

2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan



Prepared by Kristine Erickson, Director, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation
Submitted to Michigan Department of Natural Resources on February 28, 2018



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February 28, 2018

Grand Traverse County Planning Commission
400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

RE: Submission of the 2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan; Differences from Previous Plan; Accomplishments of Past Five Years

Dear Chair Cockfield and Commissioners,

Enclosed is a final copy of the *2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan* (also known as a five-year plan). This document has been prepared according to Michigan Department of Natural Resources specifications, and will be used for the next five years to guide decisions about the twelve parkland properties under the stewardship of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission and Department. Once approved and on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the plan also qualifies County Parks and Recreation for grant opportunities for future park projects.

This document features: descriptions of our community and of County Parks and Recreation's administrative structure; an inventory of publicly-owned and privately-owned park and recreation facilities and properties located within the county; a summary of planning processes and community input about County parks and facilities; and community-driven goals and objectives for improvements to county parks, with an action plan for achieving them.

Compared to previous five-year plans, this document is less aspirational, with goals and objectives more aligned with County Parks and Recreation's current budget and resources. No future parkland acquisitions or new facilities (such as buildings) are included. Another major difference is that there are no individual park master plans included in this document. The master plans in place for Maple Bay Park and Natural Area and the Civic Center have expired. Projects from those plans were reviewed by Parks and Recreation Commissioners, and those considered to be relevant and affordable have been included in the "Action Plan" section of this five-year plan. During the past five years, the Business Development Team of the Parks and Recreation Commission has developed business plans for four County parks (Twin Lakes, Power Island, Civic Center, and Medalie), with recommended improvements to better serve the community and generate more revenue for Parks and Recreation. Those plans are included in the appendices of this five-year plan.

Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Network (PRN), formed in 2013 and composed of local municipalities, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, and other organizations that provide recreational facilities and opportunities, still exists, but no longer meets regularly. County Parks and Recreation convened the PRN until 2015, when it was determined there was no budget for the department to continue to do so. At that time, no other members of the PRN volunteered to organize and host meetings, and no members wanted to rotate the responsibility. The interactive website born of the PRN, www.gtrec.org, still exists, and an average of four inquiries per month continue to be handled by County Parks and Recreation. Parks and Recreation has formed many successful community partnerships through the PRN to share resources, marketing opportunities, and bring more recreational opportunities to our community.

During the life of the last five-year plan, many notable improvements were made to County parks, some of which are listed below, and plans for future improvements are well underway.

Civic Center Park: A 10,000-square-foot new Campbell Community Playground has replaced the aging Kids Kove Playground. Nortel Youth Cycling group now has its clubhouse at the Civic Center in the long unused Sector Building. This group provides programming for safe cycling around our community. A Native American Marker Tree, long ignored, received a facelift with a new fence and an historical plaque because of a placemaking project. Approximately 30 dead, dying, and dangerous trees were removed from the north and west sides of the Civic Center, and a tree management plan is finally being put in place for the park. The Grand Traverse YMCA took over operations at Easling Pool in 2016 and established the Central Y at the Civic Center. The electrical system in the former meeting room was upgraded and turned into a fitness center, as part of the Central Y. Usership has increased nearly 50 percent since 2016. A campaign to refurbish an aging Easling Pool has raised over \$1 million in funds, with only \$125,000 left to reach its goal. A refurbished pool will provide years of swim lessons, exercise, and help our community be safe in and around the water. A new, permanent concession stand also was added to the Civic Center property, near the northernmost ball fields.

Medalie Park: The pavilion and bathrooms were painted in anticipation of the park being designated as a trailhead for the completed Boardman Lake Loop Trail.

Meyer House: A new septic system and field was installed in 2017.

Natural Education Reserve: As the dams are being removed, new trails are being established, old trails are changing direction, and maintenance of those trails and installation of a new kayak-canoe launch are being funded by grant dollars in preparation for expanded recreational opportunities.

Power Island-Bassett Island: A new drinking water well was successfully drilled in 2015. In 2017, five campsites were added on Power Island, expanding camping opportunities for county residents and visitors.

Twin Lakes Park: A cluttered, forgotten portion of the lower level of Gilbert Lodge was cleaned out and painted to transform the space into a dance studio. Since 2016, regular yoga, dance, drumming, and other programs are being offered at the park. The bathroom in the lower level was refurbished with grant monies, and it now is ADA accessible for those who use the studio. The Lodge received new light fixtures and new fire-retardant window treatments. The former lights and curtains had not been replaced since the 1970s. The Lodge is being marketed as an event and wedding venue, and usership has increased by at least 30 percent since 2014.

In 2016, the Senior Center Network joined Parks and Recreation, increasing intergenerational programming opportunities and maximizing resources to provide more recreation.

It is the intent of the Parks and Recreation Commission to continue to partner with organizations that provide recreational and health and wellness opportunities in our County parks to help our community, individually and collectively, become more active, happier, and healthier. The Commission and Department are honored and committed to being the best possible stewards for the 12 County park properties.

Please consider using the *2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan* as you plan for community development, and as you address the effects of community development on our residents' health and wellness and related infrastructural needs. Thank you for your continued support of these efforts.

Please contact me any time with questions, concerns, and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Kristine Erickson, Director
Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network



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February 28, 2018

Matt McCauley, Chief Executive Officer
Networks Northwest
P.O. Box 506
Traverse City, Michigan 49685-0506

RE: Submission of the 2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan; Differences from Previous Plan; Accomplishments of Past Five Years

Dear Matt and Networks Northwest,

Enclosed is a final copy of the *2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan* (also known as a five-year plan). This document has been prepared according to Michigan Department of Natural Resources specifications, and will be used for the next five years to guide decisions about the twelve parkland properties under the stewardship of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission and Department. Once approved and on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the plan also qualifies County Parks and Recreation for grant opportunities for future park projects.

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Please consider using the *2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan* as you plan for community development, and as you address the effects of community development on our residents' health and wellness and related infrastructural needs. Thank you for your continued support of these efforts.

Please contact me any time with questions, concerns, and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Kristine Erickson, Director
Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network

Parks and Recreation Resolution

During a regular meeting of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission on the fifteenth (15th) day of February, 2018 at 5 p.m., with 7 members present, the following resolution was proposed:

Motion by: Rod Kirell

Supported by: Tom Mair

RESOLUTION 01-2018

2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan

For Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission, Grand Traverse County

WHEREAS, the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period, between 2018 through 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan, the *2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan*, in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Grand Traverse County were provided with well-advertised opportunities during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was provided with well-advertised opportunities and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of thirty-one (31) days, and

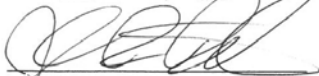
WHEREAS, a final public hearing was held on February 15, 2018 at the Grand Traverse County Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, to provide an opportunity for all who reside within the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Grand Traverse County, and

WHEREAS, following the public hearing, the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission voted to adopt said recreation and natural resources conservation plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission hereby adopts resolution 01-2018, the *2018 -2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan*.

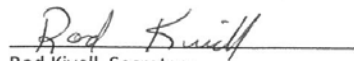
Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 3



John Roth, Parks and Recreation Commission President

CERTIFICATION

I, Rod Kivell, Secretary of the of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission, County of Grand Traverse, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission during its regular meeting on the fifteenth (15th) day of February, 2018.



Rod Kivell, Secretary,
Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission

Memo to County Board of Commissioners Requesting Approval of 2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan

1213 W. Civic Center Drive
Traverse City, Michigan 49686
Phone: 231-922-4818
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DATE: February 20, 2018
TO: Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners and Interim County Administrator Jean Derenzy
FROM: Kristine Erickson, Director, Parks and Recreation *KTE*
RE: **Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Five-year Plan**

Introduction: As you are aware, the Parks and Recreation Commission, Department, and organizational and community partners have been working on the Five-year Parks and Recreation Plan since summer of 2017. I have brought this to the County Board's attention during the public comment portion during two meetings, and the draft plan has been advertised as available for public review since January 12. This work culminated in a thirty-one-day public review period and a public hearing on Thursday, February 15, 2018. The Parks and Recreation Commission accepted the plan during that public hearing meeting, and voted in favor of recommending its adoption by the County Board of Commissioners during its February 21, 2018 meeting.

Plan's Purpose: Commonly referred to as a "Five-Year Recreation Plan," this document, once filed with and approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), will qualify County Parks and Recreation for financial assistance through MDNR recreation grants (such as the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Recreation Passport Grant Program) to further develop the County's recreational facilities and parks, between 2018 and 2023. The plan is used as a guide for Parks and Recreation Commissioners' decisions about park projects and their priorities during the next five years.

Submission Deadline: Deadline for submission to the MDNR is March 1, 2018. Once approved by the County Board and the MDNR, this updated five-year plan will take the place of the *2013-2018 Grand Traverse County Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan*.

Changes from Recent Draft Plan: Only two changes have been made to the draft plan that was available for public review since January 12 – the addition of acknowledgements and inclusion of the resolution adopting the plan, signed by Parks and Recreation Commission leadership on Thursday, February 15. I am now in the process of adding the administrative front- and back-matter to this plan in preparation for its submission. Front- and back-matter is MDNR-required administrative documentation, such as affidavits proving that the public hearing notices were published last week, and the MDNR checklist showing that all of the required surveys and documentation have been included in the plan. I am awaiting the arrival of some of this documentation.

Changes from Previous 2013-2018 Plan: This plan considers the current (rather than past) structure of the Parks and Recreation Department, available resources, previous planning documents (such as the Business Development Team Business Plans for various parks), and public input through community meetings and surveys. Major notable differences in the updated version is found in the "Objectives and Goals; Action Plan" section of the new plan. This section now focuses on improving and maintaining the parks and facilities stewarded by County Parks and Recreation, rather than replacing or adding to them. The philosophy is to "do the best we can with what we have." **I would draw your attention to the projects described in this section (pages 43 to 53) to truly get a sense of the goals and objectives of County Parks for the next five years, who will partner on projects, and how projects will be funded.** The "Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network Partnerships and Collaborations" section has also been expanded to include many new partnerships which are helping support funding and improvements in our ten County parks. The final notable change is that the Senior Center Network became part of Parks and Recreation since the last plan was in effect, thereby expanding programming opportunities and staffing. The content of the rest of the sections has not significantly changed from the previous plan. **Please also note that the MDNR does not require that any or all of the projects listed be completed during that five-year period. During the**

life of the new plan, any substantive changes would have to be fully reviewed by the Parks Board and the County Board, then a plan amendment would be sent to the MDNR.

Request: Parks and Recreation is respectfully recommending the County Board of Commissioners to adopt this plan, as to substance and form, on February 21. Thank you for your consideration. It has been my honor and privilege to work on this new plan, which could positively shape the future of our parks and bring more opportunities for health, wellness, and recreation to our community.

County Resolution

Resolution

28-2018

Adoption of 2018-2023 GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN (For Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission)

WHEREAS, the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period, between 2018 through 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan, the *2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan*, in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Grand Traverse County were provided with well-advertised opportunities during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

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

WHEREAS, a final public hearing was held on February 15, 2018 during the regular meeting of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation meeting at the Grand Traverse County Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, to provide an opportunity for all who reside in the county (the planning area) to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation in Grand Traverse County's parks, and to qualify for grants to do so through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and

WHEREAS, following the public hearing on February 15, 2018, the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission voted to adopt said recreation and natural resources conservation plan, the *2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan*.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Grand Traverse County that this Board of Commissioners hereby approves the plan as identified above and provided by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and adopts the same, in its entirety.

APPROVED: February 21, 2018

I HEREBY CERTIFY THIS COPY TO BE A
TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE RECORD ON
FILE WITH THE OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK
BONNIE SCHEELE
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY CLERK
BY: *Bonnie Scheele*
CLERK/DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
DATE: *February 26, 2018*

Acknowledgements

The Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission and Department thank the following individuals, organizations, and groups for their valued contributions to the *2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan*:

- Residents of Grand Traverse County who participated in surveys and community input sessions, and who continue to support County Parks
- Katelynn Brown, Office Coordinator, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation
- Jean Derenzy, Traverse City Downtown Development Authority Chief Executive Officer; formerly Grand Traverse County Interim Administrator and Director of Community Development and Codes
- Julie Clark, Executive Director, TART Trails
- Marsha Barber Clark, Executive Director, Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Matt Cowall, Communications Director, Land Information Access Association
- Joshua Green and Mike Steffes, GIS Technicians, Grand Traverse County Equalization
- Wendy Hirschenberger, Grand Traverse County Health Officer
- Chris Kushman, Planning and Management Director, TART Trails
- Vic Lane, Senior Conservation Project Manager, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
- Steve Largent, Conservation Team Coordinator, Grand Traverse Conservation District; Parks and Recreation Commissioner
- Tom Vitale, Parkland Steward, Grand Traverse Conservation District
- John Leach, Ranger, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation
- Derek Melville, Superintendent, City of Traverse City Parks and Recreation
- Ariel Scheppe, Office Clerk, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation
- John Sych, AICP, current Community Planner for Networks Northwest; formerly Director of Planning, Grand Traverse County
- Ryan Walsh, Office Manager, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation
- Lori Wells, Manager, Senior Center Network
- City of Traverse City
- Crystal Bindi Studios
- Friends of Easling Pool and President Bridget Thuente
- Garfield Township
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Grand Traverse Bay YMCA
- Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
- Grand Traverse County Facilities Management Staff
- El Grupo Norte! Youth Cycling Group
- Land Information Access Association
- mParks
- Munson Healthcare
- Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation (TART) Trails
- Grand Traverse County's Administrative Team
- Members of the 2017-2018 Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners: Carol Crawford (Chair), Ron Clous (Vice Chair), Cheryl Gore Follette, Dr. Bob Johnson, Dr. Dan Lathrop, Tom Mair, and Addison "Sonny" Wheelock
- Members of the 2018 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission: Peter Albers, David Grams, Rodetta Harrand, Rod Kivell, Steve Largent, Tom Mair, William Mouser, John Roth, Whitney Waara, Shirley Zerafa; 2017 members Jeri LeRoi and Andy Marek

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Community Description

The purpose of the *2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan* is to guide future decisions about recreational facilities, parkland, and properties of Grand Traverse County, Michigan. This plan focuses on all aspects of parks and recreation within the County – from partnerships to programs; from infrastructure development to facilities improvements.



Grand Traverse County is approximately 485 square miles in size, including 297,000 acres of land and 13,400 acres of surface water. Its landscapes features rolling and hilly forest uplands, extensive wetlands and low areas, numerous inland lakes and streams, and the shorelines of East and West Grand Traverse Bay. The Boardman River, considered one of the top trout streams in Michigan, bisects the County as it outlets into the Bay. The influence of glacial activity is clearly evident in the outwash plains and steep gravel and clay slopes that make up the majority of the southern two-thirds of the County. With 1,071 feet in elevation and 620 feet in depth in Grand Traverse Bay, these geographies lend special character to the County – lofty vistas of the bay, lakes, farmlands, and deep wooded valleys.

Grand Traverse County residents and visitors enjoy some of the most beautiful countryside in the Midwest. The citizens of the County take advantage of a generally healthy economy and a quality of life that offers the amenities of a modern urban environment that is in close proximity to unspoiled natural resources of the region. The various jurisdictions within the County have proven more than willing to cooperate with the County Parks and Recreation Commission to develop and operate park facilities to the benefit of all who live in and visit the region.

The benefits and natural amenities of life in Grand Traverse County have not gone unnoticed. The community is among the fastest growing in the state. Today, there are over 92,000 residents in the County. By 2040, the County is projected to grow to 110,000 residents – an increase of 18,000. As a result, many of the unique features, the natural resources, and the quality of life in the County are at risk. The community desires a balance of growth while protecting the area's unique resources, with assurance that the economic and cultural advantages of life in the County are within their reach.

As a whole, the County is aging, depending on where one resides. Higher concentrations of the senior population live at the northern end of the County, and higher numbers of young families tend to live at the southern end of the County. Areas of lower income in the County include the urbanized areas of Traverse City, Garfield Township, Fife Lake and Kingsley. Areas of higher median income in the County include Acme and Peninsula Townships along Grand Traverse Bay.

While there are many opportunities for passive recreation throughout the County, there is increased need for active recreational opportunities for both families and the senior population. Most recreational opportunities are accessed by car, but some of the developed parks are accessed by cars, buses, bicycles, and via trails.

Administrative Structure

This section describes how park and recreation management and operations are carried out in Grand Traverse County. Included in this section are descriptions of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department-Senior Center Network, partnerships and collaborations related to the management and operations of public recreation areas, and budget information.



Senior Center Network's Mission: Make longer lives, better lives.

Grand Traverse County

In 1977, Grand Traverse County established the Parks and Recreation Commission, which operates under and in compliance with state law (Act 261 of the Public Acts of 1965, as amended). The Parks and Recreation Commission ultimately is subject to the supervision of the seven-member County Board and all applicable laws. Legal advice is provided by the County's Prosecuting Attorney's office.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network is a department overseen and supervised by a commission of ten members, with staggered terms. Members are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners. The Parks and Recreation Commission monitors the activities of the department's Director, Senior Center Network Manager, and associated personnel; makes decisions about the eleven properties it stewards; and makes decisions about the Senior Center Network, which has one main location and four satellite locations. The mission of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to "enhance community and quality of life through people, parks and programs." The mission of the Senior Center Network is to "make longer lives, better lives."

Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network

Appointed by the County Administrator, the Director of Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network is charged with the task of overseeing and directing the Parks and Recreation Department and the Senior Center Network to carry out the goals and objectives established by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission's directives are outlined in its current Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, and in this *2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Master Plan*. The administrative office is housed in the County's Civic Center Building.

In 2016, Senior Center Network operations were moved from the County's Commission on Aging to the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department. The change has been welcomed and is a good fit. While the Parks and Recreation Department continues to act predominantly as a property manager/landlord, relying on recreational experts to offer programming in its parks, the Senior Center Network offers hundreds of social, recreational, educational, wellness, and fitness-related activities that are intergenerational – open to individuals of all ages. With the support of over 100 volunteers, Senior Center staff supports the community's collective health and wellness by providing daily nutritional meals, regular trips to destinations locally and abroad, daily exercise and health-related programming, educational classes and technical assistance, information, referrals related to regional senior service providers, and much more. Today, more than 5,000 individuals engage in over 50,000 units of service annually throughout the Senior Center Network.

The Senior Center Network's office and main location is in a Traverse City park, referred to as "Senior Center Beach," in a city-owned building. The County is responsible for management and operation of the Senior Center programs, and the City of Traverse City is responsible for maintenance of the park and the Senior Center building. All department personnel practices are supervised and implemented by the County's Human Resources Department, and under the County's master union contract, where applicable.

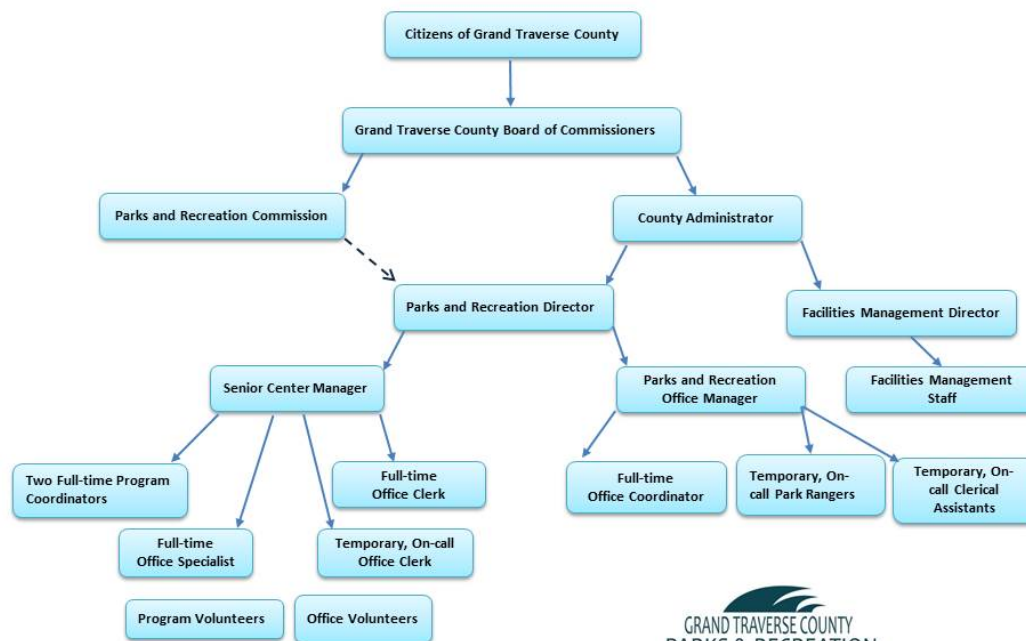
Facilities Management Department

The Director of Facilities Management is charged with overseeing the County's Facilities Management Department. Although this is a department separate from Parks and Recreation with a separate budget, its staff work closely with Parks and Recreation to ensure that the County's parks and facilities are clean and well-maintained. Facilities Management staff also are responsible for the maintenance duties related to all of the County's facilities. Until recently, this department had 12 skilled employees, including electricians, carpenters, masons, groundskeepers, custodians, plumbers, and HVAC experts who provided services to the Parks and Recreation Department. Today, Facilities Management staff has been reduced by half, causing many services for Parks and Recreation to currently be subcontracted. The Facilities Management Director works in conjunction with the Director of Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network, and is supervised by the County Administrator.

The Facilities Management Department cares for seven of the 12 parks/properties under the stewardship of Parks and Recreation, and portions of the Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation (TART) Trail within the County.

Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network Organizational Chart

The following organizational chart shows the relationships and flow of information among named County departments and governing bodies. Please note that the relationship between the Parks and Recreation Commission and Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network is indicated by a dashed arrow, because the Parks and Recreation Commission only has the authority to establish goals and policy, and to make recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners. It has no direct supervisory authority.



Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network Partnerships and Collaborations

The local school systems, Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS), and the Traverse Bay Intermediate School District (TBAISD) offer a limited number of recreational opportunities with access to indoor and outdoor facilities owned by both city and County parks and recreation departments, and by other community organizations, such as the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA and local churches. TCAPS has 18 elementary, two junior high, and two senior high schools located in Grand Traverse County. Each property has its own individual indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, widely used for school recreation and sports programs. The school system depends on the County for some recreational facilities, specifically Easling Pool and Howe Arena, both located at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center.

Nonprofit volunteer organizations are active in providing parks and recreation services in the County and, with their help, most of the region's recreational programs are provided to residents and visitors of the County. Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation operates as a landlord by overseeing and leasing park properties and facilities, while the many volunteer organizations act as lessees and recreational program providers in those park properties and facilities. These volunteer efforts greatly enhance the ability of Parks and Recreation to minimize the need for County general fund dollars.

Organizational Partners

City of Traverse City: Under the terms of an intergovernmental agreement between Grand Traverse County and the City of Traverse City, both entities have partnered to provide, maintain, and improve services offered at the Traverse City Senior Center and its related facilities. The millage-funded Senior Center Network, which has provided services in the region for over 45 years, became part of County Parks and Recreation in 2016. The Senior Center Network provides the programming, and the City provides the facility where the programming takes place.

Friends of Easling Pool: Since 2015, the Friends of Easling Pool citizens group has been committed to raising \$625,000 in funds to update Easling Pool at Civic Center Park. Plans to refurbish the over-40-year-old community pool include a new pool liner, ultraviolet water sanitizing system, new air-handling equipment, new decking, and high-efficiency lighting. The campaign went public in August 2017. As of December 2017, over half of the funds were raised. Friends of Easling Pool and Grand Traverse Bay YMCA, which manages the pool, have partnered with County Parks and Recreation in this effort. Target date for refurbishment is summer 2018.

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians: The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians consistently supports County Parks and Recreation projects in its parks with two-percent grant awards. Since 2007, Parks and Recreation has received nearly \$170,000 for park improvements. Grants have been awarded for: scholarships for swim lessons in Easling Pool at the Civic Center; the Native American Marker Tree Improvement Project at the Civic Center; Civic Center Park surveillance camera system upgrades and additions; electrical upgrades to accommodate a Central Y fitness center at the Civic Center; upgrades to the bathroom in the lower level of Gilbert Lodge at Twin Lakes Park to make it ADA accessible; construction engineering costs for Medalie Roadside Park to serve as a trailhead for the completed Boardman Lake Loop Trail; and Natural Education Reserve (NER) trail maintenance and signage necessary as dams are removed from that property. The Parks and Recreation

Commission has recommended that, in 2018, the department explore opportunities to collaborate with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians on events and programming in County parks.

Grand Traverse Conservation District: Since 1993, the Conservation District has managed the Natural Education Reserve (NER) on behalf of Grand Traverse County through its “Cooperative Parkland Program.” The Cooperative Parkland Program started with a grant through Rotary Charities in partnership with the City of Traverse City. Today, the Conservation District manages over 3,000 acres of public parkland in Grand Traverse County, including the NER. Under a current three-year agreement with Parks and Recreation, which pays annually for its services, the Conservation District provides professional resource management assistance at the NER and offers professional guidance about the park to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Conservation District’s duties include: developing and implementing an annual property work plan; coordinating routine inspections and maintenance of structures and trails; providing management services for exposed bottomlands on the property; monitoring public activities within the NER corridor; coordinating paid and volunteer labor to maintain and improve parkland; providing administrative and clerical support. The Conservation District also assists with projects on other County-owned parklands, as requested. In 2008, the Conservation District built the Boardman River Nature Center to anchor the recreational programs and house Conservation District staff at the NER.

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy: Manages Maple Bay Park and Natural Area at no cost on behalf of Grand Traverse County under a current, two-year Memo of Understanding. The Conservancy handles trail maintenance, invasive species management, farmland use agreement oversight, signage, sugar bush use, and compliance with funding entity requirements and agreements. The Conservancy and the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service have developed a conservation plan for the farmland at Maple Bay, with recommendations for improving soil health and productivity to enhance wildlife habitat, long-term. The Conservancy works closely with Parks and Recreation to enforce the terms of the Natural Resources Trust Fund agreement for this park, and to comply with the terms of other funding entities, such as the Coastal Zone Management Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails (TART), Inc.: Since 1998, Grand Traverse County and Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation have partnered with TART Trails, whose mission is to “enrich the Traverse area by providing a network of trails, bikeways and pedestrian ways; and encouraging their use.” The partnership is based on shared geography and the desire to continue to connect the community and provide recreational opportunities. The “TART-in-Town” designated trail in Traverse City intersects the Grand Traverse County Civic Center Park; TART helps Parks and Recreation and the Conservation District enhance and maintain the trail system at the Natural Education Reserve; and TART and County Parks and Recreation and Facilities Management help maintain the 40-acre VASA Pathway Trailhead, also a County park, along with approximately ten miles of trail between Traverse City and Acme. Most recently, Grand Traverse County and Parks and Recreation collaborated with TART to apply for a \$300,000 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to complete the Boardman Lake Loop Trail, which will intersect Grand Traverse County’s Medalie Roadside Park. In December 2017, Parks and Recreation was notified that this grant application would be recommended for approval (TF17-0096), with funding and an agreement currently pending. Grand Traverse County and Parks and Recreation also has joined forces with TART Trails, City of Traverse City, and Garfield Township as part of the Boardman Lake Loop’s “Owners’ Team,” to seek additional funding opportunities for development of the Boardman Lake Loop Trail and improvements to Medalie Park to officially designate it as a trailhead, and to work with the public and the design engineer on final trail and trailhead design. In early 2017,

Grand Traverse Parks and Recreation received a Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Two Percent Grant for \$15,000 to offset design engineering costs for Medalie Roadside Park. In 2018, Parks and Recreation and TART Trails will collaborate with the City of Traverse City, Norte! Youth Cycling Group, and Traverse City Area Public Schools to apply for Safe Routes to School-Safe Routes to Parks grants to improve pedestrian and bicycle path infrastructure in and near Civic Center Park, and to provide “Safe Routes” educational programming at that park.

Programming Partners

American Legion Baseball: American Legion helped build the original fields at Civic Center Park, where Parks and Recreation has partnered to offer American Legion Junior Baseball for nearly 50 years.

City of Traverse City: For the past 23 years, the City of Traverse City and Grand Traverse County have collaborated to bring the City-County Day Camp to the area’s children. City Parks and Recreation provides staff and programming, and County Parks and Recreation provides the facility, Howe Arena at the County’s Civic Center Park, at a greatly reduced rate. The goal is to provide a day camp experience that is affordable, and that will promote healthy, memorable activities in a fun, safe environment, indoors and outdoors.

Crystal Bindi Studios: In 2015, Crystal Bindi Studios saw an opportunity at underused Twin Lakes Park’s Gilbert Lodge to provide recreational opportunities to Long Lake Township residents. Crystal Bindi partnered with Parks and Recreation to clean and transform an unused and neglected portion of the lodge’s lower level to a dance studio. Since 2016, Parks and Recreation and Crystal Bindi Studios have offered yoga, belly-dance, Zumba, Aikido, and drumming as “Twin Lakes Fitness” programming.

El Grupo Norte! Youth Cycling: El Grupo Norte! or Norte! is a tenant at Civic Center Park, where its clubhouse and bike shop have been located since early 2017. Norte! provides bike safety and bike repair programming for youth, ages three through 17 to fulfill its mission to “build a stronger, better connected, and more walk/bike-friendly Traverse City by empowering the young and the young at heart.” Norte! also partners with and leads the City of Traverse City, Traverse City Area Public Schools, Grant Traverse Area Catholic Schools, and County Parks and Recreation to administer Safe Routes to School and Safe Routes to Parks programs and regional infrastructure improvements.

Fife Lake Public Library: Fife Lake Public Library shares space for a Senior Center Network satellite location to serve seniors in that location. Programs and lunches are held weekly, and lunches are provided there twice, monthly.

Grand Traverse Bay YMCA: Parks and Recreation has had a lengthy relationship with the YMCA, which has used the Civic Center Park ballfields and multipurpose field for softball and flag football programs for at least 25 years. In 2016, the partnership grew as Parks and Recreation entered into an agreement with the YMCA to manage operations of Easling Pool, located at Civic Center Park, and to take over all programming for and management of that facility. This collaboration resulted in enhanced recreational opportunities offered at the new “Central Y,” located at the Civic Center, with a new fitness center and robust pool programming. Parks and Recreation and YMCA staff share space at the Civic Center, with Parks and Recreation offices located there, and a Y Central Kiosk for customers.

Grand Traverse Conservation District: The Boardman River Nature Center, operated by the Grand Traverse Conservation District and located at the Natural Education Reserve (NER), is referred to as a

“gateway to the natural world.” The Center features an interpretive gallery and rotating exhibits that encourage interaction among visitors. Conservation District staff primarily offers education to children in the “living laboratory” of the NER. Programs provide outdoor experiences that connect children, adults, and families to the natural world, with the goals to enrich quality of life and empower participants to play a personal role in protecting the natural resources that make our region so special.

Green Lake Township: By sharing its community room, Green Lake Township and the Interlochen Public Library make it possible for seniors in Interlochen to enjoy weekly events, lunches, and programs. The community room is another satellite location for the Senior Center Network.

Interested Citizens Enterprises (Centre I.C.E.): Grand Traverse has had an agreement with Centre I.C.E. for nearly 20 years to manage Howe Arena at Civic Center Park from August through March of each year. During those months, Centre I.C.E. offers youth, adult, and community ice skating and hockey programs, serving the TCAPS School District and beyond. Negotiations for a new agreement are underway, and Parks and Recreation is working with Centre I.C.E. to identify community service goals and facility improvements to be included in that agreement.

Michigan Association of Recreational Vehicles and Campgrounds: For over a quarter of a century, the Michigan Association of Recreational Vehicles and Campgrounds has held its “Annual Northwest Camper and RV Show” at Howe Arena at the Civic Center.

North American VASA: Under the stewardship of Parks and Recreation, the VASA Trailhead is the gateway to the 34-kilometer VASA Pathway in Pere Marquette Forest, which hosts the annual North American VASA Race. Parks and Recreation works closely with the VASA Board of Directors and TART Trails staff to comply with state requirements and to ensure that the VASA Trailhead and Pathway continue to meet the safety and recreational needs of hikers, skiers, and bikers.

River Outfitters: Parks and Recreation is in a multi-year agreement with River Outfitters to provide livery and light concession services at Medalie Park. The River offers kayaks, canoes, standup paddleboards, and bicycles for rent, and leads paddling tours down the Boardman River, on Boardman Lake, and Grand Traverse Bay.

The Rock in Kingsley: Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network has an agreement in place for The Rock, a youth center, to also be a satellite location for Senior Center programming. Twice weekly, seniors congregate for lunches and programs here in Kingsley.

Samaritas Senior Living: Samaritas Senior Living in Acme, Michigan, is a Senior Center Network satellite location, sharing space for activities and programs on a weekly basis.

Traverse Bay Blues Rugby Club: Civic Center Park is one of the few places with fields to host rugby, where it is played on an annual basis. With a common goal to provide rugby programs to the community, Traverse Bay Blues Rugby Club is working with Parks and Recreation to potentially expand the multipurpose field at Twin Lakes Park to accommodate rugby, thereby expanding that recreational offering in the region.

Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS): TBAYS’ mission is to “provide a quality facility and quality soccer to all ages at all skill levels.” TBAYS has an agreement with Parks and Recreation to lease the Keystone Soccer Complex on Keystone Road through March 2020. Executed in 2002 for the cost of \$1,

the lease agreement requires TBAYS to use its funds to develop, use, and manage the premises solely for the purpose of recreation amateur soccer. Today, the 75-acre complex has 21 fields, and TBAYS provides the majority of soccer programming in the region.

Traverse City Roller Derby: Since January 2017, Traverse City Roller Derby (TCRD) has called Howe Arena at Civic Center Park its home. TCRD holds several bouts and weekly practices in the arena between May and August each year, drawing spectators of all ages. In return for a reduced rental rate, TCRD provides Parks and Recreation with in-kind advertising in many forms, including print, social media, broadcasting, and bout “shout-outs”.

Budget Analysis

The Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners is responsible for the overall supervision and budgetary support of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Senior Center Network. Accounting for the department is provided by the County’s Finance Department.

The Senior Center Network, although part of the Parks and Recreation Department, has a millage-funded budget, independent of the Parks and Recreation Department’s budget. Twenty-five percent of the Parks and Recreation Director’s salary is paid from the Senior Center Network’s budget.

The Facilities Management Department’s budget, also separate from that of Parks and Recreation, has line items included for parks maintenance and utilities, plus a portion of Parks and Recreation’s capital improvements.

In 2010, Grand Traverse County voters approved the first millage request – one-tenth of a mill for six years to fund County-wide Senior Center programming. The millage was renewed in 2016 for seven years beginning in 2017, through 2023. The millage is expected to generate just over \$460,000 annually for Senior Center Network operations and programming.

For its funding, Parks and Recreation relies partially on an annual allocation from the Grand Traverse County’s General fund to maintain and improve its parks and facilities, and partially on revenue generated from park facility short- and long-term rentals. During the past five years, the amount of General fund dollars transferred in to Parks and Recreation has fluctuated between \$255,000 at the lowest, and \$335,000 at the highest. In 2018, the amount requested from the General Fund is \$315,000. Often, the actual amount of those funds used is less than requested.

Parks and Recreation also relies heavily on grants, private donations and, in many cases, volunteer efforts to close financial and staffing gaps to accomplish park improvements and projects, and to address maintenance needs.

Because it is not a state-mandated county service, for the past several years, Parks and Recreation has been asked by the County Board of Commissioners and County Administration to reduce its reliance on general fund dollars for operations. In response to this request, in 2017, the “Future of County Parks” Ad Hoc Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission was appointed. The charge of this committee is to research and report back to the full Commission the potential and options for a millage proposal to fund County Parks and Recreation or to fund Parks and Recreation and other recreation

entities (such as City Parks and Recreation) together, and to explore establishing a parks and recreation authority with other recreation entities. The committee will meet regularly until it has developed recommendations for the full commission.

The following table shows Parks and Recreation-Senior Center budgets (actual revenue and expenditures) between fiscal years 2013 and 2017, and the approved 2018 budget. Also included are actual expenditures between 2013 and 2017 by Facilities Management for park maintenance and limited capital improvements, and the department's approved budget expenditures for 2018.

Grand Traverse County							
Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network							
<i>2013-17 Actual Revenues and Expenses, and 2018 Approved Budget</i>							
Parks and Recreation	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Projected	FY 2018 Approved	
Revenues	\$656,230.04	\$812,744.39	\$728,573.25	\$593,933.31	\$456,093.50	\$581,383.00	
Expenditures	\$732,590.06	\$672,137.83	\$769,095.03	\$522,162.24	\$608,687.83	\$581,383.00	
Senior Center Network	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Projected	FY 2018 Approved	
Revenues	\$493,808.00	\$489,406.00	\$549,721.00	\$652,330.00	\$610,539.00	\$587,870.00	
Expenditures	\$493,808.00	\$489,406.00	\$549,721.00	\$652,330.00	\$616,590.00	\$587,870.00	
Facilities Management	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Projected	FY 2018 Approved	
Expenditures for Maintenance of Parks and for Limited Capital Improvements	\$328,029.00	\$310,804.00	\$269,978.00	\$276,877.00	\$238,349.00	\$319,200.00	

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant History

Following is a history of MDNR grants that funded park projects.

Project Number: 26-00500

Year: 1973

Title: Civic Center Park (formerly Grand Traverse Recreation Center)

Amount: \$150,000

Scope: Baseball/football field lighting

Fencing

General lighting

Parking lot

Playground equipment

Restroom building

Roadway

Water service to building

Description: Develop 40 acres to include construction of a new access road, parking for 300 cars, lighting, restroom building, 5 ballfields with fencing, backstops, and lighting, picnic area, site preparation, demolition, lawn sprinkler, wiring, sanitary sewer etc.

Project Number: 26-01023 X1

Year: 1977

Title: Natural Education Reserve Bridge

Amount: \$16,300

Scope: Wooden foot bridge

Description: Wooden bridge across the Boardman River in the Grand Traverse County Natural Education Reserve.

Project Number: BF89-398

Year: 1989

Title: Civic Center Pool Renovations

Amount: \$60,000

Scope: Water and heating plumbing

Description: Civic Center Pool renovation.

Project Number: BF89-628

Year: 1989

Title: Civic Center Jogging Path

Amount: \$62,250

Scope: Lighting for path

Description: Install lighting for existing one mile jogging/walking path which circles the Civic Center property.

Project Number: BF90-349

Year: 1990

Title: Bartlett Road Park

Amount: \$94,600

Scope: 2 Baseball fields

3 Parking lots
Electric
Gravel Road
Restroom Building
Retention pond areas
Septic
Tennis courts
Well 4"

Description: Develop 2 ball diamonds, 2 tennis courts, trails, picnic facilities.

Project Number: TF90-310

Year: 1990

Title: VASA Trail Project

Amount: \$95,500

Scope: 10K Trail loop

Maintenance building

Parking and road improvements

Description: Development of a road improvements and parking, maintenance building and trail improvements.

Project Number: TF93-405

Year: 1993

Title: Boardman Property Acquisition

Amount: \$321,000

Scope:

Description: Acquisition of two parcels, a unique 45-acre conifer swamp with over 3,000 feet of shoreline and a 24.8 acres open rangeland with over 2,000 feet on the Boardman River. (45-acre parcel deleted from project.)

Project Number: TF00-356

Year: 2000

Title: Meyer Addition to Natural Education Reserve

Amount: \$786,509

Scope:

Description: Acquisition in fee simple of 94 acres of land with 1,950 feet of frontage on Sabin Pond that will be added to the 420-acre Natural Education Reserve. The additional acres would be used as an addition to the current active recreation area.

Project Number: TF01-227

Year: 2001

Title: Maple Bay and Natural Area

Amount: \$6,816,920

Scope:

Description: Acquisition of 400 acres, including 2,583 feet of Great Lakes Shoreline as a County park/natural area. Property is adjacent to Petobego SGA and protects dunes, wetlands, wildlife habitat and provides new access for hunting and other recreational activities.

Project Number: TF17-0095 *(Pending Execution of Agreement with MDNR)*

Year: 2018

Title: Boardman Lake Loop Trail Medalie Park

Amount: \$300,000

Scope: Pedestrian Bridge

Access Pathway 6 Feet Wide or More

Lighting

Landscaping

Bench

Signage

Seawall or Shoreline Stabilization

Description: Development to construct pedestrian bridges in Medalie Park at the south end of Boardman Lake to cross the Boardman River, connecting the east and west segments of the Boardman Lake Loop Trail. Boardman Lake Loop Trail connects to the Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation (TART) Trail, which continues on to other regional trails in the same area, including the VASA Pathway and beyond to the North Country Trail and Leelanau Trail.

Project Number: TF17-0096 *(Pending Execution of Agreement with MDNR)*

Year: 2018

Title: Boardman Lake Loop Trail

Amount: \$300,000

Scope: Trail 6 Feet Wide or More

Boardwalk

Overlook or Observation Deck

Fence

Landscaping

Lighting

Seawall or shoreline Stabilization

Signage

Bench

Bike Rack

Trash Bin(s)

Description: Development to construct over 1.5-mile segment of the Boardman Lake Loop Trail along Boardman Lake from Logan's Landing commercial area through Northwestern Michigan College University Center to 14th Street, where it will connect to the Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation (TART) Trail. TART Trail continues on to other regional trails in the area, including the VASA Pathway and beyond, to the North Country Trail and Leelanau Trail.

Inventory of Existing Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Facilities

Introduction

Grand Traverse County has thirteen organized townships and two villages, with varying amounts of land available and developed for recreational purposes. The Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission has a long and continued relationship with many of these agencies.

A significant number of the park sites within Grand Traverse County are owned, maintained, and/or managed by the State of Michigan, Grand Traverse County, the City of Traverse City, various townships, the public school systems, and the villages of Kingsley and Fife Lake. Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation stewards 12 County properties, and provides recreational opportunities at the ten designated as parks. Each of the County's park facilities were evaluated as part of this planning process, and the evaluations are presented in this section.

The City of Traverse City has a Parks and Recreation Division which maintains and operates parks and facilities, and provides an active recreation program for city residents as well as County, regional, and tourist visitors.

The County Parks and Recreation Department has developed, published, and currently maintains appropriate rules and regulations to protect County park resources and the community's long-term enjoyment of the lands and facilities. The Traverse City Police Department, the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office and its Marine Patrol, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division, help enforce the rules and regulations of the parks and recreation areas/facilities.

Grand Traverse County also collaborates with the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Grand Traverse Conservation District, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (Northwest Michigan Conservation Resource Alliance). The federal government has shown support for the provision of recreation opportunities within the County. All three of the above mentioned agencies have proven to be instrumental factors in the past purchases of County Park lands. Maple Bay Park is an example of a land purchase that was made possible through contributions from the three agencies.

The State of Michigan is also a major contributor of recreational opportunities within Grand Traverse County. Recreational lands owned and managed by the State of Michigan accounts for:

- 65,785 acres of land
- 156 inland lakes
- 19,162 collective surface acres of inland water based recreation and public access points

The Forest Management Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages most of the State's recreational lands within the County; this land is part of the Pere Marquette State Forest. Additionally, the State of Michigan also owns and operates two state parks in Grand Traverse County: Traverse City State Park and Interlochen State Park. The abundance of recreational opportunities depending on state-owned land and state accesses annually attracts tens of thousands of tourists to Grand Traverse County.

State Facilities

The State of Michigan maintains 55 contributing recreation and park facilities in Grand Traverse County, including much of the 66,000 acres of land enrolled in the Pere Marquette State Forest. Many of the state facilities provide access to streams and lakes, including:

Arbutus Lake	Bass Lake	Cedar Lake	Elk Lake
Duck Lake	Fife Lake	Fish Lake	Grand Traverse Bay
Green Lake	Mud Lake	Silver Lake	Rennie Lake
Spider Lake			

Additionally, state park campgrounds and state forest campgrounds are located at:

Interlochen State Park	Traverse City State Park	Arbutus Lake	Fork's Campground
Scheck's Place	Spring Lake	Lake Dubonet	

State forest acreage features a developed trail system, which provides miles of trails from non-motorized use and various mechanical devices such as snowmobiles and motorcycles. Grand Traverse County enjoys a close working relationship with the DNR Forest Management Division and local DNR Field Office staff by sharing information, publicly promoting each other's facilities, and working cooperatively on development projects.

Local Facilities

There are over 200 park and recreational facilities within Grand Traverse County. Local units of government contribute many of these facilities in Grand Traverse County. The City of Traverse City, villages of Fife Lake and Kingsley, many of the thirteen local townships, and the various school districts contribute recreational facility inventory. Within the various local branches of government are a wide variety of parks and recreation interests, and different levels of developed parks and recreational facilities.

One of the more highly developed park and recreation systems in the County belongs to the City of Traverse City. Traverse City owns and operates nearly 1,600 acres of parkland on 34 different sites. On the other end of the spectrum is Union Township, which owns no local parkland, yet over 90 percent of the township's property is part of the Pere Marquette State Forest.

A majority of parkland owned by the City of Traverse City can be found at the 1,300-acre Brown Bridge Quiet Area that runs along the Boardman River. Hickory Hills, the City-owned and operated ski hill, and areas of the Grand Traverse Commons that are city-owned, compose approximately 250 acres of parkland, combined. The remaining 31 parks range from "pocket" parks in city neighborhoods to parks that provide thousands of feet of shoreline, such as the "Open Space," Clinch Park Marina, West End Beach, Sunset Park, and the Senior Center Beach. It is the goal of the City to continue to acquire this highly sought-after waterfront property. With this property, the City has the pleasure of hosting City, County, and State residents, and national and international visitors.

Park and Property Inventory within Grand Traverse County

The following spreadsheet provides a list of all of the park and recreational facilities in Grand Traverse County. The table provides all of the parks and facilities that are provided by the County, state, and local governments, and private recreation providers in the County. Included on the table is information about restrooms, parking spaces, playgrounds, pavilions, gymnasiums, trails, boat accesses, swim beaches, soccer fields, football fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, picnic areas, baseball and softball diamonds, and camping opportunities for each of the various recreational locations within the County. The table also provides owner of each site, address, and jurisdiction under which the park or facility falls. This data was compiled by County Parks and Recreation staff via site visits, local knowledge of recreational facilities, discussions with partners, and through communications with local units of government.

NOTE: Maps of city, state, township, and private parks, recreational facilities, wildlife areas, and trails within the Grand Traverse County region are included in Appendix I.

Owner/Facility Name/Address	Restrooms	Parking Spaces	Playground	Pavilion	Gym	Trail	Boat Access	Swim/Beach	Soccer	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Volleyball	Picnic	Ball Fields	Camping
Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation																
Bartlett Park/VASA Trailhead, 4444 Bartlett Road, Acme	Y	Y				Y										
Beitner Park, 2651 Beitner Road, Traverse City	Y	Y				Y	Y							Y		
Bunker Hill Property, Bunker Hill Road, Acme																
Civic Center, 1213 W. Civic Center Drive, Traverse City	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y					Y			Y	Y	
Keystone Soccer Complex and Birmley-Keystone Property, W. Keystone Road N., Traverse City	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y							
Maple Bay Park and Natural Area, 10849 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City		Y				Y		Y								
Medalie Park, 1910 S. Airport Road, Traverse City	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y							Y		
Meyer Property, 1901 W. Keystone Road N., Traverse City																
Nature Education Reserve and Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y							Y		
Power Island, West Bay, Peninsula Township	Y					Y	Y	Y						Y		Y
TART Trails, Various Portions: 1 Mile in Traverse City and 10 Miles West in County		Y					Y									
Twin Lakes Park, 6800 N. Long Lake Road, Long Lake Township	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			Y		Y	Y		
Acme Township																
Bayside Park, Shores Beach Lane	Y	Y				Y		Y			Y		Y	Y		
Deepwater Point Natural Area, Shore Road																
Sayler Park, Yuba Road	Y	Y				Y		Y			Y		Y	Y		
Yuba Creek, U.S. 31 North, Yuba Road																
Blair Township																
Blair Township Park, 2121 County Road 633	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
East Bay Township																
Arbutus Lake No. 5 Park, E. Arbutus Lake Road	Y	Y	Y					Y						Y		
Gens Park, US 31 North	Y	Y				Y		Y						Y		

Owner/Facility Name/Address	Restrooms	Parking Spaces	Playground	Pavilion	Gym	Trail	Boat Access	Swim/Beach	Soccer	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Volleyball	Picnic	Ball Fields	Camping
Grace Macdonald Park, E. Arbutus Lake Road	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Kelly Park, Point View Road	Y	Y		Y										Y		
Killingsworth Park, Chandler Road	Y	Y		Y			Y									
Pines Park, Eikey Road																
Pinegrove Park, Hemlock Street				Y							Y			Y		
Garfield Township																
Boardman Lake Trail		X				X										
Boardman Valley Nature Preserve		X				X		X				X	X			
Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area		X				X										
Hughes Drive Natural Area																
Kids Creek Park						X										
Miller Creek Nature Reserve																
River East Recreation Area																
Silver Lake Recreation Area	X	X	X	X		X					X	X			X	
Green Lake Township																
Green Lake Access, Diamond Park Road		X					X									
Green Lake Township Memorial Park, Karlin Road	X	X		X					X					X	X	
Bicentennial Park, Third Street																
Kingsley Village																
Pioneer Park, N. Brownson Avenue		X				X										
Civic Center South, Clark Street	X	X	X			X			X		X	X		X	X	
Brownson Memorial Park, S. Brownson Avenue		X	X									X			X	
Long Lake Township																
Cedar Run Creek Natural Area	X	X				X										
Taylor Park		X						X					X	X		
Haywood Park	X	X	X	X		X			X		X	X		X	X	
Gilbert Park	X	X						X					X			

Owner/Facility Name/Address	Restrooms	Parking Spaces	Playground	Pavilion	Gym	Trail	Boat Access	Swim/Beach	Soccer	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Volleyball	Picnic	Ball Fields	Camping
Bullhead Lake Natural Area						X										
Crescent Shores Boat Launch		X					X									
Fisher's Run						X										
South Long Lake Forest Natural Area		X				X										
Paradise Township																
Mayfield Pond Park, Mill Street	X	X	X	X										X		
Peninsula Township																
Bowers Harbor Park, Bowers Harbor Road	X	X	X	X		X			X		X	X	X	X	X	
Archie Roadside Park, Center Road	X															
Lighthouse Park, Center Road	X	X				X		X								
Haserot Beach and Boat Launch, Swaney Road	X	X	X				X	X			X					
Old Mission Point Park, Center Road	X	X				X										
Pelizzari Natural Area, Center Road		X				X										
Traverse City and Garfield Township Joint Recreation Authority																
Historic Barns Park		X														
Hickory Meadows		X				X										
City of Traverse City																
American Legion Park, Washington Street																
Arbutus Park, Arbutus Court											X			X		
Ashton Park, Wayne and Hill Streets			X			X										
Boardman Lake Trail		X				X										
Boon Street Park, Boon Street			X								X					
Brown Bridge Quiet Area, Hobbs Highway, East Bay Township	X	X				X										
Bryant Park, Peninsula Drive	X	X	X					X						X		
Clancy Park, Sheridan Road			X								X				X	
Clinch Park, Grandview Parkway	X	X	X				X	X						X		
Darrow Park, Bay Street			X													

Owner/Facility Name/Address	Restrooms	Parking Spaces	Playground	Pavilion	Gym	Trail	Boat Access	Swim/Beach	Soccer	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Volleyball	Picnic	Ball Fields	Camping
East Bay Park, East Bay Boulevard	X	X	X				X	X						X		
F and M Park, State Street			X								X			X		
Fulton Park, Carter Road						X										
Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area		X		X		X										
Hannah Park, Sixth Street						X										
Hickory Hills Recreation Area, Randolph Street		X		X		X										
Highland Park, Highland Park Drive			X													
Hull Park, Hannah Avenue		X	X	X			X							X		
Huron Hills Park, Kewaunee Drive																
Indian Woods Park, Indian Woods Drive			X													
Lay Park, Union Street																
Meijer's Silverbrook Acres, Division Street																
Open Space Park, Grandview Parkway						X								X		
Senior Center Park, E. Front Street	X	X						X						X		
Slabtown Corner, Division Street	X	X	X									X				
J. Smith Walkway, E. Front Street																
Sunset Park, E. Front Street			X													
Triangle Park, Boyd Avenue						X										
Union Street Dam Park, Union Street																
Volleyball Court Area, Grandview Parkway		X											X			
Wellington Street Plaza, E. Front Street																
West End Beach, Grandview Parkway	X	X						X								
Whitewater Township																
Whitewater Township Park, Park Road	X	X	X	X		X	X						X	X		X
Hi Pray Park, Elk Lake Road		X		X											X	
Lossie Road Nature Trail, Cook Road						X										
Petobago Natural Area, Angell Road		X				X										

Owner/Facility Name/Address	Restrooms	Parking Spaces	Playground	Pavilion	Gym	Trail	Boat Access	Swim/Beach	Soccer	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Volleyball	Picnic	Ball Fields	Camping
Battle Creek Natural Area, Skegemog Point Road		X				X										
Grand Traverse County Road Commission																
East Bay Access, Dock Road, Acme		X					X									
East Bay Access, Four Mile Road, East Bay		X					X									
State of Michigan																
Shore to Shore Riding and Hiking Trail						X										
Boardman Valley Snowmobile Trail						X										
North Country Trail						X										
State of Michigan: Acme Township																
Petobago Wildlife Area						X										
East Bay Access, Bunker Hill Road		X														
East Bay Roadside Park, U.S. 31 North		X														
State of Michigan: Blair Township																
Boardman River Access, Shumsky Road							X									
Boardman River Access, River Road							X									
State of Michigan: East Bay Township																
Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park, U.S. 31 North	X	X	X					X						X		X
Rennie Lake Access, Brownwood Trail							X									
Scheck's Place Campground, Brown Bridge Road		X														X
Arbutus Lake No. 4 Access, N. Arbutus Lake Road							X									
Arbutus Lake No. 4 Campground, N. Arbutus Lake Road		X														X
VASA Trail, Supply Road						X										
Spider Lake Access, Grace Road							X									
State of Michigan: Fife Lake Township																
Fife Lake Access, State Street							X									
Spring Lake Access, U.S. 131							X									
Spring Lake State Forest Campground, U.S. 131		X														X

Owner/Facility Name/Address	Restrooms	Parking Spaces	Playground	Pavilion	Gym	Trail	Boat Access	Swim/Beach	Soccer	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Volleyball	Picnic	Ball Fields	Camping
State of Michigan: Grant Township																
Green Lake Access, Betsie River Road							X									
State of Michigan: Green Lake Township																
Interlochen State Park	X	X	X				X	X						X		X
Lake Dubonnet State Forest Campground	X	X				X	X	X								X
Lost Lake Pathway						X										
Cedar Hedge Lake Access, Gonder Road							X									
Ellis Lake Access, Ellis Lake Road							X									
Bass Lake Access, Betsie River Road							X									
State of Michigan: Long Lake Township																
Cedar Lake Access							X									
Bass Lake Access							X									
State of Michigan: Mayfield Township																
Fish Lake Access, County Road 633							X									
State of Michigan: Peninsula Township																
East Bay Access, Center Road		X					X									
West Bay Access, Ne Ah Ta Wanta Road		X					X									
State of Michigan: Union Township																
Fork's Place Campground, Brown Bridge Road		X														X
Muncie Lake Pathway, S. Muncie Lake Road		X				X										
State of Michigan: Whitewater Township																
Sand Lakes Quiet Area, Broomhead Road		X				X										
Lake Skegemog Access, Lakeside Trail							X									
Private Facilities																
New Hope Community Church, U.S. 31 North, Acme Township																
Everflowing Waters Campground, Brackett Road, Acme Township																X
East Bay Harbor Marina, U.S. 31 North, Acme Township							X									

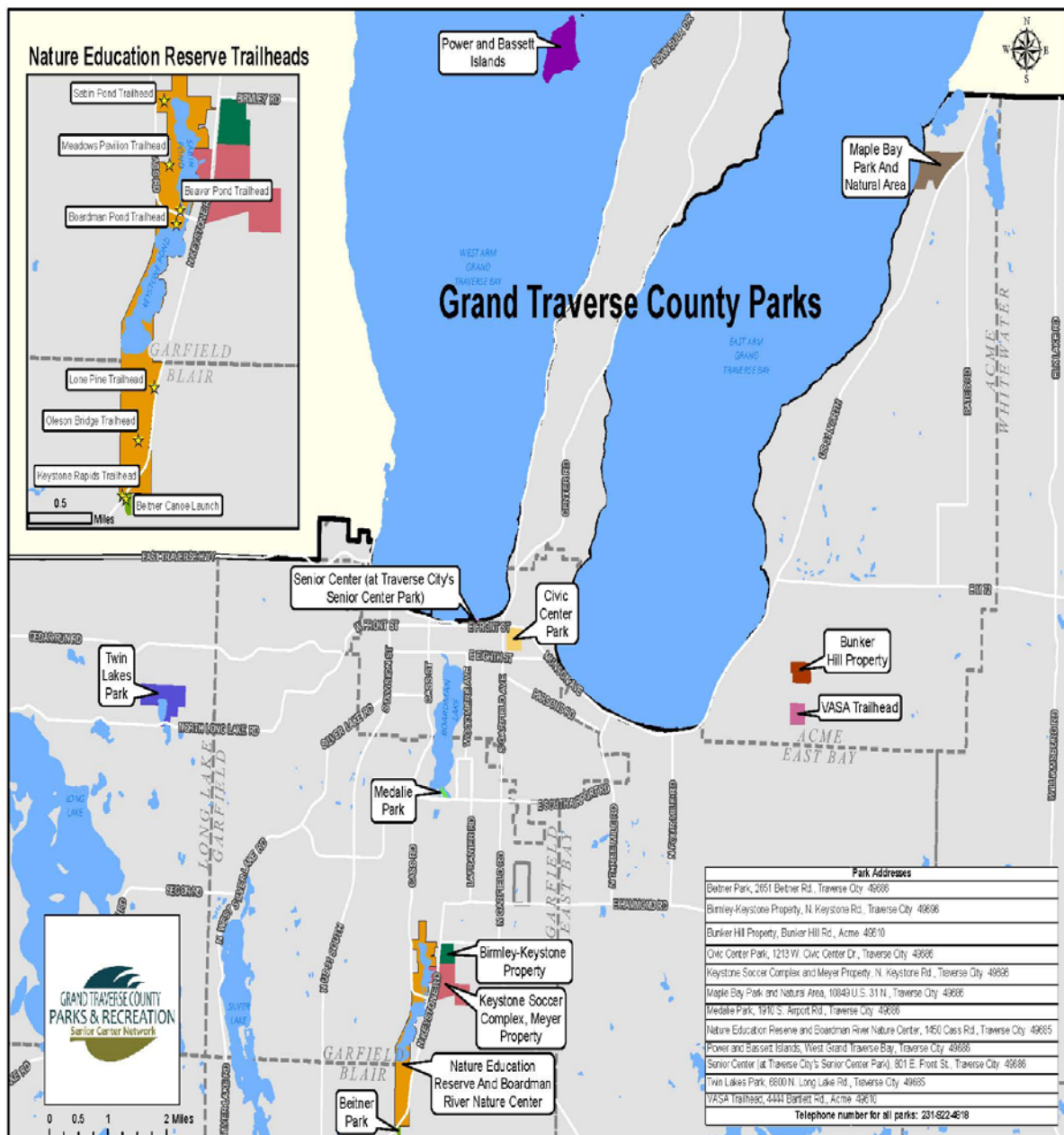
Owner/Facility Name/Address	Restrooms	Parking Spaces	Playground	Pavilion	Gym	Trail	Boat Access	Swim/Beach	Soccer	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Volleyball	Picnic	Ball Fields	Camping
Grand Traverse Resort, Acme Township								X				X				
Lochenheath Golf Course, Acme Township																
Northern Pines Campground, Acme Township																X
Traverse Bay RV Park, Acme Township																X
Holiday Park Campground, U.S. 31 South, Blair Township																X
Centre Ice, East Bay Township																
Elmbrook Golf Course, Hammond Road, East Bay Township																
Pirate's Cove and Adventure Golf, US 31 North, East Bay Township																
Mt. Holiday, Holiday Road, East Bay Township																
YMCA, E. Arbutus Lake Road, East Bay Township																
Reffitt Nature Reserve, East Bay Township																
Rotary Camps and Services, East Bay Township																X
Timber Ridge Campground, East Bay Township																X
Oak Grove Campground, Union Street, Fife Lake Township																X
Spalding Rivers Campground, Fife Lake Township																X
Mitchell Creek Nature Preserve, Garfield Township																
Bay Meadows Golf Course, Garfield Township																
Grand Traverse Bay YMCA, Garfield Township								X								
The Crown Golf Course, Garfield Township																
Great Wolf Lodge and Water Park, Garfield Township								X								
Alvina's Canoe and Boat Rental, Grant Township																
Interlochen Golf Club, Green Lake Township																
Cycle-Moore Campground, Green Lake Township																X
Bass Lake Girl Scout Camp, Green Lake Township																X
Timbers Girl Scout Camp, Long Lake Township																X
Varsity Golf and Tennis, Long Lake Township												X				

Owner/Facility Name/Address	Restrooms	Parking Spaces	Playground	Pavilion	Gym	Trail	Boat Access	Swim/Beach	Soccer	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Volleyball	Picnic	Ball Fields	Camping
Wall Trust Commercial Forest, Long Lake Township																
Baillo Company Commercial Forest, Long Lake Township																
Carter Strong Bird Sanctuary, Long Lake Township																
Picnic Island, Long Lake Township								X								
Long Island, Long Lake Township								X								
South and Fox Island Nature Preserve, Long Lake Township								X								
Pyatt Lake Natural Area, Peninsula Township																
Traverse City Golf and Country Club, Traverse City																
Ranch Rudolf, Union Township																

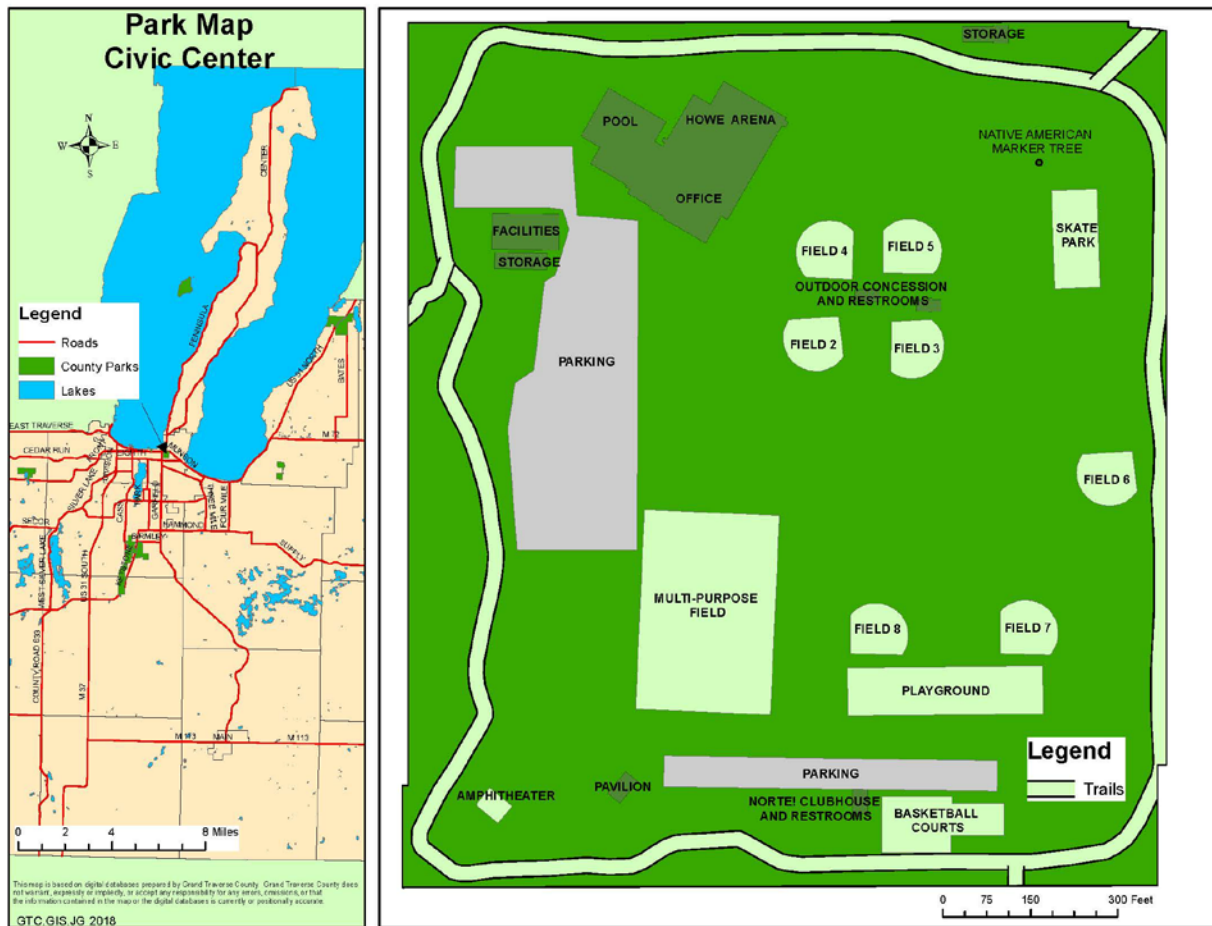
Grand Traverse County Parks: Descriptions and Physical Evaluations of Properties and Facilities

Introduction

The Director of Parks and Recreation and Director of Facilities Management inspected all County parks to review conditions, including recreational facilities, access and parking, shelters, restrooms, and other features (depending on the park). The grading scale presented in this section ranges from features requiring renovation or replacement to good condition, or identifying features that need to be developed. Park locations are identified on the map below.



Civic Center Park



Address: 1213 West Civic Center Drive, Traverse City

Size: 45 acres

Uses: Athletic fields with multiple uses, one-mile walking path, destination playground, skate park, basketball courts, picnic shelter, wooded area and amphitheater for outdoor shows.

Capital Renovation History: Between 1973 and 1975, fairgrounds changed to Civic Center Park. First ball fields built over 50 years ago; bubble built in 1980; Howe Arena built in 1989; ball field fencing replaced in 1994; Kids Kove playground and basketball courts built in 1996; bridge path for walking rebuilt in 1998; parking lot expanded and rebuilt in 1999; skate park built in 2000; Kids Kove closed in 2014 and removed in 2015; Native American Marker Tree placemaking project completed in 2016; Campbell Community Playground constructed in 2017.



Description: Nearly 45-acre multi-use complex with indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.

Civic Center Park attracts between 700,000 and one million visitors each year. There is something for everyone to enjoy at the Civic Center, a multi-use facility that offers swimming at the indoor Easling Pool and workouts at Central Y's fitness center, youth cycling programs at Norte! Youth Cycling's clubhouse, shows and expos in Howe Arena during spring and summer, play for two-to-12-year-olds at the new 10,000-square-foot Campbell Community Playground (constructed in 2017), use of the skate park from spring through fall, baseball and softball games, tournaments, and leagues from spring through fall on the ball fields, hockey and ice skating in Howe Arena through the winter months, the Native American Marker Tree destination, and a mile-long walking path.

The Civic Center is located within the city limits of Traverse City, where it first served as the County's fairgrounds when it was purchased by Grand Traverse County in 1912. In 1972, the County Board of Commissioners decided to move the fairgrounds to another location and to start rebuilding the Civic Center into what it is today.



Condition

Grading Scale

- 1 = Not appropriate for this site*
- 2 = Needs complete renovation or replacement*
- 3 = Needs major repairs or some replacement*
- 4 = Needs minor repairs or aesthetic improvements*
- 5 = In good condition*
- 6 = Develop*

Last Inspection: October 2017 by Kristine Erickson, Director of County Parks and Recreation, and Marty Dunham, Director of County Facilities Management

Parking lots: 5

Access road: 4

Picnic Shelter: 5

Old playground equipment on east side of S. Civic

Center Drive: 4

New Campbell Community Playground: 5

Pathway: 5

Pathway bridge: 3

Restrooms: 4

Storage space ("Pugsley Building"): 2

Maintenance facility: 5

Open space/athletic fields: 4

Perimeter fencing: 5

Basketball courts: 4

General beautification and landscaping: 3

Amphitheater: 2

Native American Marker Tree: 5

"Sector Building"/Norte! Clubhouse: 4

Civic Center Park: *Easling Pool and Fitness Center*

Size: Building is 20,118 square feet, including all support facilities; pool is 25 yards and six lanes.

Construction: 1970

Capital Renovation and History: Locker rooms remodeled in 1989; plumbing remodeled in 1991; pool air circulation system installed in 1991; locker room air handlers installed in 2000; wireless Internet added in 2011; limited plumbing replacement in 2012; meeting room painted and new carpet installed in 2015; meeting room electrical upgrades in 2016 to accommodate transformation into fitness room as part of "Central Y" membership package (access to Easling Pool and fitness center); one of three boilers replaced in 2017; two boilers upgraded in 2017.

Description: Easling Pool is the only public pool in Grand Traverse County and the surrounding area. The pool is a six-lane, 25-yard, "L"-shaped, 165,000-gallon pool with an 18-foot x 25-foot shallow teaching area and a dry sauna on deck.



Operated and managed by Grand Traverse Bay YMCA since

2016, Easling Pool is home to the High School Girls' Swim Team and serves user groups such as the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City rescue swimmers, Traverse City Area Public Schools' Special Olympics and children with special needs, water exercisers, Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District, and more. In addition to the various public swim opportunities, swim lessons are offered year-round and taught to ages as young as eighteen months up to adults of all abilities. The Fitness Center, also operated by the YMCA as part of Central Y, inhabits the former Civic Center meeting room, and features a variety of workout equipment and triathlon training.

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Restrooms: 4

Locker Rooms: 4

Storage space: 3

Mechanical/equipment room: 4

Pool Deck: 4

Entrance doors: 5

Fitness Room: 5

Civic Center Park: *Howe Arena*

Size: 25,000 square feet

Construction: 1989

Capital Renovation and History: Air conditioning installed in 1991; dehumidification installed in 1994; replaced front doors (ADA) in 2001; wireless Internet installed in 2011. Concession stand painted and cabinets refurbished in 2017.

Description: Named after hockey legend Gordie Howe, Howe Arena is a multi-use facility attached to the Civic Center structure that houses Easling Pool, a concession stand, and the Parks and Recreation Department Offices.



Between March and September each year, *Howe Arena* is used as an exhibition hall for a variety of shows and events. Between August and March, the arena becomes an ice rink, managed and operated by Centre I.C.E., offering skating and hockey opportunities to the public.

Some of the events held annually at Howe Arena include the “Hunting and Fishing Expo,” a boat show, the “Cottage and Lakefront Living Expo,” and the “Annual Northwest Camper and RV Show.” The arena also is home each year to Traverse City Area Public Schools’ high school hockey teams, Traverse City Roller Derby, and the City-County Day Camp. The arena has often hosted many charitable organizations that organize walk-a-thons at Civic Center Park, including the March of Dimes, Relay for Life, and the American Cancer Society. Civic Center Park is a designated stop each summer on the Shoreline Bike Tour and the Michigander Bike Tour, bringing several hundred cyclists to the property for overnight stays. These groups use the arena as a home base for meals, showers, meetings, and for recharging electronics.

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Restrooms: 4

Storage Space: 6

Maintenance Facility/Custodial Room: 5

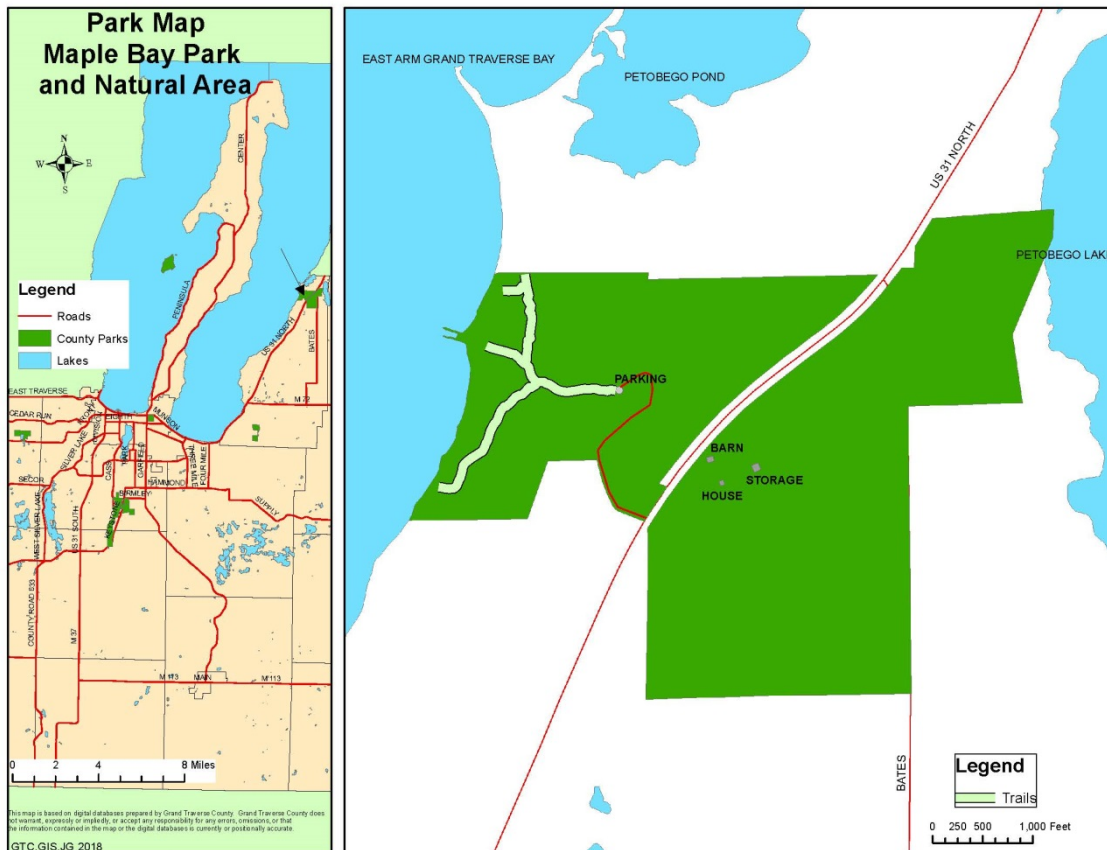
Locker/Shower Rooms: 4

Lighting: 5

Bleachers: 2

Entrance Door: 5

Maple Bay Park and Natural Area



Address: 10849 U.S. 31 North, Acme Township

Size: 400 acres; 4,200-square-foot pole barn; 1,800-square-foot house; 5,000-square-foot barn

Purchase: Property purchased May 2002

Capital Renovation and History: Pole barn enclosed November 2002; 1800s house and larger barn boarded and sealed off in 2017

Description: Nature area; open space; 2,583 feet of frontage on East Grand Traverse Bay; trail network, hunting opportunities

Maple Bay Park and Natural Area has a tremendously diverse landscape with significant natural and scenic resources, including: 2,583 feet of Great Lakes shoreline, sand dunes, wetlands, and farmland. There are no remaining undeveloped private parcels of land in the Grand Traverse region with its characteristics and size. The park provides a habitat for a number of rare and endangered bird and plant species. From the pristine shoreline on the west, the property extends one mile east to the Petobego Marsh and State Game Area. A development plan for this park is critical to maintain wildlife habitats, provide hunting and fishing opportunities, and to protect the integrity of the regionally important coastal wetlands. The same is true for the nearby Petobego watershed.

U.S. Highway 31 North splits the property in two distinct portions. The western portion includes the pristine lakeshore and coastal area, with sand and cobble beach, open dunes, and undisturbed forested dune-swale complex. The landscape is scattered with white pine, red pine, juniper, small-bush

blueberry, and dune grass. The diverse coastal zone is home to several Michigan and federally threatened and endangered plant species, such as Pitcher's thistle, Lake Huron tansy, and clustered brome rape. Several biologists have indicated that the site's high quality could provide nesting habitat for the endangered piping plover. The forested dunes include native species, such as white pine, hemlock, maple, beach, red oak, white ash, and balsam fir. The inter-dunal swales are wetlands which include northern white cedar, paper birch, red maple, sedges, marsh marigold, dogwood, and irises.

The dense lowland conifer habitat in the eastern and northern sections of the property is recognized by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as providing important winter thermal cover for white-tailed deer, which are abundant on the property and throughout the Petobego watershed corridor. The proximity of the upland deciduous forest to the wetland areas suggests that there is habitat for the state-threatened red-shouldered hawk. Bald eagles have nested in the Petobego watershed in the past, and breeding pairs nearby continue to use the area for feeding throughout the year.



East of U.S. Highway 31, the property features agricultural lands and a stream corridor, resulting from springs that flow eastward into the Petobego Marsh through a wetland corridor. This area is a crucial link in the wildlife corridor that extends from East Grand Traverse Bay inland to the Petobego watershed, and is extremely important for the incredible diversity of wildlife in the area.

Through its property ownership, Grand Traverse County is protecting the site from water quality diminution, loss of hunting opportunities, fragmentation, and erosion, and is enhancing the state's investment in the Petobego State Game Area.

Maple Bay Park is open to the public for recreational activities, including swimming, kayaking, parasailing, paddle boarding, canoeing, hiking, hunting, observing wildlife, snowshoeing and skiing in winter, and nature education, year-round.

Parks and Recreation's primary goals are to: preserve the natural features of the property, provide public access to Grand Traverse Bay, maintain and enhance the value of the property for the wildlife of the Petobego watershed corridor, use the property as a source for environmental education, and provide additional opportunities for hunting.

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Last Inspection: October 2017 by Kristine Erickson, Director of County Parks and Recreation, and Marty Dunham, Director of County Facilities Management

Parking lots: 5

Road: 4

Picnic Shelter: 6

Playground Structure: 1

Trails/Walkways: 5

Restrooms(s): 6

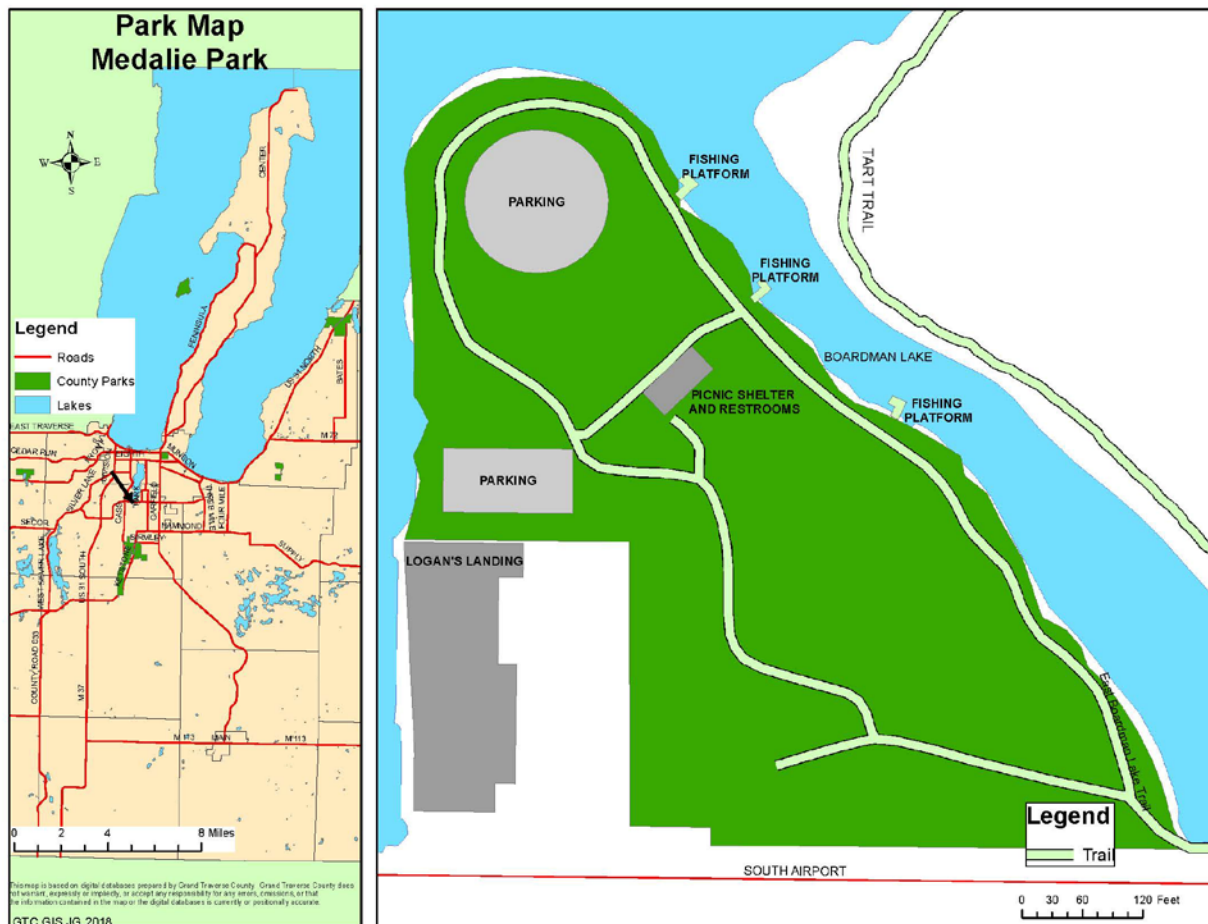
Storage Space: 5

Maintenance Facility (Pole Barn): 5

Farmhouse (East Side): 1

Original Barn: 2

Medalie Park



Address: 1910 S. Airport Road, Garfield Township

Size: 15 acres

Purchase: Acquired from the County Road Commission in 1990

Capital Renovation and History: Restrooms, walking trail, and wooden overlooks developed in 1992

Description: Roadside park with picnic shelter and modern restrooms, paved walking trail, wooden overlooks to the Boardman River



Medalie "Roadside" Park is located on the south end of Boardman Lake. The park has a 50-person picnic shelter, indoor restrooms, 1,000 feet of paved walking path, three overlooks/fishing platforms along the Boardman River, and one canoe launch site accessing the Boardman River and Boardman Lake. The major use of Medalie Park has been for passive recreation. Residents drive there to enjoy the open space, picnics, and bird-watching. TART Trail users along the eastern shore of Boardman Lake hike there to enjoy the same. The past five years have seen the Boardman River and Boardman Lake become increasingly popular among paddlers. County Parks and Recreation has had an agreement with a canoe, kayak, standup paddleboard, bicycle livery service

there since 2016. The TART Trail on the west side of Boardman Lake is expected to complete the “Boardman Lake Loop” in 2019. In anticipation of increased use of the trail, County Parks and Recreation has partnered with TART Trails, the City of Traverse City, and Garfield Township to work with the community to approve a design for the trail, and to seek funds for development of the trail and improvements to Medalie Park to designate it as a trailhead for the Boardman Lake Loop trail. With plans to designate a portion of the Boardman River as a water trail, a large surge in the use of this park in the next two years is evident.



Condition

Grading Scale

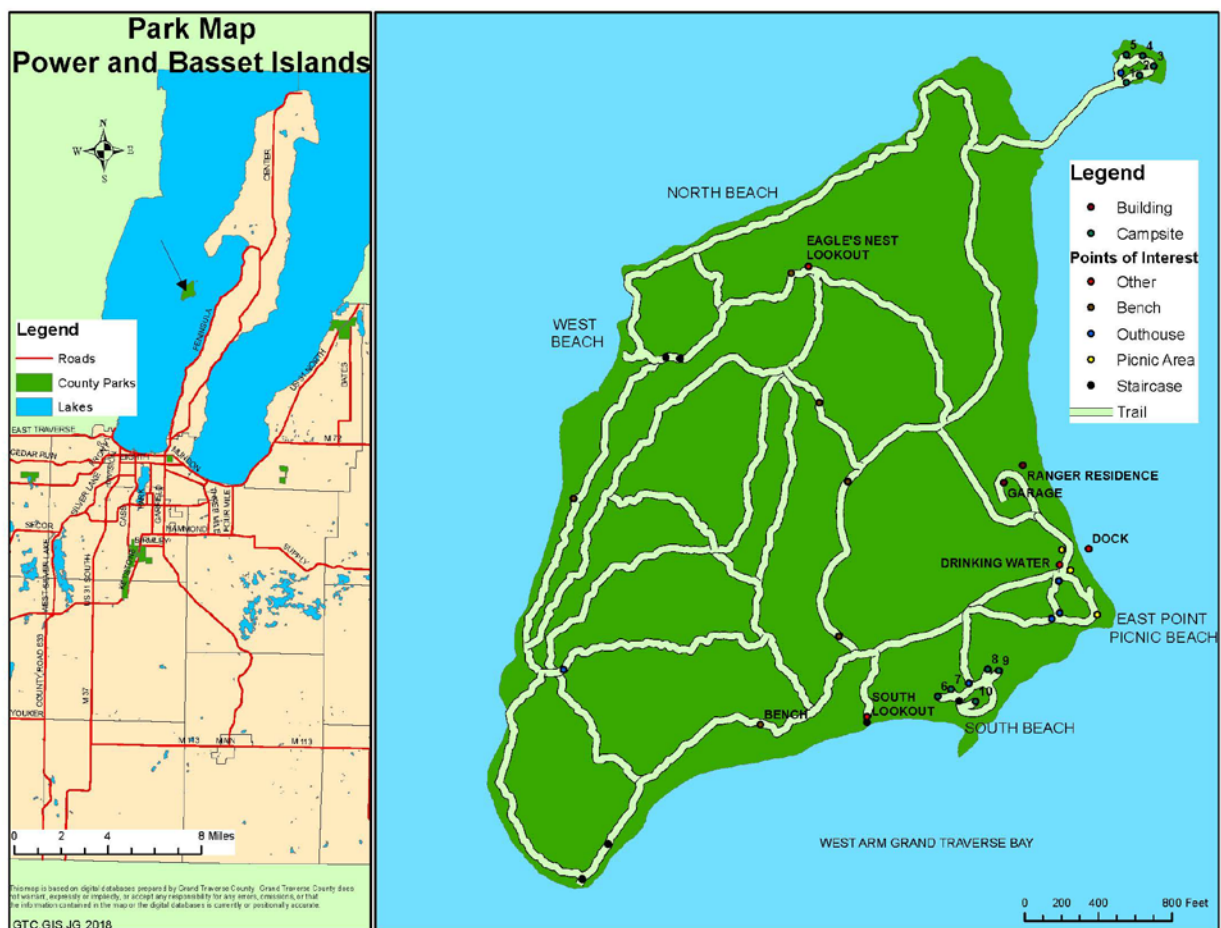
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Last Inspection: October 2017 by Kristine Erickson, Director of County Parks and Recreation, and Marty Dunham, Director of County Facilities Management

Parking Lots: 5
Road: 4
Picnic Shelter: 4

Trail/Walkway: 4
Restrooms: 4
Overlooks: 3

Power and Bassett Islands



Address: Grand Traverse Bay, Peninsula Township

Size: 202 acres

Purchase: 1975

Capital Renovation and History: Dock, trail, and restroom renovations, plus Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible cart purchase made in 2000; infiltration septic system installed in 2012; new, larger well installed in 2015; five campsites added in 2016

Description: Nature preserve, picnic sites, campground, public beach, well, vaulted toilets

Connected by an isthmus, Power and Bassett Islands, often collectively referred to as “Power Island,” are located in the west arm of Grand

Traverse Bay, approximately six miles north of downtown Traverse City, and one mile from the nearest public launch site at Bowers Harbor, northeast of the island. The islands in this area are unique to the County’s park system. The main island, Power Island, is visible from nearly all of Traverse City’s



shoreline, providing a scenic backdrop when looking north. There are over five miles of hiking trails and several picnic tables for guests to enjoy. The islands are undeveloped natural areas, home to a wide variety of wild plants and animals. In 2013, a fee-based ferry service to the island was launched. In 2016 the service ended, due to little use.

Two-acre Bassett Island has five primitive campsites, each with its own picnic table, cooking grill, and campfire circle. There are maintained restroom privies servicing the island. The nearest source of potable water to Bassett Island is a hand-pump located over one mile from the campsites, on the “big island.” In 2015, a larger well was drilled to accommodate more campers. In 2016, five more campsites were developed on the south beach of Power Island. In 2018, Parks and Recreation will go into its third season of offering ten campsites for rent.

The County maintains a public dock and vault style toilets that are located at several locations around the island. The Island also has a drinking water pump, two picnic areas, and over two miles of sandy beaches. A Michigan Coastal Zone Program grant in 2000 allowed the County to make the park more accessible in compliance with the ADA. The County purchased an ADA accessible cart that is available to guests. The cart is made available by the County’s on Site Ranger. A ranger stays on the island from May to October in order to maintain facilities, to be a public relations person for the County, and to provide security for the park.

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Last Inspection: October 2017 by Kristine Erickson, Director of County Parks and Recreation, and Marty Dunham, Director of County Facilities Management

Roads: 1

Trails/Walkways: 4

Restrooms: 4

Storage Space: 4

Docks: 5

Campgrounds: 5

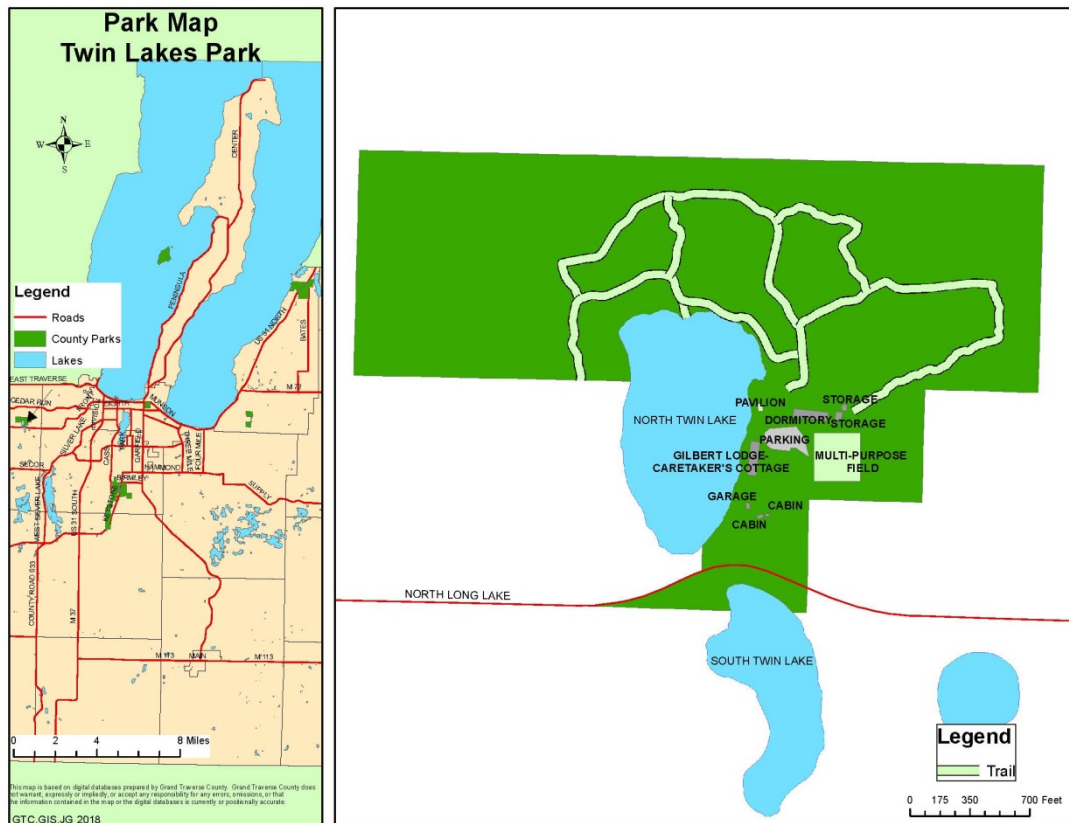
Signage: 4

Residence/Cabin: 5

Boat: 2

ADA Accessible Cart: 4

Twin Lakes Park



Address: 6800 North Long Lake Road, Long Lake Township
Size: 175 acres; Gilbert Lodge, 3,000 square feet; dormitory, 6,000 square feet
Purchase: Land donated to County in 1940
Capital Renovation and History: Gilbert Lodge built in 1944, dormitory built in 1980; Gilbert Lodge remodeled in 1987; multipurpose field constructed in 1992; new dock system installed in 2000; walking trails developed in 2001, dormitory/lodge fire alarms system installed in 2002; universally accessible waterfront/play area (4.75 acres) developed in 2009

Description: Residential camp, event venue, and dance studio servicing user groups at functions such as weeklong camps, weekend retreats, training seminars, dinner meetings, weddings, dances, picnics, yoga and fitness classes, and more.

Twin Lakes Park hosts a variety of events, including wedding receptions, church retreats, graduation parties, business meetings, scouting activities, dances, etc. During the summer months, weekly camps, such as soccer camps, church day camps, dance groups, and youth camps rent the facility. The park features a wide variety of facilities and activities to meet the needs of any type of group.



The 3,000-square-foot Gilbert Lodge holds 200 people, with enough seating available for 100. The lodge has a commercial kitchen that may be used for catering events. Constructed in 1947, the lodge was originally a 4-H facility, built as a result of the late Judge Parm Gilbert's dream to host 4-H-ers at the then-Twin Lakes Camp. Many generous benefactors and volunteers made it possible for this special facility and surrounding parkland to become the beautiful community treasure it is today. For over 70 years,



Twin Lakes Camp/Park has been a place where families, campers, and visitors make fond memories. Today, the park and lodge are under the proud stewardship of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission and Department. The lodge hosts dances, weddings, meetings, memorial services, birthday/anniversary parties, senior events, camp meals, and Boy Scout ceremonies.

The basement of historical Gilbert Lodge was not, for many years, used to its full potential until Crystal Bindi Studios partnered with Parks and Recreation in 2016 to clean a portion of the basement to serve as a home for "Twin Lakes Fitness," offering yoga, dance, bellydance, Zumba, drumming, Kindermusik, and other classes. Twin Lakes Fitness programming has increased usership of this tremendous community asset, and has expanded recreational services to a new geographical area of the County (Long Lake Township and beyond). The basement features a stone fireplace, gorgeous views of North Twin Lake, a walkout patio, and a bathroom – all of the amenities necessary to make it a viable and enjoyable space for users. The largest expense and most challenging transformation was that of the bathroom, which needed to be updated, upgraded, and made ADA accessible for the public. In 2017, those improvements were made with a \$5,000 two-percent grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Another portion of the lower level remains an untapped resource that can serve our community and produce revenue to reinvest in maintaining all of the facilities at Twin Lakes Park – the dormitory, pavilion, outbuildings, and Gilbert Lodge. To better serve our community by increasing recreational opportunities and programming at the lodge, and to make the park more self-sustaining (current revenue generated by the park's facilities is not enough to fund necessary capital improvements), the Parks and Recreation Commission has requested that two cabins at the park be cleaned, painted, and improved to accommodate overnight guests in summer and, perhaps, year-round in the future. It is anticipated that the cabins will be available for rent beginning spring 2018.

Condition

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- 4 = Needs minor repairs or aesthetic improvements*
- 5 = In good condition*
- 6 = Develop*

Last Inspection: October 2017 by Kristine Erickson, Director of County Parks and Recreation, and Marty Dunham, Director of County Facilities Management

Parking Lot: 5

Road: 5

Picnic Shelter: 5

Playground Structure: 5

Trails/Walkways: 4

Restrooms: 5

Storage Space: 5

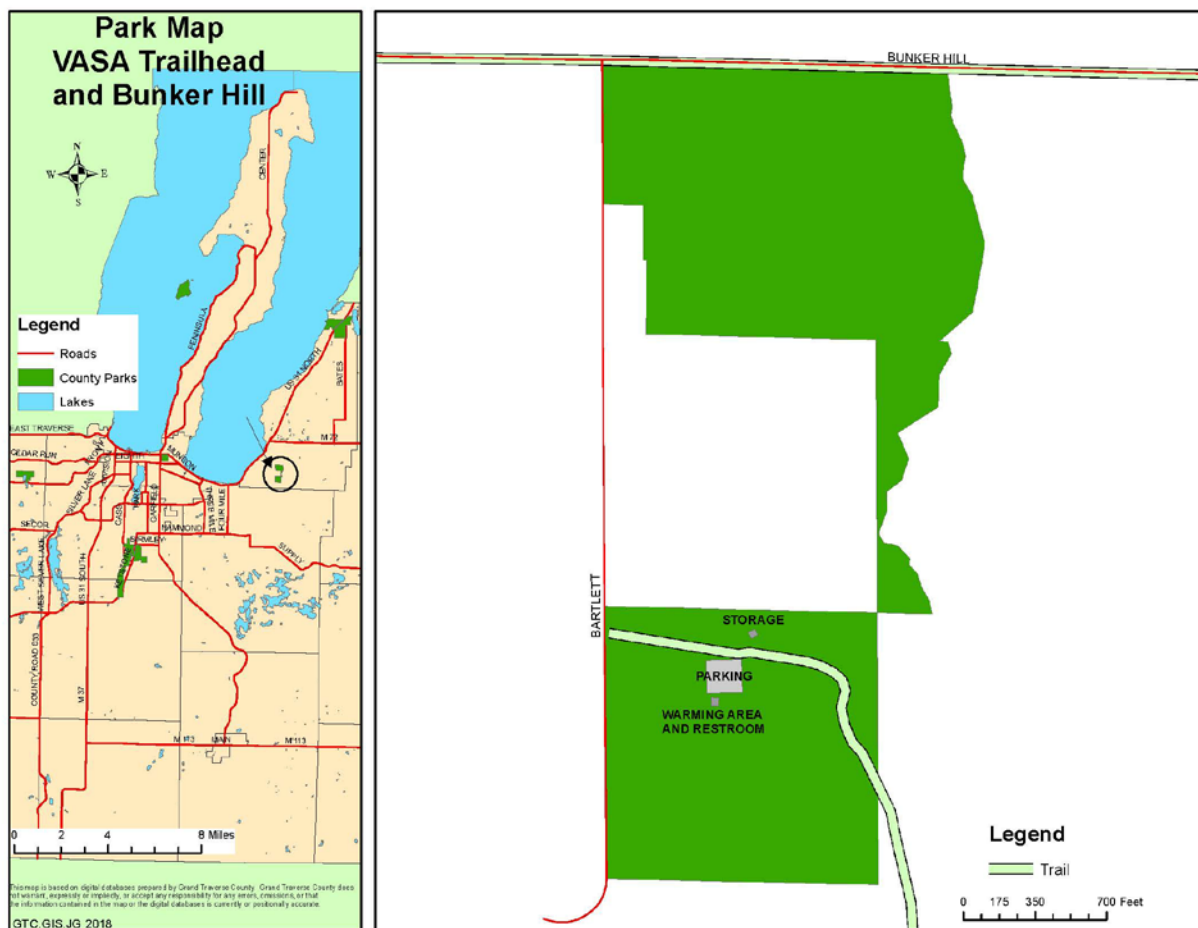
Maintenance Facility: 4

Waterfront/Swim Area: 4

Boating Area: 6

Multipurpose Field: 5

VASA Trailhead and Adjacent “Bunker Hill” or “Bartlett Road” Property



Address: 4450 Bartlett Road, Acme Township

Size: 40 acres; warming house, 1,384 square feet

Purchase: Transferred from State to County in 1991

Capital Renovation and History: Parking lot built in 1991; restroom building built in 1991, added warming room to restroom building in 1998

Description: Serves as a trailhead for VASA Pathway



The VASA Trailhead is the gateway to the VASA Pathway, which offers 34 kilometers of non-motorized trail located within the Pere Marquette State Forest. Grand Traverse County owns approximately 40 acres, which composes the trailhead, also referred to as “Bartlett Park,” with a parking lot, restroom facilities, warming area, and some storage. The trailhead for the Vasa trail is located along Bartlett Road in Acme Township.

Grand Traverse County also purchased 64 acres known as the “Bartlett Road Property” at the corner of Bunker Hill and Bartlett Roads. This property has never been developed and remains an open space. The property is tied to the Vasa trailhead by a 150-foot-wide, by 1,000-foot-long public easement over private property.



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Last Inspection: October 2017 by Kristine Erickson, Director of County Parks and Recreation, and Marty Dunham, Director of County Facilities Management

Parking Lot: 4

Road: 5

Trails/Walkways: 5

Restrooms: 5

Storage Space: 5

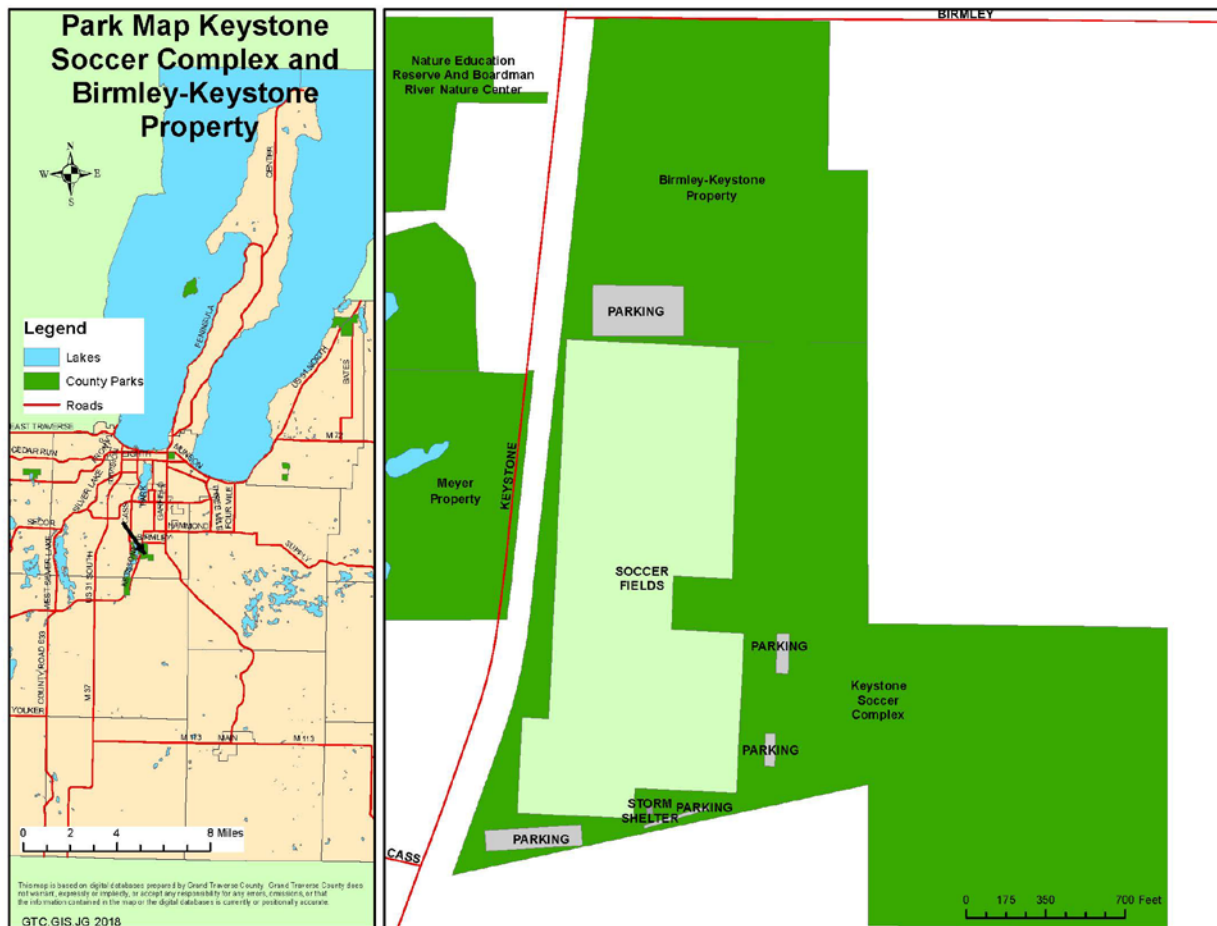
Maintenance Facility: 5

The “Keystone Corridor”

Introduction

Grand Traverse County owns approximately 570 acres of parkland, accessible from Keystone Road in Garfield Township, including: a soccer complex; a nature center and reserve, and seven trailheads; a farmhouse with farmland; and some vacant land.

Keystone Soccer Complex and Birmley-Keystone Property



Address: Corner of Keystone and Birmley Roads, Garfield Township, Traverse City

Size: Fields, 77 acres; vacant lot, 38 acres

Purchase: 1996

Capital Renovation and History: Eight soccer fields, parking area, and roads, all developed between 1996 and 1998; seven soccer fields developed after 1998

Description: Soccer fields and undeveloped parcel

The Keystone Soccer Complex is a 77-acre parcel of land with 15 soccer fields, and is home to over 3,000 soccer enthusiasts in the Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS) organization. TBAYS is a volunteer organization that provides quality soccer programs and facilities for all youth at all levels. TBAYS' programs promote positive physical, mental, and emotional development through its three divisions:

TBAYS Juniors, ages 4 through 7; TBAYS Youth, ages 8 through 12; and TBAYS Club, ages 13 and higher. A fourth division, TBAYS North Storm, engages select boys and girls, in more competitive soccer.

Due north of the soccer complex is a 38-acre plot of land referred to as the “Birmley-Keystone Property.” There has been much interest among recreational entities in the region in developing this property to increase recreational opportunities. With the exception of TBAYS, no group has been successful in raising funds for any specific project on that property.

TBAYS has developed a plan for expanding to the property, and has stated its intent to present the plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission in 2018. If approved, TBAYS will actively seek funding to improve the property.



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Last Inspection: October 2017 by Kristine Erickson, Director of County Parks and Recreation, and Marty Dunham, Director of County Facilities Management

Parking Lots: 5

Roads: 5

Picnic Shelters: 5

Playground Structure: 5

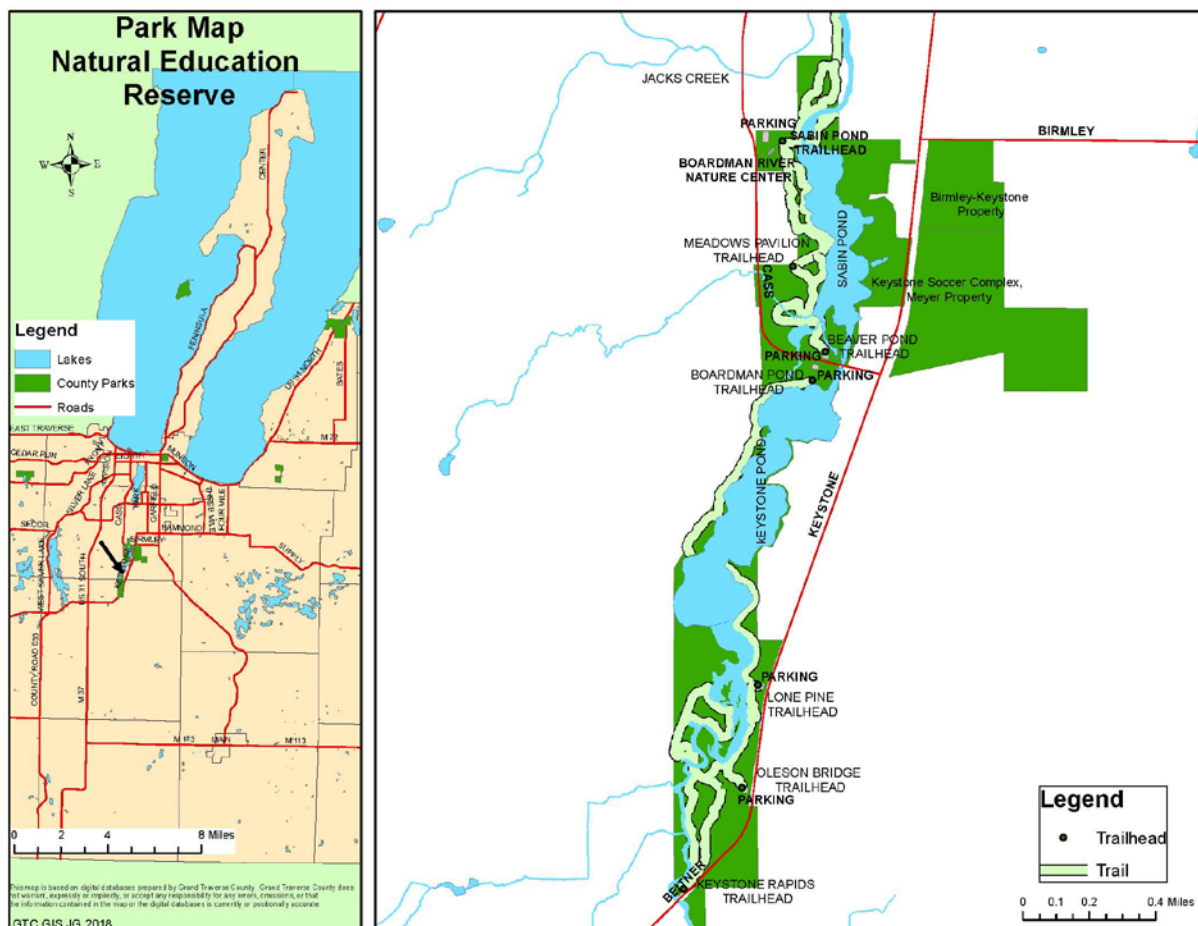
Restrooms: 5

Storage Space: 5

Maintenance Facility: 5

Soccer Fields: 5

Natural Education Reserve and Boardman River Nature Center



Address: 1450 Cass Road, Garfield Township

Size: 405 acres

Purchase: 370 acres donated in 1975; 10 acres from County Road Commission in 1990; 25 acres acquired with DNR grant in 1995

Capital Renovation and History: Trail and parking lot improved with RC&D Council grant, 1987-1989; Coastal Zone Management grant in 1996

Description: Nature area along the Boardman River with over seven miles of trails, a half-mile of paved trail, fishing pier, and picnic sites.



The Natural Education Reserve (NER) was dedicated on July 4, 1976 as a “natural environment classroom for area youth.” This 420-acre property is located along the shores of the Boardman River and is home to the Boardman River Nature Center. The NER is a linear park featuring over seven miles of trails, fishing platforms, scenic overlooks, picnic

areas, and direct water access. Nearly every cover type in Michigan can be found within the property's boundaries, bog, marshland, true swamp, level terrain, upland forest, pine forest, creek, river, and pond. Considered an important sanctuary and north-south travel corridor for wildlife, a large variety of plants and animals call the NER "home".



The Boardman River, a state-designated "Blue Ribbon" trout stream and Natural River, is the central feature of the NER. The river is undergoing the largest dam removal project in Michigan's history, involving the removal of three earthen dams. Brown Bridge Dam was removed in 2012 from the City of Traverse City's Brown Bridge Quiet Area (located furthest upstream). Two dams, Boardman and Sabin, are located on County property within the NER. A fourth dam, located downstream in Traverse City, will be modified, but not removed. A fifth dam called "Keystone" also was located on the NER's property. It washed out in 1961, leaving remnants evident along the hiking trails located upstream from Oleson Bridge on the NER property.

In 2017, Boardman Dam was deconstructed from NER property, exposing approximately 90 acres of fragile bottomlands and a relic river channel. In 2018, the County-owned Sabin Dam is scheduled to be removed. Its absence will expose approximately 40 more acres of bottomlands in need of restoration measures. The final stage of the dam removal project is scheduled for 2019 and entails modifying Traverse City's Union Street Dam to allow for the selective passage of Great Lakes fish.

After nearly a century of impeded waters, the Boardman River once again will run free upstream of Boardman Lake, thereby facilitating the passage of wildlife and aquatic organisms, the distribution of sediments and nutrients, and a reconnection of its floodplain. Amid the former impoundments, restoration efforts along newly-exposed river stretches are underway to stabilize river banks, improve in-stream habitat, and to promote wildlife. It is vital that restoration efforts and invasive species control continue as the river rebounds and adjusts to its new and relic alignment.

From Beitner Road downstream is where the river is most dramatic, as it cascades through a series of rapids where the former Keystone Dam was located. Remnants of the Keystone Dam that washed out in 1961 are still visible. The old berm wall and spillway just now are being reclaimed by the forest, since the river banks have reverted to their natural and original flora.

Paddlers looking for adventure often seek a stretch of whitewater through the Keystone Rapids, which rivals some of the swiftest stretches of navigable water in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. With the removal of the dams from the property, a near three-mile stretch of river from Beitner Road to present-day Sabin Dam is expected to maintain a fast flow. As was the case after the Brown Bridge Dam was removed, an influx of canoe and kayak-use, post dam removal, is anticipated. To accommodate this increased river traffic, universally accessible watercraft landings with appropriately-sized and accommodating restrooms and parking areas will be necessary for paddlers to have a safe place to exit and enter the river and for protection of the property's delicate natural resources.

Well noted for its prized trout fishery, increased river access sites are essential to allow anglers safe and sustainable access points so as not to destroy the fragile banks. As the river rebounds, foot traffic will increase along the river's banks as anglers search for trout in the "new relic" river channel.

In the wake of dam removal, established trails throughout the NER need improvement and expansion to promote safe and sustainable routes for users to fully appreciate the natural wonders of the park, and beyond. Fostering non-motorized trail connections to other local parks and facilities is a high priority. Plans are under way to connect the multi-use Boardman River Trail that will transect the park from north to south, thereby linking Traverse City 24 miles upstream to the North Country Trail near Scheck's State Campground. The construction of footbridges at the current Sabin Dam location and at the end of the universally accessible Lone Pine Trail will provide loop trail opportunities and foster connections from the NER and Boardman River Nature Center to the County's Meyer and Keystone Soccer Field properties.

In August 2008, the Grand Traverse Conservation District opened the Boardman River Nature Center at the NER, off Cass Road on a bluff overlooking the Boardman River. Created as a way to help foster the exploration, appreciation, and conservation of the natural world, and to enhance the park's purpose as a "natural environment classroom for area youth," the center includes an exhibit gallery with interactive activities for families. Since opening, over 78,000 individuals of all ages have visited the Nature Center, which also has a classroom space and a multi-use community room/rental space with a full kitchen. Attached to the Nature Center is the Grand Traverse Conservation District's office, which supports from 15 to 20 staff. Surrounding the Nature Center structure are native plant gardens, a demonstration wetland, and a pavilion/outdoor classroom with attached restrooms. The Nature Center offers an ideal access point to the seven miles of trails within the 405-acre NER and to the nearby Boardman Valley Nature Preserve.

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Last Inspection: October 2017 by Kristine Erickson, Director of County Parks and Recreation, and Marty Dunham, Director of County Facilities Management

Parking Lots: 4

Roads: 4

Picnic Shelters: 5

Playground Structures: 1

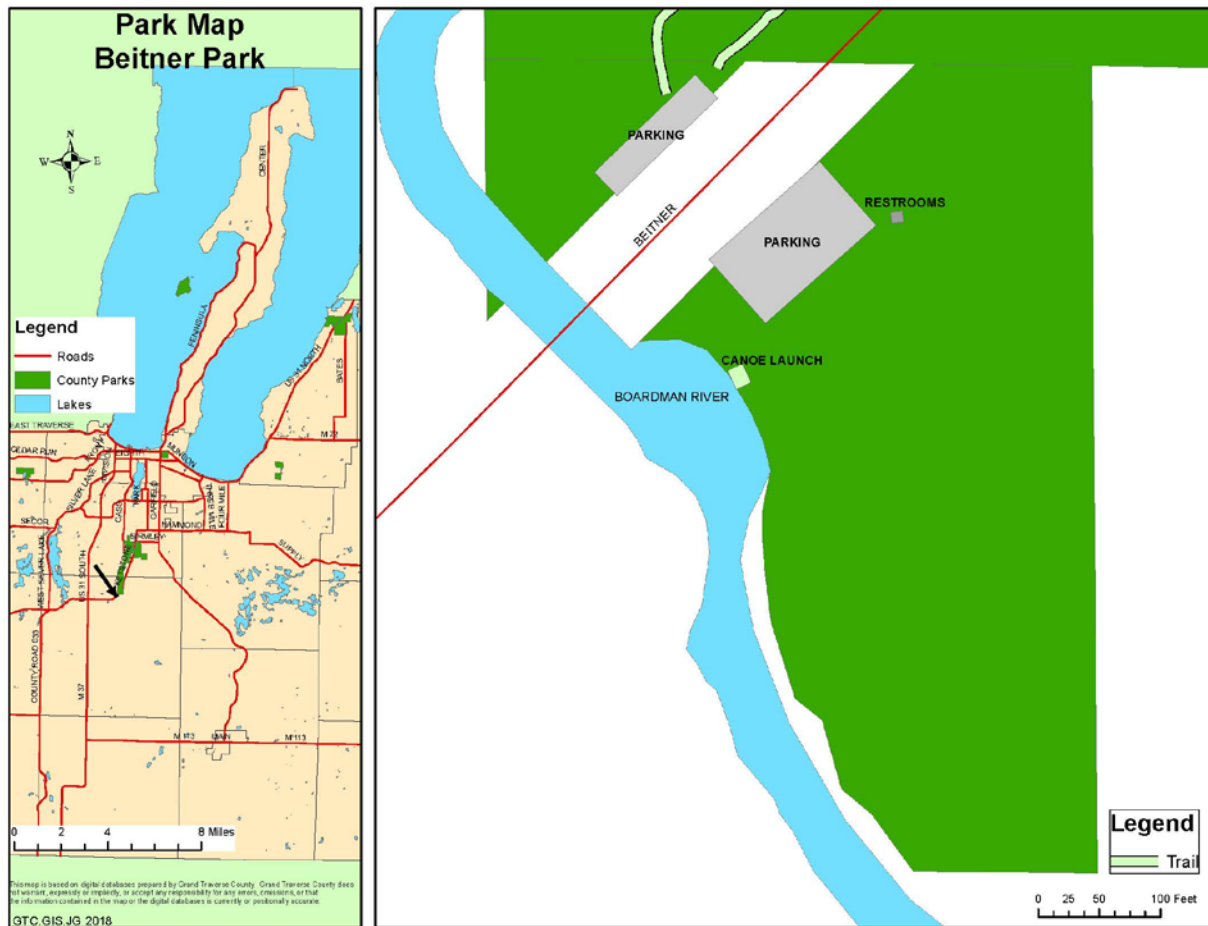
Trails/Walkways: 3

Restrooms: 6

Storage Space: 5

Maintenance Facility: 1

Natural Education Reserve: *Beitner Park*



Address: 2651 Beitner Road, Garfield Township

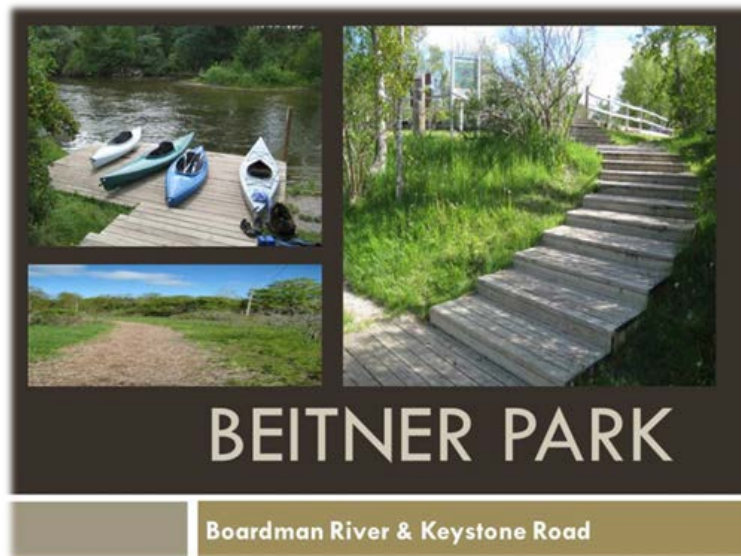
Size: 10 acres

Purchase: From County Road Commission in 1990

Capital Renovation and History: Paved parking area and restrooms, 1995; canoe launch, 1999; bathrooms upgraded (painted, pumped, cleaned), 2017

Description: Parking area and canoe launch on north side of Keystone Road; picnic sites and DNR-style vault toilets on south side of Beitner Road (Keystone Road turns into Beitner Road)

Five-acre Beitner Park is located at the southernmost edge of the Natural Education Reserve, off of Beitner Road (Keystone Road turns into Beitner Road at that point), just east of Chum's Corners. With a parking lot, river access, picnic area, and a restroom facility, this park is the most heavily used to gain access along the Boardman River. Most paddlers take out at this location to avoid paddling through the more difficult Keystone Rapids, located downstream of the park. With the removal downstream of Boardman and Sabin Dams, it is expected that even more paddlers will use the Beitner Park access to float the rapids and the new section of the river.



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Last Inspection: October 2017 by Kristine Erickson, Director of County Parks and Recreation, and Marty Dunham, Director of County Facilities Management

North Parking Lot: 4

South Parking Lot: 5

Roads: 1

Picnic Shelters: 6

Playground Structures: 1

Trails/Walkways: 5

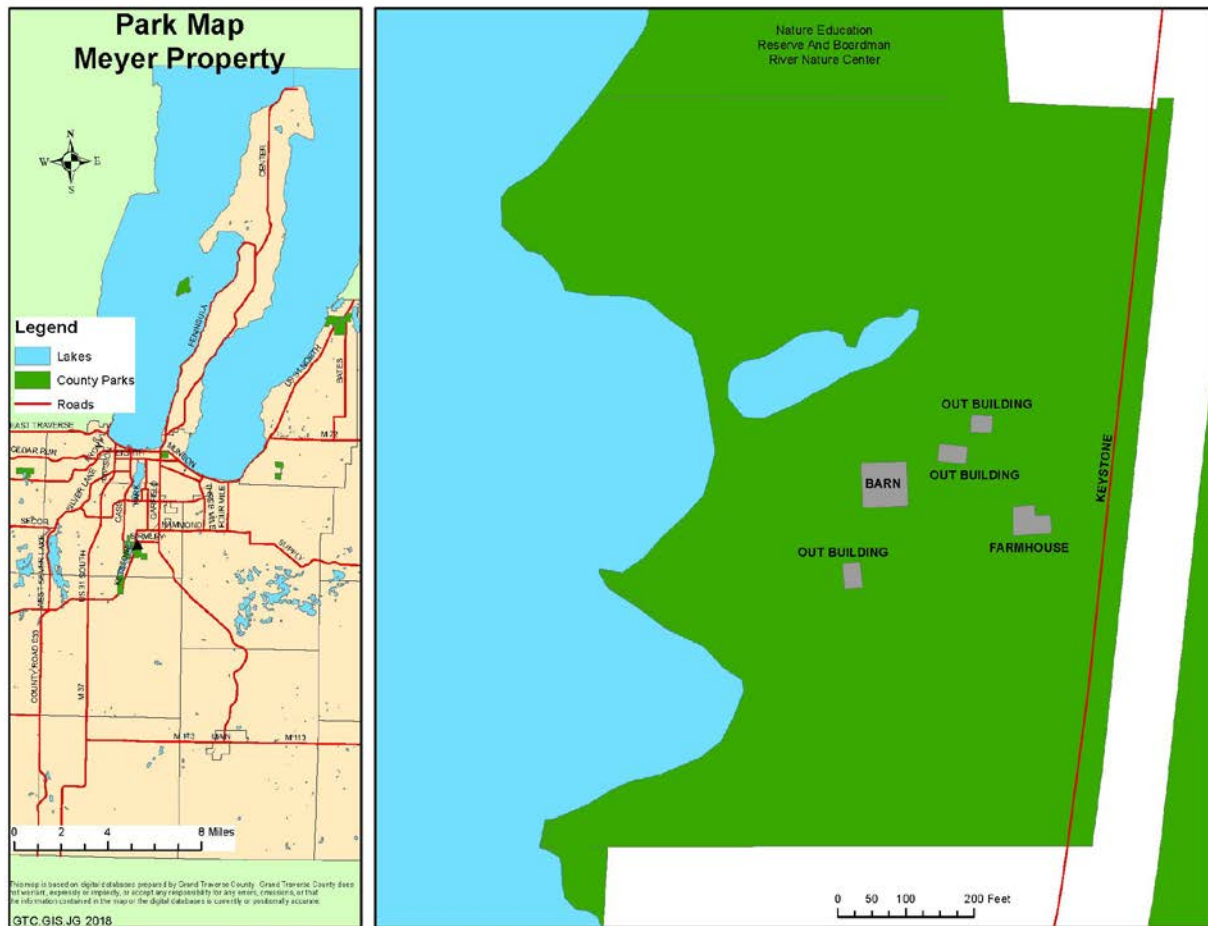
Restrooms: 5

Storage Space: 1

Maintenance Facility: 1

Docks Along River: 5

Natural Education Reserve: *Meyer Property*



Address: 1091 Keystone Road, Garfield Township

Size: 15 acres

Purchase: Home renovations, 2008; asbestos abatement and additional home renovations, 2012; new septic field and system, 2017

Description: Farmland with residential home, five outbuildings, and hiking path

The Meyer Property, a farm, was purchased in 2002 as part of several acquisitions that evolved into the overall Keystone Soccer Complex and Birmley-Keystone Property holdings.



Located on the west side of Keystone Road, across from the soccer complex and adjacent to the Natural Education Reserve, the property has five barns and one residence, the "Meyer House."

The Meyer farmhouse has been partially renovated and, since 2016, has served as a residential rental property in fulfillment of the wishes of the former owners, who requested that an individual occupy the home to watch over the property. Rental revenue is used to maintain the Meyer Property which, for example, required a new septic field and system in 2017.



When the Meyer Property was purchased by Grand Traverse County, all of the contents were also procured, including vehicles of various ages and conditions, tractors, minor farm implements, and several antiques. Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation is working with members of the Meyer family to take inventory of the contents of the basement and attic of the farmhouse, and all of the outbuildings.

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Last Inspection: October 2017 by Kristine Erickson, Director of County Parks and Recreation, and Marty Dunham, Director of County Facilities Management

Parking Lots: 5

Driveway: 5

Picnic Shelters: 6

Playground Structures: 1

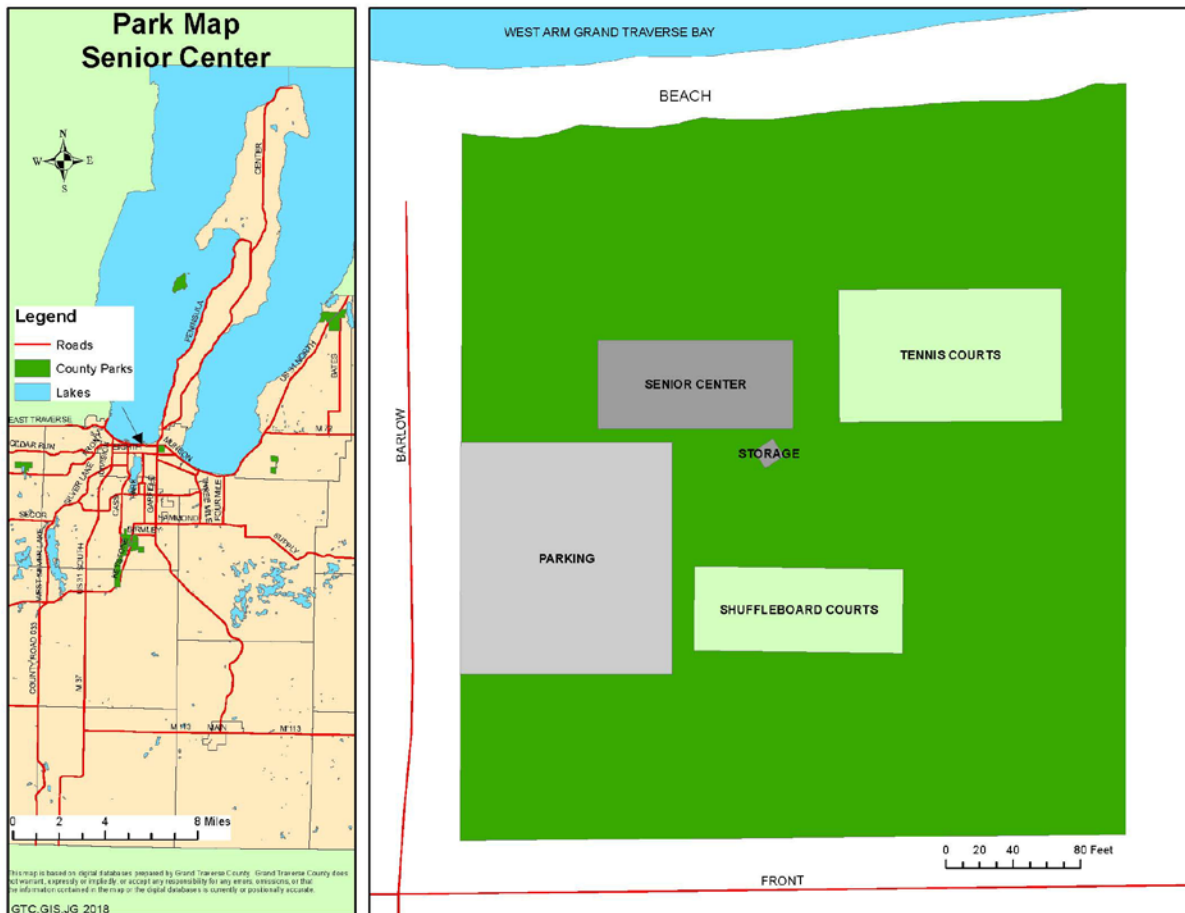
Trails/Walkways: 4

Restrooms: 6

Storage Space: 5

Maintenance Facility: 4

Senior Center Network Headquarters at Traverse City's Senior Center Park/Beach



Address: 801 E. Front Street, Traverse City

Size: 3.7 acres

Purchase: Used per intergovernmental agreement with City of Traverse City

Description: Building with kitchen, offices, computer room, and three rooms for programs; swimming beach; outdoor restrooms; shuffleboard courts; tennis courts

Senior Center Park houses the Senior Center Headquarters, which serves the entire Grand Traverse area community by offering programs for mature adults, ages 50 and over. Owned by the City of Traverse City, the park has frontage on West Grand Traverse Bay. Most of the park features meet accessibility guidelines. For the past eight years, under the *Grand Traverse County-City of Traverse City Intergovernmental Agreement for Senior Center Management*, the County has been responsible for management and operation of the Senior Center programs, while the City of Traverse City, as owner of the Senior Center building and the park, has been responsible for facility and park maintenance. This is a unique city-county relationship, one that so far has been considered successful for meeting the needs of the community.

Senior Center Facility History

The shuffleboard courts at 801 East Front Street in Traverse City were the first in the state of Michigan, and some of the first in the nation. Dedicated in 1939, many local residents remember playing on the courts with their parents or grandparents.

In 1969, the City of Traverse City gave local residents permission to use the then-“shuffleboard clubhouse,” a covered pavilion used for picnics and shuffleboard equipment storage, for senior citizen activities. Later that year, volunteers Lou and Vince Ecarius rallied community support to transform the clubhouse, into what is today’s Traverse City Senior Center. Local donations and community grants were used to renovate the space and, in the early 1980s, a state grant was used to upgrade bathroom facilities. The City of Traverse City also hired its first Senior Center Director and part-time Program Coordinator in the 1980s.



For years, the City relied on grants, donations, and local township support to fund Senior Center operations and programs. As programs grew and expenses increased, it became clear that the Senior Center needed to explore more secure funding.

In 2010, Senior Center staff approached Grand Traverse County’s Commission on Aging about creating a countywide Senior Center Network to provide programming to seniors in various locations throughout the County. This process led to a 2010 millage request to generate funds to support the new Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network. County residents passed the millage and, as a result, programming increased to serve seniors in Acme, Fife Lake, Interlochen, Kingsley, and at the main location in Traverse City. In 2016, the millage was renewed by voters, allowing funding for Grand Traverse County Senior Centers to continue through 2022.

Please refer to Appendix C of this plan for copies of the *Grand Traverse County-City of Traverse City Intergovernmental Agreement for Senior Center Management* and the *2016 August Millage Proposal for Grand Traverse County Senior Citizen Services*.

Condition: For more information about the Traverse City-owned Senior Center Park and Senior Center building, including facility conditions, please refer to the *City of Traverse City Parks and Recreation Plan, 2016-2021*, available on line at [www. http://www.traversecitymi.gov/](http://www.traversecitymi.gov/).

Park Primary Service Area and Accessibility Evaluation

The following table identifies each park owned by Grand Traverse County with an accompanying accessibility rating for each facility. Assessed in fall 2017 by Kristine Erickson, Director, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation, most of the County's facilities do not meet accessibility guidelines, according to the scoring system generally in accordance with MDNR standards, as summarized below.

Level 1: None of the facilities in the park meet accessibility guidelines. Little pavement is provided, and routes to facilities are not easily accessible.

Level 2: Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines, but many of the facilities or routes are not easily accessible.

Level 3: Most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Parking areas and walkways are paved. While most facilities are generally accessible, some barriers may exist for certain individuals, because of age, ability, or situation.

Level 4: All facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Park is accessible, and routes to facilities within the park are accessible, with some play or other equipment not designed for everyone.

Level 5: Universal design guidelines were used to design the entire park.

Park	Size	Amenities	Classification	Service Area	Accessibility
Beitner Park	10 acres	Trails; picnic areas; parking; restroom facilities; canoe launch	Community park	20 to 40 minutes' drive time	Level 2
Civic Center Park	45 acres	Athletic fields, one-mile-long walking path, playground, skate park, basketball courts, picnic shelter, amphitheater, marker tree, restroom facilities	Large urban park	Five to 40 minutes' drive time	Level 4
Civic Center Park: <i>Easling Pool</i>	25,000 square feet	Six-lane, 25-yard "L"-shaped, 165,000-gallon pool with shallow teaching area and dry sauna on deck	Recreation facility	Five to 75 minutes' drive time; only truly "publicly-owned" pool within 45-mile radius	Level 4
Civic Center Park: <i>Howe Arena</i>	25,000 square feet	Ice rink and dry land exhibition hall	Special-use facility	Five to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 3
Keystone Soccer Complex and Birmley-Keystone Property	77 acres	Soccer fields	Sports complex	15 to 45 minutes' drive time	Level 4
Maple Bay Park and Natural Area	400 acres	Nature area, two miles of hiking trails, 2,500 feet of frontage on East Grand Traverse Bay; hunting opportunities	Natural resource area	20 to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 1
Medalie Park	11 acres	"Roadside" park with picnic shelter, modern restroom facilities, paved walking trail, wooden	Community park	Five to 30 minutes'; drive time	Level 3

Park	Size	Amenities	Classification	Service Area	Accessibility
		overlooks along Boardman River and Lake			
Meyer Property	15 acres	Farmland, half-mile walking path, residential home, outbuildings	Natural resource area	15 to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 2
Natural Education Reserve	420 acres; house, 1,400 square feet	Over seven miles of trails with half-mile paved; barrier-free fishing pier, picnic sites, pavilion, gardening shed, and Boardman River Nature Center	Natural resource area	15 to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 2
Power and Bassett Islands	202 acres	Nature preserve, picnic sites, well, ten-site campground, public beach, docks, restrooms	Natural resource area	One-mile water route west from Old Mission Peninsula; six-mile water route north from downtown Traverse City	Level 2
Twin Lakes Park	175 acres; Gilbert Lodge, 3,000 square feet; dormitory 6,000 square feet	Residential camp, meeting spaces, special event facilities (lodge), commercial kitchen, dance studio, pavilion, playground, fishing platform, two miles of trails, multipurpose field	Community park	15 to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 4
VASA Trailhead and "Bunker Hill" or "Bartlett Road" Property	40 acres; warming hut, 1,000 square feet; open space of 64 acres	Trailhead for VASA Pathway, warming hut including modern restrooms; undeveloped open space adjacent to trailhead	Sports complex	20 to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 2

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service, including parks and recreational facilities and areas, are subject to barrier-free requirements. While several of the Grand Traverse County parks and recreational facilities have been altered and renovated to ensure ease of mobility in compliance with the ADA, County fiscal and budgetary constraints must be considered when determining the extent to which the County can continue making its parks and facilities accessible. When improvements to parks and facilities are funded and able to be made, creating barrier-free facilities is a top priority.

Parks and Recreation staff is working with representatives of the Disability Network and Michigan Rehabilitation Services to assess all County parks and to develop a long-range plan for improving accessibility throughout the park system.

Planning and Public Input Process

Description of Planning and Public Input Process

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. While creating this plan, department staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Master Planning Team facilitated various means of gathering information and data – including community input efforts and the collection of institutional knowledge from stakeholders – to review current conditions and identify opportunities for improvement of parks and facilities. There were a number of opportunities for public involvement as the plan developed. Information gained from public involvement efforts, in conjunction with park evaluations and guidelines, helped to shape the goals and objectives element of this plan.

Master Planning Team Contributions

As illustrated in this plan, Parks and Recreation has key strategic partnerships in place which support land management, programming, and operations at County Parks. In taking a collaborative approach to the development of this plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff engaged a Parks and Recreation Master Planning Team, a group of representatives from those local recreation and conservation-related organizations. The team met regularly between September and December 2017 to plan the public input process, to review the current strategic plan, and to individually provide input and help set goals to be included in the new plan, based on their firsthand knowledge and experience working with and in specific County parks.

The Parks and Recreation Master Planning Team was composed of:

- Marsha Barber Clark, Executive Director, Grand Traverse Conservation District (Natural Education Reserve)
- Julie Clark, Executive Director, TART Trails (all parks)
- Matt Cowall, Communications Director, LIAA and Executive Director, City of Traverse City and Garfield Township Recreational Authority (Civic Center and Easling Pool)
- Kristine Erickson, Director, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department
- Chris Kushman, Planning and Management Director, TART Trails (all parks, but more so Medalie Park and Natural Education Reserve)
- Vic Lane, Senior Conservation Project Manager, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (Maple Bay Park and Natural Area)
- Steve Largent, Conservation Team Coordinator, Grand Traverse Conservation District, Grand Traverse County Drain Commissioner, and Parks and Recreation Commission Representative (all parks, but more so Natural Education Reserve and Medalie)
- Derek Melville, Superintendent, City of Traverse City Parks and Recreation (City-County collaborations and shared park programming and resources)
- John Roth, Chair, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission (all parks)
- John Sych, Director, Grand Traverse County Planning Department until January 2018 (all parks from a planning perspective)
- Ryan Walsh, Office Manager, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department (all parks)
- Lori Wells, Manager, Senior Center Network (Senior Center Network and all parks)

Parks and Recreation Commission Oversight

The 2017 Parks and Recreation Commission primarily oversaw the public input process. Members of the commission participated firsthand in community input sessions to hear from citizens and to engage in dialogue about the future direction of and opportunities for the parks. The Parks and Recreation Commissioners are:

2017

Planning Commission Representative: Pete Albers

County Commissioner Representative: Cheryl Gore Follette

County Drain Commissioner: Steve Largent

County Road Commission Representative: Andy J. Marek

Citizen Appointments: David Grams, Rodetta Harrand, Rodney Kivell, Jeri LeRoi, John Roth, Shirley Zerafa

2018

Planning Commission Representative: Pete Albers

County Commissioner Representative: Tom Mair

County Drain Commissioner: Steve Largent

County Road Commission Representative: Andy J. Marek

Citizen Appointments: David Grams, Rodetta Harrand, Rodney Kivell, Whitney Waara, John Roth, Shirley Zerafa

Community Input Sessions

Parks and Recreation's "Community Input Day" was held on October 26, 2017, at the Governmental Center in Traverse City. Three one-hour sessions were held throughout the day and evening. In an open house format intended to make dialogue engagement easy for attendees, each session started with a parks presentation and overview. Attendees then visited "listening stations" for each one of the County parks, while Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Planning Team members acted as hosts and "listeners" at each station. Civic Center Park ball field users (coaches and tournament organizers) also attended one of the sessions to share suggestions about how to improve the park and the fields.

A follow-up community input session was held at the Senior Center Network's headquarters in Traverse City on November 17, 2017. Nearly 50 citizens, total, attended the four sessions.

Most attendees were frequent park users, whose general sentiment is to keep the County parks under the stewardship of County Parks and Recreation, and to improve park features and infrastructure so that more users will be attracted to and use them.

Citizens would like to see the County collaborate more with local municipalities and organizations, and continue to seek grant funds, but to also identify inventive ways to raise funds to further support the maintenance and improvement of County parks.

On-line Survey

In addition to the community input sessions, public input was sought via an on-line survey between October and December, 2017. The survey consists of multiple questions, and was prominently displayed on the Parks and Recreation website homepage and on its Facebook page. A total of 327 individuals participated in the on-line survey. The survey, a summary of the survey, and responses received are included in Appendices E and F of this plan.

Following are survey highlights.

Profile of Respondents

- 59% from Traverse City, Garfield Charter Township, and East Bay Charter Township, and at least one respondent from each community in Grand Traverse County
- 58.4% 53 years and older
- 74% have no children in the household
- 13% households with residents with a mobility restriction or visual impairment

Parks and Activities

- Civic Center, VASA Trailhead, and Natural Education Reserve/Boardman River Nature Center rank as high importance
- Civic Center remains the most frequently used County park, with half of all respondents visiting at least monthly
- Easling Pool, Civic Center, and Senior Center rate highest for importance of improvements
- Highest ranked frequency of recreation activities (at least once a week) are: walking (80%), hiking (50%) and biking (44%)

Park Improvements

Most respondents did not know what improvements are needed at park facilities. Following are the most notable responses to various park infrastructures.

- 30% ranked parking/vehicle access for the Civic Center and the Senior Center in Traverse City as medium to high priority for improvement.
- 35% ranked Civic Center restrooms as medium to high priority for improvement.
- 14% ranked improvement of accessibility for the differently abled as medium to high priority for improvement.
- 18% ranked Civic Center ball fields, basketball courts and playground as medium to high priority for improvement.
- 20% ranked winter trail grooming at the Civic Center Walking Track, the VASA Trailhead, and the Natural Education Reserve as a medium to high priority for improvement

NOTE: The majority of respondents are neither familiar with reservations for park facilities, nor with the fees for each facility.

New or Expanded Facilities

The top three properties/facilities named for new or expanded facilities:

- 48% indicated improvement of Easling Pool as medium to high priority
- 45% indicated new or expanded facilities at the Civic Center as a medium to important priority
- 32% indicated further development of the Senior Center in Traverse City as a medium to high priority

Other areas for developing new or expanding facilities:

- 73.1% want the County to acquire more parkland to save more natural areas from development and to provide special-purpose parkland in strategic locations.
- To acquire new parkland, respondents indicated that most of the funding be through grants and donations.
- General fund dollars should be used for regular maintenance of existing parks and trails.
- User fees and user donations are most appropriately spent to maintain playfields (soccer, baseball, etc.).

- While grant funding is preferred for developing any new recreation facilities at existing parks and for refurbishing aging infrastructure (Easling Pool, Howe Arena, Gilbert Lodge, etc.), respondents identified an equal mix of user fees, user donations, millage funding, and general funding for development and maintenance of facilities.

Planning and Public Input Conclusions

The public input received as part of this process reinforces several of the conclusions drawn from previous planning processes within our community in recent years. The Grand Traverse region is quickly becoming known nationally as an excellent place for a high quality of life, predominantly due to the wealth and diversity of our natural resources available for year-round recreation. Our community is looking for a continued investment in our current parks.

Overall, the responses and discussions that took place throughout the process have been well received by Parks and Recreation and, while the department might not currently have the depth of resources required to address each of the concerns or suggestions, the County has established the necessary partnerships and networks within our community to address many of the community's expressed needs within the next five years, especially since many of the public's concerns and suggestions already are being addressed by the current Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan (Appendix A; 2016-2017 plan in effect until revised in 2018), and by the business plans already in place for four County Parks (Appendix B).

Objectives and Goals

Introduction

The mission of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department is to “enhance community and quality of life through people parks and programs.” The foundation of that mission and the philosophy of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to make all of its parks and parks programming safe and accessible to all. With nearly all County parks situated on or near water, water safety is a particular focus of the Commission, which consistently supports maintaining Easling Pool at Civic Center Park as a community asset. The Parks and Recreation Commission also strives to promote and bring as many users as possible to its unique parks. Building usership and providing the programming and services that attract users of all ages is a priority when identifying projects for each County park.

The mission of the Senior Center Network is to “make longer lives, better lives.” With one in four County households headed by someone 65 years of age or older, senior programming and opportunities for outdoor recreation accessible to seniors is essential. With more seniors, many of whom are active outdoors year-round, choosing to move to our region or stay in our region and “age in place,” quality and length of life can be directly affected by recreational opportunities and access to parks. The Parks and Recreation Commission continues to explore ways to leverage the joined forces of Parks and Recreation and the Senior Center Network to expand recreational opportunities and keep parks accessible year-round not just for seniors, but for individuals of all ages.

The goals and objectives presented in this section are based on public input received as part of this planning process, on the needs assessed at all of the parks, facilities, and programs under the stewardship of Parks and Recreation, input from the Master Planning Team, the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, and Parks and Recreation business plans for four parks: Power Island, Twin Lakes, Civic Center, and Medalie.

Demographics

Grand Traverse County is located in the northwest corner of the lower peninsula of Michigan, and covers 464 square miles of land. Today, there are 92,084 residents in Grand Traverse County. Since 2010, the County gained 5,098 new residents, making it one of the fastest growing counties in Michigan. It is anticipated that by 2025, there will be over 100,000 County residents. By 2040, the County is projected to grow to 110,211 residents, an increase of 18,127 residents.

With a median age of 42.5, the County's population is older than the rest of Michigan and the United States. Higher concentrations of the senior population live at the northern end, within Traverse City, Acme Township, and Peninsula Township. Peninsula Township has the highest median age of 56.1 years. Higher numbers of young families tend to live at the southern end of the County, focused around Kingsley. Kingsley has the lowest median age of 35.3 years. Almost one-third of all households in the County have children. One out of four households is headed by someone 65 years and older.

Over 50 percent of the County population is female, and 49.2 percent of the population is male. Compared to the rest of the state, the County is less diverse in its racial and ethnic distribution, with the exception of the Native American population, which is slightly higher than the state's average. Of the County's population in 2016, 94.6 percent are white; 1.3 percent are black; 1.2 percent are Native American and Alaska Native persons; .7 percent are Asian; less than .1 percent are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons; 1.7 percent of persons report two or more races; and 2.6 percent of persons are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

The 2016 annual average of unemployment in the County was 4.1 percent. The most recently reported unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in November, 2017. With the heavy influence of a summer-based tourism economy, the County typically experiences an increase in unemployment during the winter months each year.

The median income in the County is \$55,597. Areas of lower median income in the County include the urbanized areas of Traverse City, Garfield Township, Fife Lake and Kingsley while areas of higher median income in the County include Acme and Peninsula Townships along the Grand Traverse Bay. 9.8 percent of the County population is in poverty. Higher percentage areas of poverty include the south County communities of Kingsley, Paradise Township and Mayfield Township. In the County, 15.3 percent of the total population have a disability, compared to 17.1 percent of the state's population.

While there are many opportunities for passive recreation throughout the County, there is an increased need for active recreational opportunities for both families and the senior population. Most recreation opportunities are accessed by car, but some of the developed parks are accessed by cars, buses, bicycles and trails.

The following objectives and goals are based on the Parks and Recreation's current Strategic Plan, on the business plans that have been developed for four County parks (Power Island, Twin Lakes, Civic Center, and Medalie), and on comments documented during the public and stakeholders' input process for this plan.

Objectives

- In 2019, increase and offer specific recreational opportunities and services at locations based on measured usership.
- In 2019, Senior Center Network is accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers.
- By 2023, establish a reliable funding mechanism to support Nature Center operations.
- Increase reservations of park facilities and programs by ten percent each year.

- By 2023, County Parks and Recreation is a national leader and model for other park systems.
- County parks are destinations as sought-after as Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore parks and beaches. (Aspirational, but possible with strong branding, marketing, and promotions.)

Goals

- Establish and build a Parks and Recreation park maintenance fund.
- Continue to monitor and resolve safety issues in all parks.
- Promote safety in and around the water and support water safety education.
- Continue to improve park amenities to serve users (such as bathrooms, parking, lighting, park benches, picnic tables).
- Identify opportunities for placemaking projects in County parks.
- Solidify and expand partnerships and collaborations to improve and maintain parks.
- Promote all parks and reservation facilities to increase revenue and build usership.
- Strengthen financial sustainability of Parks and Recreation.
- Increase recreational opportunities and services at all five Senior Center locations and in all County parks.
- Integrate the goal to improve regional health and wellness into parks and community planning.
- Develop forestry management, conservation, and invasive species plans for all parks.
- Assess and develop a plan to make all County parks as ADA-accessible as possible.
- Explore opportunities for bringing cultural events to County parks.
- Explore potential for developing and/or leasing Birmley-Keystone property.
- Continue to partner with TART Trails, Grand Traverse Conservation District, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and other entities to provide further County-wide connectivity through non-motorized and multi-modal trails.

Action Plan

Civic Center Park

Project: Campbell Community Playground, Phase II

Status: Constructed in May 2017, Campbell Community Playground was a nearly-three-year undertaking, funded by private donations and an MEDC-match, following a Patronicity on-line crowdfunding campaign. The 10,000-square-foot, \$172,000 playground was built by over 170 volunteers. In 2018, Parks and Recreation is working toward enhancing the play structure with additional ADA universally accessible components and more accessible surfacing as part of a Phase II project.

Partners for Phase II: Disability Network for planning; community for the build

Funding for Phase II: Private donors; grants

Project: Develop a dog park

Status: When funds become available.

Potential Partners: Local veterinarians; Health Services Department; DEQ

Potential Funding: Grants

Project: Transform old Probate Court facility into usable, rentable space

Status: Facility is located in Civic Center Park and used for storage. In 2018, Parks and Recreation staff will pursue this project.

Potential Partners: Facilities Management Department; Grand Traverse Bay YMCA.

Potential Funding: Parks and Recreation budget; Facilities Management personnel budget; future rent.

Project: Increase use of Howe Arena through marketing to produce revenue to put back into arena maintenance; replace bleachers

Status: Target marketing efforts already underway; no funding to replace bleachers

Potential Partners: Centre I.C.E.

Potential Funding for Bleachers: Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority grant; other grants; private donations

Project: Re-roof and paint picnic shelter to increase its use and generate more revenue; pave dirt parking lot north of the shelter

Status: On list of improvements for 2018

Potential Partners: Facilities Management and Traverse Bay Intermediate School District Career Tech Center; local home improvement businesses

Funding: Facilities Management personnel budget; Parks and Recreation budget; private donations

Project: Build pickleball courts

Status: This project is on hold due to lack of funding.

Potential Partners: Grand Traverse Bay YMCA

Project: Clean up and repair or tear down Pugsley Building and landscape area surrounding it

Status: This building, used for County storage, is an eyesore, in disrepair. Pending approval of a proposal from Norte! Youth Cycling Group, which wishes to use the space for a bicycle repair shop and storage, this project will begin in spring 2018.

Potential Partners: Norte! Youth Cycling

Potential Funding: Norte!'s donated time and materials; private donations; grants

Project: Repair and clean up amphitheater; promote for more cultural affairs events

Status: Located in a gorgeous corner of the Civic Center, the amphitheater is underused. It could bring more revenue and a different group of users to the Civic Center. This project will begin spring 2018.

Staff will meet with local theater company first quarter 2018 about potentially offering its summer productions at the amphitheater. Concerts in the park also are being explored.

Potential Partners: Facilities Management; Norte!; local arts organizations

Potential Funding: Facilities Management personnel budget; Parks and Recreation's budget; local arts organizations; grants

Project: Make the 45-acre Civic Center safer for users

Status: Funding for surveillance camera upgrades and additions was received from two two-percent grants from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, one in 2015 and one in 2016, for Phases I and II of this project. Phase I was completed in 2016, and Phase II will be completed in spring 2018. Phase II includes new surveillance cameras to be installed in the southeast quadrant of Civic Center Park, where the new 10,000-square-foot Campbell Community playground was built in spring 2017. Additionally, in 2018, staff will meet with City Police to develop and memorialize a plan to better address ongoing safety issues such as alcohol and drug use in the park, individuals who "camp" overnight, vandalism, and more.

Partners: Parks and Recreation staff, police, and park users who continue to act as "ambassadors" for this park.

Project: Transform Civic Center into an interactive, outdoor pedestrian and cycling safety classroom for youth

Status: Norte! Youth Cycling has proposed that the Civic Center, with its one-mile walking path, soon to be connected to a second segment of the TART-in-Town Trail, become a classroom to help our community's children be safe getting from Point A to Point B in our community, either on foot or on a bicycle. Stop signs will be installed and center lines will be painted on the walking path. Norte! will provide "Safe Routes" programming. Parks and Recreation and Norte! is seeking approval of plan in 2018.

Partners: Norte!; Safe Routes to School; City of Traverse City; TART Trails

Potential Funding: Safe Routes to School programming grant

Project: Plant trees in and landscape northwest quadrant of park; connect TART's "TART-in-Town" trail with Civic Center walking path in that quadrant, for easier access to Front Street sidewalk

Status: The County has never had a forest management plan in place for any of its properties. As a result, many trees are aging and dying, presenting dangers to the public, especially park users. Under a permanent easement agreement with Consumers Energy, 30, dead, dying, diseased, and dangerous trees were removed from property in fall 2017 to accommodate power line upgrades, leaving a blank canvas for reforestation. Also in fall 2017, Parks and Recreation entered into a temporary easement with the developer of project along the northwest property line of the Civic Center, which will result in a graded slope on a portion of the Civic Center property, providing easier access for pedestrians and cyclists in the park.

Committed Partners: Consumers Energy; Northporte Development, LLC; a local tree nursery; Grand Traverse Conservation District

Potential Additional Partners: Botanical Garden Society of Northwest Michigan; Safe Routes to School; Norte!; local sign company

Committed Funding: Northporte Development, LLC (\$10,000 plus landscape design engineering costs); Consumers Energy (tree planting grant program); local tree nursery (will donate 12 trees)

Potential Additional Funding: Private donations; grants

Project: Refurbish Easling Pool

Status: Although under management of the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA, Easling Pool is the only publicly-owned pool in the region, paid for by county tax dollars. To continue to serve the recreational and water safety needs of the community (with only the YMCA's pool, there would not be "enough water to go around), the aging pool must be updated, and long-term maintenance plan put in place. In 2016, following a cost analysis, needs assessment, and state pool operations study, a preliminary design was developed, and overall costs to refurbish the nearly-50-year-old facility were determined. In August 2017, Friends of Easling Pool citizens' group officially launched a public fundraising campaign to refurbish Easling Pool. Over half of the funds necessary have been raised. Project is anticipated to be completed over two/three weeks' time in summer 2018.

Committed Partners: Friends of Easling Pool citizens' group; Grand Traverse Bay YMCA; Facilities Management

Committed Funding: Project cost is \$625,000. So far, \$380,000 has been raised through private donations and grants from organizations such as Rotary Charities of Traverse City, the Biederman Foundation, and the Grand Traverse Region Community Foundation.

Additional Potential Funding: Additional grants and private donations.

Project: Install an adult fitness playground.

Status: With Phase I of the Campbell Community Playground completed, a nearby site has been identified for an adult fitness playground to complement it. In 2018, Parks and Recreation staff will work with playground vendors to research options and determine cost.

Potential Partners: Senior Center Network; senior advocate organizations; Disability Network; Grand Traverse Bay YMCA

Potential Funding: A \$1,000 donation toward the project has already been received; grants and private donations

Power-Bassett Islands

Project: Build two rustic cabins

Status: The Power Island business plan calls for the addition of four Adirondack shelters to be constructed to accommodate more campers. Based on research by Parks and Recreation staff and public demand, the Parks and Recreation Commission instead supports the construction of small, rustic cabins on Power Island. Parks and Recreation staff is working on a plan with Facilities Management and to locate a portable sawmill and transport it to the island in spring 2018 to build two rustic cottages for rent. Either purchased, transported lumber, or lumber from fallen trees on the island will be used, and the Power Island Ranger will oversee the project.

Potential Partners: Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District Career Tech Center; local home improvement businesses and stores

Potential Funding: Donations; Parks and Recreation budget

Project: Add dock and develop pavilion

Status: When funds become available.

Project: Install signs and trail markers

Status: When a partnership is identified and funds become available. Parks and Recreation is researching this project in 2018.

Keystone Soccer Complex

Project: Develop plan to add soccer fields and an indoor sports complex

Status: In 2018, Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS) will present a plan for adding soccer fields and for the potential use of the neighboring Birmley-Keystone property.

Partners: TBAYS and other recreation organizations as potential users of fields and a new facility

Potential Funding: TBAYS

Natural Education Reserve

Project: Establish a new river access upstream from location of former Boardman Dam to allow paddlers to exit the river before reaching the active Sabin Dam removal construction zone

Status: Location identified. Installation prior to spring 2018.

Partnerships: Conservation District

Committed Funding: Two percent grant from Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

Project: Develop post-dam-removal recreation plan that includes bottomland trails and river access sites

Status: In 2018, Parks and Recreation will work with Conservation District and other stakeholders to develop plan to be considered by Parks and Recreation Commission.

Partners: Conservation District; TART Trails; Garfield Township

Funding: Grants to execute plan.

Twin Lakes Park

Project: Relocate North Twin Lake's beach

Status: Following three drownings in North Twin Lake, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted to move the beach north of its current location. Department staff have consulted with an engineering firm about the cost to develop a plan to move the beach, and it is anticipated that a plan will be developed in 2018.

Partnerships: Disability Network; DEQ

Potential Funding: Apply for grants from Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, MDNR, Rotary Charities

Project: Complete Phase II of the Universally Accessible Waterfront Project

Status: Phase II of this project includes replacing the sidewalk along the north and west sides of Gilbert Lodge from the parking lot. Completion of this project will make the sidewalk universally accessible to the lower level of the lodge and the fishing platform installed as part of Phase I of the project.

Partnerships: Disability Network; Facilities Management

Funding: Remaining grant funds awarded to Parks and Recreation for the Twin Lakes Park Universally Accessible Waterfront Project have been identified and will be used to complete the project.

Maple Bay Park and Natural Area

Project: Work with TART Trails to plan the Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail and on plans to designate Maple Bay as a trailhead, once trail is fully approved and built

Status: TART Trails continues to meet and negotiate with townships and land owners. Preliminary trail design developed.

Partnerships: TART Trails; MDOT; townships through which trail will pass.

Funding: Grants

Project: Arrange for portable restrooms to serve the increased usership of Maple Bay Park

Status: Approved for 2018.

Partnerships: N/A

Funding: Parks and Recreation's budget

Project: Execute soil conservation plan

Status: A USDA Soil Conservation Plan for Maple Bay was completed in December 2017. In January 2018, a three-year land management agreement was signed for the farmland at the park to be farmed and maintained using methods and crops most beneficial to wildlife and overall ecological goals, per that plan.

Partners: Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy; USDA; Send Brothers Feed

Funding: N/A

Medalie Park

Project: Make improvements to designate Medalie Roadside Park as a trailhead for Boardman Lake Loop Trail, expected to be completed by 2019

Status: Preliminary design has been developed and grant applications made.

Partnerships: TART Trails

Funding: TBD

Project: Remove dead and dying trees, vegetation, and invasive species; trim trees on an established schedule. Reforest, as necessary

Status: Department working with Conservation District and County-assigned forester to make a plan.

Partnerships: Conservation District

Funding: TBD

Project: Make park safer; eliminate “squatters”, campers, and illegal activities. Work with partners to clean park, provide more programs, and promote park as a safe, watched over recreational destination

Status: In 2018, department will meet with Sheriff’s Department to memorialize a plan to be more present in the park. Rangers will be assigned to check park on a daily basis.

Partnerships: TART Trails; Sheriff’s Department; Conservation District; Logan’s Landing business owners

Funding: N/A

Project: Market the revenue-producing facilities (pavilion) and services (The River Outfitters’ livery and concessions) to maximize their use, bring income to Parks and Recreation, and provide more recreational options to community

Status: Department is aggressively promoting and profiling park, facility, and livery service on social media.

Partnerships: River Outfitters

Funding: Parks and Recreation budget to boost marketing

Project: Make electrical upgrades; increase energy efficiency; add electrical outlets and better lighting to pavilion; run electricity to The River’s “office” location; add solar panels

Status: Improvements will be made spring 2018.

Partnerships: River; Facilities Management

Funding: River has agreed to help fund project, to be negotiated with Parks and Recreation.

Project: Create a safe, nonmotorized connection between the Natural Education Reserve property and Medalie Park, across Airport Road, north to south

Status: Plan yet to be developed.

Partnerships: TART Trails; MDOT; Garfield Township; surrounding property owners; Conservation District; County Road Commission

Funding: TBD

Senior Center Network

Project: Renovate Senior Center

Status: The Senior Center is in the planning stages of a capital campaign to renovate the current building in Traverse City at a cost of \$1.25 million. The 2000 U.S. Census data illustrates that the local population is aging at a rate higher than the national average. This equates to an increasing demand for services for those 50 years of age and older. Membership in the Senior Center averages about 50 new members a month. The number of programs at and users of the Senior Center have long outgrown the building. There are structural and utility concerns, and major renovations are necessary if the use there is to continue. The City and County Commissions have supported the conceptual plan to renovate the current Senior Center building. A feasibility study, funded with a grant from Rotary Charities, determined that the best course of action is to raise funds to improve the current structure. With the addition of Senior Center Network satellite locations in Kingsley, Interlochen, Acme, and Fife Lake, and increased collaborations with local organizations and businesses, it is time to accommodate participation growth.

Partnerships: City of Traverse City will manage the project, because building is City-owned.
Funding: \$413,143 already raised for this project is in the city's treasury. The County has earmarked \$250,000 for the project. Total balance needed, \$663,143, to be raised through private donations and grants.

General Parks and Recreation Projects

Project: Put system in place to track park use

Status: When funds become available.

Potential Partners: TART Trails; Grand Traverse Conservation District; Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

Funding: Grants

Project: Put system in place to take and process on-line reservations

Status: Staff is researching new systems that would be compatible with County's on-line platform.

Partners: Grand Traverse County IT Department

Funding: Parks and Recreation budget

Project: Research and potentially establish millage request for County Parks and Recreation, possibly with other recreation entities; research and potentially establish a park authority to create economies of scale and help community more easily find and engage in parks and recreation activities

Status: In 2017, an ad hoc committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission was appointed to study the potential for a millage and park authority. Committee will meet on a regular basis during the first half of 2018, then make a recommendation to full commission.

Partners: Recreation organization partners

Funding: N/A

Project: Use the PLAN4Health American Association of Planning Project's Health in All Planning Process Toolkit to begin integrating health into parks planning policies so that health outcomes are enriched through improvements to the built environment through "collaboration, community capacity, and civic engagement"

Status: Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee will use plan as a guide when updating the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan in 2018.

Partners: County Health Services Department; Planning Commission; Norte! Youth Cycling; City of Traverse City; Munson Healthcare; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan; Priority Health

Funding: To be determined

Appendix A: 2016-2017 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan



2016-2017 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan

(Approved by Motion of the Parks and Recreation Commission June 16, 2016; to be revised in 2018)

Grand Traverse County Strategy #7

To advance the health and quality of life of the region.

Parks and Recreation Mission Statement

To enhance community and quality of life through people, parks, and programs.

Introduction

The Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan will be developed for each year on an annual basis by the Parks and Recreation Commission during a special planning session, the time and date to be determined by the Commission.

During each year, the Commission will review and revise the plan, as it deems necessary.

The plan will be comprised of a list of short-term and long-term goals (two years or less), each with assigned measurement or measurements to gauge progress, success, and completion of each goal.

Each goal will be assigned a timeline, an estimated cost (when applicable), and estimated revenue (when applicable).

The Parks and Recreation Director will report the progress of applicable goals during each of the Parks and Recreation Commission's regular meetings. A record of accomplishments will be included in the Minutes of each regular Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting and in the Strategic Plan document (a living document to be updated as goals are revised or met).

Goals

1. Civic Center Master Plan

- ☐ Establish a timeline for completing the goals in the existing Civic Center Business Plan, and implement elements of the plan, funds-permitting.

Measurements: Business Development Team delivers a business plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. Approved plan is presented to the County Board of Commissioners by December 31, 2016. Thereafter, using the Civic Center Business Plan as a guide, Business Development Team monitors progress and follows through, bringing decisions to the Parks and Recreation Commission, as necessary.

- ☐ Continue to monitor and resolve safety issues.

Measurement: Technological improvements (such as additional cameras) are made based on research of potential upgrades. A collaboration among Parks and Recreation staff, police, and park users is formally established and promoted.

2. Power Island

- ☐ Implement elements of Power Island Business Plan, funds-permitting.

Measurement: Using the Power Island Business Plan as a guide, Business Development Team monitors progress and follows through, bringing decisions to the Parks and Recreation Commission, as necessary.

3. Keystone Soccer Complex

- ☐ Solidify or expand nonprofit partnerships to expand soccer fields.

Measurement: Partner with TBAYS and develop plan to add soccer fields and potential structure.

4. Twin Lakes Park

- ☐ Implement elements of Twin Lakes Park Business Plan, funds-permitting.

Measurement: Using the Twin Lakes Park Business Plan as a guide, Business Development Team monitors progress and follows through, bringing decisions to the Parks and Recreation Commission, as necessary.

- ☐ Continue to address and resolve the park's swimming and security issues.

Measurement: Make a plan to relocate beach for consideration by Commission.

5. Maple Bay Park and Natural Area

- ☐ Review Maple Bay Park and Natural Area Master Plan and identify projects and improvements.

Measurement: Commission identifies any necessary and affordable projects or improvements to enhance Maple Bay Park and Natural Area, and works with staff on a plan for implementation.

- ☐ Continue to work with the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy for the care and maintenance of Maple Bay Park and Natural Area.

Measurement: Goals and projects identified in Memo of Understanding with the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy are completed.

- ☐ Explore revenue-producing opportunities at Maple Bay Park and Natural Area.

Measurement: Commission identifies revenue-producing opportunities, and works with staff on a plan for implementation.

6. Keystone-Birmley Property

- ☐ Explore potential for developing and/or leasing property.

Measurement: Plan for developing and/or leasing property is developed, approved by Commission, and implemented by staff.

7. Trails

- ☐ Continue to partner with TART Trails, Grand Traverse Conservation District, and other entities to provide further countywide connectivity through non-motorized and multi-modal trails.

Measurement: Ongoing written and verbal reports from TART Trails and department Director to Commission; opportunities are identified, presented, and considered by Commission.

8. Grants

- ☐ Continue exploring opportunities for grants to fund park projects.

Measurement: Identify parks and projects; make application.

9. Medalie Roadside Park

- ☐ Develop a Business Plan for Medalie Roadside Park in 2017.

In 2017, Business Development Team develops and delivers a business plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. Approved plan is presented to the County Board of Commissioners by December 31, 2017. Thereafter, using the Medalie Roadside Park Business Plan as a guide, Business Development Team monitors progress and follows through, bringing decisions to the Parks and Recreation Commission, as necessary.

10. Cultural Affairs

- ☐ Explore opportunities for bringing cultural events to County parks.

Measurements: Working with the Senior Center Network and community, the scope of Parks and Recreation expands to include cultural events and education at its parks.

11. Senior Center Network

- ☐ Engage in capital campaign with City of Traverse City to renovate Senior Center.

Measurement: \$1.2 million in funds raised, design finalized, and date identified for project to begin.

- ☐ Increase recreational opportunities at all five locations, and in County Parks.

Measurement: Additional recreational programming, based on membership survey, is offered at all locations and at County Parks.

12. General

- ☐ Establish measurable goals for tracking park use.

Measurement: Goals, tools, and technology (such as trail counters) are in place to track park use.

Appendix B: Business Plans

(Presented in the Order of Adoption by Parks and Recreation Commission)

Power Island (2013)

Twin Lakes Park (2014)

Civic Center Park (2015-2016)

Medalie Roadside Park (2017)



We will enhance community and quality of life through people, parks and programs.

Business Planning for Twin Lakes and Power Island
Business Development Team's

Project Planning and Marketing Worksheets

As of December 3, 2013

Four Adirondack Shelters Constructed on Power Island

Prepared by: Jason Jones

Date: 10/03/2013; Revised 12/3/13

Staff Managers: Fred Tank/Jason Jones

Project Description and Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission:

Adding 4 Adirondack shelters (3-sided platform structure for camping, similar to the shelters along the Appalachian Trail) in various locations of interest on the island will provide a different experience than our campgrounds, and will be more appealing to backpackers and other campers, enhancing the quality of life for community members and visitors.

Project Details

1. Date Scheduled/Anticipated Beginning and Completion

Project Start: Spring 2014

Project Completion: Fall 2014

2. Location

Four key areas have been defined for placement of the Adirondack shelters, each for their ecological/scenic locations in the interior of the island.

3. Specific Audience or Target Market

Backpackers, eco-tourists. Typically one to two campers per site. These campers will be more likely to adhere to "Leave-No-Trace" camping ethics.

4. Marketing Techniques Employed

Press releases, advertisement on GTC Parks and Recreation website, promotion on channels 7 and 4 and 29 and 8, Facebook, word-of-mouth, Parks and Recreation Network (specifically the GT Hiking Club, Conservation District, and Land Conservancy) and communication from Parks and Recreation Director.

5. Estimated Costs for the Project

Project: 4 Adirondack Structures

Development Budget

Expenditures

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Materials	\$ 1,000.00	Shelter	4.00	\$ 4,000.00
Paid Labor	\$ 13.18	Hour	160.00	\$ 2,108.80
Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 6,108.80

Revenues

Grants	\$ 2,000.00	Grant	1.00	\$ 2,000.00
Donations				
General Fund Allocation	\$ 1,000.00	Shelter	2.00	\$ 2,000.00
General Fund - Paid Labor	\$ 13.18	Hour	160.00	\$ 2,108.80
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 6,108.80

In-Kind/Other Revenues

Volunteer Labor	\$ 10.00	Hour	1,600.00	\$ 16,000.00
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Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 6,108.80
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 6,108.80
Development Total				\$ -

Operation Budget

Expenditures

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Materials	\$ 100.00	Shelter	4.00	\$ 400.00
Labor	\$ 13.18	Hour/Shelter	80.00	\$ 1,054.40
Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 1,454.40

Revenues

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Grants				
Donations				
General Fund Allocation	\$ 13.18	Hour/Shelter	80.00	\$ 1,054.40
User Fees	\$ 36.04	Res./Shelter	160.00	\$ 5,766.40
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 6,820.80

Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 1,454.40
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 6,820.80
Operations Total				\$ 5,366.40

New Expenditures/Revenues



Five Clustered Campsites Developed on Power Island

Prepared by: Jason Jones

Date: 10/03/2013; Revised 12/3/13

Staff Managers: Fred Tank/Jason Jones

Project Description and Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission:

Adding five (5) campsites to Power Island will allow more members of our community to experience overnight camping there, enhancing the quality of life for community members and visitors.

Project Details

1. Date Scheduled/Anticipated Beginning and Completion

Project Start: Construction in spring 2014

Project Completion: Completion in summer 2014

2. Location

Five clustered sites will be developed on the South East Corner of Power Island

3. Specific Audience or Target Market

Community members, groups of campers (less than 25), scouting groups, boaters

4. Marketing Techniques Employed and the Name of the Person Responsible

Press releases, advertisement on GTC Parks and Recreation web site, channels 7 and 4 and 29 and 8, Facebook, word-of-mouth, communication from Parks and Recreation Director

5. Estimated Costs for the Project

Project: 5 Clustered Campsites

Development Budget Expenditures

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Materials	\$ -	Site	5.00	\$ -
Paid Labor	\$ 13.18	Hour	40.00	\$ 527.20
Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 527.20

Revenues

Grants	\$ -		1.00	\$ -
Donations				
General Fund Allocation	\$ 13.18	Hour	40.00	\$ 527.20
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 527.20

Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 527.20
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 527.20
Development Total				\$ -

Operation Budget Expenditures

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Materials	\$ -	Site	5.00	\$ -
Labor	\$ 13.18	Hour/Shelter	100.00	\$ 1,318.00
Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 1,318.00

Revenues

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Grants				
Donations				
General Fund Allocation	\$ 13.18	Hour/Shelter	100.00	\$ 1,318.00
User Fees	\$ 36.04	Res./Shelter	208.00	\$ 7,496.32
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 8,814.32

Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 1,318.00
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 8,814.32
Operations Total				\$ 7,496.32

New Expenditure/Revenue

Ferry Service to Power Island

Prepared by: Jason Jones

Date: 10/03/2013; Revised 12/3/13

Staff Managers: Fred Tank/Jason Jones

Project Description and Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission:

Adding a ferry service for Power Island will allow more visitors to the island. Within the state only 18percent of homes own a boat. Based on that data, within Grand Traverse County only 15,657 County residents have access to Power Island. According to the Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2.3 million people visit Grand Traverse County each year for recreation (1.2 million overnight, in commercial accommodations).

The ferry service will provide an opportunity for a significant number of community members and visitors to access Power Island, enhancing the quality of life for our community and its visitors.

Project Details

1. Date Scheduled/Anticipated Beginning and Completion

Project Start: Beginning of 2014 camping season

Project Completion: End of 2014 camping season

2. Location

Ferry service would make a round-trip, as necessary, between Power Island and Bowers Harbor. Special arrangements could be made to travel between Clinch Park or Elmwood Township and Power Island.

3. Specific Audience or Target Market

Community members who do not have access to a boat.

4. Marketing Techniques Employed and the Name of the Person Responsible (if applicable)

Press releases, advertisement on GTC Parks and Recreation web site, channels 7 and 4 and 29 and 8, Facebook, word-of-mouth, and communication from Parks and Recreation Director.

5. Estimated Costs for the Project

Project: Ferry Service to Power Island

Development Budget Expenditures

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Materials	\$ -			\$ -
Paid Labor	\$ -			\$ -
Sub Total Expenditures				\$ -

Revenues

Grants				
Donations				
General Fund Allocation				
Sub Total Revenues				\$ -

Sub Total Expenditures	Development of this project is complete. Park Ranger is a registered captain, Power Island Boat has been certified by MDNR for service.	\$ -
Sub Total Revenues		\$ -
Development Total		\$ -

Operation Budget Expenditures

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Materials	\$ 20.60	Trip	49.00	\$ 1,009.40
Labor	\$ 19.77	Trip	49.00	\$ 968.73
Sub Total Expenditures	\$ 40.37	Trip		\$ 1,978.13

Revenues

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Grants				
Donations				
General Fund Allocation	\$ 19.77	Trip	49.00	\$ 968.73
User Fees - First Person	\$ 30.00	Trip	49.00	\$ 1,470.00
User Fees - Second Person	\$ 15.00	Trip	49.00	\$ 735.00
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 3,173.73

Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 1,978.13
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 3,173.73
Operations Total				\$ 1,195.60

New Expenditure/Revenue

Dock Addition and Pavilion Development on Power Island

Prepared by: Alisa Kroupa

Date: 10/16/2013; Revised 12/3/13

Staff Managers: Fred Tank/Jason Jones

Project Description and Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: To provide additional amenities on the island and diversify activities available on the island to members of the public by extending the dock and developing a 50-person picnic shelter/pavilion.

Extend the dock to 100 feet total (by adding 70 feet of dock) for patrons' ease of getting on and off the island and dropping off items. Make dock handicapped-accessible for small children and elderly. Dock will continue to be used for ranger boat and can accommodate future ferry service. New pavilion (either one large or two small) to include grill and picnic tables; slab/sidewalk (concrete and/or flexible, portable plastic Mobi Mat that rolls out and may be stored); and electricity, if feasible.

The dock and pavilion will increase recreational opportunities, thereby attracting a new group of park users, expanding our mission to enhance the quality of life for community members and visitors that may not otherwise visit Power Island.

Project Details

1. Date Scheduled/Anticipated Beginning and Completion

Project Start: Spring 2014

Project Completion: Summer 2014

2. Location

Dock – Current site

Pavilion – Area on southeast section of island with firepit, benches, and trailheads

3. Specific Audience or Target Market

Dock – All island goers. Private transportation companies who would pay to use it.

Pavilion – Scout outings, family reunions, public events, private events, school field trips, and more. Groups such as the Conservation District could hold educational, day-long events so that the groups could learn more about the island.

4. Marketing Techniques

Press releases, advertisement on GTC Parks and Recreation web site, promotion on channels 7 and 4 and 29 and 8, Facebook, word-of-mouth, communication by Parks and Recreation Director.

5. Estimated Costs for the Project

NOTE: There is no electricity available on the island. A portable generator with extremely low wattage is estimated to cost \$500.00 plus fuel. A solar system with a low wattage system starts at approximately \$3,000.00. (Facilities Management provided this information).

Project: Dock and Pavilion**Development Budget****Expenditures**

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Materials - Site Prep	\$ 2,000.00	Lump Sum	1.00	\$ 2,000.00
Materials - Sidewalk	\$ 3.50	sq. ft.	5,864.00	\$ 20,524.00
Materials - Site Furnishings	\$ 11,500.00	Lump Sum	1.00	\$ 11,500.00
Materials - Pavilion	\$ 18,500.00	24' x 24' pavilion	2.00	\$ 37,000.00
Materials - Mobi Mat	\$ 929.00	9'x 60" Section	18.00	\$ 16,722.00
Materials - Dock	\$ 553.00	4'x10" section	18.00	\$ 9,954.00
Paid Labor	\$ 13.18	Hours	96.00	\$ 1,265.28
Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 98,965.28

Revenues

Grants	\$ 48,850.00	Grant	1.00	\$ 48,850.00
Donations				
General Fund Allocation	\$ 48,850.00	Grant Match	1.00	\$ 48,850.00
General Fund - Staff Cost	\$ 13.18		96.00	\$ 1,265.28
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 98,965.28

Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 98,965.28
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 98,965.28
Development Total				\$ -

Operation Budget**Expenditures**

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Materials				\$ -
Labor	\$ 13.18	hour	85.00	\$ 1,120.30
Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 1,120.30

Revenues

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Grants				
Donations				
General Fund Allocation	\$ 13.18	hour	85.00	\$ 1,120.30
User Fees - Pavilion Rental	\$ 110.00	average rental	19.00	\$ 2,090.00
User Fees - Docking Fees		docking fee		\$ -
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 3,210.30

Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 1,120.30
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 3,210.30
Operations Total				\$ 2,090.00

New Expenditure/Revenue

Current Docks at Power Island



Insta-Dock Examples





Proposed Site for Pavilion on Power Island



Signs and Markers Project

Prepared by: Alisa Kroupa

Date: 10/16/2013; Revised 12/3/13

Staff Managers: Fred Tank/Jason Jones

Project Description and Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission:

Two large, historical kiosk signs, one on Power Island with history and photographs and one on Bassett Island with the same. Update trail marker signs, and include some with a map of trail system to show "You are here." Markers now are difficult to understand and many are in poor shape.



Example of Current Trail Marker

Project Details

1. Date Scheduled/Anticipated Beginning and Completion

Project Start: 2014

2. Locations

Throughout the island.

3. Specific Audience or Target Market

All who use the island and as a teaching tool for touring groups. Markers would help hikers and novices.

4. Marketing Techniques

Press releases, advertisement on GTC Parks and Recreation web site, channels 7 and 4 and 29 and 8, Facebook, word-of-mouth, communication from Parks and Recreation Director.

5. Estimated Costs for the Project

Project: Signs and Markers

Development Budget Expenditures

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Materials	\$ 400.00	Kiosk	2.00	\$ 800.00
Paid Labor	\$ 45.00	Hours	80.00	\$ 3,600.00
Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 4,400.00

Revenues

Grants	\$ 400.00	Kiosk	1.00	\$ 400.00
Donations				
General Fund - Materials	\$ 400.00	Kiosk	1.00	\$ 400.00
General Fund - Labor	\$ 45.00	Hours	80.00	\$ 3,600.00
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 800.00

Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 4,400.00
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 800.00
Development Total				\$ (3,600.00)

Operation Budget Expenditures

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Materials				\$ -
Labor	\$ 13.18	Hour	17.00	\$ 224.06
Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 224.06

Revenues

	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Total
Grants				
Donations				
General Fund Allocation	\$ 13.18	Hour	17.00	\$ 224.06
User Fees	\$ -		-	
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 224.06

Sub Total Expenditures				\$ 224.06
Sub Total Revenues				\$ 224.06
Operations Total				\$ -

New Expenditures/Revenues



We will enhance community and quality of life through people, parks and programs.

Parks and Recreation Commission
Business Development Team's

Business Plan for Twin Lakes Park

(FINAL as of December 19, 2014)

Project: Develop and Position Twin Lakes Park as an Event Venue

Description: Update park's facilities and market Twin Lakes Park to expand it as an event venue.

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: Twin Lakes Park is a hidden "gem", featuring unique facilities, a pavilion, a play area, trails, a beachfront, and a multi-purpose field, all of which can accommodate many types of events. This underused, underappreciated, gorgeous property is the best-kept secret in the County. Parks and Recreation's mission is to "enhance community and quality of life through people, parks and programs." Twin Lakes Park can accommodate many types of life-enhancing and community-enhancing personal, professional, and family wellness, educational, and celebratory programs and events – locally and globally. This plan helps position the park as a competitive and exciting option for events and programs within our community.

Details

1. Anticipated Beginning and Completion

Project Start Date: Immediately

Project Completion Date: March 31, 2015

Project Marketing and Maintenance: Ongoing

2. Location: Gilbert Lodge, Twin Lakes Park

3. Specific Audience or Target Market: Engaged couples; families; sports teams; professional organizations; performers; camps; promoters who put on large-scale special events such as festivals, fundraisers, school functions and groups, art fairs, and more.

4. Marketing Plan:

- develop a logo and focus on branding for three years
- build a Twin Lakes Park special events website
- build domain recognition through popular search engines
- hire an event planner to manage and process all requests for weddings and special events and to maintain website
- promote on social media, the Parks and Recreation website
- ensure a presence at one or more bridal shows in the community

- invite area wedding planners and potential customers for a kick-off event at Twin Lakes Park, following cosmetic changes in Gilbert Lodge
- place advertisements in all types of media, budget-permitting

5. Estimated Costs for the Project

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

Initial Capital Outlay

Materials	Units	Cost	Total
Curtains for 10 windows	10 pair	\$100 each plus tax	\$2,500.00
Privacy screens 1	4 screens	\$199 each plus tax	\$ 500.00
Track lighting	14 lights	\$60 each plus tax	\$1,400.00
Dimmer switches	2 switches	\$10 each plus tax	\$ 22.00
Wood runner for ceiling (provided by Facilities Management)			\$ 0.00
Stain	1 can	\$15 to \$25 plus tax	\$ 27.00
Bulletin board	1	\$30 to \$50 plus tax	\$ 53.00
Wall clock	1	\$30	\$ 32.00
New bathroom dividers (find within the County?)			\$ 0.00
Two upholstered chairs (donated from local furniture store)			\$ 0.00
Full-length mirror (donated from local furniture store)			\$ 0.00
End table (donated from local furniture store)			\$ 0.00
Dressing table (donated from local furniture store)			\$ 0.00
Chair for dressing table (donated from local furniture store)			\$ 0.00
Mirror for dressing table (donated from local furniture store)			\$ 0.00
Touch-up paint (Facilities)			\$ 0.00
Wall to separate bride's room from chair/table storage (Facilities)			\$ 0.00
Materials Subtotal			\$4,534.00

Labor/Administration	Units	Cost	
Consulting/create website	8 hours	\$50 per hour	\$ 400.00
Photo shoot	8 hours	\$1,200 per day	\$1,200.00
Facilities Management			
Electricians (2)	8 hours	\$35 per hour	\$ 560.00
Carpenter (1)	16 hours	\$40 per hour	\$ 640.00
Labor/Administration Subtotal			\$2,800.00

TOTAL: Initial Capital Outlay Budget = \$7,334.00

ANNUAL OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE BUDGET

Projected Revenue

Source	Number	Income from Fees	Projected Revenue
Weddings/Events — Using Planner	3	\$3,000 each	\$ 9,000.00
Weddings/Events — Admin Only	7	\$2,000 each	\$14,000.00
2015 Events Already on Books		Varies per facility	\$35,000.00
Total Projected Revenue			\$58,000.00

Projected Expenditures for Operations and Maintenance

Labor/Administration	Units	Cost	Total
Website Hosting	Per year (1 year)	\$96	\$ 96.00
Event Planner Full Use	Per wedding (3 events)	\$1,000	\$3,000.00
Event Planner Admin Only	Per event (7 events)	\$360	\$2,520.00
County Staff Time*	Per hour (50 hours)	\$20 (ave.)	\$1,000.00
Total Projected Expenditures for Operations and Maintenance			\$6,616.00**

*(Promotions, communications, processing fees, building maintenance)

Net Revenue

\$58,000.00 Total Projected Revenue
 -\$ 6,616.00 Projected Expenditures for Operations and Maintenance
-\$ 7,334.00 Initial Capital Outlay
\$44,050.00 Projected Net Revenue, First Year

Project: Twin Lakes Park Yard Sale

Description: Inventory, clean out, and sell unused items from buildings on park property.

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: This is an underused park, featuring unique facilities, a pavilion, a play area, trails, a beachfront, and a multi-purpose field, all of which can accommodate many types of events. A park sale will increase marketing and exposure of the park, and engage the community in a positive and productive manner.

Details

1. Anticipated Beginning and Completion

Project Start Date: Immediately

Project Completion Date: May 30-31, 2015

Project Marketing and Maintenance: All of April and May 2015

2. Location: Twin Lakes Park Grounds

3. Specific Audience or Target Market: All community members.

4. Marketing Plan: Use social media with on-line and Internet classified advertising, plus word-of-mouth and signage.

5. Estimated Costs for the Project

Inventory:	40 hours at \$11.75 per hour – rangers
Cleaning/moving:	20 hours at \$11.75 per hour – rangers/volunteers
Setting up:	Volunteers
Sales force:	Volunteers
Promotions:	2 hours at \$15 per hour
<u>Transporting donations, post-sale:</u>	<u>2 hours at \$35 per hour – Facilities Management</u>
TOTAL Estimated Costs = \$805.00	

6. Estimated Revenue for the Project: Unknown until inventory is taken and items priced.

7. Revenue Goal: \$2,000.00 goal - \$805.00 estimated costs = \$1,195.00 net revenue

8. Marketing Exposure: Priceless



We will enhance community and quality of life through people, parks and programs.

Parks and Recreation Commission
Business Development Team's

Business Plan for Civic Center Park

December 2016

Introduction

Goals: For Civic Center Park to better serve community; bring more activity and events to property.

Description: Update Civic Center Park's facilities and add facilities, then market the revenue-producing facilities to maximize their use, bring income to Parks and Recreation, and provide more recreational options to community.

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director; Alisa Kroupa, BDT Chair

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: The Grand Traverse County Civic Center Park is a destination, and our community's "Central Park." This 45-acre property is an urban oasis in Traverse City, featuring lush, green spaces, a walking track, indoor swimming pool, outdoor amphitheater, skate park, pavilion, ice arena, basketball courts, ball fields, and more. The Civic Center attracts between 700,000 and one million visitors each year, proof that the power of parks is tremendous. People from all walks of life recreate at the Civic Center, indoors and outdoors. It is in use all year long. The mission of county Parks and Recreation is to **"enhance community and quality of life through people, parks and programs,"** which is tied to the Grand Traverse County Commission's strategic goal to "enhance the health and quality of life of the region." The Civic Center Business Plan enhances and builds upon existing green spaces, facilities, and amenities in the park to expand our community's connection to and appreciation for this multi-use property.

Business Plan Start Date: Immediately

Completion Date: Ongoing

Location: Civic Center Park, 1213 W. Civic Center Drive, Traverse City, Michigan 49686

Specific Audience or Target Market: Active individuals, regardless of age.

Marketing Plan

- Work closely with frequent user groups and park partners to cobrand and comarket events and facilities.
- Use the county parks' website and Facebook page to promote events and projects at the Civic Center, and to provide daily list of what's happening at the park.
- Promote on social media, the Parks and Recreation website.
- Advertise using all media, budget-permitting.

Project: Campbell Community Playground

Description: Build new playground

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: The former Kids Kove playground at the Civic Center was a great source of pride and joy, much beloved by our community. After 18 years of enjoyment by families and children of all ages, on October 1, 2014, the playground was closed after elevated levels of arsenic were detected in the soil, and an independent certified playground safety inspector found the structure non-compliant with current national safety standards. The structure was removed starting in May 2015. Kids Kove had served its community well, creating fond memories for countless families. The Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Department immediately committed to building a new, safe, accessible, unique playground structure at the Civic Center. Early in 2016, the Parks Department surveyed the community about design, theme, components, wishes, and wants for a new playground. A new playground design resulted from a collaborative community effort, based on the collective desire to bring a safe, inclusive, and family-centered structure again to our region. The Parks Department engaged in an on-line fundraising campaign for the new playground late summer 2016, and reached its \$50,000 goal on August 31, 2016, and subsequently received a matching grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for the project.

Project Start Date: Last week in April 2017 or first week in May 2017

Project Completion Date: May 8, 2017

Maintenance: At least \$10,000 will be set aside for maintenance

Location: Southwest quadrant of Civic Center Park

Specific Audience or Target Market: All community members

Marketing Plan: Market on all media between January 2017 until ribbon cutting; cold-call potential donors for excavation and poured-in-place costs; reach out to potential community build participants; develop donor board to be displayed on site.

Estimated Costs for the Project: \$150,000 to \$200,000 for equipment, excavation and site preparation; ground covering (either poured-in-place and/or manufactured chips); tree-trimming; dumpsters for equipment packaging; maintenance fund; and food for volunteers.

Project: Dog Park

Description: Build a new dog park

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: A dog park will provide a place for dog owners to socialize and recreate. Many patrons use the track around the Civic Center to walk their dogs. A dog park will enhance dog owners' experience at the park, and attract new patrons.

Project Start Date: Summer 2017, budget-permitting

Project Completion Date: Summer 2017

Maintenance: Funds to be set aside for maintenance

Location: Northeast quadrant of Civic Center

Specific Audience or Target Market: Pet owners and dog walkers

Marketing Plan: Use all media to promote and raise funds; hold ribbon-cutting ceremony; promote to all pet-related businesses in community.

Estimated Costs for the Project: \$6,000 for fencing; site preparation; running a water line to area; purchasing and installing bag dispensers.

Project: Old Probate Court Facility

Description: Empty out, clean, and transform old Probate Court facility into usable, rentable space.

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: This space could serve as a meeting and classroom space for the community, and earn revenue for Parks and Recreation.

Project Start Date: 2017

Project Completion Date: 2017

Maintenance: Maintenance costs to be included in county budget each year.

Location: Northwest quadrant of Civic Center

Specific Audience or Target Market: Business community; YMCA; small event organizers; Senior Center Network.

Marketing Plan: Use all media to promote, once space is ready to rent.

Estimated Costs for the Project: \$2,000 for staff time to clean and paint space; paint; and cleaning materials.

Project: Sector Building

Description: Clean out and transform old sector space

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: Once cleaned out and painted, the space can be used by Norte'! to house its office and bike repair shop, becoming a place where children and parents can meet after school, socialize, and learn. Norte's presence will bring more life to the Civic Center, promote the national and state Safe Routes to School program, and encourage health, wellness, and safety among children. The Civic Center is uniquely positioned to serve as a hub for families and children walking and biking to and from the nearby schools. The space will bring revenue in for Parks and Recreation.

Project Start Date: December 2017

Project Completion Date: December 2017

Maintenance: Maintenance costs to be included in county budget each year.

Location: Southeast quadrant of Civic Center

Specific Audience or Target Market: Our community.

Marketing Plan: Norte'! is a Parks and Recreation partner. Both will cobrand and comarket using all media, especially social media. Both will participate or be represented at each other's public events, whenever possible. Cobranded signage will be placed near the Sector Building, thereby informing the public of the partnership and the office's location.

Estimated Costs for the Project: \$100 for Park Ranger's time moving items out of space.

Revenue: \$250 per month for one year, payable to Parks and Recreation = \$3,000, + \$1,000 clean-up fee payable to Facilities Management = \$4,000 total.

Project: Native American Marker Tree

Description: Clean up area around tree to honor its rich historical significance.

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: We are fortunate to have this historical marker at the Civic Center. Cleaning up the area and providing educational signage, benches, and landscaping will give our community a place to meet, greet, reflect, and learn. It will serve as a place where, each year, a Native American awareness event can take place.

Project Start Date: Fall 2015

Project Completion Date: Spring 2017 (Following landscaping by TBAISD students and the purchase and installment of a bench near tree)

Maintenance: Staff time to repair any broken fencing; mowing; periodic trash removal; pruning tree, if and when necessary.

Location: Northeast quadrant of Civic Center

Specific Audience or Target Market: Our community

Marketing Plan: Dedication ceremony held October 25, 2016; all media used to promote throughout 2016.

Cost for the Project: A total of \$9,931 has been spent on this project. Parks and Recreation received a grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for \$6,937, which funded the majority of the following: new fence, grass seed, relocating ballfield dust bins, and Facilities Management staff time to install the fence and seed the area. Parks and Recreation spent \$2,994 for some of the work described above, for Native American Marker Tree expert consulting fees, for the stone etched with educational messaging, and gifts for the Tribal members who participated in the dedication ceremony. In 2017, budget-permitting, Parks and Recreation will purchase a bench to be placed near the tree.

Project: Indoor Concession Stand

Description: Clean and paint indoor concession stand

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: The concession stand is outdated and unremarkable. Painting and cleaning it will showcase the food being served and update its appearance, making it more family friendly and noticeable. The result will be a space of which we can be proud.

Project Start Date: January 2017

Project Completion Date: January 2017

Maintenance: This space needs new equipment. A request for proposals for vendors to bring in their own equipment could be made. Or, Parks and Recreation can apply for grants to fund new equipment. In the meantime, the Pizza Wagon is leasing the space until April 2018.

Location: Civic Center Building

Specific Audience or Target Market: Our community

Marketing Plan: Parks and Recreation and the Pizza Wagon are partners. In 2017, both entities will cobrand promotions in all media and through signage to let the public know there is a place to purchase food. Pizza Wagon will set a more consistent schedule that can be marketed to the public.

Estimated Costs for the Project: \$300 for paint. Exterior will be a mural designed by local artist Charley Murphy and painted by volunteers from the Senior Center Network. Up to \$1,000 will be spent for either Facilities Management or a subcontractor to paint the interior of the concession stand. Total = \$1,300.

Project: Howe Arena

Description: Increase use of Howe Arena through marketing to produce revenue to put back into arena maintenance; replace bleachers.

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: The arena at the Civic Center is underused when not occupied by Centre I.C.E. It could be used for more meetings, camps, day care, shows, etc., serving a need in the community and beyond.

Project Start Date: January 2017

Project Completion Date: Ongoing

Maintenance: Except for new bleachers, regular arena upkeep costs would apply.

Location: Civic Center Building

Specific Audience or Target Market: Community and statewide

Marketing Plan: Use all media, especially *Ticker* and Facebook ads to promote space for rent.

Estimated Costs for the Project: \$500 for promotions; \$200,000 for new bleachers.

Project: Picnic Shelter and Parking Lot Improvements

Description: Re-roof and paint Picnic Shelter to increase its use and generate more revenue; pave dirt parking lot north of the shelter.

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: Parks' mission is to "enhance community and quality of life through people, parks, and programs." The picnic shelter is in an area of the park that could and should be more used by our community. The new nearby playground will make the shelter even more appealing for family parties and community gatherings. The pavilion is in disrepair and used by homeless individuals at night. Cleaning, repainting, and repairing it will show that we are proud of this facility. It also will bring more users and more revenue.

Project Start Date: 2017-2018

Maintenance: Maintenance costs should be included in regular county budget each year.

Location: Southwest quadrant.

Specific Audience or Target Market: Community and beyond

Marketing Plan: Use all media to promote for rent.

Estimated Costs for the Project: \$10,000 to pave parking lot, replace shelter roof, purchase paint, and pay staff or subcontractor to paint.

Project: Outdoor Pickleball Courts

Description: Build pickleball courts, possibly in area of former Kids Kove playground.

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: According to the YMCA and the Senior Center Network's statistics, pickleball is becoming one of the most popular sports among all ages. There are not enough tennis courts or pickleball courts to serve our community. Some pickleball courts at the Civic Center would greatly expand recreational opportunities and venues in our community, and revenue could be generated for their use.

Project Start Date: 2017-2018

Maintenance: Maintenance costs would come from any fundraising endeavor, with an amount set aside for annual maintenance into perpetuity.

Location: Southeast quadrant.

Specific Audience or Target Market: Community and beyond

Marketing Plan: Use all media to promote fundraising period, construction, ribbon-cutting, then availability for use and rent.

Estimated Costs for the Project: \$140,000

Project: Pugsley Building

Description: Clean up and repair or tear down Pugsley Building and landscape area.

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: An eyesore, this building could be cleaned and repaired for use as a cultural affairs center and unique meeting space/gallery. It could be rented for revenue. Or, it could be torn down and the area used for another purpose.

Project Start Date: 2017-2018

Maintenance: Following improvements, maintenance costs could be built into county budget each year.

Location: Northeast quadrant of Civic Center

Specific Audience or Target Market: Community and beyond

Marketing Plan: To be determined, depending on nature of project.

Estimated Costs for the Project: \$50,000 to re-roof, repair, and clean building inside and out. \$100,000 to tear down, remove debris, and landscape area.

Project: Amphitheater

Description: Repair and clean up amphitheater

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: The amphitheater is rarely used, and has great potential to be a venue for entertainment and cultural events. Like the pavilion, it is in disrepair and used by homeless individuals at night. Cleaning, repainting, and repairing the amphitheater will show that we are proud of this facility. Marketing it will bring more users, more revenue, and bring cultural events and opportunities that will expand services to the community.

Project Start Date: Spring 2017

Project Completion Date: Spring 2017

Maintenance: Start setting aside funds from rental revenue for annual maintenance into perpetuity.

Location: Southeast quadrant of Civic Center

Specific Audience or Target Market: Our community, theater companies, musicians, and other performers.

Marketing Plan: Use all media to promote its availability. Work with event planner to establish a summer concert series

Estimated Costs for the Project: \$2,000 for paint and staff or subcontractor time to paint, clean, and make structural repairs.



We will enhance community and quality of life through people, parks and programs.

Parks and Recreation Commission Business Development Team's



Business Plan for Medalie Roadside Park December 2017

Introduction

Subject Park: Medalie Roadside Park, 1910 South Airport Road, Traverse City, Michigan 49686

Description and History: Acquired from the County Road Commission in 1990, this 15-acre park is located on the south end of Boardman Lake, which connects to TART Trails' East Boardman Lake Trail. It features a picnic shelter with electricity, parking, three overlooks/fishing platforms along the Boardman River, and a canoe launch site.

Business Plan Goals: Better serve the community; bring more activity and events to the park; create a safer, more accessible, cleaner park environment; protect natural environment and habitats.

Projects Related to Business Plan Goals:

1. Designate Medalie Park as a Boardman Lake Loop Trailhead.
2. Develop and implement a tree and invasive species management program; fill in holes and valleys on lawn and in medians.
3. Make park safer, more accessible, and cleaner.
4. Market the park; market the pavilion as a rental facility and the livery vendor's services to generate more revenue for Parks and Recreation.
5. Make electrical upgrades; increase energy efficiency.
6. Change name of park to better reflect activities there.

Business Plan's Relevance to Parks and Recreation Commission's Mission: The mission of county Parks and Recreation is to "enhance community and quality of life through people, parks and programs." Projects at Medalie Roadside Park will expand our community's connection to and appreciation for this multi-use property and surrounding trails. The mission of the Senior Center Network is to "make longer lives, better lives."

Parks and Recreation Partners: Conservation District, TART Trails, Logan's Landing businesses, the River Outfitters (livery and concession vendor), Traverse City Roller Derby (programming), Crystal Bindi Studios (programming), Norte! (programming), Grand Traverse Bay YMCA (programming and pool management); City of Traverse City; Garfield Township; Centre I.C.E., Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS), Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Consumers Energy.

Marketing Plan for All Projects

- Partnerships and collaborations: Work closely with frequent user groups and partners to cobrand and comarket parks, park events, and pavilion.
- Internal resources: Use the county parks' website, social media, and the *Parks, People, and Programs* newsletter, to promote events, projects, and services at park.
- Cast a wide net: Advertise using all media, frequently, budget-permitting.

Business Plan Start Date: Immediately.

Business Plan Completion Date: Ongoing. Projects will be completed as funds become available.

Specific Audience or Target Market for All Projects: Grand Traverse County residents and visitors of all ages.

Project 1: Designate Medalie Roadside Park as Boardman Lake Loop Trailhead.

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Description: Make improvements to designate Medalie Roadside Park as a trailhead for Boardman Lake Loop trail, expected to be completed by 2019.

Location: Entire park.

Project Partners: TART Trails, City of Traverse City, Nottola, Garfield Township, Conservation District, Logan's Landing businesses, the River Outfitters, Facilities Management.

Start Date: January 2018.

Completion Date: 2019.

Estimated Engineering Design Costs: \$89,550 (includes oversight of project by engineers)

Funding Sources: \$15,000 received by Parks and Recreation in January 2017 from Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to be applied to engineering design costs. The balance of engineering design costs will be paid from TART Trails.

Estimated Costs for Actual Project: Between \$50,000 and \$100,000

Proposed Improvements and Desired Outcomes:

- Site restoration, rain garden, and plantings
- Shoreline stabilization
- Fishing deck
- Kayak launch
- Irrigation
- Restroom and site lighting
- Reconfigured parking
- Restroom upgrades
- Accessible bridge over river, connecting East Boardman Lake Trail to Medalie Park

Funding Sources: Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Recreation Passport grant application for \$50,000. MDNR notification expected in December 2017. Coastal Zone Management grant application for \$100,000 to be submitted by December 15, 2017.

Additional Funds Needed: At least \$5,000 in a park maintenance fund.

Project 2: Develop and implement a tree and invasive species management program; level parkland by filling in holes and gullies.

Staff/Commissioner Assigned: Kristine Erickson, Director

Description: Remove dead and dying trees, vegetation, and invasive species; trim trees on an established schedule. Reforest, as necessary.

Location: Entire park.

Project Partners: Conservation District, County's Forester Kama Ross, Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network, the River Outfitters, Facilities Management.

Start Date: This project began with park rangers and Facilities Management staff in summer 2017.

Completion Date: Ongoing.

Estimated Costs for Project: \$10,000, minimum.

Proposed Improvements and Desired Outcomes:

- Remove dead and dying trees.
- Trim trees.
- Remove brambles and scrub trees inhibiting shoreline views.
- Fill in holes and gullies in medians and on lawn.
- Restore beauty to entire property.

Funding Sources: Apply for reforestation grant and 2percent grant; work with county forester and the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network to identify grant opportunities.

Project 3: Make park safer; eliminate “squatters”, campers, and illegal activities.

Description: Work with partners to clean park, provide more programs, and promote park as a safe, watched over recreational destination.

Location: Entire park.

Project Partners: Conservation District, Garfield Township, County Sheriff’s Department, TART Trail users, Logan’s Landing businesses, park users

Start Date: Immediately

Completion Date: Ongoing.

Estimated Costs for Project: \$3,000 to \$4,000 for Parks and Recreation park ranger hours; \$500 for gate.

Proposed Improvements and Desired Outcomes:

- Bring more programs, trail users, and pavilion users to the park to deter illegal camping and activities and to increase safety, health, and wellness opportunities.
- Promote park as a trailhead; write periodic press releases with emphasis on a cleaned up park; market food service and family friendly atmosphere of park. Partner with Garfield Township to promote all county and township parks.
- Staff park more frequently with Parks and Recreation park rangers; work with TART Trail Ambassadors program to increase eyes and ears in park.
- Enter into official agreement with Sheriff’s Department to patrol property more.
- Clean up and clear out “hiding spots” on property. (See the project to “develop and implement a tree and invasive species management program; level parkland by filling in holes and gullies.”)
- Add a gate.

Funding Sources: Parks and Recreation personnel budget; Parks and Recreation marketing budget.

Project 4: Market the pavilion as a rental facility and the River's services to generate more revenue for Parks and Recreation.

Description: Market the revenue-producing facilities and services to maximize their use, bring income to Parks and Recreation, and provide more recreational options to community.

Location: Entire park.

Project Partners: The River, media contacts, TART Trails, Logan's Landing businesses.

Start Date: March 2018.

Completion Date: Ongoing.

Proposed Improvements and Desired Outcomes:

- Develop marketing plan for pavilion.
- Work with the River to develop a marketing plan for livery and concession services.
- Amend agreement with River to receive a percentage of its concession revenue.
- Include better and more informative signage.
- Advertise on social media.

Signage Suggestions:

Install a new, more visible entry sign.

Install signs along South Airport Road well before the entry to alert drivers. See examples below.



Estimated Costs for Project: \$100 for marketing; \$250 to revamp kiosk.

Funding Sources: Parks and Recreation Medalie Park advertising budget; TART Trails.

History of Pavilion Rentals:

2013: 2
2014: 0
2015: 4
2016: 6
2017: 9

Goals for Pavilion Rentals:

2018: 12
2019: 20
2020: 30

Project 5: Make electrical upgrades; increase energy efficiency.

Description: Add electrical outlets and better lighting to pavilion; run electricity to The River's "office" location; add solar panels.

Location: Pavilion and east side of park.

Project Partners: The River, Facilities Management staff

Start Date: April 2018.

Completion Date: May 2018.

Proposed Improvements and Desired Outcomes:

- Run electricity to River's office.
- Add more outlets to pavilion to accommodate larger user groups.
- Add solar panels to south roof of pavilion to offset electrical costs.

Estimated Costs for Project: \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Funding Sources: The River has offered to pay for upgrades related to its office; Parks and Recreation's budget.

Project 6: Create a safe, nonmotorized connection between the Natural Education Reserve property and Medalie Park, across Airport Road, north to south.

Description: Work with the County Road Commission to create a safe connection between the Natural Education Reserve property and Medalie Park, across Airport Road from north to south.

Location: Between Natural Education Reserve and Medalie Park, across Airport Road.

Project Partners: Road Commission; TART Trails

Start Date: 2019

Completion Date: Uncertain

Proposed Improvements and Desired Outcomes:

- Research infrastructure in other communities, then consult with engineers, County Road Commission, and MDOT to develop a plan (bridge, pedestrian walkway with lights, etc.)
- Implement the plan to safely connect the Natural Education Reserve with Medalie Park across Airport Road.

Estimated Costs for Project: Unknown.

Funding Sources: Grants; County Road Commission personnel hours.

Appendix C: Grand Traverse County-City of Traverse City Intergovernmental Agreement for Senior Center Management; 2016 August Millage Proposal for Grand Traverse County Senior Citizen Services

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR SENIOR CENTER MANAGEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made the 1 day of February, 2016, by and between the CITY OF TRAVERSE CITY, a Michigan municipal corporation, of 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan 49684 (the "City") and GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, a Michigan municipal corporation, of 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan 49684 (the "County");

WHEREAS, the City, by and through its Traverse City Senior Center (the "Senior Center") has provided over forty-five (45) years of senior center programming to the citizens of the City of Traverse City and the greater Grand Traverse Area; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to improve the Senior Center and its related facilities identified on Attachment "A," attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, located at 801 E. Front Street, Traverse City, Michigan, which serve the public; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to assist the City in providing, maintaining and improving the services currently being provided to the citizens of the City of Traverse City and Grand Traverse County at the Senior Center and its related facilities; and

WHEREAS, the parties do not wish to dispose of or transfer any interest in the Senior Center and its related facilities, but only allow for the proper operation, management, and staffing of the Senior Center and its related facilities for senior and public programs as set forth in the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement is being entered into pursuant to the Intergovernmental Contracts between Municipal Corporations statute authorized by MCL 124.1, et seq.; and

NOW THEREFORE, the City and County agree as follows:

1. **Management and Operation of the Senior Center.** The County shall conduct the services and oversee the implementation of the plan as described in the Scope of Services and Management Plan, Attachment "B," attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. This Agreement does not grant exclusive use of any part of the Senior Center to the County, but recognizes that the County will secure its property, equipment, and accounts within designated portions of the Senior Center for its administrative purposes as described on Attachment "C," attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

2. **Senior Center Staffing.** The Senior Center shall be staffed by personnel of the County except the Senior Center's Executive Director shall remain an employee of the City under the direction and supervision of the Director of the County's ~~Commission on Aging~~ ^{Parks & Recreation}. The Senior Center's Executive Director shall follow the County's holiday schedule. The County shall quarterly reimburse the City in an amount equal to the salary and benefits the pay level and classification of that position would receive if the position was a County position. The pay level

that the Executive Director's position would be at within the County is \$45,572.00 in salary and \$22,704.70 in benefits and the classification is Step J. This amount will be adjusted annually in accord with the County's annual pay and benefit adjustments for County employees at the pay level and classification. Should the existing Director leave this position, the new Director will become a County employee.

3. **City Funds.** Except as expressly set forth herein, no expenditure of City funds is authorized by this Agreement.

4. **Period of Performance and Termination.** The obligations under this agreement shall commence on January 1, 2017 and continue through December 31, 2021 (the "Term") and continue for each year thereafter for 5 years. This Agreement may be terminated by either party for fault of the other Party or upon convenience with 120 days' notice following notice of the default or convenience to the other party and the defaulting Party's failure to cure the default within 30 days after receipt of the notice of default.

5. **Coordination of Activities.** The County and the City agree to meet as needed and confer not later than November of each year to review the operation and management of the Senior Center during the term of this Agreement.

6. **Capital Improvements.** "Capital Improvements" means substantial remodeling of or additions to the Senior Center. The County shall not contract for any Capital Improvements to the Senior Center without the express written approval of the City Manager. The County shall contract for and be responsible for the payment for such improvements or repairs. The County agrees to compensate the City for any damage done to Senior Center Park during the construction of any approved improvements or repairs, and further agrees to restore landscaping and other vegetation, which may be disturbed during any such construction, to its normal condition.

7. **Ownership of Improvements.** All improvements or modifications to the Senior Center Building shall belong to the City. However, all trade fixtures, equipment, and personal property related to the activities being provided by the County shall remain the property of the County. The County may accept gifts from donors in support of its activities and for site improvements.

8. **Storage.** The County may store equipment in the Senior Center Building during the term of this Agreement, and the County shall obtain and maintain property insurance on all trade fixtures, equipment, and other personal property brought onto the site. No storage of fuel shall occur on City property, including in vehicles or otherwise, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the City Manager.

9. **Maintenance and Repair.** The City shall, at its expense, maintain the Senior Center and its related facilities in good repair and condition. The City shall also be responsible for repairs of equipment and fixtures located within the Senior Center. The County shall pay to the City the sum of \$45,920.00 per year payable in equal installments of \$22,960.00 semi-

annually (the "Fund") for ongoing maintenance and repair of the Senior Center Building and its related facilities and other costs incurred by the City associated with the Senior Center.

10. **Utilities and Waste Disposal.** The County shall be responsible for all heat and electrical service charges related to the Senior Center Building as well as all charges for phone service and waste disposal.

11. **Signs.** All signs shall conform to the City's Sign Ordinance or other applicable policies.

12. **Independent Contractor.** The relationship of the parties and their employees to each other is that of an independent contractor. The City and County agree to conduct themselves consistent with that status. The City, County, and their employees, officers, or agents will not claim to be an officer, employee, or agent of the other, or make any claim, demand, or application to or for any rights or privileges applicable to any officer or employee of the City or County, including without limitation, workers' compensation coverage, unemployment insurance benefits, social security coverage, or retirement membership or credit. The City and the County shall not be considered to be engaged in a joint venture, partnership, association, or other enterprise between the parties.

13. **Standard of Care.** The County shall perform the work and provide all services in a good and professional manner, and assumes the risk in performing under this Agreement. The City shall be solely responsible for its employees. The County shall be solely responsible and answerable for all improper work, accidents, or injuries to persons or property resulting from actions or negligence of its officers, agents, employees or volunteers. The County specifically represents and agrees that its staff possesses the experience, knowledge, and competence necessary to either provide or oversee construction of the improvements and services required in this Agreement.

14. **Insurance.**

a. **General Liability Insurance.** The County agrees to purchase and maintain general comprehensive liability insurance in an amount of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and with a deductible of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000). Said policy shall name the City of Traverse City as an additionally named insured. Written notification of insurance cancellation shall be provided to the City Clerk of Traverse City 10 days prior to cancellation and the County agrees to maintain such insurance throughout the period of performance of this Agreement. Should any required insurance be cancelled, materially reduced or expired, all activities under this Agreement shall immediately cease until substitute insurance in compliance with all requirements hereof has been procured and evidence thereof presented to the City and the County.

b. **Real Property Insurance.** The City shall maintain real property insurance covering the Senior Center and its facilities during the term of this Agreement.

15. **Indemnification.**

a. The County shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City, its officers and employees, from all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, reasonable attorney fees, and settlement expenses for injury or death of any person, and damage or loss of any property allegedly or actually resulting or arising out of any act, omission, or negligence of the County or its employees, agents, subcontractors, or volunteers, in connection with performing this Agreement to the extent of the insurance limits and deductibles maintained by the City for same. This provision shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

b. The City agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the County, its officers and employees, from all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, reasonable attorney fees and settlement expenses for injury or death of any person, or loss of any property allegedly or actually resulting or arising out of any act, omission, or negligence of the City or its employees, agents, or subcontractors to the extent of the insurance limits and deductibles maintained by the City for same. This provision shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

16. **Workers' Compensation.** The City and County shall maintain workers' compensation on their respective employees to the extent required by Michigan law, and the parties shall provide a certificate of insurance to each other on execution of this Agreement.

17. **Compliance with Regulations.** The County and the City shall comply with all applicable statutes, rules, and regulations of all federal, state, and local governments and agencies having jurisdiction, and bears the risk of any such authorities.

18. **Non-Discrimination.** The County and the City agree not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions or privileges of employment, or a matter directly or indirectly related to employment because of their actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, physical or mental disability, family status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Breach of this covenant may be regarded as a material breach of this Agreement. The County agrees to not discriminate on the above basis in the administration of its programs under this Agreement.

19. **Prohibition against Assignment.** This Agreement is intended to secure the services of the County because of its abilities and reputation, and none of the County's duties under this Agreement shall be assigned, subcontracted, or transferred.

20. **Notice.** Whenever it is provided in this Agreement that a notice or other communication is to be given or directed to the County or the City, it shall be directed to the party at his address as specified in this Agreement, or at such other address as either party may designate by written notification.

21. **Amendments.** This Agreement may be modified, but such modification shall be in writing and signed by the County and the City.

22. **Dispute Resolution.** If any party has a dispute with another regarding the meaning, operation, or enforcement of any provision of this Agreement, the disputing parties agree to meet and confer to negotiate a resolution of the dispute. They further agree as follows:

a. **Mediation.** If they are unable to resolve the dispute themselves and before formally instituting any other dispute mechanism, they shall utilize the services of a mutually acceptable neutral mediator, who meets the qualifications of MCR 2.411, to bring them together in at least one mediation session.

b. **Arbitration.** If they are unable to resolve the dispute through mediation, it shall be decided by final and binding arbitration according to the rules and procedures of Arbitration Services of Northern Michigan, or as otherwise agreed by the parties. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in Circuit Court.

c. **Venue.** All meetings, hearings, and actions to resolve the dispute shall be in Grand Traverse County.

d. **Notice.** Written notice of a dispute shall be given to the other parties not later than 90 days after the occurrence giving rise to the dispute becomes known or should have become known. Negotiations and mediation shall occur within 60 days after such notice. Unless a longer time is agreed upon, arbitration must be demanded within 120 days after such notice and, if not, the claim is deemed waived. Arbitration must be demanded within this time limit even if negotiation or mediation has not occurred, but the arbitrator must require the parties to participate in at least one mediation before issuing an award.

23. **Interpretation.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Michigan, both as to interpretation and performance.


24. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, together with all attachments, constitutes the entire agreement of the County and the City with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement, and there are no valid promises, conditions, or understandings which are not contained in this Agreement. This Agreement supersedes the Interim Intergovernmental Agreements for Senior Center Management authorized by the City on December 6, 2010 and May 11, 2011.

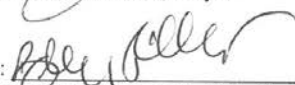
25. **Third Parties.** There are no third-party beneficiaries intended by this Agreement.

26. **Authority to Execute.** The County and the City agree that the signatories appearing below are authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of the respective parties.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the date and year first above written.

CITY OF TRAVERSE CITY


By: 
James C. Carruthers, Mayor

By: 
Benjamin C. Marentette, City Clerk

Approved as to Substance:



Martin A. Colburn, City Manager

Approved as to Form:


Lauren Tribble-Laucht, City Attorney

COUNTY OF GRAND TRAVERSE

By: 
Thomas F. Menzel, County Administrator

By: 
Bonnie Scheele, County Clerk

801 E. Front Street
Traverse City, MI 49686
Phone: 231-922-4911



E-mail and Website:
lwells@grandtraverse.org
www.grandtraverse.org/scn

Making longer lives, better lives.

2016 August Millage Proposal

Language prepared by Grand Traverse County Prosecutor, Robert A. Cooney

Approved by Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners at January 20, 2016 Ways and Means

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES MILLAGE PROPOSAL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

*This proposal will allow Grand Traverse County to continue to provide funds for Grand Traverse County Senior Centers. This proposal is a **renewal** of a previously authorized millage.*

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes that may be levied against all taxable property within Grand Traverse County be renewed and Grand Traverse County be authorized to levy up to and including 0.1 mill (\$0.10 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of seven (7) years beginning 2016 through 2022, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for Grand Traverse County Senior Centers? If approved and levied in full, the millage of 0.1 mill will generate an estimated \$462,053 to for Grand Traverse County Senior Centers when first levied in 2016.

By law, tax increment revenues from this millage will be distributed to governmental units within Grand Traverse County that capture property taxes, which are the City of Traverse City Downtown Development Authority, Grand Traverse County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Village of Kingsley Downtown Development Authority, Village of Fife Lake Downtown Development Authority, and Interlochen Downtown Development Authority.

Appendix D: Parks and Recreation Survey and Responses

(Available on line and hard copies available in Parks and Recreation and Senior Center Network offices from October 16 through December 6, 2017)

Master Plan Survey

Inbox x



Ryan Walsh <rwalsh@grandtraverse.org>

10/16/17 ☆

Reply ▾

to Andy, Cheryl, David, Jeri, John, Lori, Pete, Rod, Rodetta, Shirley, Steve, Ariel, Katelynn, me ▾

Good afternoon Commissioners,

We have started our push for getting community input with our **master plan** survey. We currently have it published on our webpage and on Facebook. We are also working on getting materials together for engaging community members through other methods as well. Kris will have a press release issued shortly, but in the meanwhile we wanted to share the link for the survey, so that you can pass along the information to anyone who may be interested.

Access to the Survey through the main webpage: www.grandtraverse.org/parks

Google Form Link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLStfZfV9fuTWXguwIDRYg-p-RCfn8lgTGdqDV228Y36jbFlu9g/viewform>

***The Google Form link is what must be shared for accessing the survey

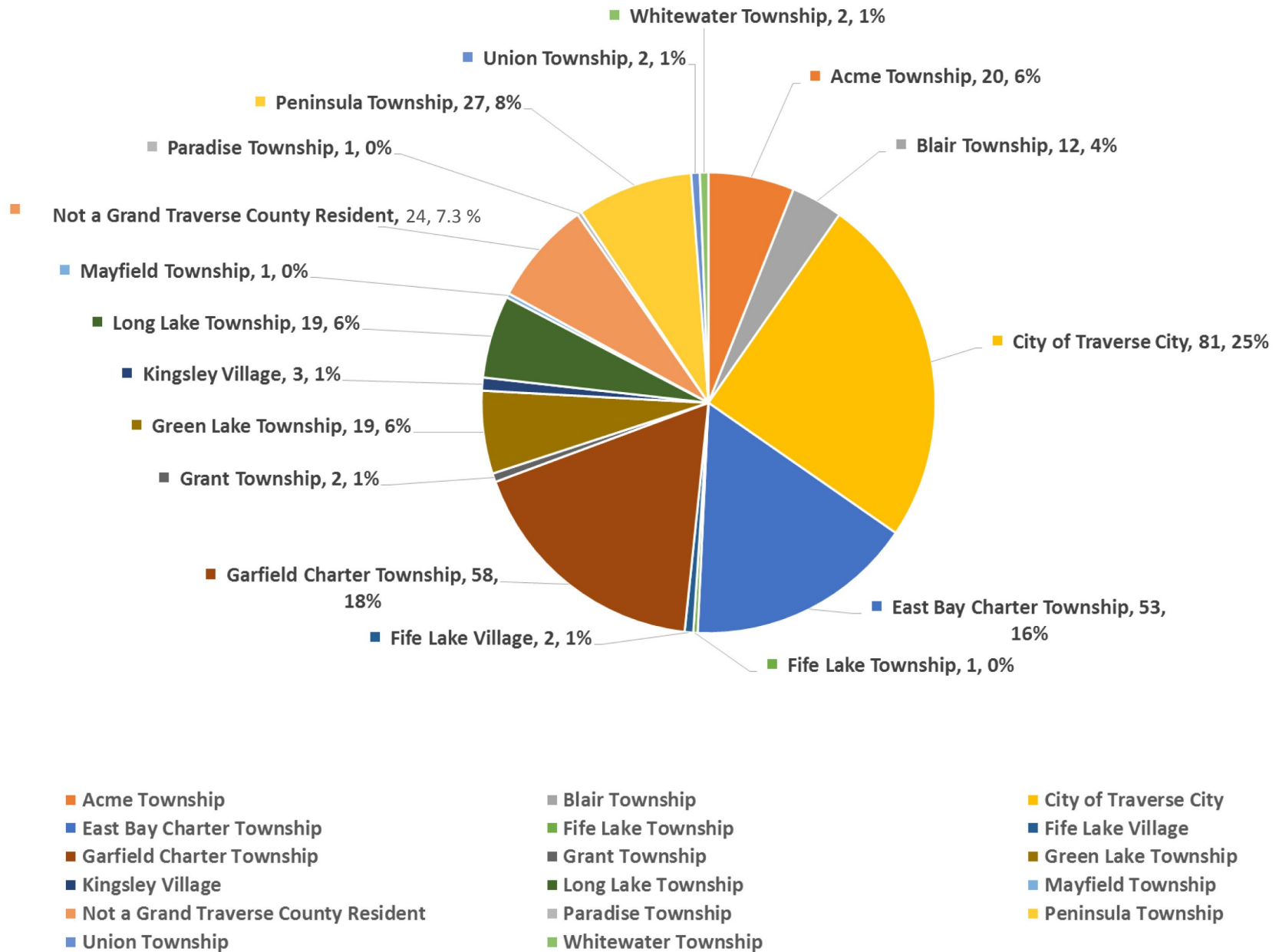
Have a great evening and talk to you soon!

Ryan

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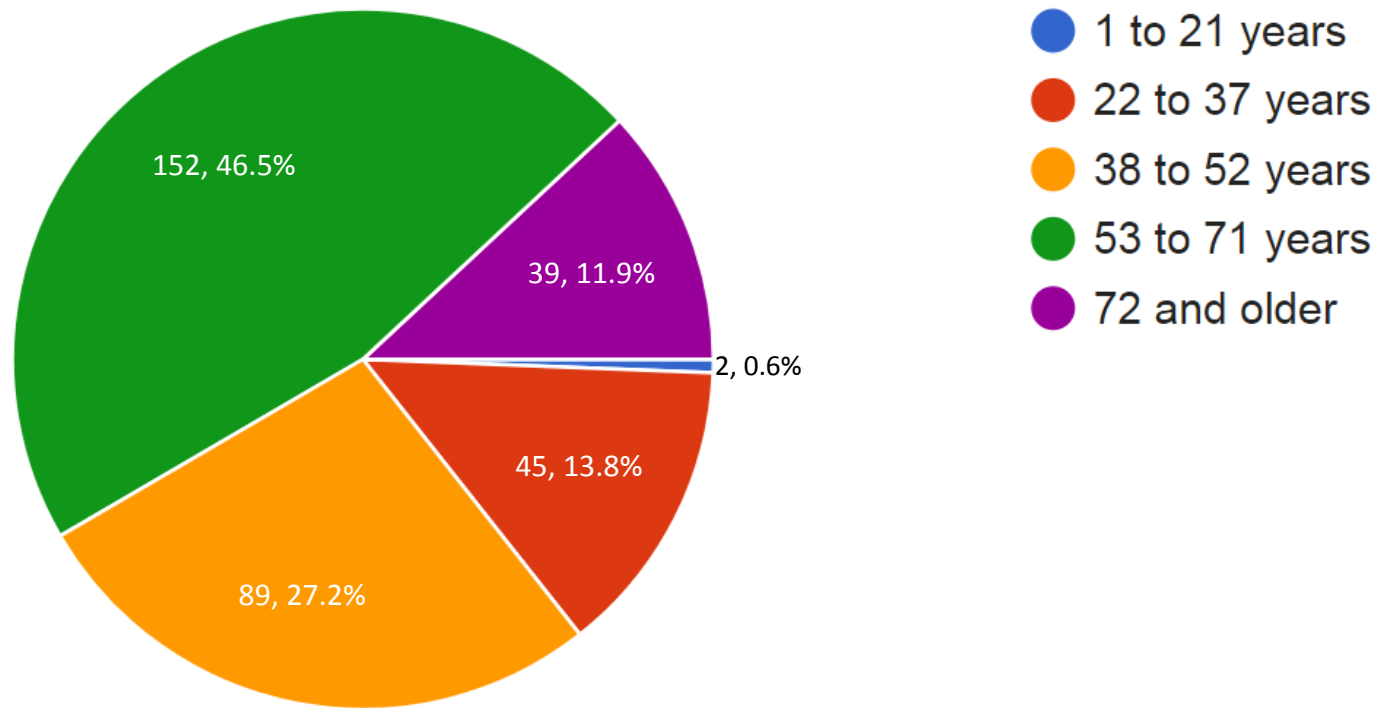
Ryan Walsh, Office Manager
Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department
[1213 W. Civic Center Drive](#)
[Traverse City, Michigan 49686](#)
Phone: 231-922-4803
Fax: 231-922-2064

1. Please select the city/township in which you reside.



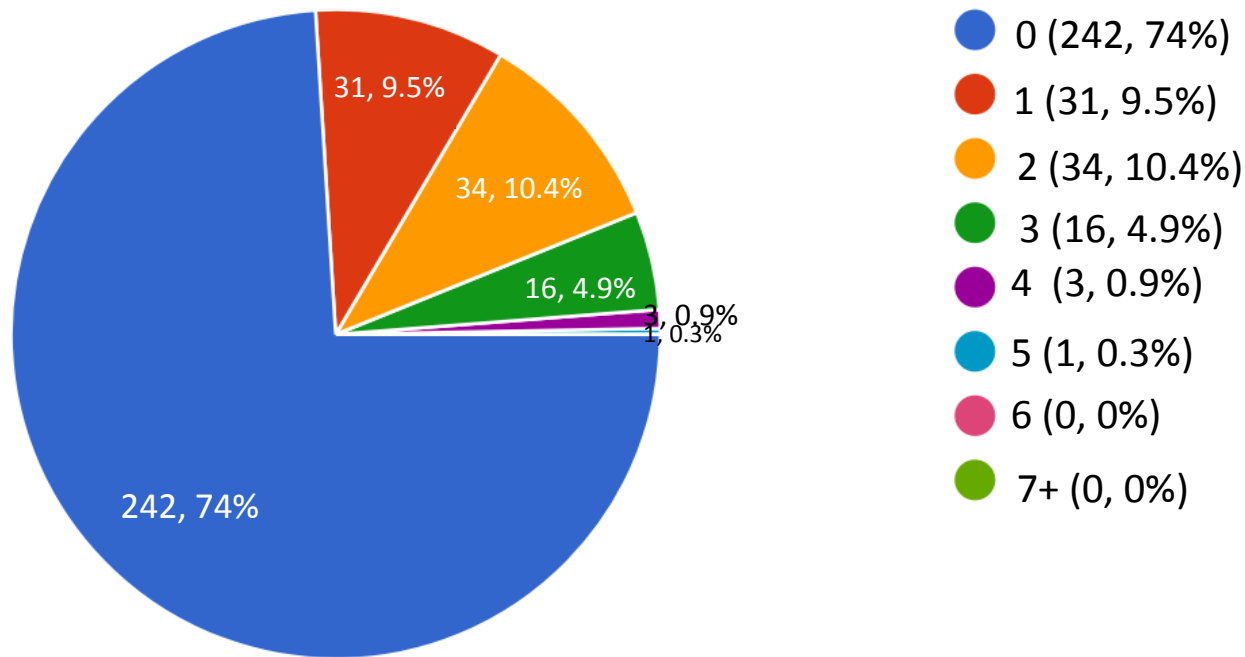
Please select the group representing your age.

327 responses



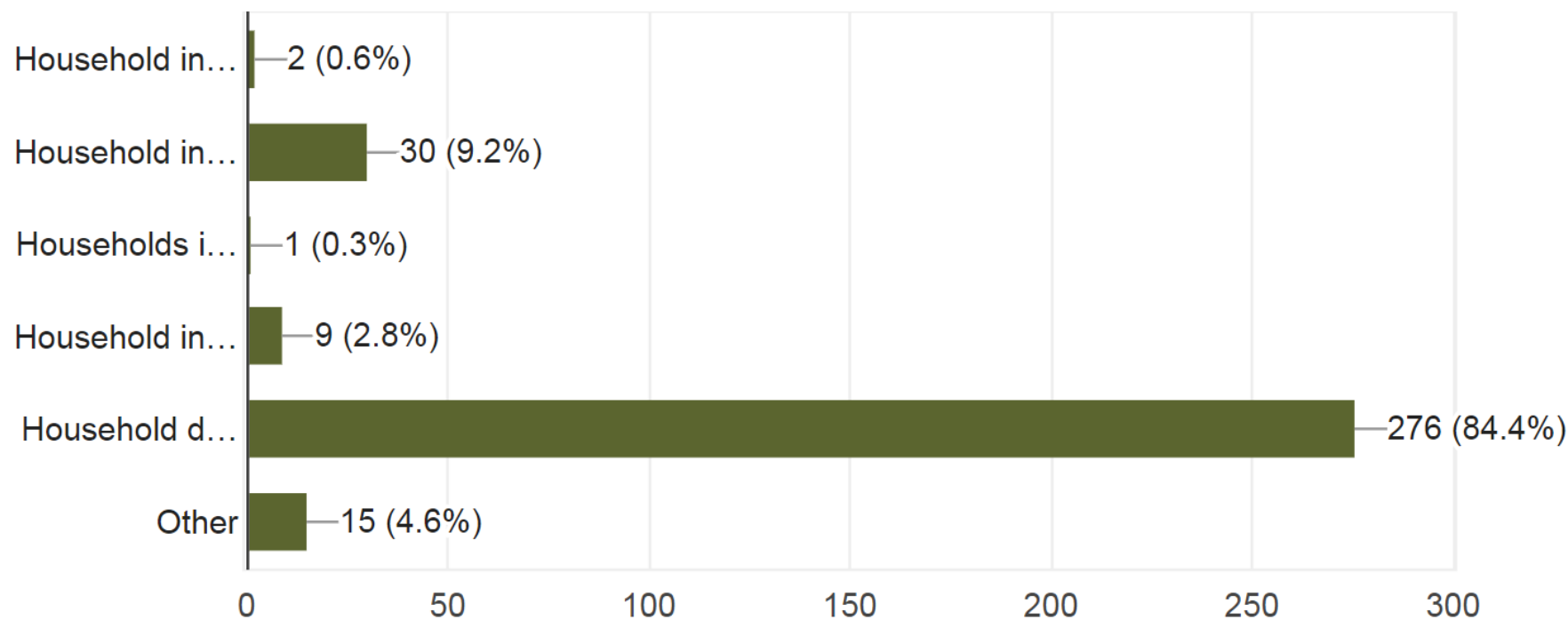
How many children in your household are 17 years of age or younger?

327 responses



Differently abled: This information will help us better serve our population. Please choose all that apply.

327 responses

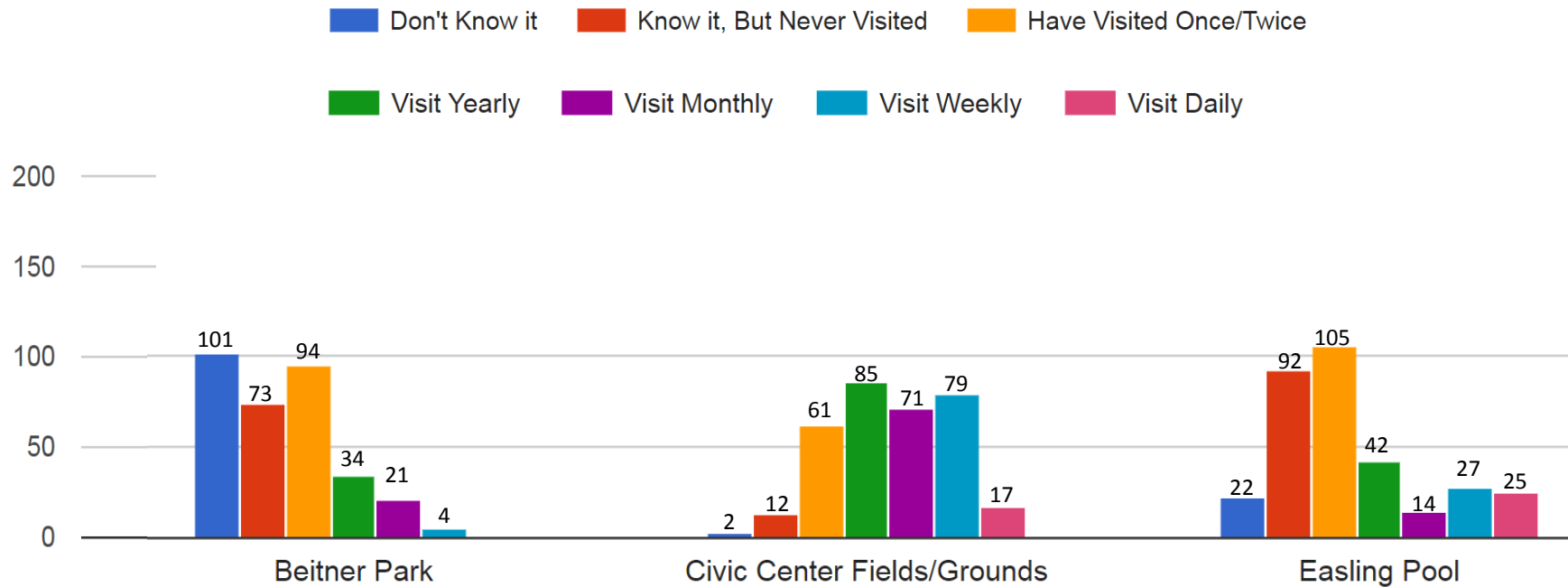


Differently abled: This information will help us better serve our population. Please choose all that apply.

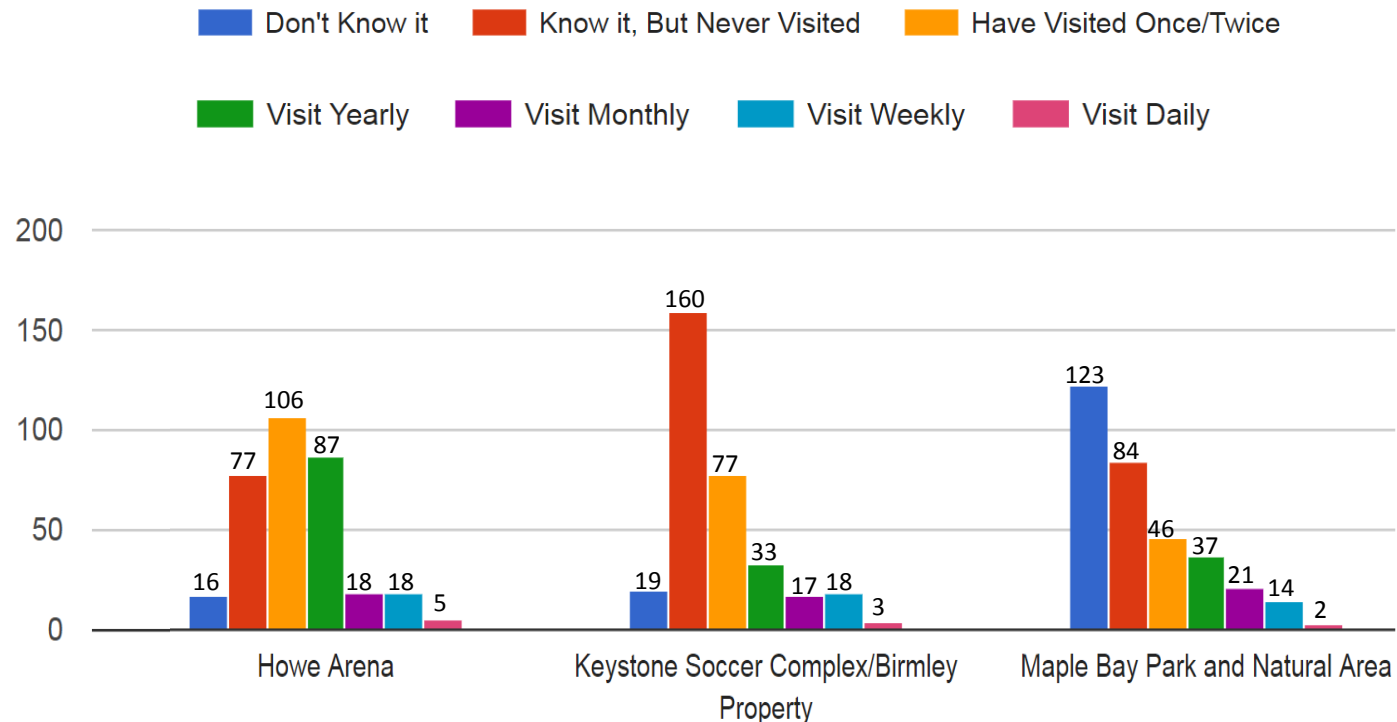
If you selected "Other" as an answer to the previous question, please explain what "Other" means.

none (2)
NA to all choices
Parent who is county resident not in household mobility impaired
No issues
2 total hip replacements this year. No restrictions. Do swim at Easling pool for exercise, flexibility, and general health
Household does not include those with mobility restrictions, but frequent guests include adults with mobility restrictions.
Cannot walk long distances unless the pace is slow (have COPD)
Autism
over 18
We often bring along family members and friends that are differently abled
Husband is disabled. Can not walk long distances.
Youngest son is Autistic
female 86 years--doesn't run, hop or skip any more
Speech disability

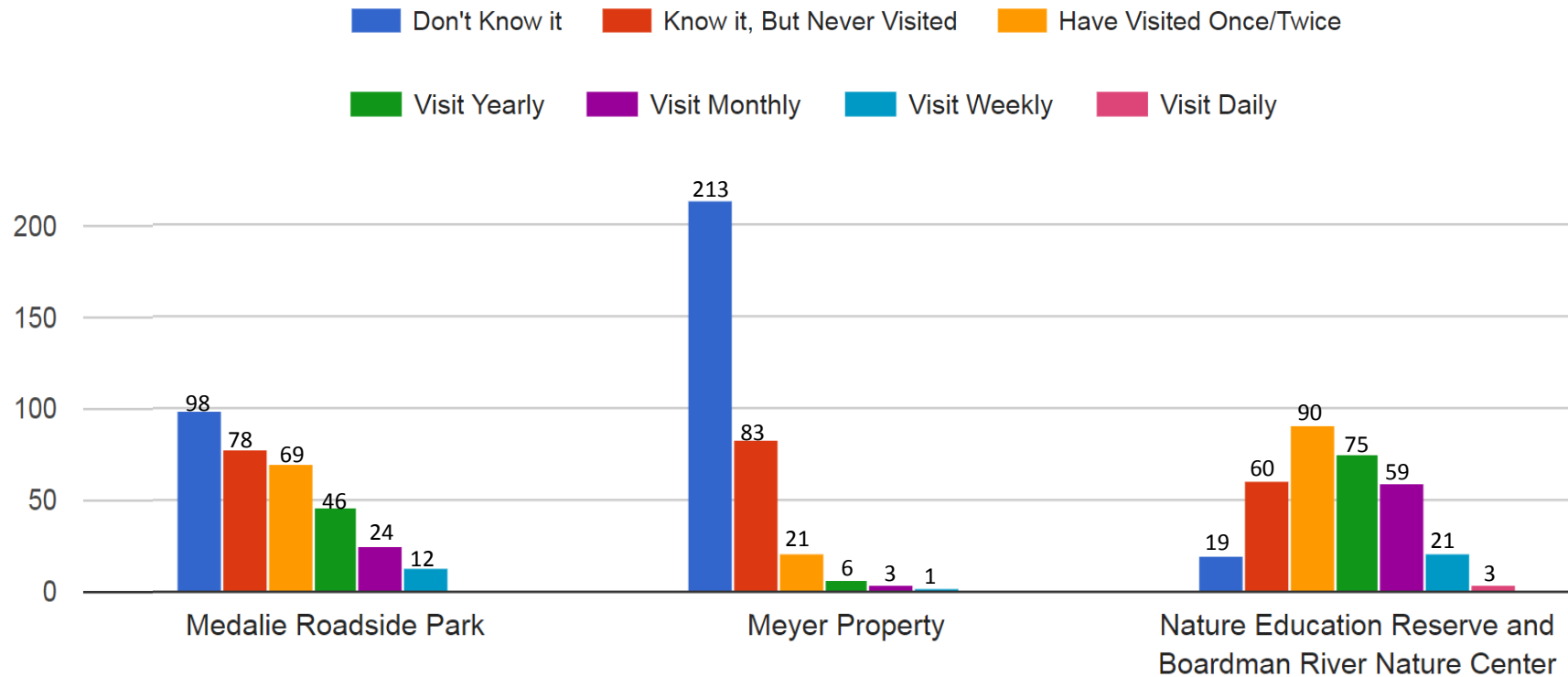
Use of Grand Traverse Parks: Please tell us about your use of these recreational sites.



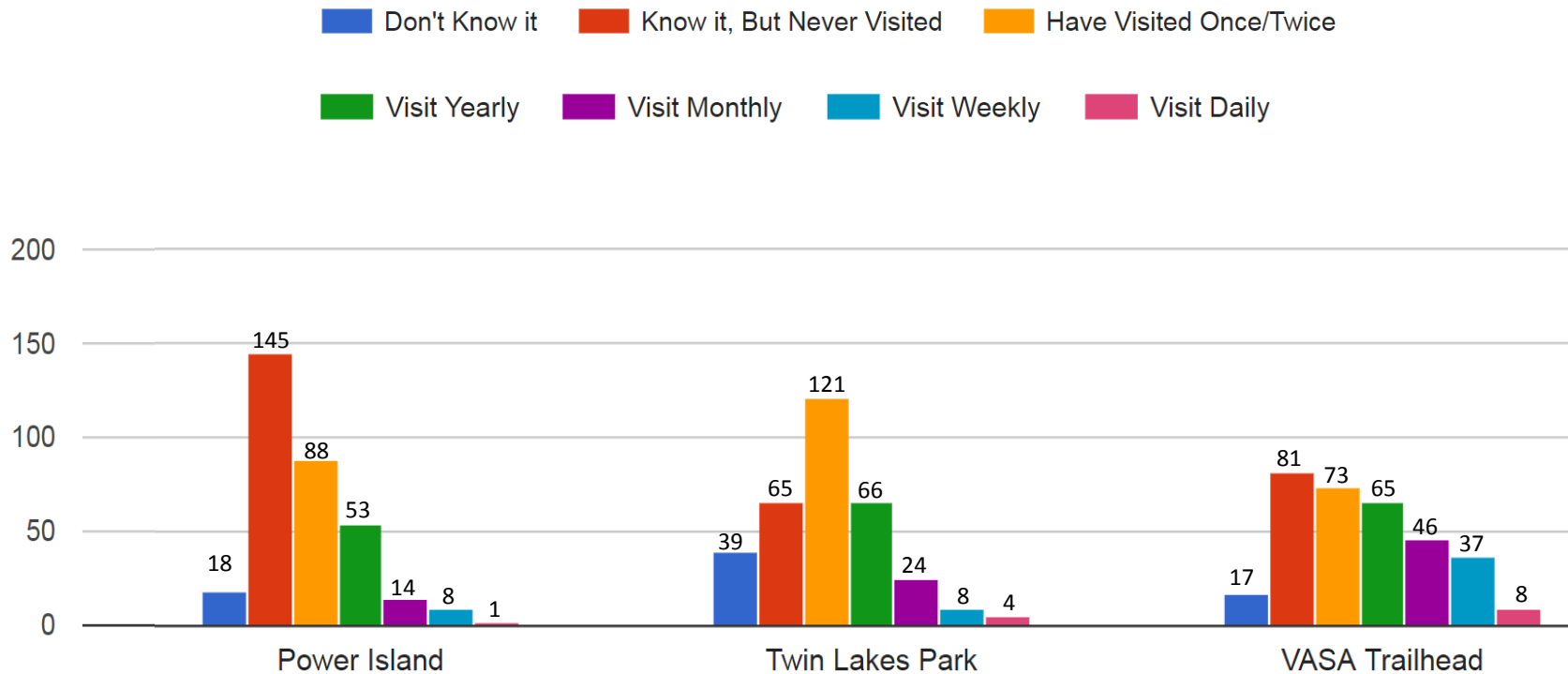
Use of Grand Traverse Parks: Please tell us about your use of these recreational sites.



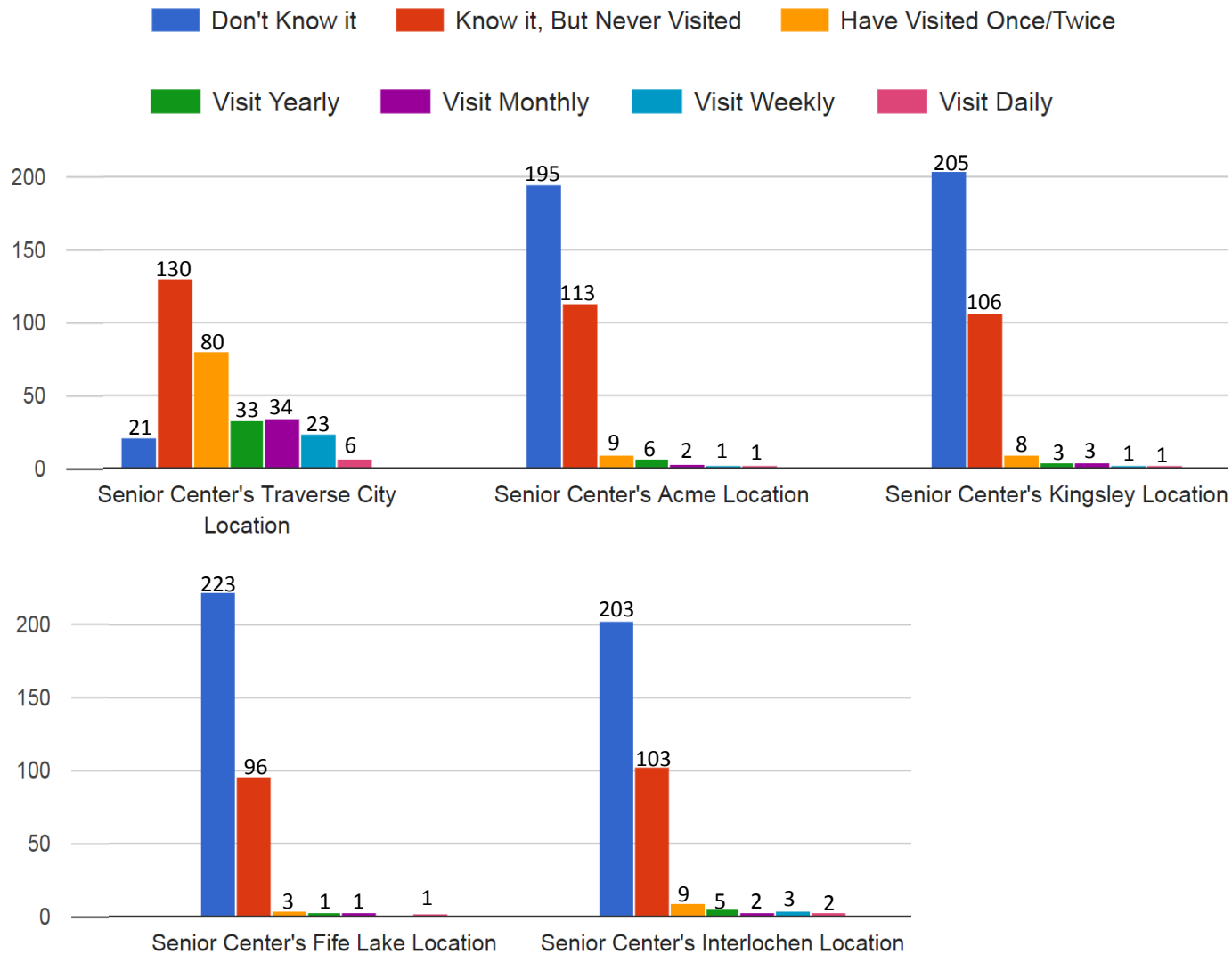
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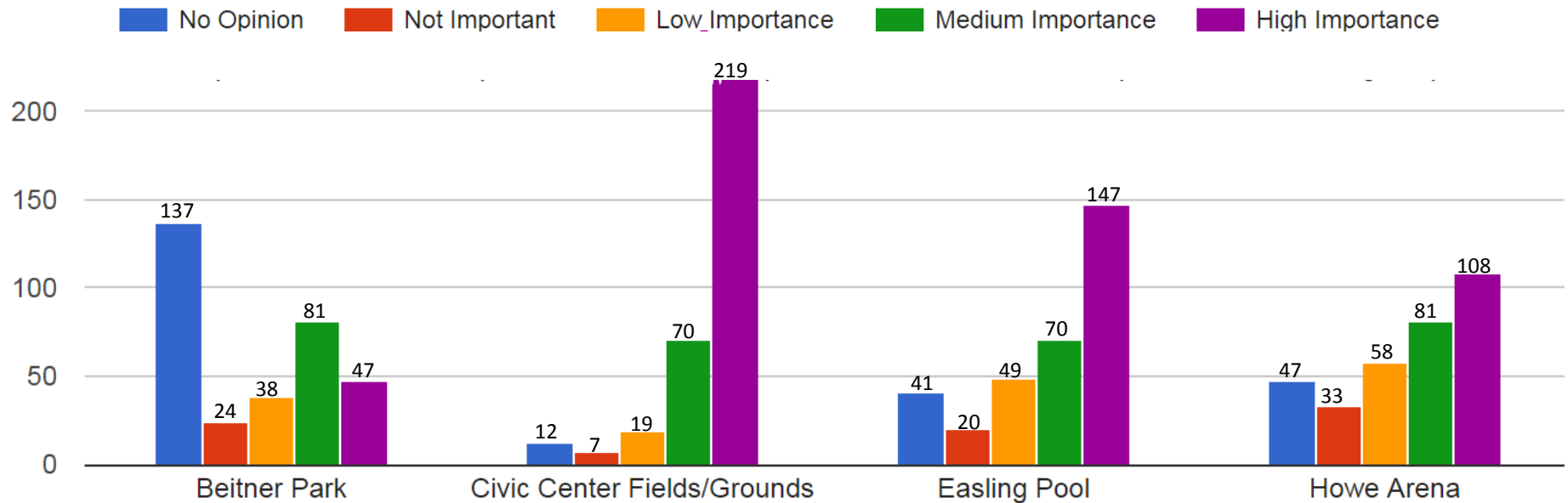
Use of Grand Traverse Parks: Please tell us about your use of these recreational sites.



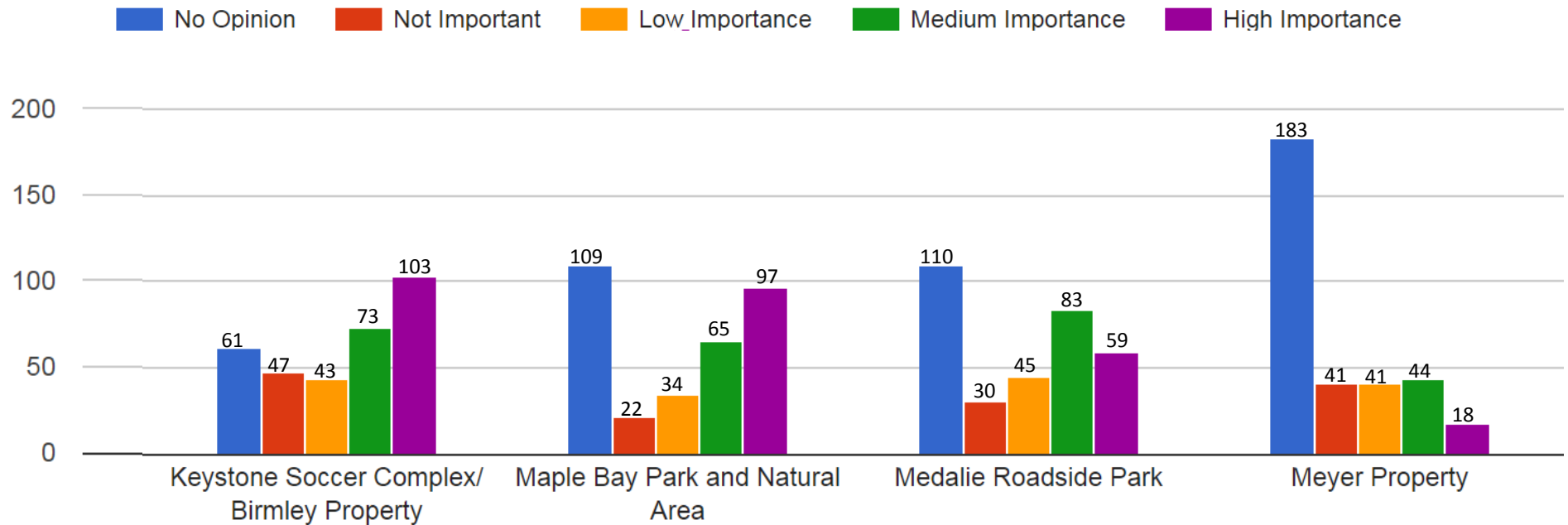
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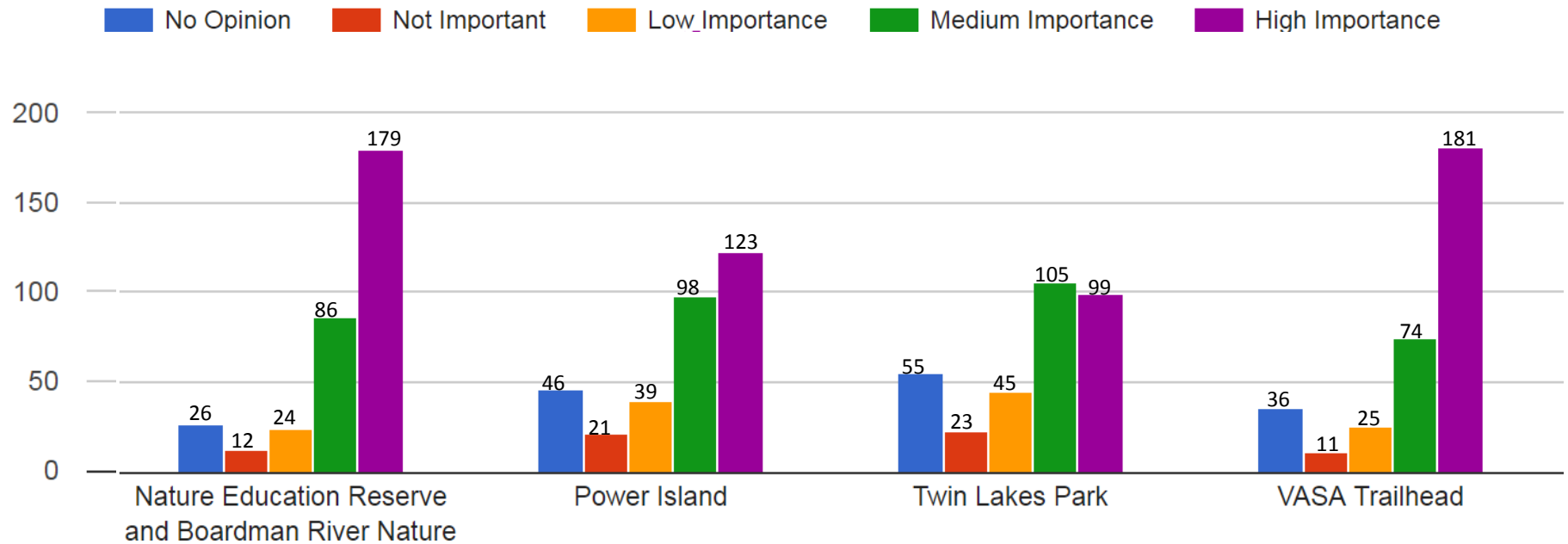
Please rank each property, park, and recreation facility in order of importance to you.



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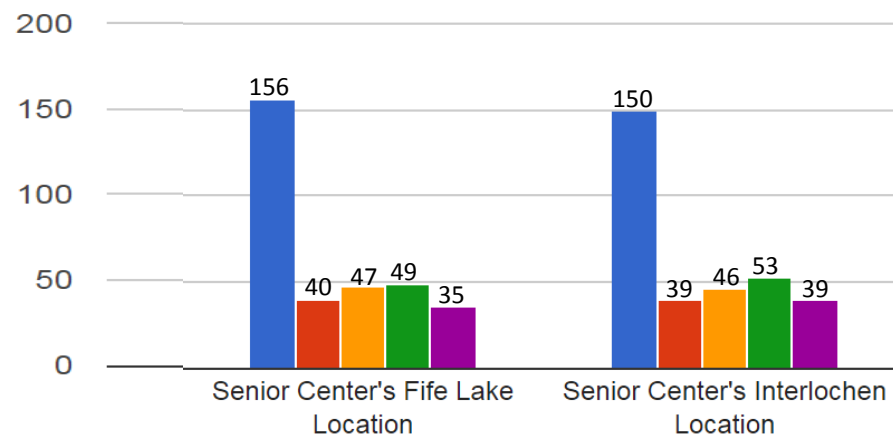
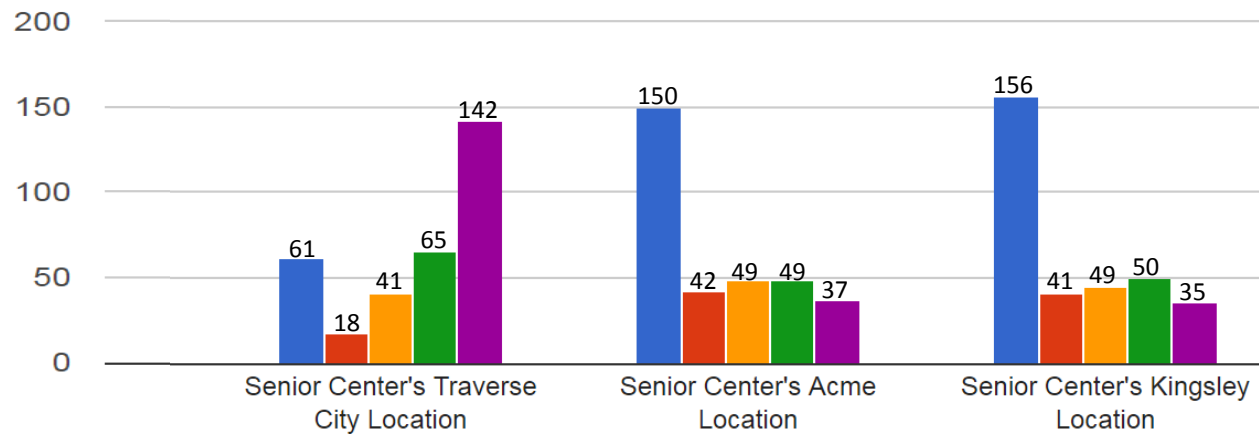


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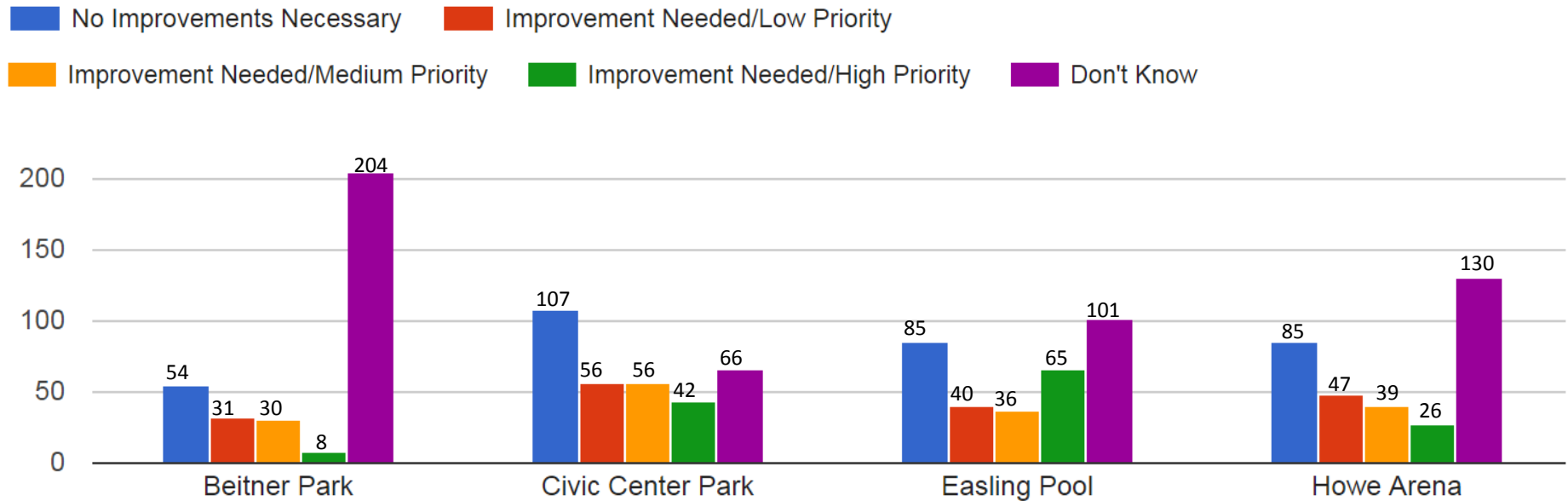


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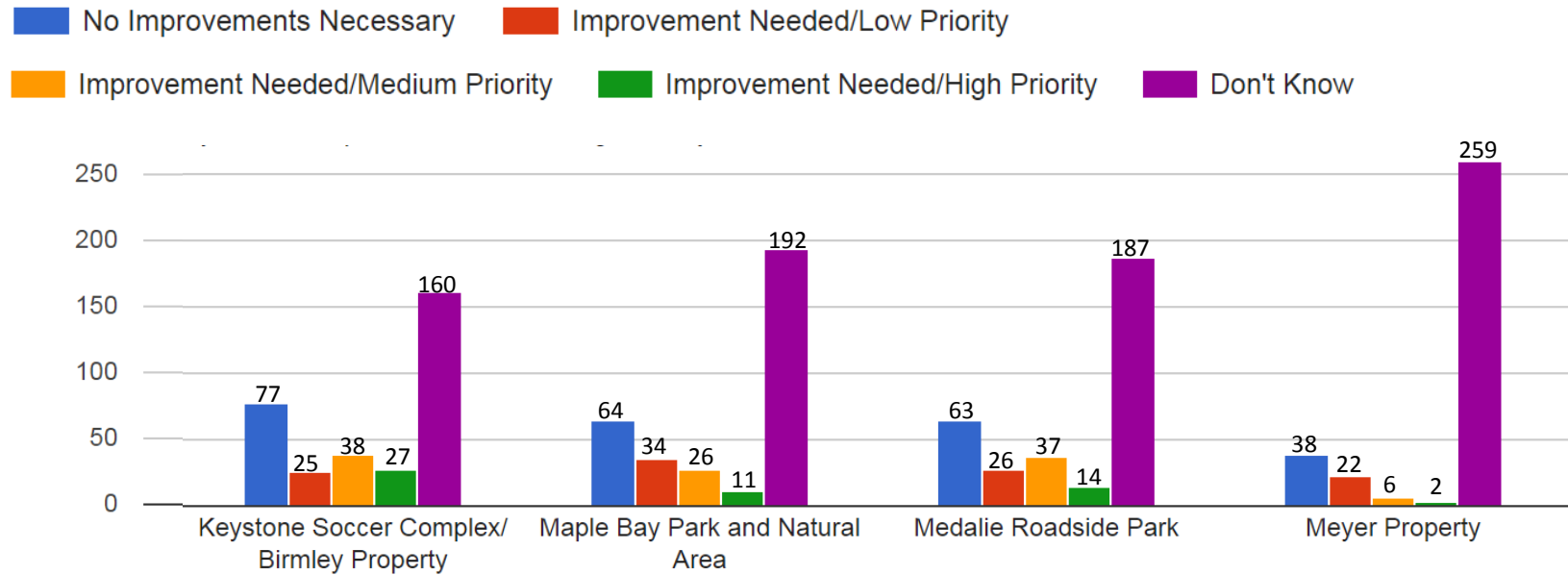
■ No Opinion
 ■ Not Important
 ■ Low Importance
 ■ Medium Importance
 ■ High Importance



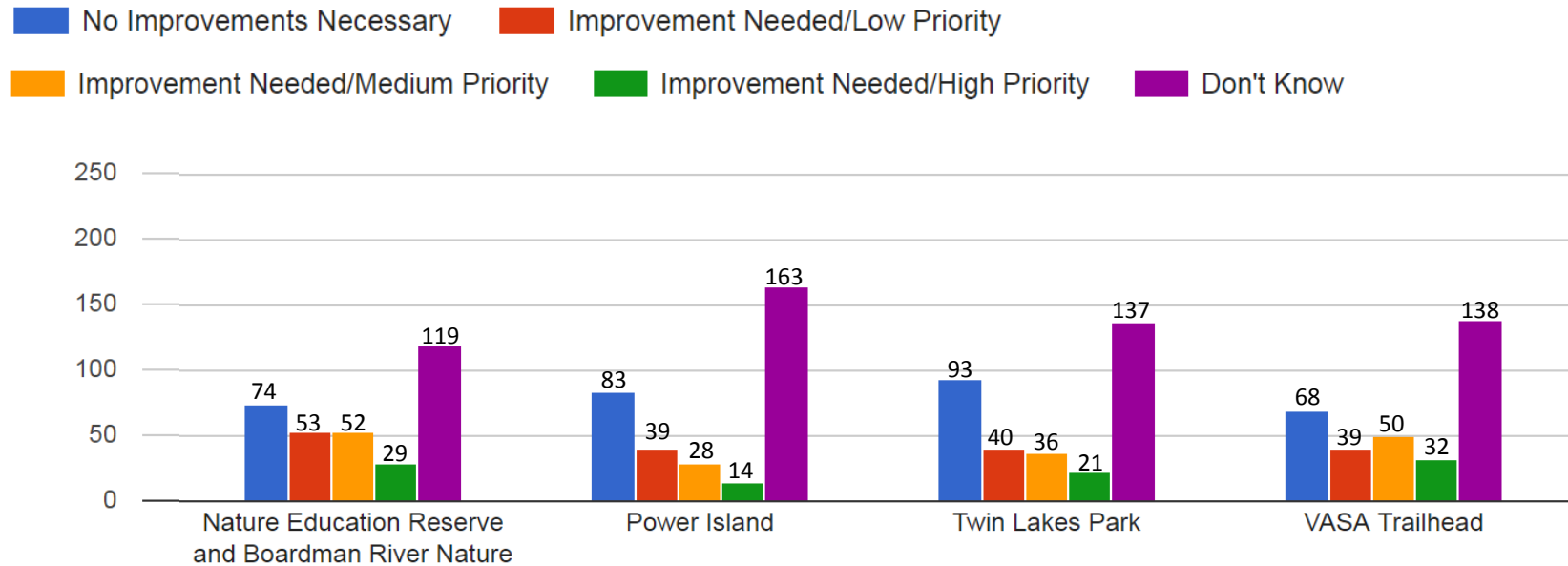
Facility improvements: parking/vehicle access



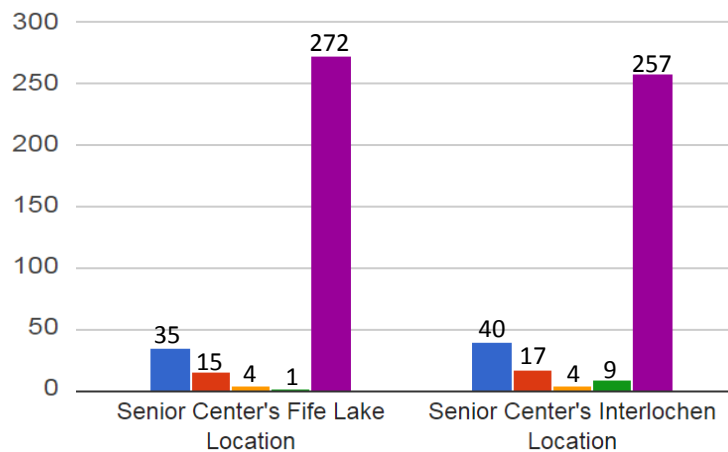
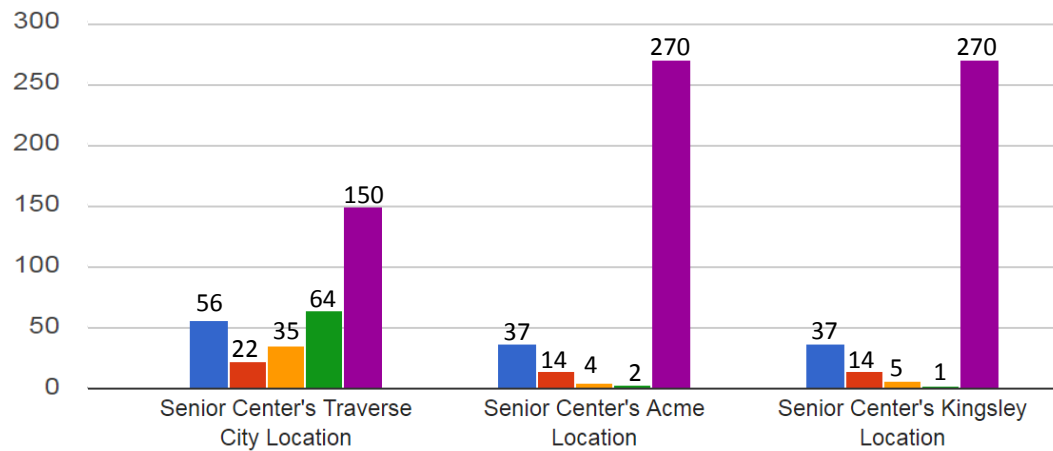
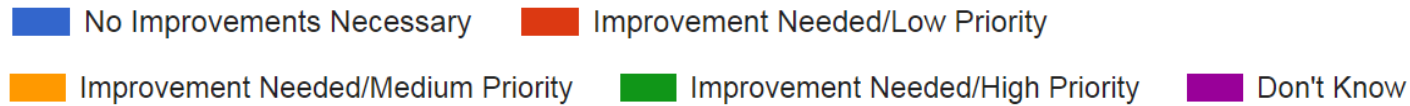
Facility improvements: parking/vehicle access



Facility improvements: parking/vehicle access



Facility improvements: parking/vehicle access



Facility improvements: parking/vehicle access

Please describe needed improvements:

More parking (2)

Parking (2)

More parking at Twin Lakes and regularly working parking lot lights at Civic Center, and definitely more parking at Medalie Park.

More parking when med indicated

Expansion

Vasa trailhead parking lot is dirt and frequently is tore up by off-road vehicles; it needs regular grading to repair. It also washes out with moderate to heavy rains as it is built on a down slope. It's lightly to unlit in most areas; it attracts people trying to hide. Last visit I found empty food & beverage containers (alcoholic & not) as well as used condoms and their wrappers. Lights in this parking lot would chase many of these people off.

Keystone needs more parking as well as a second entrance/exit.

Another entrance/exit at Keystone Fields is needed.

Howe Arena, the ice is horrible. The boards are old and need upgraded, the glass is cracked in places, the locker rooms need upgrading badly. This is named for the greatest hockey player in the NHL and the lack of attention is horrible. Easling pool needs upgrades as well, and enlargement should be considered.

Please describe needed improvements:

Civic Center needs better clean-up of areas that have been used for storage and are torn up and eye sores, better use of the South West corner could be made if upgraded and the picnic area could be used better if not monopolized for over night residents, there will soon be a better answer for the homeless.

The pool needs upgrades, all of which are included in the FOEP plans as you know..additional upgrades in the showers are badly needed to make it more efficiently and more pleasant to use. etc.etc.

I am sure the P&R dept knows what is needed in the other areas listed.

Paint, cleaning up broken parts, updated shower facilities

Locker room at he pool needs renovation. Pool temperature is not warm

Vasa trailhead needs a place to gather, fill water bottles, bathrooms, wash bikes, fix it station, better parking area.

Twin Lakes needs a paint job on the dorms and likely some updating. The senior center could be completely rebuilt to maximize the land and allow for pursuits of today's more active senior.

Civic center...safer, more private family bathrooms. Safer, better bathrooms near playground.

Howe Arena could use new and better bleachers. Upgrades on the team bench areas.

There is nothing on Power Island, it could be a real gem. VASA Trail needs lots of work, so many use it.

All vary

Monitor lot condition & repair as needed. Hopefully Senior Center is moving forward with rebuilding plans and new lot will be done then

Maintenance

Please describe needed improvements:

Senior center TC needs many updates

Restrooms

Batting cages at Civic Center, plant trees for shade around bleachers.

The Senior Center in TC sits on a prime, gorgeous piece of property! The current staff & opportunities offered for seniors are amazing! Yet the building is sorely out of date & inadequate to meet the needs of the growing number of seniors in our city & county. I would not hesitate to vote YES on a millage to upgrade & enlarge the current building. Or (not my 1st priority) sell the current location & build a beautiful new facility with the proceeds (which should also be amazing!).

we need a place designated for flying quadcopters, the senior center TC need a remodel or at least some paint. The rental agency at Medalie park needs to be removed, he monopolises the area at the end and the brush needs to be cut along the water

Keystone needs another entrance .All play equipment is safe and not falling apart. Civic center needs an infant swing

Every park could benefit from cleaning services, and access to bathrooms or porta-poties. And great Facebook endorsement!

Civic Center could use some more parking, the one way street area is confusing.

TC Sr Center - modernization of facilities

Easling pool needs updating- including locker room. Maple Bay needs bathroom

Better non-motorized access

Please describe needed improvements:

Need more space to park cars. Traverse is growing and the parks need to keep up with the pace.

Play ground

Improved locker rooms at Easling pool - entire new Re-do

Civic Ctr should be maintained, Easling pool should be updated and maintained. The grounds should be always maintained as well. Senior Center TC should be updated and more easily accessible.

Ball fields, accessible exterior bathrooms, howe arena bathrooms accessible even if Y is closed (maybe enclose Y check-in desk so it could be secured allowing the arena lobby to be open when outside events are taking place).

Traffic at keystone soccer complex is rough, consider left turn lanes or traffic lights that can be activated during high activity times, Boardman River center could be larger and civic center areas are complex when trying to navigate from area to area & which to use for what activities.

Easier access to public buildings with additional parking.

Expanded parking

Parking at Beitner Park can cause problems on Beitner Rd, where people park on the side of the road causing congestion.

Please describe needed improvements:

All properties need increased maintenance. Keystone needs permanent restrooms and some shelters. VASA singletrack needs to be completely reshaped, permanent bathroom and some changing rooms would be an asset. Twin Lakes Buildings need maintenance. Power Island boaters need better policing - great spot to camp except for the drunk boaters blasting music until 3am - send a sheriff boat out once in a while to ticket noise violators. Access to Bassett island is problematic with high water and port a johns difficult to pump - perhaps no camping for a few years until water level decreases and vault toilets can be properly maintained? Maple Bay and Nature Center are gems! As are all the boardman river trail systems. Senior Center in TC needs to share their spot on the bay with the community. Make it a community center with public beach access and community events held their open to all ages. Offer swim lessons, sailing access for TACS, etc,

Upsard reatrooms, improved walking trails

parking imporvements at vasa trailhead

The TC Senior Center is dated. It is noisy and lacking in privacy when there are multiple events going on. Improving the ambience and increasing the size would make it a more attractive place and better serve the ever increasing number of seniors in our area. It also needs improved parking and facilities for alternative transportation, like BATA.

Medalie Park tie-in to the completion of the Boardman Lake Trail

upgrades

The Easling pool needs upgrades for sure.

Vasa Trailhead could use more parking and Singletrack trailhead could benefit from water and shelter

Better Parking, more entrances/exits for soccer complex - Keystone pretty much shuts down when there is an event there. It's not good for attendees or anyone who wants to use the nearby roads during such events.

Please describe needed improvements:

I suppose the parking lots could be in better condition but I don't access these parks using a vehicle. I use my bicycle to get there.

VASA parking lot get full and sometimes in winter is so icy that vehicles get stuck. Paved lot or at least better grading and maintenance could improve this a lot

In most cases, just need more parking spaces.

I would like to see these two facilities upgraded and enlarged

Cleaner restrooms

Connections to bike trails

Invasive species management, trail signage, improved/new trails, wildlife stewardship

Better maps for Vasa trail system, would require DNR cooperation

Docks and pier

More parking spaces.

I am a bike rider.

Better bathroom and ingress/egress

Better boardwalks over wetland areas or route trails alternative trails, ope more sightlines to the water on Kids Creek Trail

Please describe needed improvements:

Enforcement of parking and dogs off leash would be a big improvement

Better maintenance of driveway conditions and improved parking at Nature Education Reserve; maintenance of driveway conditions, portajohn, kiosk signage at Maple Bay; overall plan for Medalie and improvements that meet that plan.

either more parking or manuever room. Wider parking spaces.

Accessibility for All

Boardman River Nature Center sometimes needs more parking or signs directing visitors to more parking. Vasa Trailhead parking is functional but not attractive.

Twin Lakes Area would make a great Elder Hostel Center or 4-H camp. Study the Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI as a business model, www.kettunencenter.org . With moderately priced hotel-type rooms and lots of meeting rooms of various sizes, it would fill a market niche for retreats of various kinds at a reasonable cost. Examples: quilt retreats, elder hostel courses/workshops/retreats, teen leadership camps, 4-H camps, small business meetings.

More parking needed

Keystone soccer should be expanded to house youth lacrosse. More field and parking to the north.

Keystone: Access & egress

Medalie gravel trails need resurfacing and trail should be extended completely around Boardman Lake.

Not clear what you can do, what is allowed in the Twin Lakes park. It is not even clear that it is a county park

Please describe needed improvements:

Ball fields need improving for Legion baseball games. Pitchers mound on Bravo Field.

The single entrance/exit for Keystone would seem to be a major safety issue if ever there was a need to quickly evacuate the facility while a larger tournament were taking place. / Parking at Boardman River Nature Center could be upgraded, especially now with the new river!

senior center is sad--

Civic Center, Keystone, Nature center and area trail heads, power island(boat) and Senior Center all have parking issues when park is operating at capacity - narrow spaces; ALso bathrooms consistently flood at TC senior center - soccer complex porta-potties are often quite full and smelly - civic center runs out of towels when at capacity and appear dated though solid and functional

Some parking lots just need to be bigger

More water play, splash pads, better pool and hot tub at easling

More parking, more access points to get into the parks, better bathrooms

mostly more consistent attention to ruts and grading issues that develop over the course of a season

More parking at Beitner both sides of road is needed.

Much of the Natural Education Reserve trail infrastructure is aged and in desperate need of repair.

Please describe needed improvements:

Easier access for mobility impaired spectators at keystone

Pave the VASA trailhead lot

Easling Pool: entire facility needs refurbishing - including locker rooms that smell terrible and showers that reek of mold

Aging facilities need repair or replacement, trail improvements, swimming area at Twin Lakes Park

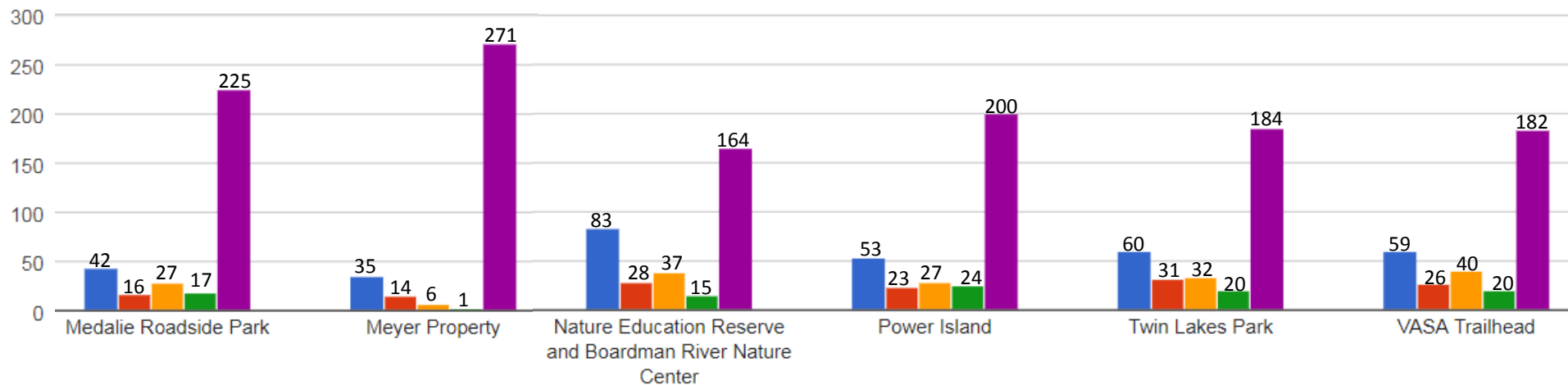
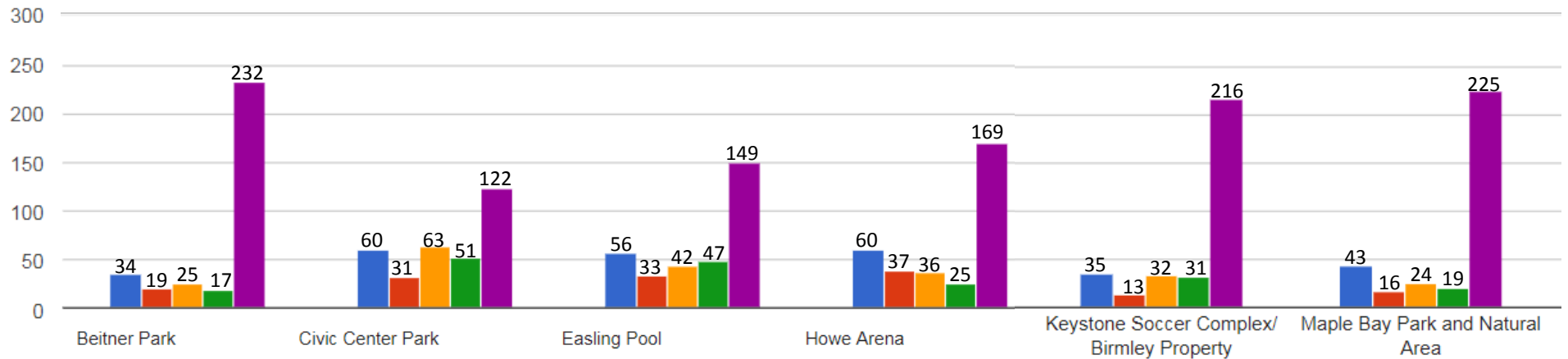
Infrastructure improvements, bigger budget for public access.

Need safer access and more parking at Beitner and parking areas along the NER. Need to facilitate watercraft access points/canoe landings post dams removal. Keystone Field needs more than one entry/exit off Keystone Rd.

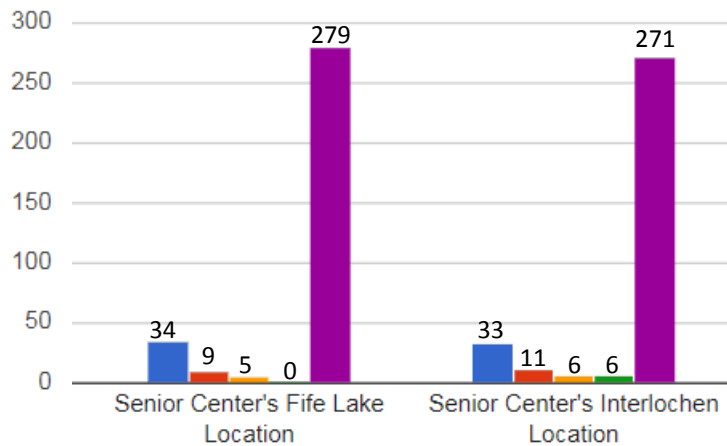
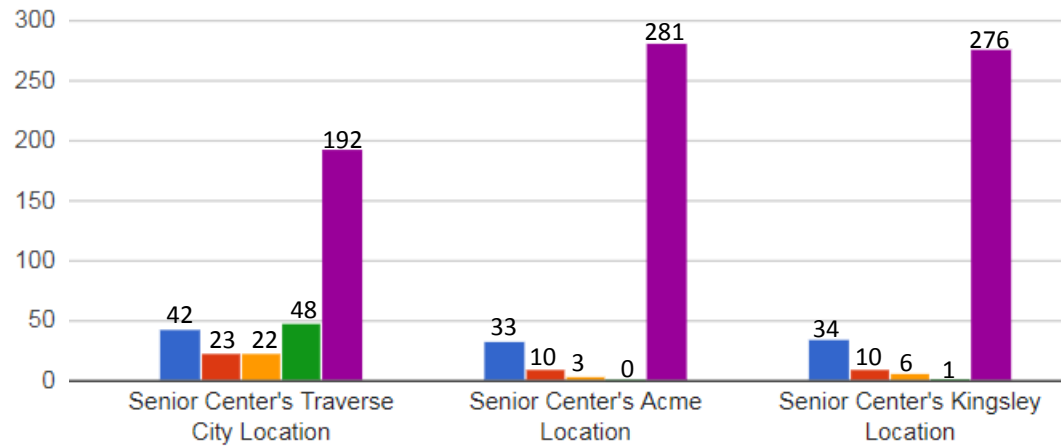
more/better parking better maintenance

Updated playground and parking by the lodge

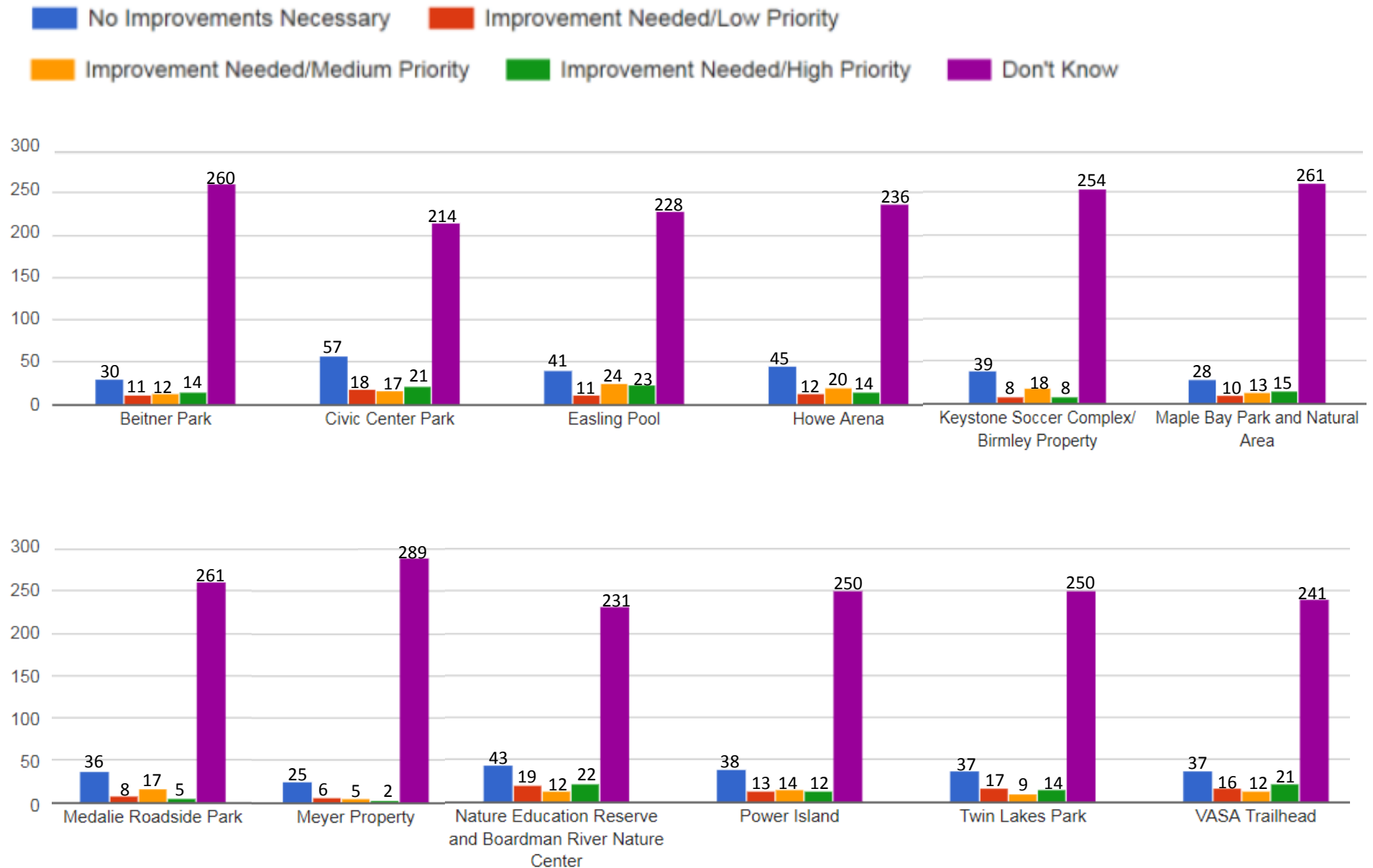
Facility improvements: restrooms



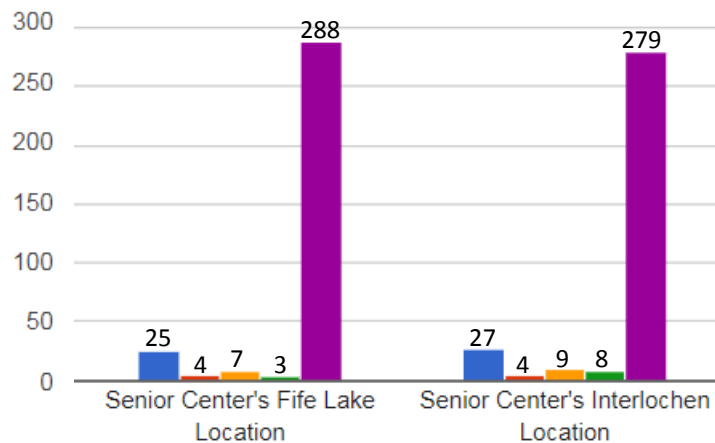
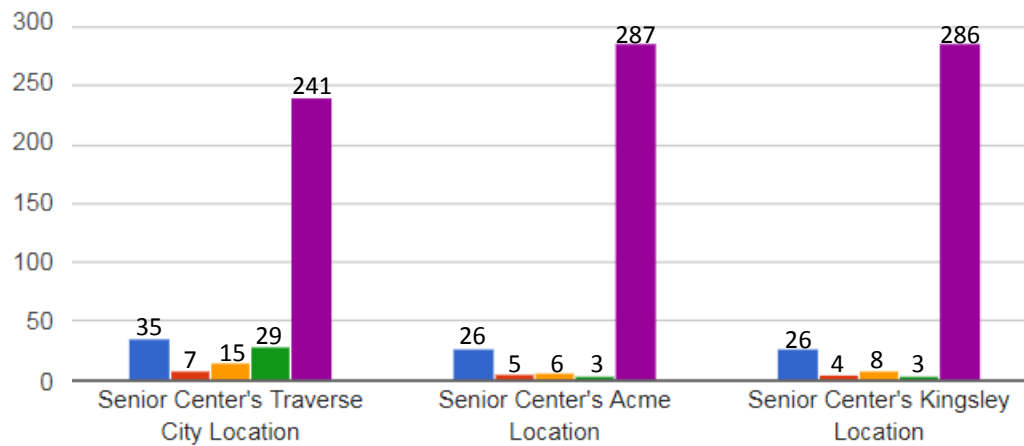
Facility improvements: restrooms



Facility improvements: accessibility for the differently abled



Facility improvements: accessibility for the differently abled



Facility improvements: accessibility for the differently abled

Please describe needed improvements:

Power Island is not accessible for those in a wheel chair so I imagine that the bathroom is not accessible for those in a wheel chair.

Easling pool old and outdated, massive renovations needed

Actual restrooms, not port-a-potty, at Twin Lakes and Keystone.

All parks should be made handicapped accessible if possible

Just simple upgrade of components. They're on the older side.

Bathrooms do not have easy access

Lift or ramp for disabled into pool.

upgrading in the toilet areas to accomadate handicap

More accessibility

showers for wheel accesibility, ramp for wheel chair access to pool

It would be nice to have a modern bathroom for playground users, as toddlers hastic vault toilets.

Keystone needs some sort an access ramp from the parking lots to the fields for grandparents with knee issues. The steep slope and uneven ground on the hills by the junior fields make it really tough for grandparents to come watch their grandchildren.

Please describe needed improvements:

There is no ADA accessible path provided at Maple Bay

Each vsries

Dock is in terrible shape making difficult to load/unload disabled

Senior center TC smells bad and fixtures are way outdated

Better access from parking lot to bldg.

More & better access to trails & the Boardman

Beitner has stairs. Maple Bay could use a boardwalk through the woods.

Medalie needs improved accessibility as it will be a major trailhead for both land and water access

Larger bathrooms

MORE, new Restrooms

The restroom on the south side of the park needs more frequent attention. The one in the building is always clean in my experience.

Maple Bay needs a permanent vault toilet at the beach. VASA singletrack trail head and Keystone need permanent facilities and changing rooms

Please describe needed improvements:

VASA Trailhead: There is no good way for those with mobility issues to get around the parking lot--to the warming hut or the start of the ski trail. There is also no good loop (I would not consider the poop loop to be good) for beginners and those with mobility issues desiring an easy start or short ski.

TC Senior Center: Because of the lack of parking, many with mobility issues must walk a considerable distance to get into the building. The kitchen is not friendly to those in wheelchairs.

Wheelchair access to more points

Keystone soccer fields are not accessible to individuals in wheelchairs

I think it may be difficult for some users to get into the building and restrooms at the VASA trailhead.

Mirrors and cleanliness in the Civic Center bathrooms (except in Howe)

Make both fully ADA compliant

Larger facilities

Bathrooms

Boardwalks in some easily accessible places for disabled

dog park

This should be directed to those who need it

need wider pathways and entranceway at BRNC, and takeout ramps at all river access points and also stepped down wide areas to get in your boats and kayaks

Please describe needed improvements:

Although I'm not entirely aware of all needed improvements at this time. As a county we should strive to have all parks accessible to everyone. Twin Lakes playground and water area is a great example of this one. Let's continue to move forward and make it so that everyone can enjoy every park. Grants are available, we just need to plan and invest time.

Accessibility for All

Push button opening doors

Restroom facility needed at trailhead to beach

That is not my subject area, I think you should ask experts/advocates.

Too many to list. City and County at high risk for law suit.

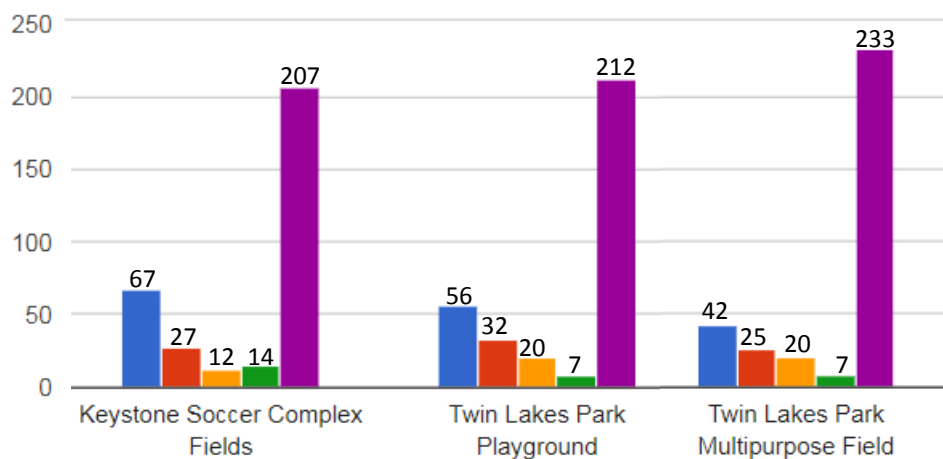
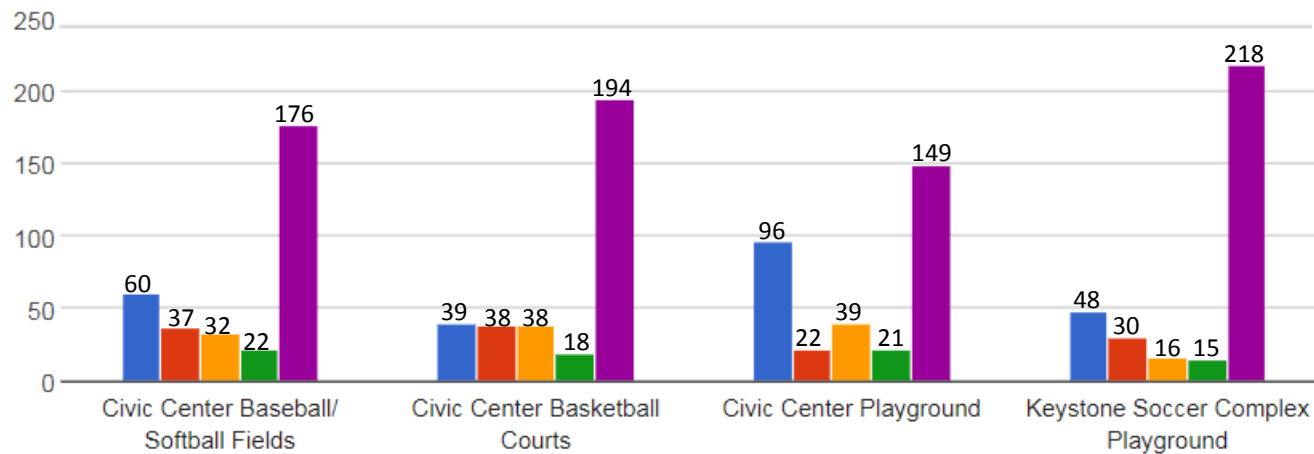
Infrastructure

Beitner Park could use universal access watercraft landing.

NER could use more universal access trails to view river as well as more universal access watercraft landings.

Upgraded and additional restrooms

Facility improvements: playground/sports court and sports fields



Facility improvements: playground/sports court and sports fields

Please describe needed improvements:

To have a better netting for fly balls to avoid balls going to the playground.

The ground level at Keystone's playground seems very low in some spots in relation to the play structure and benches. Very difficult for young children.

Updated

Not listed, but a way to share the ice in the winter would be nice at Howe. Maybe a subfloor like the Kalamazoo kwings stadium has with sportcourt

Conditions are badly in need of up grade

Senior center shuffle board courts need maintenance but not listed above??

Resurface courts, add tennis or handball area, put in and maintain a children's playground .

Cleaned up landscape, lights benches, better court

The playground at Keystone is a DISASTER. It's clearly not maintained and is VERY far from the soccer fields. Having something for kids to do while waiting between games would be a god-send. Our family waits 1.5 hours there on Saturday morning between games for our 4 and 6 year olds. They call they playground "the crappy playground." Bathrooms besides porte-pots and a SECOND entrance/exit would also greatly improve the park, which sees extremely high use on soccer Saturdays. (And can we get more food trucks out there already?!?!)

Softball fields are neglected. The hump on 3 & 4 needs removed.

Please describe needed improvements:

Varies

More concerned with condition of perimeter track and bridge

We need more pickleball courts throughout the area.

More shade at baseball fields.

Keystones play structure needs to be checked on and it's a huge soccer complex needs real bathrooms. It's always busy even during the week.

Please add a court/indoor space for roller skating

Need updating, lighting, more parking, safety precautions

We need more outdoor pickleball courts, indoor would be great also

Equipment needs to be up to date.

New equipment

Keystone definitely needs a new playground.

Fencing repairs/upgrades needed.

Outdoor areas need to be updated.

Porto

Please describe needed improvements:

At Keystone I would use playground loosely.

benches for parents near play structures in CC are needed

n/a

I would like to see ALL parks have infant swings, or more modern infant swings that have an "adult" swing attached to baby and parent can face and swing together. It is called an Expression Swing

Softer infield at the civic center, more mowing on grassy fields (like the outfield) to keep grass consistent, and better visibility of sprinkler heads

Fields

Need an enlarged new updated designed playground; nicer ball fields and stands

needs pathway from the playground to the east blacktop walking trail, or at least root-free safer way to go

Accessibility for All

Infields need to be updated/re-graded. Worst condition in northern Michigan. Lighting is also very poor. Dugouts erected. No improvements in the last 15+ years.

Add lacrosse fields to the north of the soccer fields.

Medalie needs occasional benches for reviewing wildlife on lake or simply to rest. Would love to have bench swings for all ages at beaches along bay, but maybe most of that land is city or township owned. Are there any county parks along East and/or West Bay?

Please describe needed improvements:

Clear list of activities allowed. Camping, hiking, boating swimming, picnicking, tables ?

Field #8 needs a safer/stable outfield fence. All fields need some tender loving care and upgrades. All backstops need fixing

Playground could be expanded.

More zip lines at civic center; more options for play; continue to maintain softball fields - shade trees for spectators or shade canopy? Keystone has one structure that is great for 3 to 5 yr olds our 8 yr old gets bored quickly; fields are solid please keep maintaining (dandelions, mowing, etc.)

Add splash pad at civic center!

Better seating and parking

Twin Lakes is N/A as it needs to be closed and sold off. Again a major risk for lawsuit following numerous drownings there.

more pickle ball courts

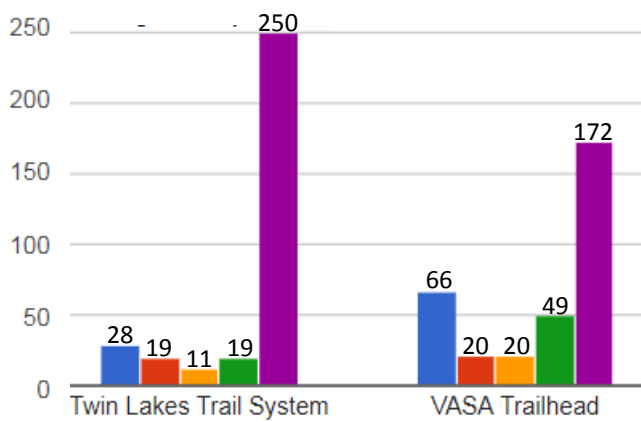
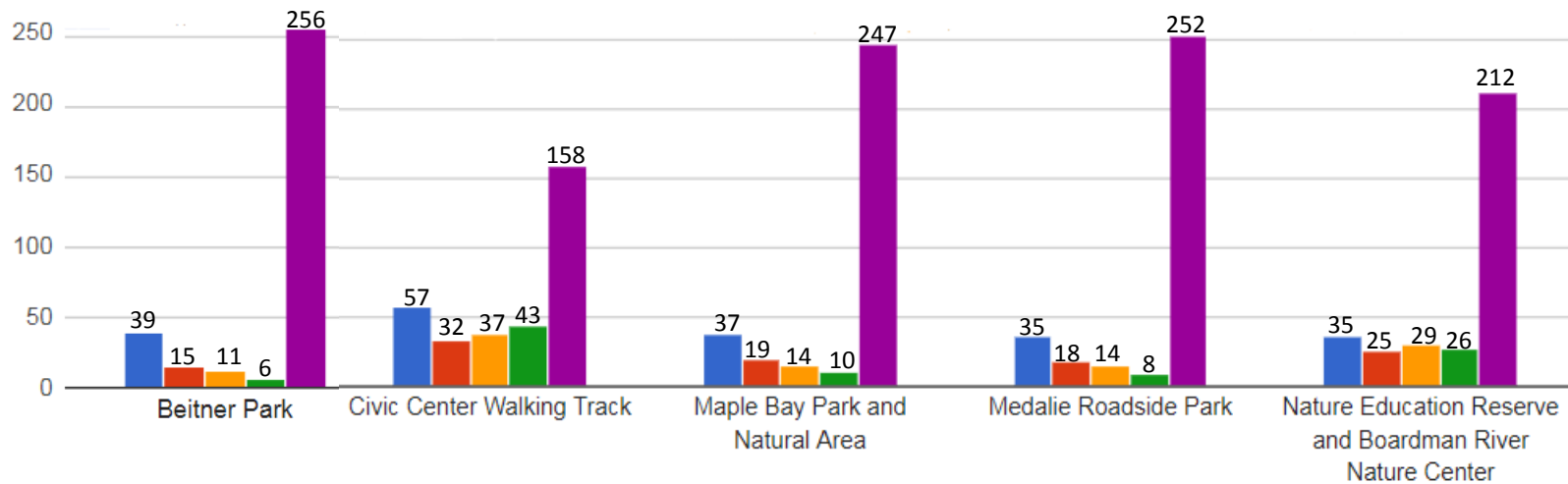
Resurfacing and cleaning of courts and improved equipment at playground

Softball field and diamonds in need of serious upgrading@ Civic Center. Infield and outfield merge has large lip that needs to be fixed. Home plate area is a joke. Outfield grass needs cutting during the summer play time. Bases need to be set for the type of gaming on the schedule.

No Clue

Need to better maintain ball fields

Facility improvements: winter trail grooming



Facility improvements: winter trail grooming

Please describe needed improvements:

better maintenance of trails to keep them accessible for all.

TART & NMMBA handle the Vasa trail grooming year-around. As long as the parking lot is open and accessible, these groups are the trail experts.

As I'm a neighbor to the civic center, I see people struggle with the walking path in the winter; the normal user is elderly so this trail should be as clear as possible.

I was completely unaware that any of these other parks either had trails (Twin Lakes) or that they were accessible in the winter. Maybe some marketing?

,

Civic Center--more ice removal on walking path

Easling Pool has numerous improvements that are needed. Mechanicals mainly, locker rooms, and other things known to those in charge.

Repair cracks in Civic Center walking track

Regular clearing of winter snows

track is icy, slippery in cold weather

Where are Winter trails groomed? I didn't know this was done.

Lights

Please describe needed improvements:

Need more groomed fat bike trails. Ideally Nordic and fat bike trails would be groomed twice daily because of their heavy, heavy use. Three grooms a week is just not enough. A night groom to set up trail would be groom one. Then groom two for everyone who cannot go out first thing in the morning or have to wait until evening with lights. Thousands use this system and hundreds even on a Tuesday in the morning. Consistent grooming would be so great! The VASA is a gem of our area.

Varies

Clean up walking trails.

Snow, ice r moral of walking trails

We don't use the parks in the winter

VASA does a great job grooming - important to keep it as a priority.

Tennis and pickleball courts need improvement

Ice forms very easily due to snow plowing that isn't consistent so thick ice forms and I have slipped many times at the civic center and the boardman trail due to the trails being so dangerous. It's a lawsuit waiting to happen.

Parking and groomed trails

Vasa needs to be inclusive. It shouldn't just be power walkers on skinny skis all winter.

Walking path can be slushy with melted snow

Clearing of branches trail marking

Please describe needed improvements:

Track is dark and unplowed some mornings when early morning swimmers are walking to the pool. Generally, the track is in great shape though. Just wish the lighting was timed better--don't forget to change it for day light savings.

n/a

maple bay could use xc ski or bike, or any sort of rec trail other than hike. vasa is good, but needs to be great!

Can all trails be groomed?

I slipped and fell on ice at the civic center track some years ago and never went back to walking there.

TART takes care of the VASA - if they were not doing that, it would be a high priority

More plowing and salt to keep tracks completely free of snow

Continue to prioritize winter ski grooming

Keeping the walk way free of ice and snow for walkers is very important

Vasa is groomed great but so many people use that area that any improvements would go to good use

Would love to see more forest trails groomed for classic xc skin but realize that is costly. Would love to see more paved trails with heavy use cleared of snow for runners. Volunteer effort possible?

Grooming

Plow back to the parking area for easier winter access.

Please describe needed improvements:

Keeping the bike paths plowed in the winter would be very nice

medal park needs access from the west possible and wider pathways cleared and cleared bridge to the east

Brimley property has been planned for additional recreational use for years--sledding hill in winter, rugby/lacrosse or baseball fields. Why hasn't it happened?

Keep up good grooming

Would be nice to be able to walk on trails at Medalie year round. Would be nice to have more trails for "gliding" cross country" skiing at VASA Trailhead. Would be nice to have more gliding cross country skiing and snow shoe trails across the county.

Clear maps and parking for winter use. Cross country skiing?

Don't know, I don't use these in winter

Ice covered and dangerous in winter on hills at civic center track

In a perfect world, funding for winter sports trail grooming wouldn't be as much of an issue as it is. Obviously, it isn't a perfect world!

Try to keep trail free of ice.

ice melt

Please describe needed improvements:

Once the trail completes around the lake Medalie will be utilized more - as is we use this to park and enter the trail system from a safe location - it would be great to be able to ride bikes around the lake year round... Same to be able to hike the nature center year round - more so the park near the bus garage and toward the new bridge (old one lane bridge area) we park next to the bus garage and enter the trail system from there...

Don't believe that Twin Lakes and Boardman Nature Center are groomed for the winter? If not, both would be good candidates.

Needs to groom more often (VASA).

See previous comment on twin lakes

Please keep groomed for winter use safely.... Thank you

Ban fat bikes from the Vasa Pathway Ski Trails in winter. They destroy groomed trails and pose a danger to skiers. They have their own groomed singletrack trail. Every other highly rated cross country ski trail in the state bans fat bikes. TART continues to shill for the bike shops and race sponsors in allowing fat bikes.

Don't know

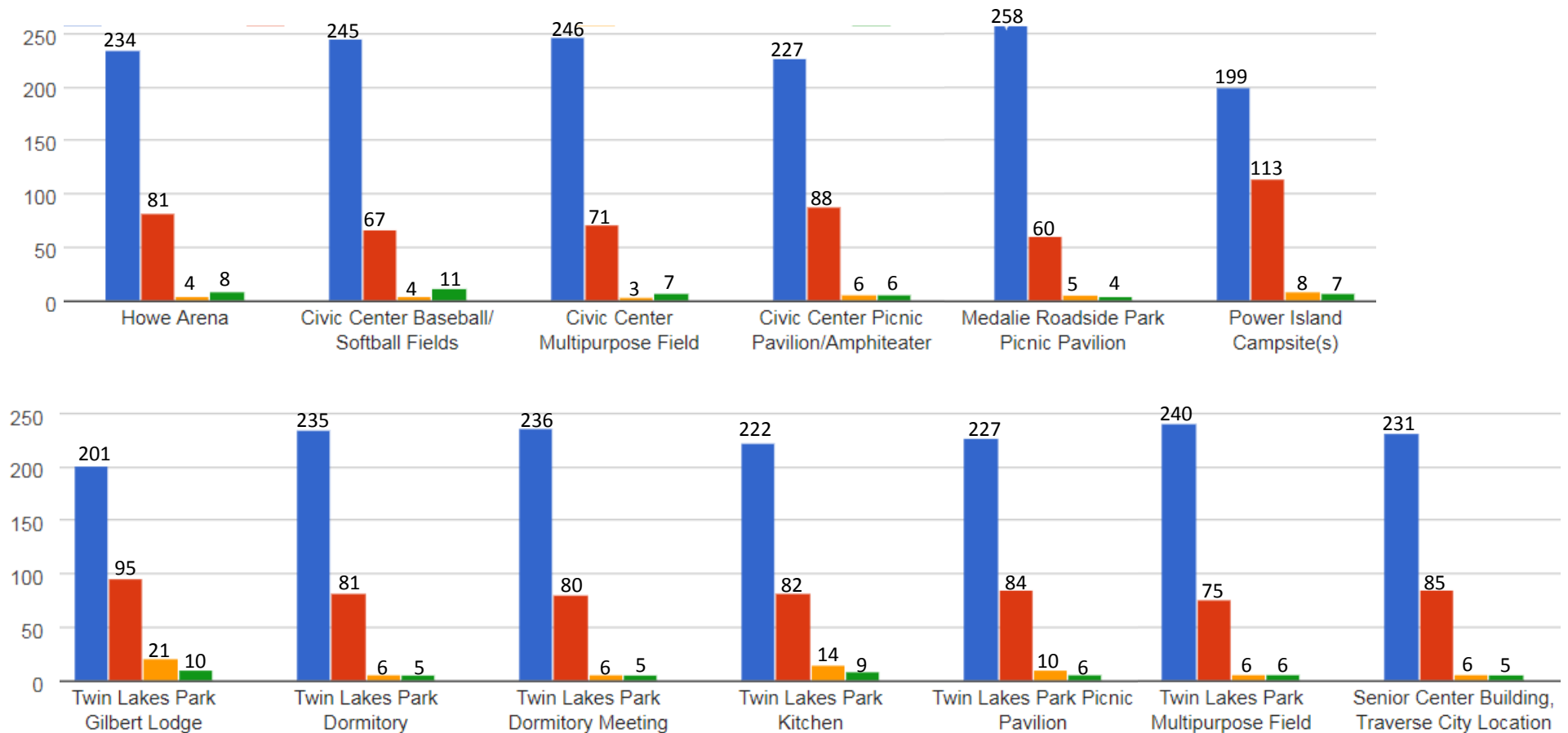
Be great to see more opportunities for groomed trails to accommodate classic X-country ski on the NER and at Twin Lakes. Medalie Park would make a good spot for a lighted x-country ski loop.

Need better separation of snow bikes and XC skiers

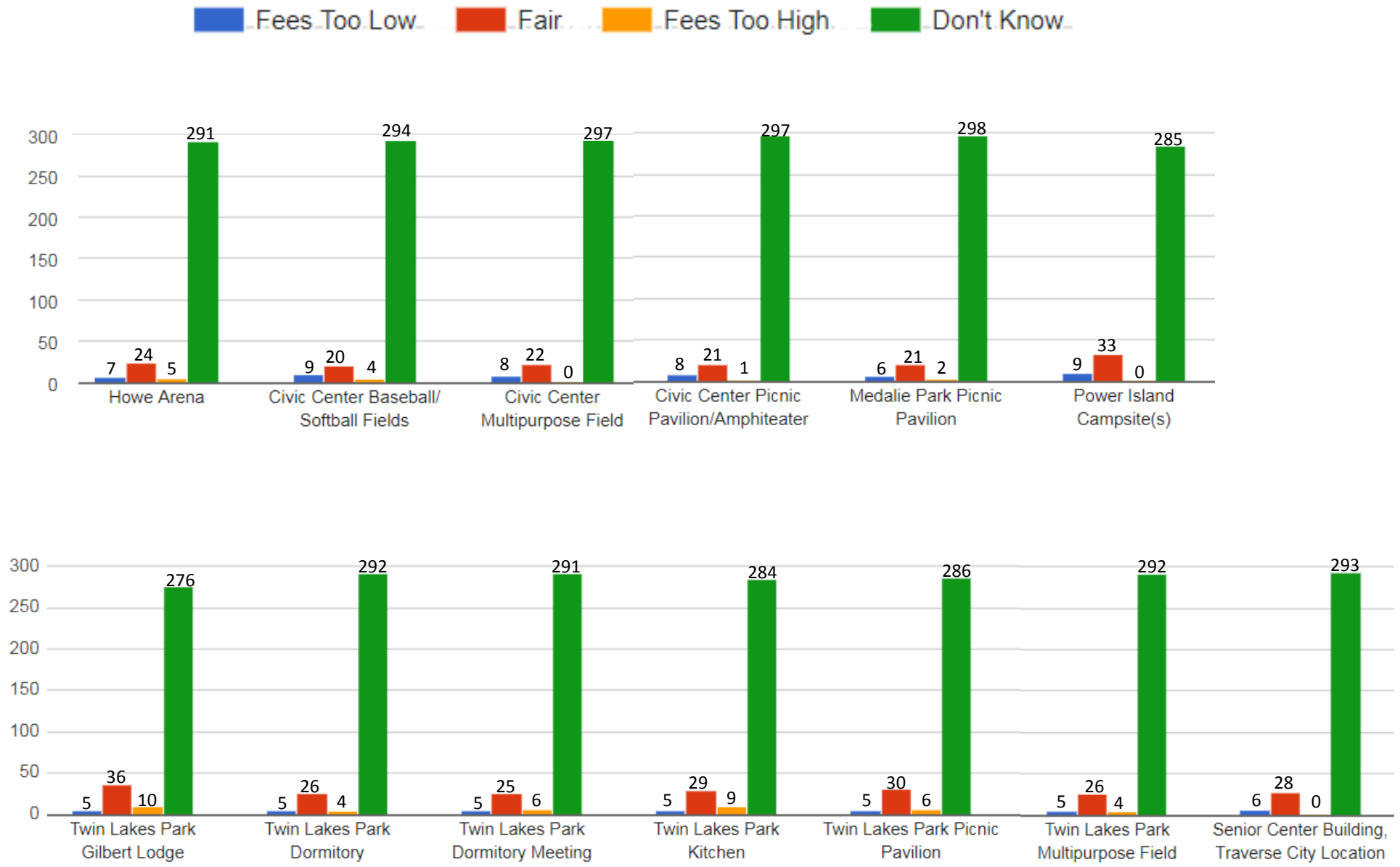
Can be icy for walking, but that's not unusual anywhere in the winter.

Reservation information: level of familiarity with park facilities that may be reserved for use

■ Not Familiar ■ Familiar But Never Reserved
■ Have Reserved Before ■ Have Reserved More Than Once

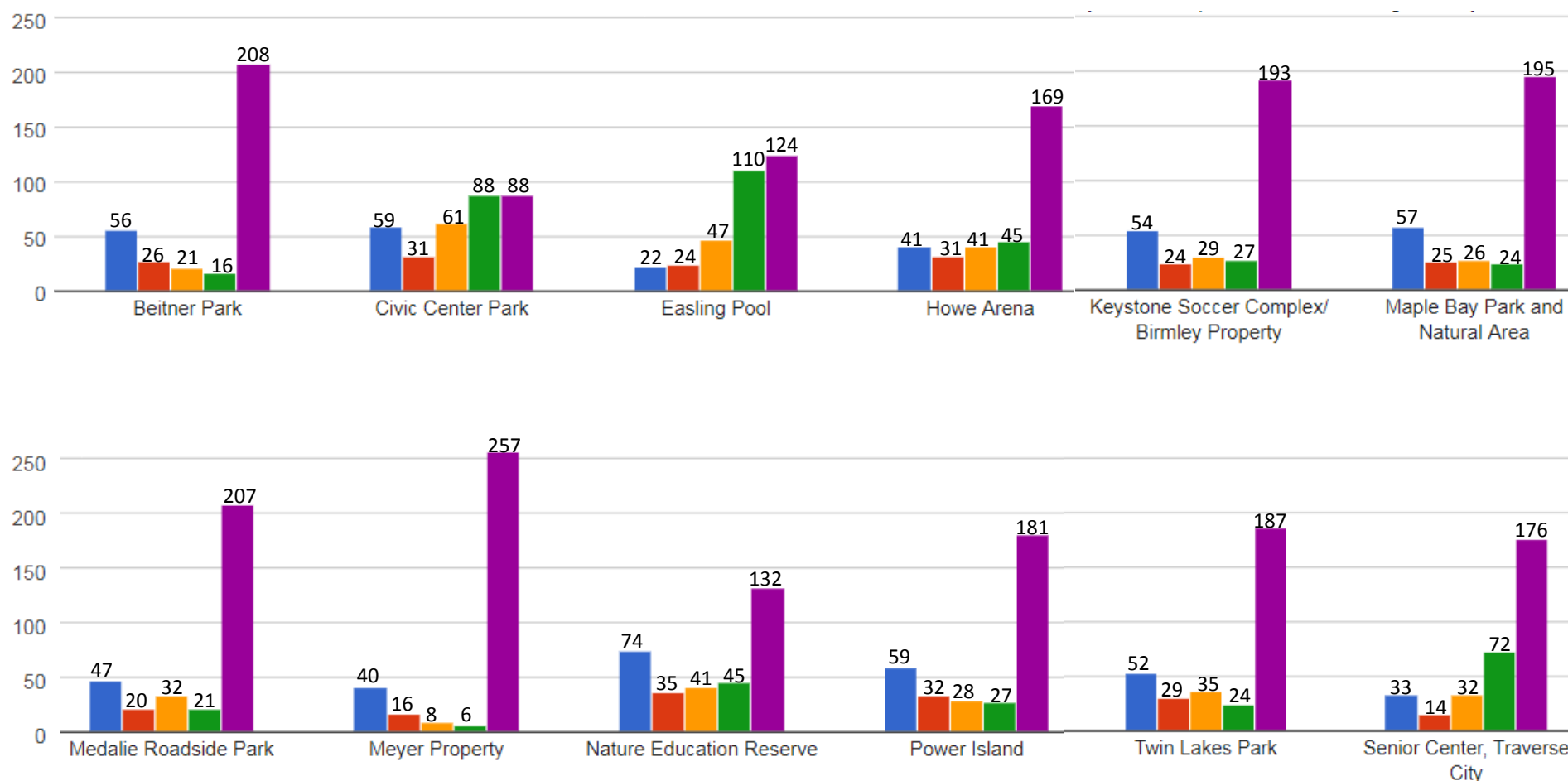


Reservation information: How reasonable are the fees for each facility?



Tell us whether developing NEW OR EXPANDED FACILITIES in the county are important to you. Identify parks you wish to see further developed.

■ No Improvements Necessary
 ■ Improvement Needed/Low Priority
 ■ Improvement Needed/Medium Priority
 ■ Improvement Needed/High Priority
 ■ Don't Know



Tell us whether developing NEW OR EXPANDED FACILITIES in the county are important to you. Identify parks you wish to see further developed.

Please describe ideas for development:

Having hooks on/near bathrooms on Power Island and having a designated changing area for those who do not want to try to change in a small tent. Small updated to Twin Lakes such as a better PA system, adding AC if possible in lodge and dormitory, upgrading/updating the Easling Pool.

Focus on creating the proposed whitewater park at Cass/Union street dam location downtown. Increase the boardman river trail park and corridor trail for multi use (hikers, bikers, etc).

Covered outdoor hockey/multi sport spaces.

On my recent visit the the Easling Pool I discovered the bathrooms and showers haven't changed in 20 yrs or more. Updates needed.

At Twin Lakes Park, when a group I manage used the facility for an event, I found the kitchen to be quite dated. Good thing my 70 yr old father knew how to run that dishwasher or we would have been washing dishes by hand for hours. As quaint as the lodge is, some modernization to bathrooms and the kitchen would probably make it more appealing to some groups.

Twin Lakes Park: expand beach area, more parking. Keystone: another entrance/exit, it is such a pain to get in/out on busy soccer days.

The pool and locker rooms need an upgrade.

Described earlier about sharing the ice or if possible adding more ice so that could be open to other events in the winter months.

Please describe ideas for development:

New boards and glass at Howe ice arena. Better Ice. Easling Pool need upgrades

Civic Center Park could just use a bit of a spruce up, perhaps new tables, as an example.

Improve pool filtration system, paint locker rooms and lockers. Add tennis courts, improve ground maintenance by eliminating overgrown areas and unused music stand area.

I am not sure what you mean by further development ..most could be better utilized if better maintained and modernized.

Updates

Senior Center opened up, up dated. Easling Pool locker rooms need major updating, as does the pool areas. Hot tubs would be nice,

I would love to see the senior center get a makeover. Our family uses the beach behind and it always surprises me that our area has such a strong senior population with such an old building. Or, select either the Civic Center or the senior center to combine the two into a larger, multigenerational wellness and community center -now THAT would be a representation of our community. Programming could be provided by private businesses, such as what's being done at Twin Lakes, but with more than one vendor to offer greater diversity. Power Island and the Boardman river facility are awesome resources for young families, so continued or expanded programming would be great. I love that Twin Lakes offers fitness classes now!

Childcare for ymca members. Safe, private family lockers. Better pool.

Keystone is the park which with I am most familiar since I am trapped there for hours every Saturday. That park really truly needs a better exit/entrance strategy as well as restrooms, better access to the fields for those with mobility issues, and a playground for kids to play between games.

Please describe ideas for development:

It would be great to replace the benches at Maple Bay, the current benches are set too high off the ground and the backs need to be removed or angled. There is also the need for trash receptacles and doggy waste bags.

VASA Trail grooming and facilities for Nordic and fat biking

The county should allocate some of the Easling Pool operating cost savings (due to YMCA management) toward the pool renovation campaign. Lack of financial support from the county is inhibiting donations from community leaders who support the renovations, but believe the county should "have some skin in the game."

Pool and Howe are outdated. Hard to be competitive when your the oldest and not regulation size. There was a time when the pool could be rented for gov./municipal training time. Power Island needs minimal work. Senior Center needs to follow through with replacement plan

Maintenance facelift

More room needed & restrooms need to be expanded

building needs to be updated

So many community groups use the pool. Continued neglect of major maintenance will only increase the costs in the future. The pool is a capital piece of equipment that was not designed to last forever and is in need of boring but expensive mechanical renovation.

Medalie park need the brush cut

Better river & trail access for those with disabilities. Ditto for the civic center playgrounds.

Please describe ideas for development:

The senior center is in need of updates. The Pilates room carpet is disgusting. The other rooms all could use updates. I was sad and surprised that people voted down moving as a new location could be amazing. Its busy all the time but small and outdated. I don't see the location being utilized on the water for the water and view. Moving could offer so much more

I spend 3-4 days a week at keystone soccer complex with my 3 kids and it would be nice if the play structure was mowed better and maybe real bathrooms as holding my baby as I hoist my younger one over a porta potty is gross. We pay good money every year and that place is busy all week.

I would love to see an indoor roller skating area. There is a large interest in the area for recreational skating individually and as a roller derby team. It would be great to have that opportunity at one of the local parks.

More pickleball opportunities

Easling pool- upgraded pool, upgraded/updated locker room and toilet areas.
Maple Bayneeds bathrooms and boardwalk through the woods.

An improved civic center with a new community center, work out facility, pool would be a great thing for the community. Maple Bay trailhead and access is important. future edu and trail experiences in the NER will be a good way to showcase and learn from the dam removal efforts

Expand the areas. Better upkeep needs to be maintained on Howie arena and also an expansion would be nice.

Expand

Expanded spaces, complete re-do of Easling pool locker rooms with modernity and energy efficiency in mind;
Expanded modernized restroom facilities at all locations

update.

Please describe ideas for development:

More disc golf courses around county.

Improve overall aesthetics of Civic Center and Medalie Park including adding new lighting, benches and picnic tables.

Secure Y desk in Howe Arena so bldg can remain open to outside park users (softball brings a lot of families (girls) and 2 stalls in the outside bathroom are not enough and sometimes you need more than just a porta-potty.

More community activities at reasonable prices.

We need a new Senior Center in TC

Fix the pool and arena. Better locker rooms

It would be nice to connect all the Boardman trails together.

Already commented on improvements

They need routine investment, with staff and users picking the most important improvements needed each year.

more modern family friendly facilities at CC property

Increased hours of operation & more open swim

Please describe ideas for development:

The amphitheater area of the Civic Center is never utilized and should be developed. It has the potential to be a great outdoor venue of some sort. I would appreciate an in-town lighted cross-country ski loop. Although I haven't been recently, before the County temporarily closed the pool, it was a challenge for seniors to lap swim. The lanes were dominated by aggressive swimmers, swimming in circles and I could not keep up. The ambience was noisy. I would appreciate a more mellow atmosphere with space for slower swimmers. (For that reason, I have not come back to the pool. Maybe it's difference already. I should check.) Finally, as previously stated, we need a state-of-the art senior center...a more pleasant environment with modern amenities that provide spaces for both large and small groups to meet without interfering with each other's activities. The kitchen is not wheelchair friendly...at least the last time I was there, it was not. The pickle ball courts could be expanded to accommodate more players.

warming hut and connection to area trails

Leave Power Island as it is! It is an escape for locals - the more build that happens the bigger the tourist attraction.

xc and bike trails at maple. another entrance for vehicles at keystone, restrooms. bike/pump track at civic.

Power Island needs better bathrooms, better access to the shoreline for kayakers and boats (maybe a dock where people could be dropped off, and kayaks could be lifted onto the island - right now you have to wade through slippery rocky shallow water to get to shore which is hard to do by yourself with a kayak without falling), Medalie needs the Boardman Lake Trail to be completed all the way around the lake and better bathrooms - plus designed so that it does not become a place where people go to drink and pass out. Emphasis on Medalie park should be on improving the trail, bridges, flood control, and managing the Canada geese population. A Kayak launch would be wonderful. Easling pool is in sore need of improved locker rooms, and a section of the pool that could be kept warmer for families and older people who like to swim

Would love to see a rock climbing wall at either the Civic Center or Twin Lakes

Please describe ideas for development:

stabilize the house on the Maple Bay property

Dog Park at the Civic Center

Bike path connections - staging areas (parking & restrooms)

Out houses update

Additional land acquisition, if available. More trails

New buildings

Slides children's area in pool; new large playground by civic center ,pier docks by island

Purchase the beach front land between Maple Bay and Petobego State Game Area for greater walking access.
Leave the area natural - No development!

I like hr parks the ay theu are now, but you folks always come accross great ideas.

Better kayak launching facilities

Medalie Park now needs better trimming for safety visibility, and ultimately water walkways and accessibility for walkers and cyclists from all directions.

The Senior Center interior needs interior help to be alive. We all have to just make do with leftovers, cast off. And that's kind of how it feels to be a widow in Traverse City. I listened to a well meaning 30-something that wanted to bring seniors and day care age children together because of its healing ability...I'm sure the thought was well intended but hopefully never will come to fruition. I don't go to the Senior Center to hang out with someone else's grandchildren. I go to meet other widows that liked their husbands. We are a very small group. A fresh coat of paint, some built ins for storage, lighter weight tables that could be easily moved, happy colorful window treatments. These are all reasonable expenses.

Please describe ideas for development:

Senior Center improvement is LONG OVERDUE. Meyer property is an unutilized/underutilized gem as is the Birmley property.

Utilizing the portion of Maple Bay that is across the road for a bike trailhead/park and figuring out some use for the house there and restoring the barn; Civic Center and Easling - listen to community feedback, my opinions there are not as valid as those who use more often; Medalie needs an overall plan, UA kayak/canoe launch, bathrooms, etc.

Twin Lakes Park has so much space and potential- the trails, buildings and outdoor space! Building it into a rental space more, and education center with trails like Nature Education Reserve would be great. Easling Pool has always been a hot topic and money pit. I'm not really sure what to do with that one.

Medalie needs more activity so it doesn't decline into a creepy hangout spot

Pool needs upgrades including the showers with improved accessibility. SC desperately needs updating as well as greater accessibility around the property including the beach. Civic Center fence needs to be replaced for health and safety of children and families.

See Twin Lakes suggestion above regarding a motel-like retreat facility for quilt retreats, Elder Hostel retreats, 4-H & youth workshops, etc. Model after the Kettunen Center in Tustin.

Better restrooms by the new playground.

Just think Easling pool should stay in business, along with the work out room and saunas.

Set aside some ground for development of affordable housing clusters

Easling; replace aging equipment & enhance facilities - Senior Center; enhance & expand facility

Please describe ideas for development:

Given in other answers above

modernize the offerings

Trails at Beitner Park, the Boardman Nature Center and on Power Island need improvements to minimize erosion and some boardwalk, wet area crossings need rebuilding.

All ball fields need attention

General improvements are needed to Easling pool.

Pool is in dire need of maintenance equipment.

Restroom facilities

as has been described for the public

Outdoor grills, more accessible fire pit, fishing dock

Bathrooms at Senior Center - Remove structure and have open space - put structure across the street for seniors to use...or develop three story structure that has multi use - KEEPING public access - if its going to be rented for weddings every weekend and we cant use the beach what's the point?

Most parks need parking because we are not able to safely travel across town on bike - wide parking because door dings are not a great feeling - clean adequately stocked restrooms cause they always forget to go before we leave the house - and safe maintained trails to use for hiking/running or biking or skiing. benches or quite place to rest - signage/wayfinding (the solar system on tart trails is a favorite of our family) Playgrounds are great but add cost quickly when i think the mission of the parks and rec is to create the space for people to use rather than the equipment...

Please describe ideas for development:

All parks need clean rest room facilities for health reasons.

Skating and roller sports, inside and outside, would increase potential revenue for daily use and for special events. It would recruit a different demographic than what we already have here, and expand the areas base of younger people, younger families, which would benefit the area in the whole.

Two story facility needed at Civic Center grounds with second level indoor running track and main level use for indoor softball, baseball, lacrosse, field hockey, soccer etc. Improvements outside need to include: completely rebuilt skate park at least 4x larger and more attractive to all - move this away from residential areas and baseball fields away from residential homes on Fair street. Update and expand both zhowe Arena and Easling pool. Consider removing Easling and rebuilding at Keystone location - TC could continue to bring in tourists out at Keystone if pool located there because Swimming competitions could be hosted. You need a young, urban planner from a cold weather climate to consultant for help. Too many East and West coast people moving in who are disappointed with what's available and move on to other MI communities or other states all together.

I live in Fife Lake. The nearest county park to me is 19 miles. I'd like to see facilities closer to me. I'd like to see low traffic routes and trails designated for use by road bikes, particularly leading to existing county facilities to make them more accessible to me.

None unless you can maintain them. The Civic Center is very poorly maintained.

Barrier free at Power island More pickle ball at Senior center

Please describe ideas for development:

I am disappointed that Silver Lake Park was not even mentioned in this survey.

Maple Bay could use a bit more signage re borders of the newly acquired tract to the north, running up to the pond. I believe the old signs indicating private property are outdated. -- Easling Pool needs to be updated and maintained as a critical community resource. -- A few more trail signs at Twin Lakes Park would help deeper in the woods.

Improved landing for kayaks at Beitner, improved cleaning(not pumping out) of vault toilet, needs to be done daily during peak usage in the summer

PLEASE do not change Maple Bay Park or Power Island.

The Natural Education Reserve will undoubtedly need improvements to accommodate an increase in recreational users following the dams removal projects.

General updating, trail linkage at Medalie, swim area at Twin Lakes, use Birmley property.

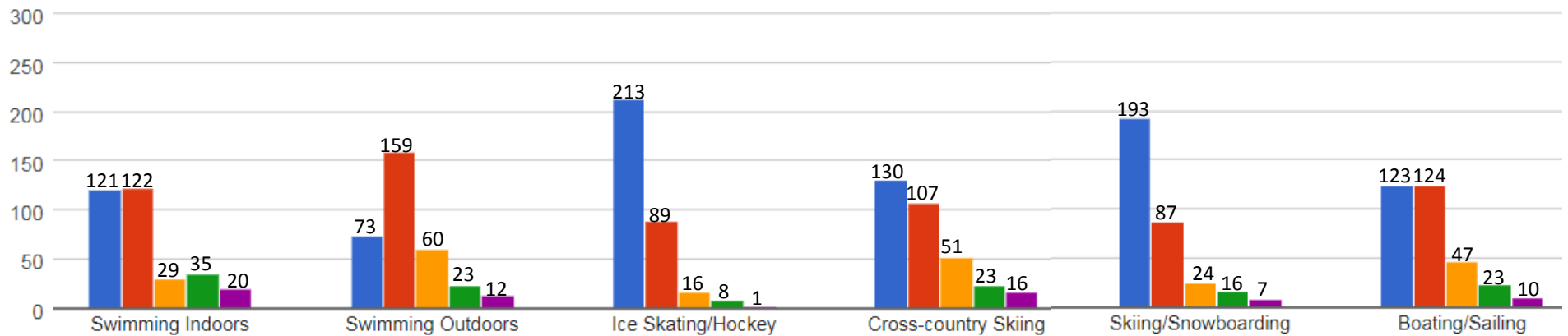
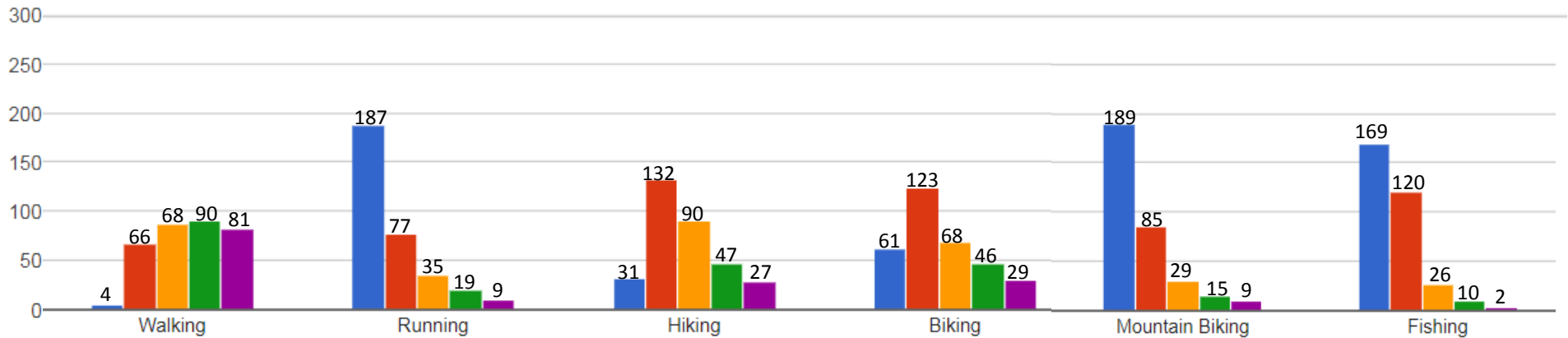
Add pickle ball courts.

Infrastructure, new fencing, increase budget for workers to improve trails and access

Other (4)

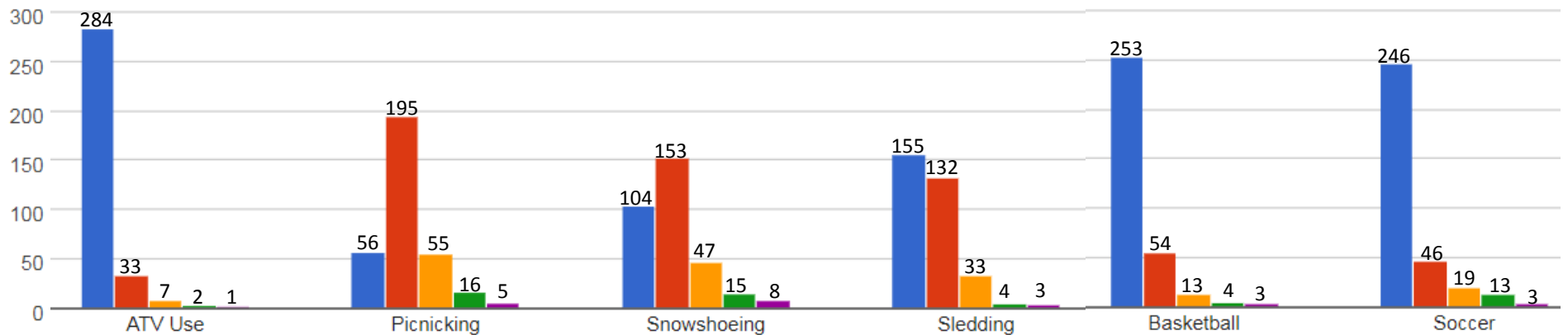
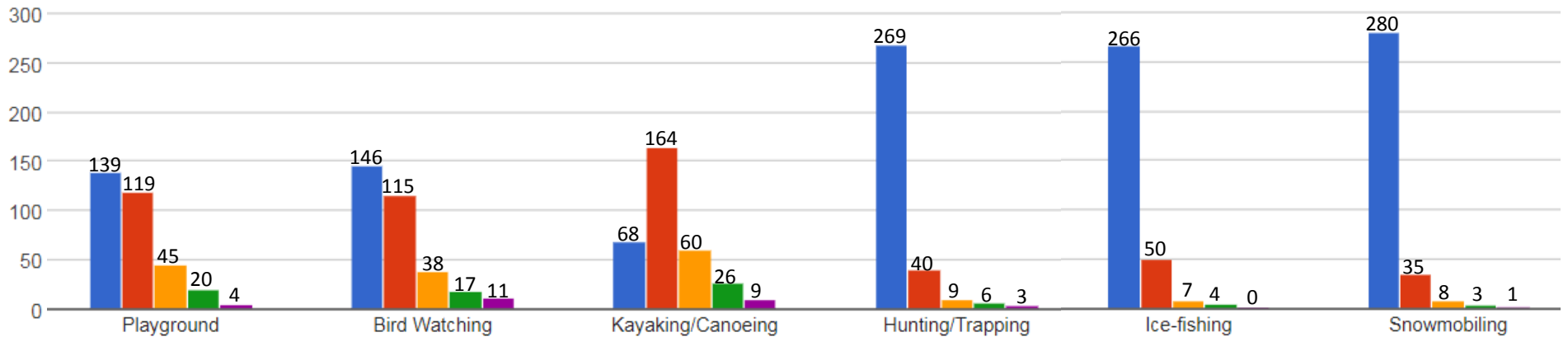
Recreation preferences: frequency

■ Never
 ■ On Occasion
 ■ 1 to 2 Times Per Week
 ■ 3 to 4 Times Per Week
 ■ 5 to 7 Times Per Week



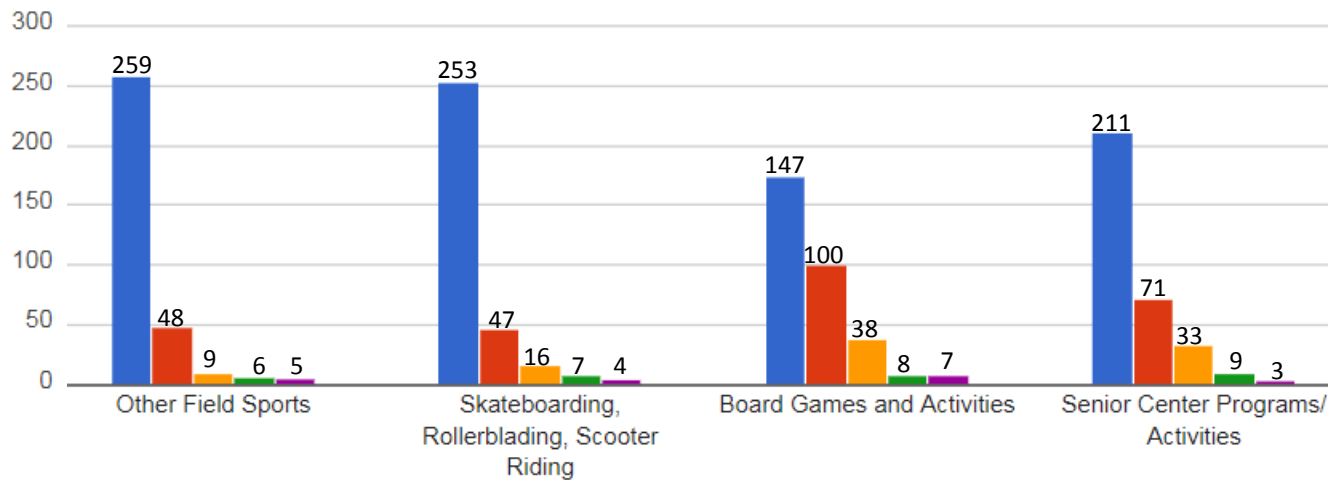
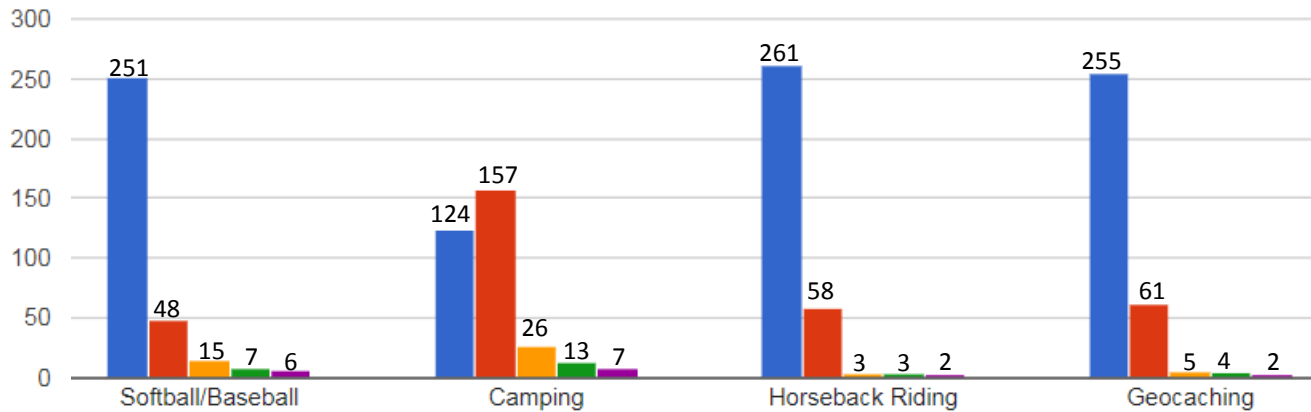
Recreation preferences: frequency

■ Never
 ■ On Occasion
 ■ 1 to 2 Times Per Week
 ■ 3 to 4 Times Per Week
 ■ 5 to 7 Times Per Week

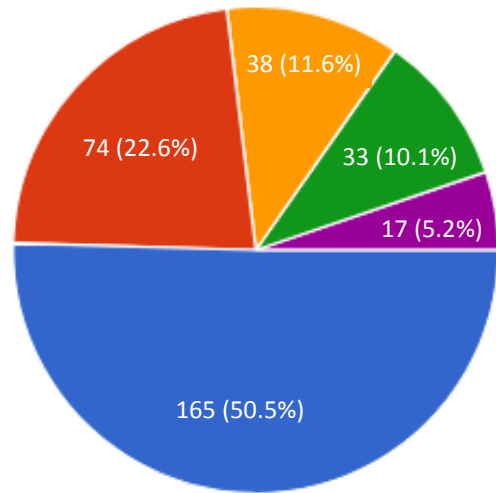


Recreation preferences: frequency

■ Never
 ■ On Occasion
 ■ 1 to 2 Times Per Week
 ■ 3 to 4 Times Per Week
 ■ 5 to 7 Times Per Week



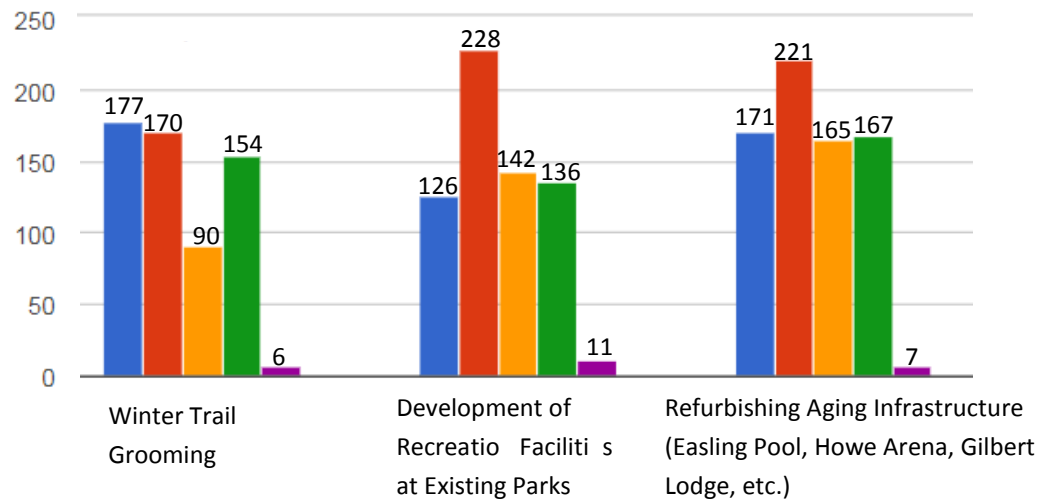
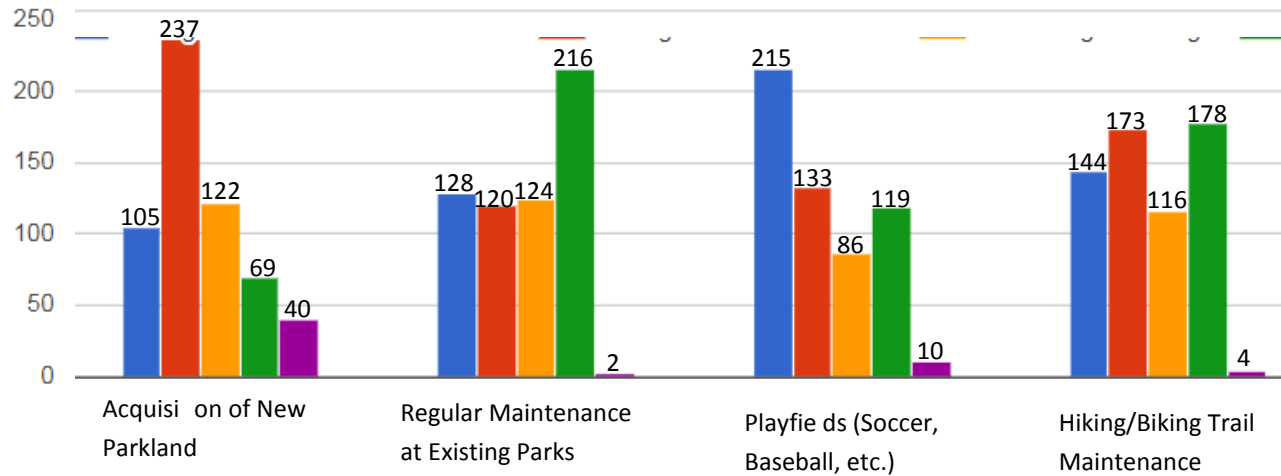
Should the county acquire additional parkland? Which statement best reflects your answer?



- Yes, to save more natural areas from development.
- Yes, special-purpose parkland in strategic locations.
- No, but support and facilitate the acquisition of parkland by other entities.
- No, there is enough parkland owned by the county.
- No opinion.

How should the following be funded for county-owned parks? Select one or more funding options.

Through User Fees/User Donations Through Grants/Donations With Millage Funding
From the County's General Fund Should Not Be Funded



Additional Comments or Suggestions?

Thanks a lot for making scroll through six very boring pages without considering or suggesting disc golf as an activity. (2)

I fully support pay to play. Not everyone participates in the same sports or has the same interests. I think the county should be all in on the properties they already own. When the civic center was developed, what was the long range plan for maintenance and refurbishing? If there wasn't one, shame on the powers that be at that time.

I'd love to see some indoor/outdoor space for roller sports - hockey, roller derby, and speed skating. Burh Park in Ann Arbor is a great example. It's covered, but has open sides. Of course another open space like Howe would be great year round, but I'm also a realist. A covered open area at Silver Lake would be perfect. Ice time is expensive and hockey parents spend enough time in a cold rink, that some outdoor hockey space would be much welcomed. Also, the traverse city roller derby league would love a place to call home year round.

I learned to swim at Easling Pool, my kids learned to swim there, and now I swim there regularly. This facility allows many country residents to exercise and stay healthy as well as make social connections that enhance physical and mental health.

Take care of the Parks the county is supposed to maintain before aquiring anymore

Don't acquire what you can't maintain.

I think Grand Traverse County could be the next Oakland County Parks with a strategic mileage plan.

Pickleball or court use is never mentioned. Why?

TC Senior Center(s) should be listed as an aging infrastructure

Add more pickle ball courts

Additional Comments or Suggestions?

The area needs an indoor space for roller sports, ie. Speed skating, roller derby, roller hockey, skate boarding, etc...

Our parks & trails should remain free & accessible so that everyone can participate as often as desired.

Funds for park and recreation services are part of what our taxes should go to support. They are essential services for health and quality of life in our region.

Easling Pool is important for people on the East side of town.

Many of the above could/should also be funded through the county general fund, but there appears to be no money available. It is a sad state of affairs when our county and city cannot join together to give the citizens a modern pool facility to enhance the well-being of this community.

I cannot answer the above question with the options provided because I don't have enough knowledge of funding for parks and recreation to make a selection. I am strongly in support of keeping the Civic Center walking trail available as it is, without shrinking it in any way and with the trees in the park intact.

DO NOT SELL ANY PARKLAND - Parkland is vital for the health and wellness of residents It increases property values and is a huge asset to our region. The focus should be on maintaining and improving current properties, acquiring additional properties, and focusing on multipurpose uses of current holdings.

The County needs to 'step up to the plate' and appropriately fund repairs and capital improvements of their parks. This included appropriate staffing to monitor them (I'm thinking skate park) I think a specific Parks and Recreation millage would pass if it is small, targeted, and well communicated.

The County should not allow aging infrastructure, such as the Senior Center, Easling Pool, Howe Arena, and Gilbert Hall to be neglected and fall into disrepair. With better regular maintenance, these facilities would be in better shape.

Additional Comments or Suggestions?

Bicycle racks at all parks and storage lockers at some like Howe Arena

Please leave undeveloped land in natural state. There is so little of it left. The County can do its part as land stewards by doing so. Also, please do not add to light pollution. Lighting, when absolutely necessary, should be downward facing. Appreciate having boot wiping stations at trailheads to decrease invasive species. In above question I favored user donations, not fees. If fees, then be sure there is a mechanism for "scholarships " for those who cannot afford them. Thanks.

Every Park listed lacks the sport of volleyball! Adding an indoor facility would be fantastic!

It would go a long way to making parks usable and enjoyable for everyone if you could enforce county leash laws. People are letting their dogs run loose and free around these parks and they are impossible to use without being annoyed or attacked by these loose dogs.

Beautiful natural areas are a key resource that Grand Traverse County has that many other areas in the State and region lack. It will all be developed if steps are not taken to protect it and maintain it, so people can enjoy it. The value of everything in the local economy is tied to the beauty and availability of our natural areas. People would not visit or want to live here if the land and waters were not protected, maintained and managed in a way that makes them accessible and preserves their beauty and long term sustainability. The county would be wise to invest in expanding, improving and maintaining recreation and parklands. Those who propose selling them off or neglecting them are misguided.

No

Our parks are integral to our quality of life; many of us live here because of the open space, trail systems and access to recreation. This is a fundamental function of government, it is physical infrastructure, as critical to our quality of life as water and sewer infrastructure.

Additional Comments or Suggestions?

Regional Land Conservancy has led the way - work with them to identify areas, and then use grants and donations to make purchases.

We use Peninsula Township park. Rarely use county.

Thanks for asking

I live just off the TART Trail and can't use much of it due to bicyclists. I've have close calls with packs of riders that are too close and round corners while I have my dog on a leash. The bikers don't give but they expect me to. I encounter many dogs off leash in Pelizzari then get accused of having a bad dog because I have mine on leash...same thing at Civic Center. I am especially put off by those my own age that are above all the rules. My background is in public health, education, how to play nicely with others. My patience is running thin with all the "I'm above the rules that are stifling MY creativity and rights. Screw you attitude" Really? I don't have to like the rules but I am obliged to respect them. I recognize that there is a reason/reasoning behind them. Kind of like passing lanes. I get it that an engineer and insurance company crash data drives that decision. And someone else passes me anyway and endangers others. I get it. How do you make it clear to our citizenry that there is a reasonable benefit for us all to be respectful and knowledgeable of local ordinances. And polite to each other for goodness sake!

Mt. Holiday would like the parks to purchase the 65 acres behind them to increase their offerings.

I've been told there is a sweetheart arrangement with ICE group and it should be eliminated. They need to help offset the costs of maintaining the Civic Center. The users (ice users; swimmers; ballplayers) should expect to "pay to play" so that the county can maintain the premises.

Stop elected commissioners from repeatedly complaining about the costs of parks. Fund their maintenance and their programming. If you don't want to fund the pool or civic center, turn them over to Traverse City who will do the job.

Additional Comments or Suggestions?

Having available recreational areas, natural area and parks available at reasonable cost is important for our community. Being able to be outside and have connection to nature is important for a health of a community and all its members. We often sacrifice this aspect of our community for tax breaks and other financial advantages for developers and development.

Would like to attend master planning but unable to that day and time.

Thank you for all the lovely parks. Please maintain and improve the parks you have BEFORE acquiring additional park land.

TC should have a larger dog park in a more rural area. Whomever suggested the current location next to the two busiest roads in town should be ashamed for trying to make it fail. This survey should ask way more questions on expanding bike lanes and trails - I never see anyone using basketball courts but every trail in town is used all the time. The civic center's skatepark should be expanded and professionally redesigned - it is one of the most heavily used amenities we have.

ps keep up the three skating rinks

Traffic speeds are often excessive around/within parks. State law allows 15 mph at parks. Speed limits should be lowered to 15 mph around parks and adjacent roads to protect pedestrians within and near parks.

Grand Traverse County is going to continue to grow. It is essential that we protect our most sacred places — the places that people are moving here to enjoy. It is especially important to preserve open space and recreational opportunities within our city limits. I also believe that it is our generation's responsibility to leave a legacy for our children and grandchildren. They will thank us for making land preservation a priority.

I have no definite idea

Use of volunteers. There are a lot of skilled retirees that would probably be glad to help.

Additional Comments or Suggestions?

I showed up for the 7 pm meeting and no one was there. Very disappointing. Press release had differing times.

Consider competing for not only State funds but Federal funds. The county is missing out on Major funding opportunities and it's members aren't willing or able to reach out to not only county residents but 7 county residents with connections in Washington DC and previous experience. I say 7 county area because at least that area encompasses many of the people using county facilities.

Also with cooperation with the City. This survey was filled out online for Ken Frymore by Ryan Walsh.

Recording Survey for patron that called to take it.

I did not learn about meetings on the news until they were over. I firmly believe we should have indoor soccer facilities and I am willing to work on a committee to make it happen. The best location might be Meyer Park & Keystone Soccer Complex. Jerry Niezgoda 231-392-2988, call me.

I would like individuals with disabilities to have more sailing opportunities on West Bay. In the community I grew up in there was free sailing for all kids during the summer

I was aware that a Disc Golf was being considered for Silver Lake Park. I am AGAINST it - with or without funding - private or County.

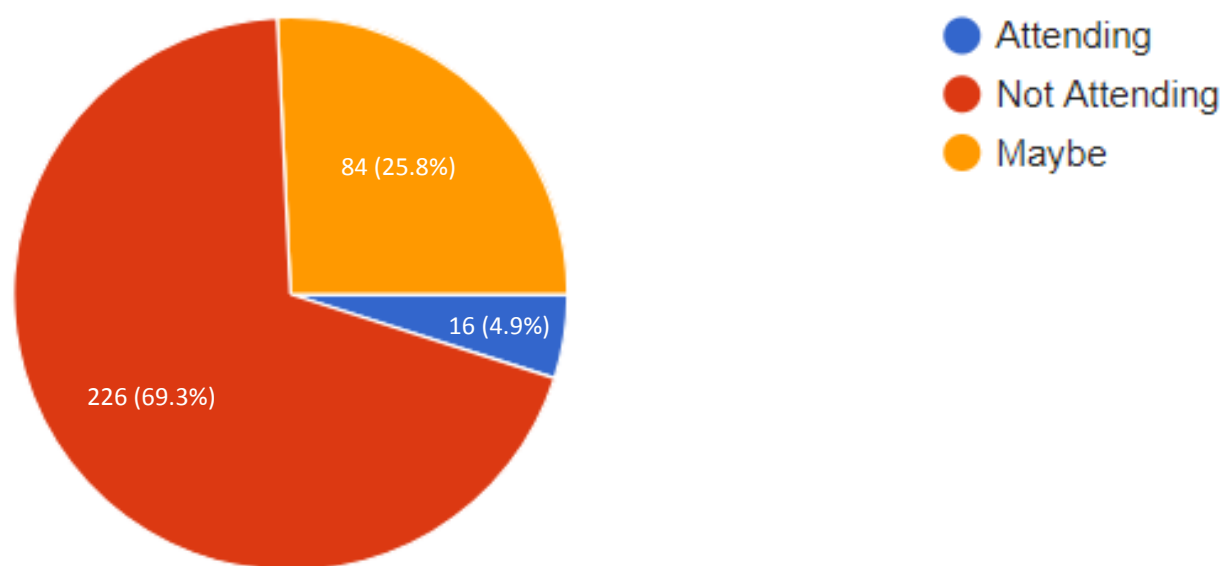
Please do not change Maple Bay in any way.

We had the funds to support these parks for years, this needs to be a budget priority, not travel or multiple "studies" to tell us what we already know.

We just moved here from Washington State, so we don't know much yet....except for Peepers at the Boardman River Nature Center. Miss Tarryn is OUTSTANDING, and deserves a raise!!!

I think people who use these areas or family members that do are usually willing to donate and help.

Let us know if you would like to participate in a Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation community parks master planning meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 3 p.m. or at 7 p.m. at the Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, in the training room on the second floor. For more information, visit www.grandtraverse.org/parks or call 231-922-4818.



Appendix E: Community Input Session Notices and Results



We will enhance community and quality of life through people, parks, and programs.

October 23, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YOUR Input Is Needed – Celebrate “County Park Survey Day” on Thursday, October 26

Traverse City – Be heard! Help shape the future of YOUR county park system.

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation is updating its master plan, which is required every five years to qualify for certain state and federal grants to improve its parks. As part of this process, all county residents and parks and recreation-related organizations and businesses, regardless of whether they visit or use county parks, are invited to participate in “County Park Survey Day.” Three community input sessions are scheduled to be held on Thursday, October 26, at 3 p.m., 5 p.m., and 7 p.m., in the training room on the second floor of the Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue in Traverse City.

Each session features a short overview of the county’s parks, followed by informal discussion, questions, and answers about each park. A master planning team composed of representatives from County Parks, Senior Center Network, County Planning Department, City of Traverse City, Conservation District, TART Trails, Norte!, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and LIAA will be on hand to engage with participants.

Participants are encouraged to offer suggestions and ideas for park improvements. Light refreshments will be served.

Community members also are encouraged to take the master plan survey and review the current County Parks master plan on line at www.grandtraverse.org/parks (once on the page, scroll down to locate links). Those who wish to receive a paper copy of the survey may request one by calling 231-922-4818. Paper copies also will be available during the community input sessions this Thursday.

County Parks and Recreation Commissioners and the Parks Department are stewards of: Beitner Park, Civic Center Park (including Easling Pool and Howe Arena), Keystone Soccer Complex and adjacent Birmley-Keystone property, Maple Bay Park and Natural Area, Medalie Roadside Park, Meyer Property, Nature Education Reserve and Boardman River Nature Center, Power Island, Twin Lakes Park, and the VASA Trailhead.

For more information, call 231-922-4818.

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Contact: Kristine Erickson, Director, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation; 231-922-4511; kerickson@grandtraverse.org



We value and want YOUR ideas and opinions about YOUR county parks

We can't plan without you. Be heard and join us!

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Community Parks Master Planning Meeting!

Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 3 p.m. or 7 p.m. at the Governmental Center,
400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, in the training room on the second floor
For more information, visit www.grandtraverse.org/parks or call 231-922-4818

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION**
Senior Center Network



Published on Parks and Recreation's web page and social media, including Facebook. Published on Parks and Recreation partners' web pages and Facebook pages. Posters placed in County buildings and at various local businesses and offices.



We will enhance community and quality of life through people, parks, and programs.

**County Parks and Recreation Commission
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Community Input Meetings
AGENDA**

**Thursday, October 26, 2017, 3 p.m, 5 p.m., 7 p.m.
Training Room, Second Floor
Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, Michigan 49684**

Purpose: As part of its five-year master planning process and to shape its future, for County Parks and Recreation Department to gain input and direction on parks, park facilities, funding, and operations.

1. Introduction to Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation (Staff)
2. Audience Introductions (Participants)
3. Activity Overview (Staff)
4. Answer General Questions (Participants)
 - A. How many of you have visited a County park in the last year?
 - B. How many of you have visited a County park in the last three months?
 - C. How would you like to see County parks funded?
5. Visit Park “Stations” and Answer Specific Questions (Participants) (Common/similar responses will be grouped together at each station)
 - A. What do you like most about this park?
 - B. What do you not like about this park?
 - C. What improvements would you like to see at this park?
6. Adjourn

Note to Participants: Thank you for your time and your suggestions about YOUR parks. We need your help to plan the future of County Parks.

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department Community Input Sessions
October 26, 2017, 3 p.m., 5 p.m., and 7 p.m.
Second Floor Training Room, Governmental Center, 400 N. Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan

RESULTS

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 41

3 p.m. Session

Number of Participants: 17

A. How many of you have visited a County park in the last year? 16

B. How many of you have visited a County park in the last three months? 15

5 p.m. Session

Number of Participants: 14

A. How many of you have visited a County park in the last year? 14

B. How many of you have visited a County park in the last three months? 12

7 p.m. Session

Number of Participants: 10

A. How many of you have visited a County park in the last year? 10

B. How many of you have visited a County park in the last three months? 7

**Help shape the future of
YOUR County parks!
Attend a public input
session on
Thursday, November 16, 2017
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
at the Senior Center, 801 E. Front**



Whether familiar with one of our ten county parks or not, all are welcomed to stop by and offer suggestions and ideas for the 2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Five-year Master Plan. Your feedback is vital to our region's recreational future.

For your convenience, the input session will be held at the **Grand Traverse County Senior Center**, located at 801 East Front Street. Light refreshments, and all participants will be entered into a drawing for free use of Gilbert Lodge at Twin Lakes Park!

For more information, please contact Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation at 231-922-4818.

Published on Parks and Recreation's web page and social media, including Facebook. Published on Parks and Recreation partners' web pages and Facebook pages. Posters placed in County buildings and at various local businesses and offices.

**Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department Community Input Session
November 16, 2017, 5 p.m.
Senior Center Network Office, 801 E. Front Street, Traverse City, Michigan**

RESULTS

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 2

- A. How many of you have visited a County park in the last year? 2
- B. How many of you have visited a County park in the last three months? 2
- C. How would you like to see County parks funded?
 - Townships and County work together on our parks.
 - Use DNR Trust Fund grants for the parks.
 - Consider park “sticker” program where supporters voluntarily purchase a sticker where proceeds go to park improvements.
 - Keep the parks. Keep what we have. Build up the parks and uses.

Beitner Park

Likes: Water trail proposal, access

Dislikes: --

Improvements: Primitive camping

Civic Center Park

Likes: Pool, fundraising for pool improvements, ice arena, trail, ball fields, playground

Dislikes: --

Improvements: Pickle ball courts. Group courts 4 to 6 together.

Keystone Soccer Complex

Likes: Size – capacity

Dislikes: Driveway – access is restricted

Improvements: --

Maple Bay Park and Natural Area

Likes: Beach, waterfront, trails, connected north to Petobego

Dislikes: --

Improvements: Restrooms

Medalie Park

Likes: Pavilion, view of lake, access by bike

Dislikes: Drainage, geese

Improvements: Landscaping

Meyer House/Natural Education Reserve

Likes: Boardman River Nature Center – meetings and events, hiking trails, landscaping, labeling of native plants

Dislikes: Stairs connecting trails need fixing

Improvements: --

Power-Bassett Islands

Likes: Beaches, unique, history

Dislikes: --

Improvements: --

Twin Lakes Park

Likes: County treasure

Dislikes: --

Improvements: Hiking/snow shoeing trails

VASA Trailhead/Bartlett Park

Likes: Gateway to best cross-country skiing in the region, parking is adequate, warming house, partnership

Dislikes: --

Improvements: --

Senior Center in Traverse City's Senior Center Park

Likes: Beach, keep in place, staff

Dislikes: --

Improvements: Access to beach

Appendix F: Notice of Availability of Master Plan for Review

(Shared with County's media e-mail list, Parks and Recreation and County Commissioners; posted on Parks and Recreation's web page and social media, and on all Parks and Recreation partners' Facebook pages)

1213 W. Civic Center Drive
Traverse City, Michigan 49686
Phone: 231-922-4818
Fax: 231-922-2064



kerickson@grandtraverse.org
rwalsh@grandtraverse.org
lwells@grandtraverse.org
www.grandtraverse.org/parks

January 12, 2018

RE: Seeking Public Comment on the Proposed 2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Community Parks and Recreation Plan

Dear Grand Traverse County Citizens and County Park and Senior Center Patrons,

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation's mission is "to enhance community and quality of life through people, parks, and programs." The Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network's mission is "to make longer lives, better lives." We are pleased to invite and welcome you, our public, to help fulfill these missions by commenting on the recently completed draft of the *2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Community Parks and Recreation Plan*, also known as the five-year recreation plan. The plan describes the County park system and recreational opportunities offered at those parks. It addresses current recreational needs and wants, and presents a vision of the future of our parks, including resource conservation and recreation goals, objectives, partnerships, and potential funding sources related to park projects, programs, and services.

You may view the plan on line at www.grandtraverse.org/parks, and via a link on the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Facebook page. Hard copies are available to read at the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Office, 1213 W. Civic Center Drive, Traverse City, Michigan 49686, the Grand Traverse County Clerk's Office, located on the first floor of the Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan 49684, and the Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network Office at 801 E. Front Street, Traverse City, Michigan 49686. **To provide public comment or to request a personal, printed copy, please write an e-mail to kerickson@grandtraverse.org, or call 231-922-4818.**

This document is open for comment until noon on Thursday, February 15, 2018. A public hearing will be held on the same day at 5 p.m. during the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission's regular meeting in Commission Chambers on the second floor of the Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City.

Your comments will assist Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network with determining and validating current and future needs and wants for the County Parks and Recreation-Senior Center's facilities, programs, and services. The recreational needs and wants presented in the final plan may then be integrated into County planning efforts to emphasize the importance of including community health in our vision for the future.

Once adopted, the plan will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, making our department eligible for Department of Natural Resource grant funding.

Thank you for your continued support of recreational opportunities and spaces which bring good health, wellness, and joy to our community and visitors. We will look forward to your comments.

Please also help us by sharing this letter with all interested individuals in your personal and professional networks.

With warmest regards on behalf of County Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network,

Kris

Kristine Erickson, Director, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network

1454
D.T. to Parks & Recreation

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN
County of Grand Traverse

LEGAL NOTICE

SEEKING COUNTY RESIDENTS' INPUT on the draft five-year Grand Traverse County Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan on line at www.grandtraverse.org/parks (scroll down to access), available for review until Thurs., Feb. 15 at noon. Send comments to kerickson@grandtraverse.org or call 231-922-4818. Hard copy available for review at Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Ave., Traverse City, and Parks and Recreation Department, 1213 W. Civic Center Drive, Traverse City, or call 231-922-4818. Public hearing for public comment to be held Feb. 15 at 5 p.m., Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Ave., Traverse City.

January 13, 14, 2018-2T

483753

Paul Heidbreder 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:

01/13/2018

01/14/2018

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 16th of January, 2018 .



Denise A. Lingerfelt
Notary Public, State of MI
County of Grand Traverse
09/28/2023
Acting in County of Grand Traverse

Appendix G: Affidavit of Publication for Public Hearing Regarding Master Plan

1454
J.T. Co. Parks & Recreation

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN
County of Grand Traverse

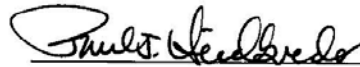
LEGAL NOTICE	
Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to participate in a public hearing during the commission's regular meeting on February 15, 2018 to provide public comment on the final draft of the 2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan.	
WHERE: Grand Traverse County Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Commission Chambers, Second Floor	
WHEN: Thursday, February 15, 2018, 5 p.m.	
CONTACT: www.grandtraverse.org/parks (website); kerickson@grandtraverse.org (e-mail); 231-922-4818 (phone)	
Kristine Erickson, Parks and Recreation Director	
Suggestions or comments on the final draft of the 2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan are also welcomed via the e-mail address above.	
February 13, 14, 2018-2T	485613

Paul Heidbreder 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:

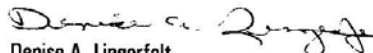
02/13/2018

02/14/2018

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 14th of February, 2018.



Denise A. Lingerfelt
Notary Public, State of MI
County of Grand Traverse
09/28/2023
Acting in County of Grand Traverse

Classified Advertisement in *Ticker* Online Publication. Ran February 14 and 15, 2018.



Be heard! Public hearing Thurs., Feb. 15 about Five-year GT County Parks and Recreation Plan

All GT County residents invited to public meeting to help finalize master park/rec plan for YOUR ten county parks, Thurs., Feb. 15, 5 p.m., [400 Boardman Ave., T.C., 2nd Floor](#).

[Details](#)

Appendix H: Minutes of February 15, 2018 Public Hearing



We will enhance community and quality of life through people, parks, and programs.

**Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission
Thursday, February 15, 2018
Commission Chambers, Second Floor, Governmental Center
400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan 49684
5 p.m. Meeting
MINUTES**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.
- C. Roll Call
Commissioners Present: Peter Albers, Rodetta Harrand, Rod Kivell, Tom Mair, John Roth, Whitney Waara, Shirley Zerafa
Commissioners Excused: Steve Largent, David Grams
Absent: William Mouser
Others Present: Kristine Erickson, Director, Katelynn Brown, Office Coordinator, Lori Wells, Senior Center Network Manager, and John Leach, Temporary Caretaker, Twin Lakes Park, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation; Ty Schmidt, Director, Norté!; Jason Smith, Technical Director, Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer; Tom Vitale, Parkland Steward, Reb Ratliff, Parkland Steward, Max Miller, Parkland Technician, Andy Blodgett, Board President; Marsha Barber Clark, Director, Conservation District; Jack Robbins, Natural Education Reserve Advisory Committee Member
- D. First Public Comment
Director introduced John Leach, who will act as caretaker for Twin Lakes Park on a temporary basis for six months.
Jason Smith, Technical Director for Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS), stated that TBAYS is making a plan to develop property adjacent to soccer fields to present to the Commission in the future.
- E. Approval of/Additions to Agenda
Director requested to add "Authority to Adjust Fees" under New Business as Item 6.
President requested to add "Business Development Team Appointments and Ratifications" under Old Business as Item 2.
MOTION by Harrand, second by Kivell, to approve the agenda, as amended. Motion carried.
- F. Public Hearing: Community Input on Draft Five-Year County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Public hearing opened by President at 5:07 p.m.
 - 1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Commissioners commented.

Zerafa stated that John Sych no longer is Grand Traverse County Planning Director.

Mair discussed the section containing the business plans.

Kivell stated the plan is very thorough and very thought out and meets his requirements.

Albers asked about how revisions, resolutions, foreword, and comments would be incorporated.

Director addressed his question.

Mair asked that changes from previous five-year plan be highlighted for the County Board of Commissioners.

Albers stated that this plan is "more pragmatic" compared to previous version, and that most important changes reflect inspection of each park facility and needs.

Waara asked how objectives would be measured.

Roth stated objective measurements will be established in an updated, 2018-2019 strategic plan.

Kivell stated that community feedback was a big part of five-year plan.

2. Request to Adopt 2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan
MOTION by Kivell, second by Mair, to adopt 2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Albers, Kivell, Harrand, Mair, Waara, Zerafa, and Roth (7)

Nays: (0)

Absent: Grams, Largent, and Mouser (3)

Motion passed, 7 to 0.

Public Hearing closed by President at 5:20 p.m.

G. Special Orders of Business/Presentations

1. Proposed Youth Cycling Outdoor Classroom ("Traffic Garden") at Civic Center
Norté! Director Ty Schmidt presented a plan to establish a "traffic garden" to increase cycling safety in region. Schmidt said the project would take place in 2019 and grants will be sought for funding.
MOTION by Albers, second by Harrand, to proceed with pursuing grants for developing a traffic garden concept and proposal for the Civic Center. Motion carried.
2. Report: 2017 NER Property Management and Programming by Conservation District
Tom Vitale and Reb Ratliff, Parkland Stewards for Conservation District, and Conservation District Director Marsha Barber Clark reported on work and programs at Natural Education Reserve in 2017.

H. Action on Consent Calendar

Receive and File

1. Draft Minutes from January 11, 2018 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
2. Draft Minutes from January 30, 2018 Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting
3. Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network Budget Report
4. Grand Traverse Conservation District January 2018 Report
5. 2018 Final Parks and Recreation Meeting Schedule
6. List of Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Assignments
7. Executed Temporary Grading Easement: Parks and Recreation and Northporte Development, LLC

Albers requested to remove Items 2. and 6. from Consent Calendar.

MOTION by Zerafa, second by Albers, to receive and file the Consent Calendar, with the exception of Items 2. and 6. Motion carried.

- I. Items Removed from Consent Calendar
1. Item 2. Draft Minutes from January 30, 2018 Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting
Albers asked why Business Development Team members were not listed in minutes. Director explained why.
MOTION by Albers, second by Harrand, to receive and file Item 2. Motion carried.
 2. Item 6. List of Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Assignments
Albers asked why Business Development Team has no chair or vice chair listed. Director explained why.
MOTION by Albers, second by Kivell, to receive and file Item 6. Motion carried.
- J. Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Updates
Director summarized Parks and Recreation's January 2018 activities and programs and provided an update about the Easling Pool refurbishment fundraising campaign and project.
- K. Old Business
1. Land Leases for Cell Towers: Permission to Consult with Attorney Mike Watza
MOTION by Albers, second by Waara, to authorize Director to contact Michael J. Watza and request that he evaluate the situation for the estimated price of \$600 to \$1,000.
Roll Call Vote
Yeas: Zerafa, Waara, Mair, Harrand, Kivell, Albers, and Roth (7)
Nays: (0)
Absent: Grams, Largent, and Mouser (3)
Motion passed, 7 to 0.
 2. Business Development Team Appointments and Ratifications
President appointed members of the Business Development Team:
Peter Albers (Chair)
Rodetta Harrand (Vice Chair)
Alisa Kroupa (Citizen Appointment)
Andy J. Marek (Citizen Appointment)
Shirley Zerafa
MOTION by Roth, second by Kivell, to accept members of the BDT as appointed. Motion carried.
- L. New Business
1. User Agreement for Cherry Bomb Tournaments at TBAYS Soccer Fields
MOTION by Zerafa, second by Albers, to approve TBAYS entering into an agreement with Cherry Bomb Lacrosse for use of the TBAYS soccer fields from 2018 through 2020 and authorize President to sign agreement on Parks and Recreation Commission's behalf. Motion carried.
 2. Conservation District Potential Millage Request
Conservation District Director Marsha Barber Clark and Conservation District Board of Directors President Andy Blodgett explained that Conservation District is considering requesting a millage this year to help fund programs, staff, and Boardman River Nature Center facility upgrades.
 3. Consideration of NER Advisory Committee Appointment
MOTION by Albers, second by Mair, to approve applicant Chris Garrock as an NER Advisory Board member, at-large. Motion carried.
 4. Draft Request for Proposals for Concession Services at Civic Center
MOTION by Mair, second by Harrand, to issue a Request for Proposals for concession services at the Civic Center. Motion carried.
 5. Proposed Bylaws Change: Qualifications for Parks and Recreation Commission President
MOTION by Kivell, second by Zerafa, to authorize Director to draw up a bylaws change to be voted on at the next meeting in March.
Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Albers, Kivell, Harrand, Zerafa, Mair, Waara, and Roth (7)

Nays: (0)

Absent: Grams, Largent, and Mouser (3)

Motion passed, 7 to 0.

6. Authority to Adjust Fees

Director requested for authorization to adjust fees, as necessary, for parks and facilities throughout the year and to include fee changes in Consent Calendars as they change.

MOTION by Harrand, second by Albers, to authorize Director to adjust fees within the year with the Fees Ad Hoc Committee. Motion carried.

M. Second Public Comment

There was no public comment.

N. Notices and Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Mair asked when the next meeting will be held. He stated that TBAYS Board's February meeting was cancelled.

President and Director informed that the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is March 8, 2018.

Director informed Commission that the Fees Ad Hoc Committee meeting and the Future of Parks Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be held in Room 300 at the Governmental Center on February 22, 2018.

O. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 7:33 p.m.

Appendix I: Regional Maps

City of Traverse City Parks, Grand Traverse County

Acme, East Bay, Paradise, and Whitewater Township Parks, Grand Traverse County

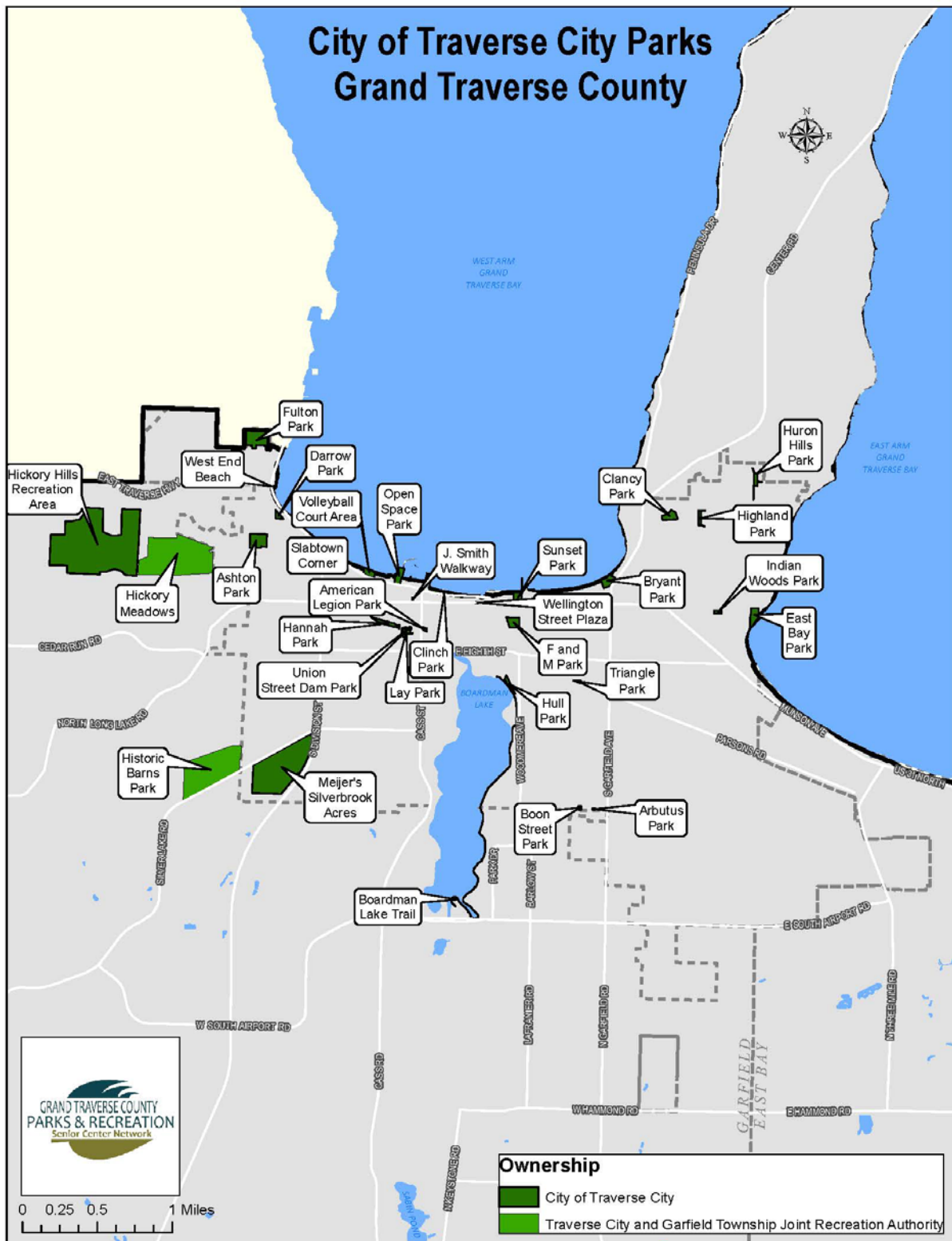
Blair, Garfield, Green Lake, and Long Lake Township Parks, Grand Traverse County

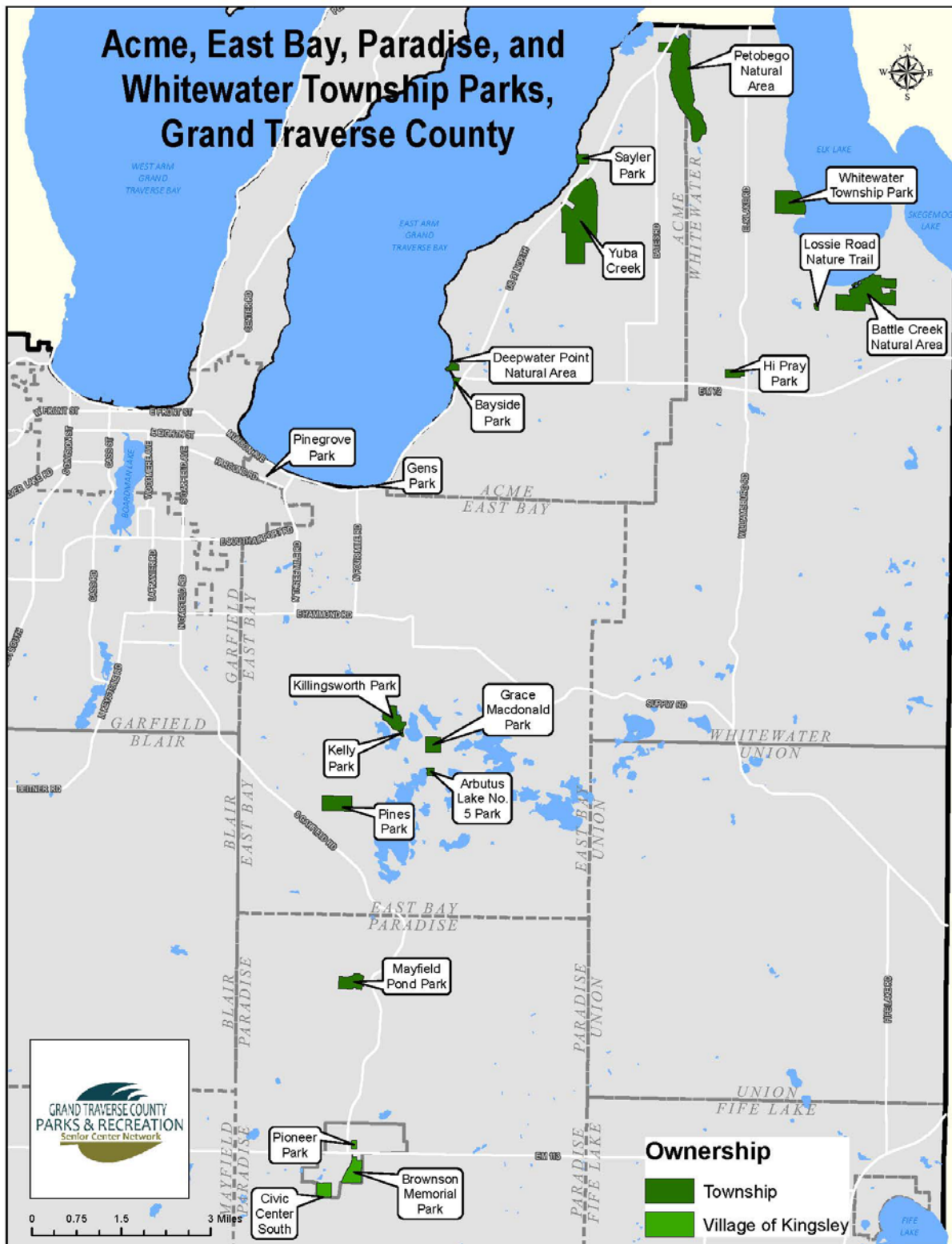
Peninsula Township Parks, Grand Traverse County

State and County Trails within Grand Traverse County

Private Facilities Available to the Community within Grand Traverse County

State Parks and Recreation, Public Access, and Wildlife Areas within Grand Traverse County

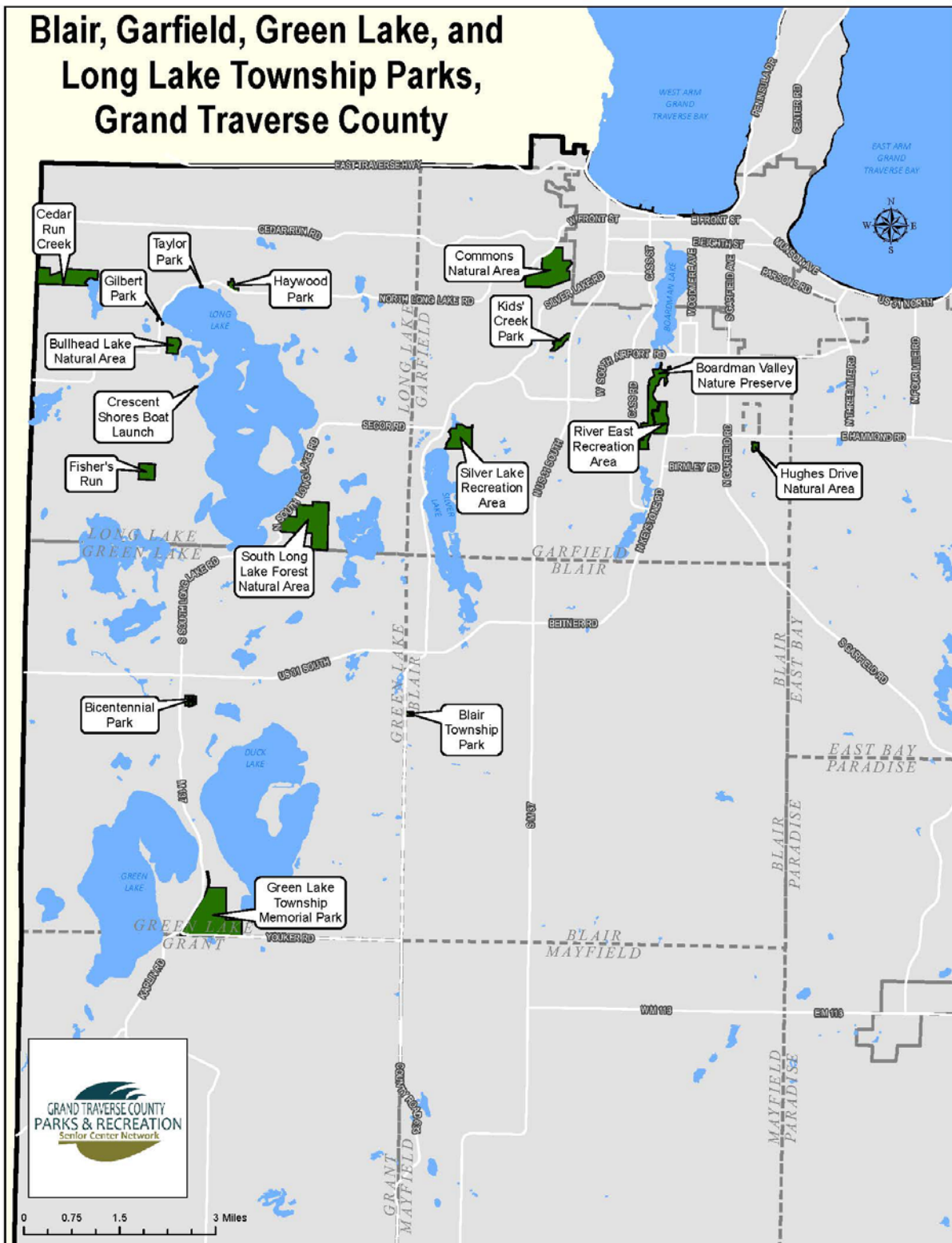




01/14/2018 GTC-GIS / JG

This map is based on digital databases prepared by Grand Traverse County. Grand Traverse County does not warrant, expressly or impliedly, or accept any responsibility for any errors, omissions, or that the information contained in the map or the digital databases is currently or positionally accurate.

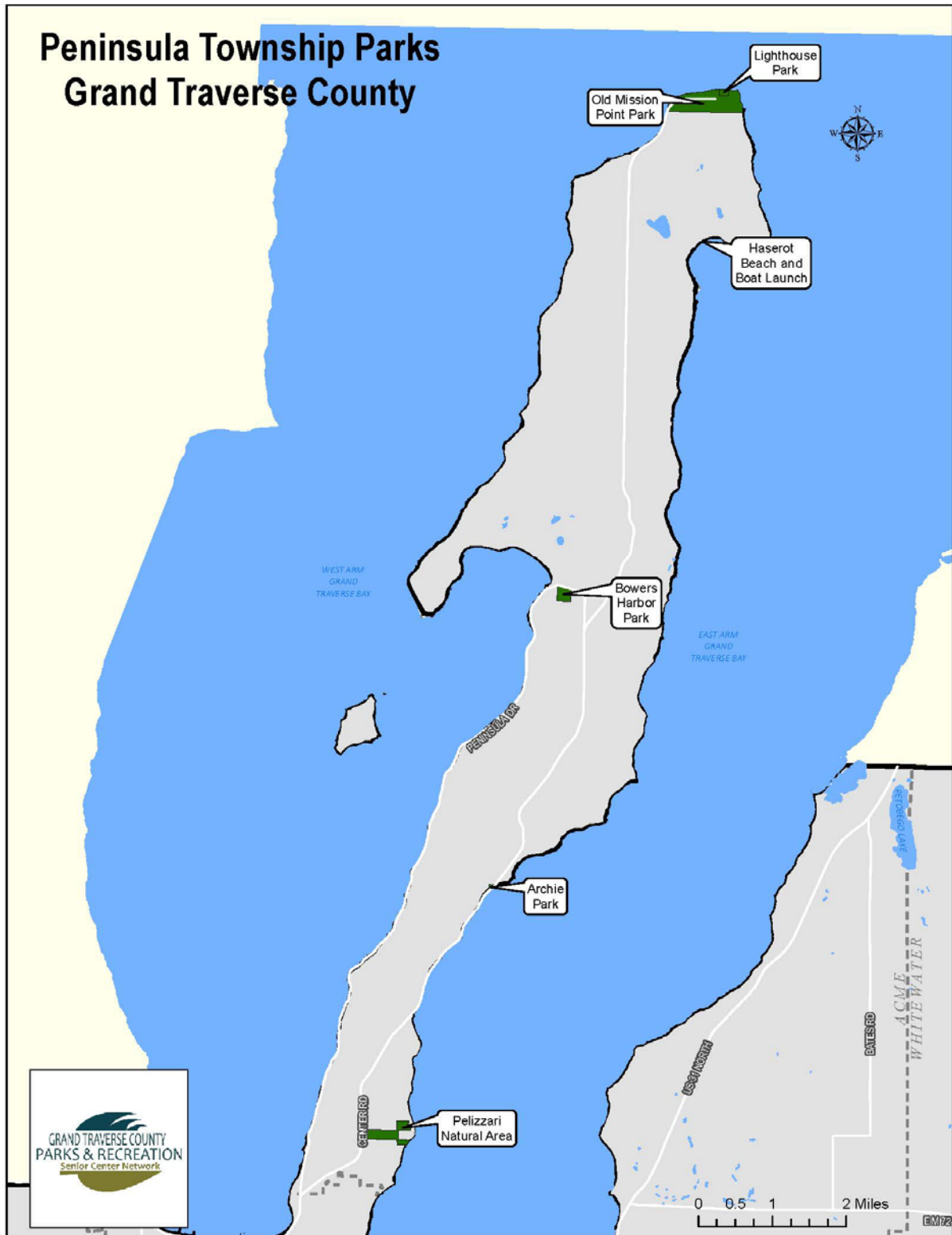
Blair, Garfield, Green Lake, and Long Lake Township Parks, Grand Traverse County



01/14/2018 GTC-GIS / JS

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Peninsula Township Parks Grand Traverse County



01/14/2018 GTC-GIS / JG

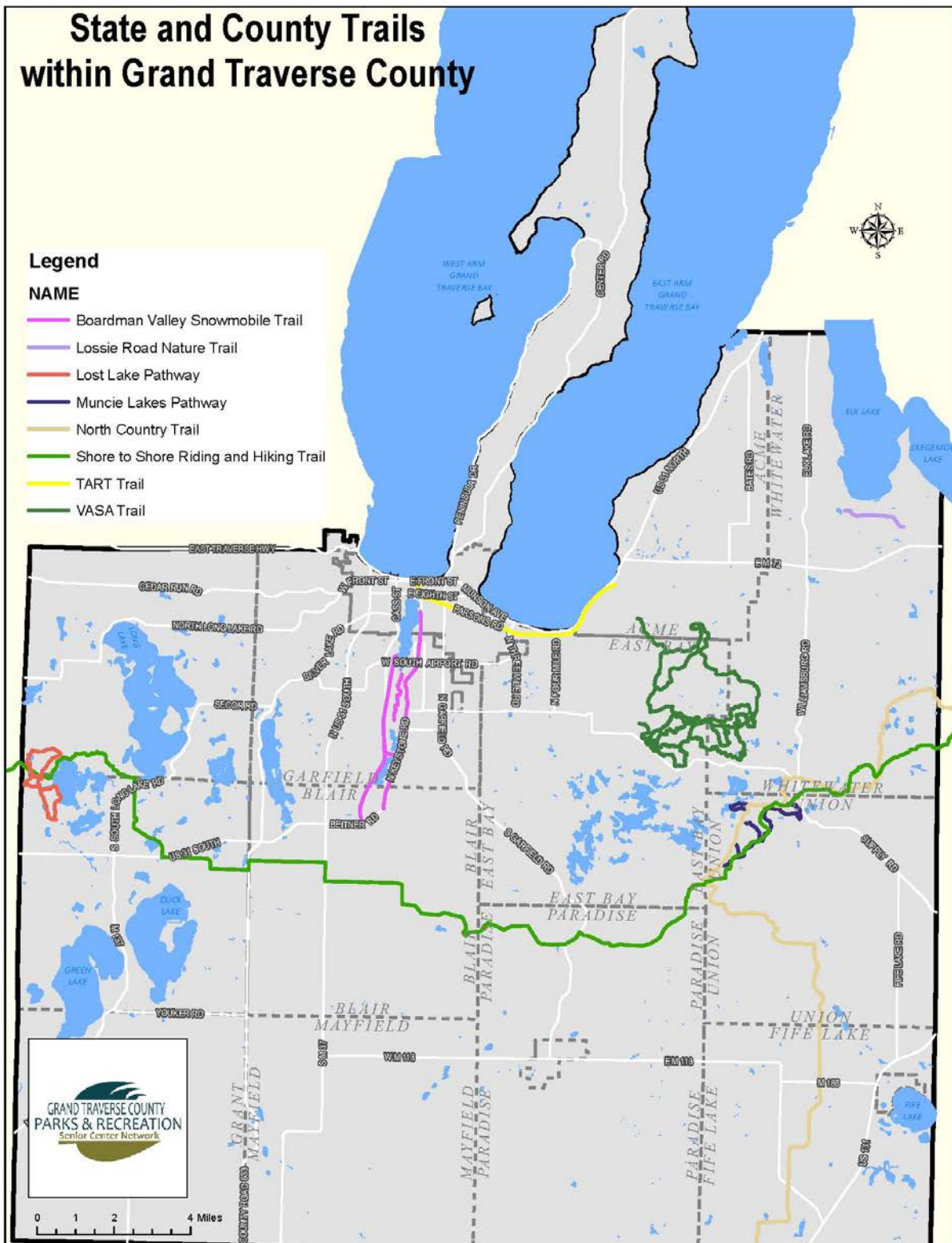
This map is based on digital databases prepared by Grand Traverse County. Grand Traverse County does not warrant, expressly or impliedly, or accept any responsibility for any errors, omissions, or that the information contained in the map or the digital databases is currently or positionally accurate.

State and County Trails within Grand Traverse County

Legend

NAME

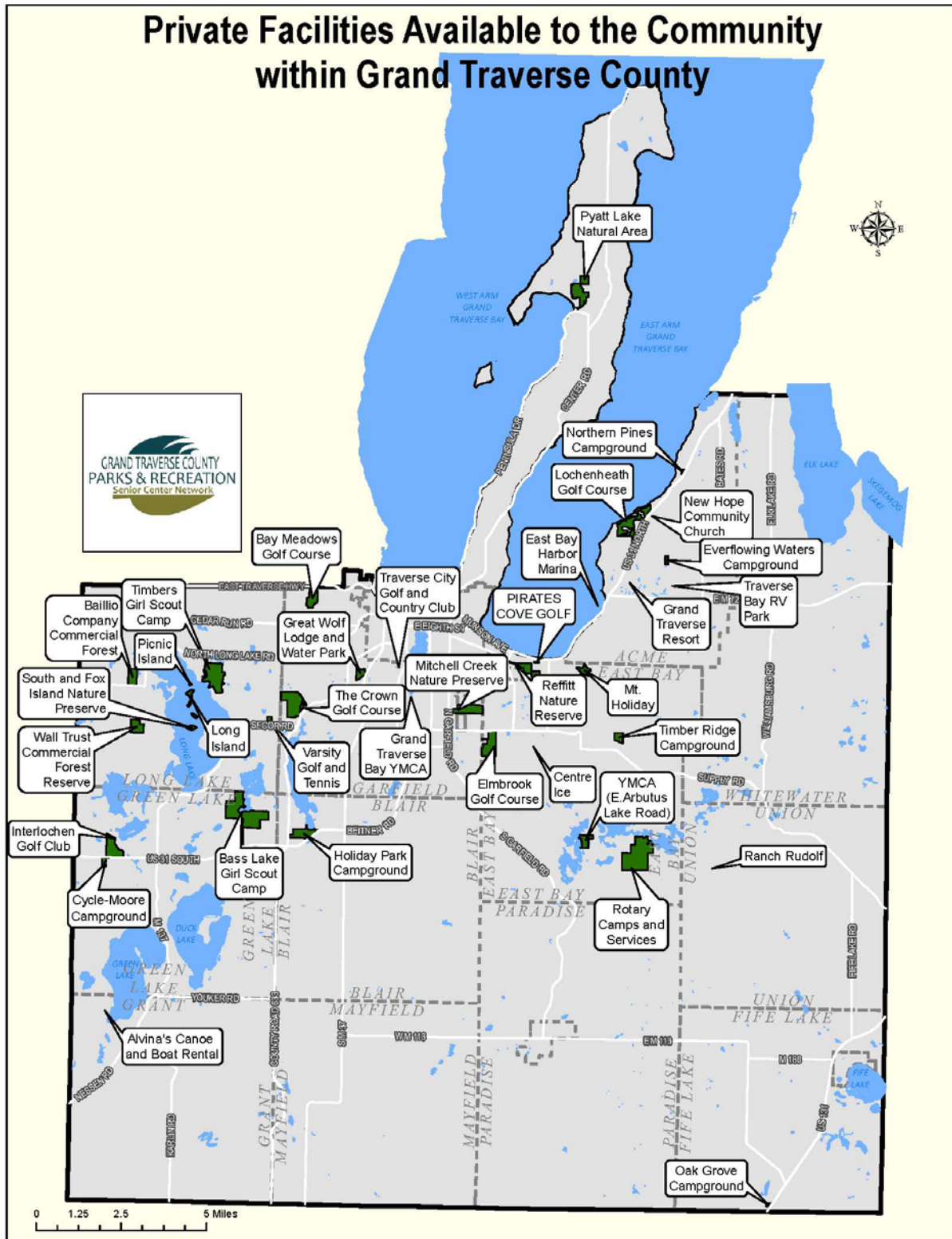
- Boardman Valley Snowmobile Trail
- Lossie Road Nature Trail
- Lost Lake Pathway
- Muncie Lakes Pathway
- North Country Trail
- Shore to Shore Riding and Hiking Trail
- TART Trail
- VASA Trail



01/14/2018 GTC-GIS / JG

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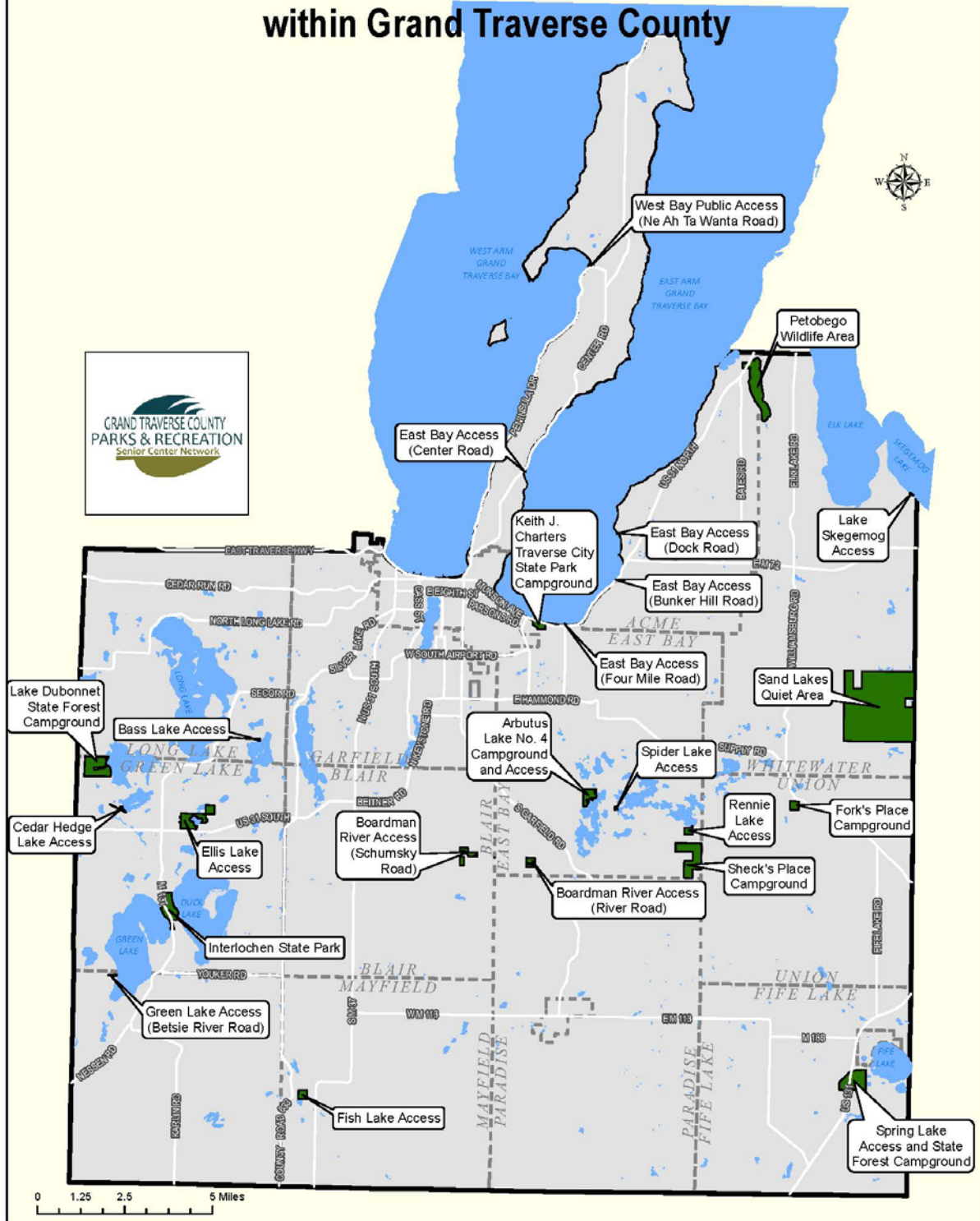
Private Facilities Available to the Community within Grand Traverse County



01/14/2018 GTC-GIS / JS

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State Parks and Recreation, Public Access, and Wildlife Areas within Grand Traverse County



01/14/2018 GTC-GIS / JS

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Appendix J: Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan Certification Checklist

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). Plans must be submitted to the DNR with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than March 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan: 2018-2023 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan		
List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation	Grand Traverse County	February 2018
Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners	Grand Traverse County	February 2018

PLAN CONTENT

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

X 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

X 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- ☒ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- ☒ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
- ☒ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming
- ☒ Current Funding Sources
- ☒ Role of Volunteers
- ☒ 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 Participating Communities
- ☐ Articles of Incorporation

X 3. RECREATION INVENTORY

- ☒ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- ☒ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- ☒ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- ☒ Accessibility Assessment
- ☒ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
- ☒ Waterways Inventory (if applicable)

X 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)

X 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

PR1924-1 (Rev. 12/21/2016)

X 6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS X 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 x Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment Date of the Notice <u>1-12-18 letter; 1-13&1-14/18 ads</u> Type of Notice <u>On-line; newspaper ads</u> Plan Location <u>3 County offices, incl. Park Dept</u> Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) <u>1-13 through 2-15, 2018</u> X 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 <u>2-13 and 2-14, 2018</u> Name of Newspaper <u>Record-Eagle</u> Date of Meeting <u>2-15-18</u> X Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting	
X 7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES X 8. ACTION PROGRAM X 9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)	
PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION	
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.	
X 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body <u>dated:</u> <u>February 21, 2018</u>	
X 2. Official resolution of the <u>Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation</u> Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, <u>dated:</u> <u>February 15, 2018</u>	
X 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency <u>dated:</u> <u>February 28, 2018</u>	
X 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency <u>dated:</u> <u>February 28, 2018</u>	
OVERALL CERTIFICATION	
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 <u>Grand Traverse County</u> includes the required content, as indicated above and as set forth by the DNR.	
<u>(Local Unit of Government)</u>	<u>includes the required content, as indicated</u>
<u>Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Kristin Erickson</u> <u>Director, GT County Parks and Recreation</u>	<u>2-28-18</u>

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.