date of Meeting 2/19/2012

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

Plans **must** be adopted by the highest level *governing body* (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should **also** include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are **required** and must be included in the plan.

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: 2/15/2012 (APPENDIX "E")
- 2. Official resolution of the PARKS AND RECREATION Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: 2/14/2012 (APPENDIX "B")
- 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: _____
- 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: _____

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD includes the required content, as indicated
(Local Unit of Government)
 above and as set forth by the DNR.

Kay Schumacher 2/27/12
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

GRANTS MANAGEMENT
 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 PO BOX 30425
 LANSING, MI 48909-7925

RECEIVED
 MAR 1 2012

MICHIGAN DNR
 GRANTS MANAGEMENT

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

December 31, 2017
Date

By: Christie Reynolds 3/8/12
Grants Management Date