

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

February 5, 2018 6:00 P.M.

**Garfield Township Large Meeting Room
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684
Ph: (231) 941-1620**

A G E N D A

Any interested person or group may address the Commission on any agenda item when recognized by the presiding officer or upon request of any Commissioner. Also, any interested person or group may address the agenda item designated Public Comment. The comment of any member of the public or any special interest group may be limited in time. Such limitation shall not be less than two minutes unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call of Commission Members

1. Review and Approval of the Agenda - Conflict of Interest
2. Introduction of New Board Member
3. Election of Officers
4. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2017
5. Correspondence
 - a. Grand Traverse Conservation District December 2017 Report
6. Reports
 - a. Tom Vitale Conservation District Report
 - b. Commissioner Reports
 - c. Staff Report
7. Business to Come Before the Commission
 - a. PD 2018-15 2017 Annual Parks and Recreation Report
 - b. PD 2018-17 – September Meeting Date change
8. Public Comment
9. Items for Next Agenda
10. Adjourn

Garfield Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities upon the provision of reasonable advance notice to Garfield Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Garfield Township by writing or calling Lanie McManus, Clerk, Ph: (231) 941-1620, or TDD #922-4412

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
December 11, 2017**

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Remy called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm at the Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: Fern Spence, Chris DeGood, Dale Majerczyk, Valarie Handy, and Chris Remy
Absent and Excused: Alisa Korn and Denise Schmuckal

Staff Present: Rob Larrea & Erik Perdonik

The commission heard a presentation from Chris Kushman, TART Planner on the proposed continuation of the Buffalo Ridge Trail. Kushman stated that they were looking at two possibilities—from Creekside Dr. to Zimmerman Road (1.4 miles) and Westchester Commons to the South side of Silver Lake Drive (1.3 miles). Kushman stated that they hoped construction would begin in the spring of 2019. Spence asked if TART has collaborated with Safe Routes to School.

1. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflict of Interest (6:05)

The Agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Minutes (6:05)

a. November 6, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Majerczyk moved and Handy seconded for to approve the November 6, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

*Yeas: Majerczyk, Spence, DeGood, Handy, Remy
Nays: None*

b. November 13, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes

Spence moved and DeGood seconded to approve the November 13, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes as presented.

*Yeas: Majerczyk, Spence, DeGood, Handy, Remy
Nays: None*

3. Correspondence (6:03)

a. Correspondence from Julie Clark-Boardman Lake Loop Grant Awards

4. Reports (6:04)

Tom Vitale Conservation District Report

Vitale reported that two Bollards were damaged at the Commons and needed to be replaced at a cost of \$600. Tom is hoping to have these purchased this fiscal year. Tom added that he met with Matt Miller from the Human Nature School which has a lease on the Ransom property.

He stated that the Kids Creek Connector Trail has been completed and he has been talking with West Middle School about more signage for the trail as well as the Grist Mill.

Lastly, that the viewing platform has been completed at Miller Creek along with the boardwalk and placement of benches.

Commissioner Reports: No report

Staff Report: No report

5. Business to Come Before the Commission

a. PD 2017-115 Public Hearing 2018-2023 Draft Parks and Recreation Plan.

Public Hearing Opened at 6:35 p.m. Valarie Handy shared email correspondence from George Ryan Holton, Garfield Township and introduced it for the record. Mr. Holton's email addressed 1) allowing alcohol for some events in the parks, 2) fencing on athletic fields and the 3) the YMCA property.

Hearing no further public comments the public hearing was closed at 6:40 p.m. Commission member Majerczyk noted that he was surprised that there were no members of the public in the audience.

Majerczyk moved and Handy seconded that Resolution # 2017-01-PR to RECOMMEND THAT the Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees ADOPT the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan attached to PD Report 2017-115 BE ADOPTED.

*Roll Call Vote: Handy-Yes, Majerczyk-Yes, Spence-Yes, DeGood-Yes, Remy-Yes
Nays: None*

b. 2018 Proposed Meeting Dates (6:45 pm)

The 2018 proposed meeting dates were presented. It was noted that the January meeting would take place the second Monday of the month as New Years Day falls on the 1st, and all others the 1st Monday of each Month keeping the meeting time at 6:00 p.m..

Handy moved and Spence seconded to adopt the 2018 meeting dates as presented.

*Yeas: Handy, DeGood, Majerczyk, Spence, Remy
Nays: None*

7. Public Comment (6:50)

8. Items For Next Agenda (6:50)

9. Adjournment

Handy moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Dale Majerczyk, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks and Recreation
Commission
3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684

Grand Traverse Conservation District
December 2017 Report

CONSERVATION TEAM

OWNER/PARKLAND: Garfield Township - Various

Administration

- Attended and provided updates at the monthly Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.
- Discussed stewardship opportunities for West Middle School students with Grand Traverse Stewardship Initiative to continue informational signage at Kid's Creek Park.
- Reviewed and provided edits to the Township's Parks and Rec revised Master Plan.
- Discussed payment of connector trail from Kid's Creek Park to Buffalo Ridge with Popp Excavating.
- Coordinated Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions on contracted treatment of woody invasive plants on Garfield parklands.

Routine Monitoring and Maintenance

- Monitored trails and trailheads at all Garfield parklands and replaced dog waste bags as needed.
- Removed down trees and cleared trails at Garfield parklands.
- Cleared leaf debris from major boardwalks, overlooks, ADA trails, and step-systems prior to snowfall.
- Sought replacement vehicle barrier bollards on bridge adjacent to the Greenspire School at the Commons.
- Assessed social trail development at the Commons to better determine trails to needs and deter unwanted social trail development.
- Repaired damaged fencing at the Long Lake Rd. parking area at the Commons.
- Assisted contractors with the removal of blockages in Miller Creek to improve flow yet doesn't impact fish habitat.

Other

- Designed and purchased custom permanent "Attn: Dog Guardians" informational signs to post at all trailheads.
- Connected with Matt Miller, Executive Director of the Human Nature School, to promote stewardship activities and address park concerns at the Commons.
- Continued to work toward the replacement of the deteriorating railroad bridge and the Cass Road crossing of Miller Creek through the Drain Commission office. Looking into possible GT Band Fruitbelt financial assistance.
- Responded to severe flooding at Miller Creek to determine if flood waters are coming from the Creek and how severely the crossings are impairing flow.



- Provided an update to the Township on the SEEDS constructed boardwalk and viewing platform at Miller Creek.
 - Created priority maps and provided oversight on woody invasive control efforts.
 - Spoke with a property owner in the headwaters of Miller Creek who is interested in donating a conservation easement and is willing to meet with his neighbors to encourage the same.
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OWNER/PARKLAND: Recreational Authority – Hickory Meadows

Administration

- Attended and prepared the agenda for the monthly Hickory Meadows Advisory Committee (HMAC) meetings.
- Continued outreach with City staff and the HMAC in regards to Hickory Hills Infrastructure Development plans.
- Continued user survey development with the Advisory Committee.

Routine Monitoring and Maintenance

- Monitored all trails and trailheads, picked-up trash, and replaced dog waste bags as needed.
- Cleared trailheads of mounded snow for ease of access.
- Downloaded trail counters for review and analysis
- Cleared down trees as necessary along trails at Historic Barns Park and Hickory Meadows.

Other

- Designed and purchased custom permanent “Attn: Dog Guardians” informational signs to post at all trailheads.
 - Purchased user survey boxes and installed at trailheads with the assistance of HMAC member, Eric Grebe.
 - Monitored priority areas of invasive treatments before and after control efforts on woody shrubs.
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BOARDMAN RIVER STEWARDSHIP

- Presented Boardman River Program to Kiwanis.
- Visited Kids Creek restoration sites during storm events to determine how well the sites are functioning as designed. They all handled the storm flow very well.
- Restored two erosion sites on Kids Creek along the Woman’s Walk in partnership with the WSC.
- Contacted the MDEQ regarding the Blair Street crossing of Kingsley Creek. Rock rip-rap that was placed during installation of the culvert several years ago has been moved into the channel on the upstream end of the crossing by (presumably) kids causing the Creek

to rise and flood private property upstream. The MDEQ will visit the site for a \$100 pre-application site visit fee.

- Contacted the MDEQ regarding a direct discharge of dewatering activities into Miller Creek.
- Agreed to partner with Boardman River Clean Sweep for the 14th Annual event.
- Ordered native trees and shrubs for the Kids Creek restoration sites that will be planted in the spring.
- Continued to monitor fish passage discussions.
- Met with a riverfront property owner and Rob Lyko regarding a 30' Natural River Zoning setback variance request from a 100' setback to a 70' setback. After reviewing the situation it was recommended that Paradise Township consider granting the variance.
- Met with a group of Grand Traverse Stewardship Initiative teachers to discuss what's going on with the Boardman River that they can share with their students.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Nature Center Visitation this Month: 195
Program Participants this month: 166
Drop ins this month: 29
Nature Center Visitation this year: 8,210

Nature Center Visitation December 2016: 169
Program Participants December 2016: 149
Drop in December 2016: 20
Nature Center Visitation since 2008: 78,823

Program Participation & Program Planning:

- 26 preschool aged children and their families participated in our twice weekly preschool programs at the Boardman River Nature Center during the month of December bringing our Fall session total to 234.
- 17 students served during 5 different fieldtrip programs at the Boardman River Nature Center. It is unusual to see field trip requests this time of year but many are preschool teachers
- Continued work on outdoor exhibits along the Fox Den and Sabin trailhead on the Natural Education Reserve.
- Submitted grant funding to Grand Traverse Band for Boardman River Nature Center improvements

FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FAP)

Trainings: ReLeaf Tree Health Training (2.5 CFEs)

On-Site Visits:

Grand Traverse County

1. Taylor, 1 ac., Peninsula Twp.

Written Forest Management Recommendations: 1 OFP Verifications: 0 MAEAP/FWH Verifications: 0

FAP Referrals to Private Sector: 2 FAP Referrals to Public Sector: 0

In-office Contacts: 15 landowners Follow-up Contacts: 35 landowners/qualified foresters

FAP Promotion/Program Development:

1. Update website/forester referral lists/landowner email lists
2. Oak Wilt treatments, follow-up, MISGP reporting
3. Two Forestry presentations to Career Tech Center students through Junior Achievement (48 students)
4. GIS Data entry
5. Meeting with Erik Johnson and Josh Shields about landowner oak wilt treatment with Chemjet Injector Systems
6. Quarterly FAP review with MDARD Regional Supervisor
7. Promotion/Planning for Chainsaw Safety Training
8. Conservation Stewards Program planning meeting
9. FAP Monthly conference call

MICHIGAN SAFE FOOD

- Attended the Great Lakes Fruit and Vegetable Expo in Grand Rapids. The Food Safety session provided many interesting topics:
Practical Cold Storage Food Safety, Minimizing Postharvest Cross-Contamination, FSMA Produce Rule Implementation Update, GroupGAP as a Potential Solution to Audit Fatigue, Lettuce Food Safety Coming Clean, Differences Between Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA) and FSMA, Produce Safety Recordkeeping: Requirements and Tools, and Wildlife Damage Management.
- Food and Farming Network meetings continue and as we go into 2018, there will be opportunities to collaborate with the different stakeholders in that group. One possibility is partnering with the Land Conservancy and MAEAP, in a field day at Maple Bay, with emphasis on the Conservancy's mission.
- The MAEAP Techs and I were invited to participate in a Migrant Labor Resource meeting. The group is planning a conference for March for growers and workers, when Produce Safety will be included on the agenda.
- Upcoming January events: Northwest Orchard and Vineyard Show, Small Farm Conference, and teaching the Farm Food Safety Plan Module for the PSA Grower Training.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM (MAEAP)

Farm Visits: 7 (Antrim/Grand Traverse), 7 (Benzie/Leelanau)

Risk Assessments Completed: 5 (Antrim/Grand Traverse), 5 (Benzie/Leelanau)

Farms Verified: 1

Updates:

- 12/5-12/7: Great Lakes Fruit and Vegetable Expo in Grand Rapids
- 12/11: Quarterly Review with Regional Coordinator of Conservation Programs
- 12/12: Grand Traverse Fruit Grower's Council Meeting
- 12/12: Food & Farming Network Farmland Task Force Meeting
- 12/15: Migrant Resource Council Meeting- Agriculture Lab or Day Planning
- 12/15: Leelanau County Verification
- 12/18: Antrim Conservation District Board Meeting
- 12/20: Food & Farming Network Business Meeting

Current Projects:

- Working with:
 - 8 farms in Benzie
 - 11 farms in Leelanau
 - 13 farms in Grand Traverse
 - 9 farms in Antrim
- Risk Assessments Completed in December: 10
- Participating with the Food and Farming Network Farmland Task Force on updating outreach materials about farmland and farming preservation.
- Working with Jason Kimbrough with NRCS to help growers pursuing MAEAP get EQIP funding
- Collaborating with the Migrant Resource Council and other partners on Agricultural Labor Day event in March.
- Working on 2018 re-verifications
- Planning upcoming Phase 1 sessions: Ag Labor Day, Orchard & Vineyard Show, Small Farms Conference, and Wine & Grape Conference
- Updating Employee Development Plans

Upcoming Events:

- 1/8: Benzie/Manistee Farm Bureau Board Meeting
- 1/9: NW MI Farm Bureau Breakfast Meeting
- 1/16-1/17: Orchard & Vineyard Show
- 1/18: Produce Safety Grower Course
- 1/18-1/19: Voices of Agriculture Conference in Grand Rapids
- 1/22: Grand Traverse Conservation District Board Meeting
- 1/24: Water Fundamentals and Water Wells Training in Lansing
- 1/26-1/27: Michigan Small Farms Conference
- 1/31-2/1: Great Lakes Crop Summit

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN INVASIVE SPECIES NETWORK (ISN)

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Active Contacts: 32+ | Acres Surveyed: 8 |
| Passive Contacts: 3,402+ | Sites Surveyed: 4 |
| Volunteer Hours: 0 | Acres Treated: 8 |
| Volunteers: 0 | Sites Treated: 4 |

Meetings/Presentations:

- 12/12 - 12/13 - Attended Michigan Invasive Species Coalition Annual Meeting: 10 direct, 60 indirect contacts

Treatments and Surveys:

- Oriental bittersweet treatment: 2 sites, 3 acres
- Japanese barberry treatment: 2 sites, 5 acres

Other Accomplishments:


- Updated ISN display board
- Sent end of year *Go Beyond Beauty* survey to participants
- Printed Invasive Species Children's activity booklet
- Continued USFS CWMA GLRI 2017 application
- Completed & submitted MISGP2 Final Reporting
- Completed EPA-GLRI2015 spending
- Created flier for municipality tax mailings
- Facebook reach: 1,838+
- Website reach: 1,504+

Upcoming Events:

- Watch for Garlic Mustard Workbees (and more) in May!
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|--|
| AECOM | Boardman River Dams Project Engineers |
| BBAC | Brown Bridge Advisory Committee |
| BRNC | Boardman River Nature Center |
| CRA | Conservation Resource Alliance |
| DDA | Downtown Development Authority |
| DNR | Department of Natural Resources |
| ECR | East Creek Reserve |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| EQIP | Environmental Quality Incentive Program |
| GBB | Go Beyond Beauty |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GLRI | Great Lakes Restoration Initiative |
| GM | Garlic mustard |
| GTCD | Grand Traverse Conservation District |
| HMAC | Hickory Meadows Advisory Committee |
| ISN | Invasive Species Network |
| JB | Japanese barberry |
| MACD | Michigan Association of Conservation Districts |
| MAEAP | Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program |
| MDARD | Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development |
| MISC | Michigan Invasive Species Coalition |
| MNLA | Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association |
| NER | Natural Education Reserve |
| NMC | Northwestern Michigan College |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| NWMFFN | Northwest Michigan Food and Farming Network |
| NWISN | Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network |
| OB | Oriental Bittersweet |
| SEEDS | 501(c)3 nonprofit organization |
| SFP | Safe Food Program |
| Tx | Treatment |

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|--|--|---------------------------------------|
|  Charter Township of Garfield Planning Department Report No. 2018-15 | | |
| Prepared: | January 9, 2018 | Pages: 1 of 5 |
| Meeting: | February 5, 2018-PRC | Attachments: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Subject: | 2017 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report | |

PURPOSE:

The Parks and Recreation Commission is required to make an annual written report to the Township Board concerning its operations and the status of parks and recreation activities. This report is presented for review by the Parks and Recreation Commission prior to forwarding it to the Township Board.

PARKLAND PROJECTS:

BOARDMAN VALLEY NATURE PRESERVE:

In 2015, the Township submitted a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund (MDNRTF) to make a number of improvements to the BVNP, including a canoe/kayak launch, a parking lot with turnaround, vault pit toilets, changing room, a pavilion, and pickleball courts. All of these improvements are planned for the north end of the park near the old YMCA building.

The 2015 request was successful and, in September of 2016, a fully executed grant agreement was received for \$100,000 from the State, with the Township matching \$100,000. In addition, the Township was awarded a grant from Rotary Charities for \$40,878 to help fund the pickleball courts.

In 2016, bids were sought for professional design services for the grant improvements. Ultimately, Prein & Newhof was awarded the bid for \$26,000.

Only a single (very high) bid was received after Prein & Newhof's first attempt at bidding for construction. As a result, an extension was given on both the MDNRTF and Rotary grants. Ultimately, Prein & Newhof successfully bid out the various improvements in packages in late 2017.

Elmer's Crane & Dozer will construct the toilets, pickleball courts, and other planned amenities for \$268,465.11. Michigan Lake Products will supply and install the kayak launch for \$37,100.82 (50% down was provided). G&J Site Solutions will do the site restoration work for \$18,360.00. With each of these bids having been approved by the PRC and Board, construction is set to begin in spring of 2018.

MILLER CREEK NATURE RESERVE:

Fishing/Viewing Platform (completed in 2017): The Township Board approved the construction of a 15' x 20' platform at the Miller Creek Nature Reserve in July of this year. The platform was

constructed of black locust in light of its durability and resistance to rot. Although an invasive species, black locust provides a practical natural alternative to treated lumber.



Photos courtesy of Tom Vitale, GTCD.

Boardwalk (completed in 2017): Approximately one-quarter of a mile of wooden boardwalk was constructed by SEEDS through environmentally sensitive areas within the Miller Creek Nature Reserve. This new trail connects two existing trails to form a loop and provides another nature viewing trail for the park system.



Photos courtesy of Tom Vitale, GTCD.

KIDS CREEK PARK:

In 2016, Phase II of the Buffalo Ridge Trail was completed. In 2017, the Township contracted with the GTCD to build a connector trail between the larger Trail and Kids Creek Park. It is nearly complete and will provide users from the YMCA and West Middle school with easy access to Kids Creek Park.

In 2017, the Parks and Recreation Commission decided that the dilapidated power generating structure at the Park will be demolished. A structural analysis has determined it to be beyond repair. However, we are working with the Great Wolf Lodge to gain access for construction equipment to reach the site. Demolition is anticipated in the spring.

SILVER LAKE RECREATION AREA (SLRA):

The SLRA remains a very popular Township park. There were 118 pavilion reservations in 2017, which is an increase of 5 reservations in comparison to the 113 in 2016. The baseball diamond was used for tee-ball during the summer months.

The dog park in particular is an extremely popular amenity and draws dog owners from around the region. Interestingly, there is a Facebook group called “East Silver Lake Dog Park” that has 431 members. Members of this group often request “play dates” for their dog with other dogs at the dog park and post pictures of their dogs enjoying the park.

GRAND TRAVERSE COMMONS NATURAL AREA:

The “State 40” is a 40-acre parcel that abuts the west line of the Township’s 140-acre Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area. In 2017, the Township was formally deeded this property for public use, provided that it will be used only for recreational purposes.

As will be discussed later in this report in the section covering the recently completed 2018-2023 Charter Township of Garfield Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a conceptual development plan has been created for the northernmost part of the Commons Natural Area. A paved pump track and several complimentary features, such as picnic and observation areas, are envisioned for the property. Planning Staff has been coordinating with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) to ensure that the Township’s plans for the property fit with the terms of the conservation easement on it.

RIVER EAST RECREATION AREA:

The 62-acre River East Recreation Area is located on North Keystone Road along the east banks of the Boardman River. This park was established in October of 2017 to provide recreational opportunities to residents on the east side of the Township. With most of the Township’s parklands concentrated west of the Boardman River and residents identifying the need for east side parks in the 2017 parks and recreation survey, the Parks and Recreation Commission created a conceptual development plan for the land and formally named it. The land was originally acquired by the Township via a MDNRTF acquisition grant.

The park is in an undeveloped state with an existing storage building, a small gravel parking area, hiking trails, open spaces, woodlands, and several-hundred feet of Boardman River shoreline. Amenities planned for this park will be discussed later in this report.



TRAIL PROJECTS:

CITY OF TRAVERSE CITY BOARDMAN LAKE TRAIL COMPLETION:

The Township continues to work with the City of Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, and TART to complete the final leg of this trail, which will start at 14th Street and extend south along the western shore to Logan's Landing.

Following an extensive public input process, Prein & Newhof completed professional design plans which, when implemented, will complete the loop around the Boardman Lake Trail and provide enhanced access to the trails further south along the Boardman River.

2018-2023 FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN:

BACKGROUND:

An up-to-date Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan ("Plan") is required in order to receive Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant funding for parkland acquisition or development. The Township has been awarded several of these grants in the past. Once updated and adopted by the Board of Trustees, the Plan must be submitted to and approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) by no later than March 1, 2018, in order to be eligible to receive grant funding for the five years thereafter, 2018-2023. The Township's current Plan expired on December 31, 2017. It is within this context that the Parks and Recreation Commission instructed Staff to update the Township's Plan.

SURVEY:

In 2017, the Parks and Recreation Commission directed Staff to administer a parks and recreation survey to Garfield Township residents to ascertain their priorities and whether they have shifted since the 2012 survey. The results formed the basis for the priorities embodied in the Five-Year Plan. The following is a comparison ranked in order of popularity of the facilities identified as most needed by Township residents (1 being most popular):

2012 Survey (80 respondents):

1. Walk/Hike/Jog Trail
2. Beach Access
3. XC Skiing Trails
4. Sledding Hill
5. Paved Bike Paths
6. Picnic Shelter
7. Nature Center/Gardens
8. Dog Park
9. Outdoor Ice Rink
10. Playgrounds/Equipment

2017 Survey (206 respondents):

1. Walk/Hike/Jog Trail
2. Paved Bike Paths
3. XC Skiing Trails
4. Pickleball Courts
5. Outdoor Ice Rink
6. Beach Access
7. Sledding Hill
8. Picnic Shelter
9. Mountain Bike Trails
10. Nature Center/Garden

PLAN UPDATE AND ADOPTION HIGHLIGHTS:

Staff created two entirely new park development plans for this updated Plan: One for the northernmost parcel in the Commons Natural Area adjoining Munson's overflow parking lot, just off of North Long Lake Road along Medical Campus Drive, right across the street from Oleson's. This plan envisions a paved pump track for the site with parking, restrooms, picnic pavilions, observation areas, and usable open spaces.

The other is for the newly named "River East Recreation Area" along Keystone Road. This plan envisions a community park easily accessible by residents in the eastern part of the Township with a good balance of active and passive recreational opportunities; including parking, restrooms, picnic pavilions, observation and fishing platforms, a paved walking loop, rustic trails, a playground, and a dog park.

In December of 2017, following a 30-day public comment period and a public hearing, the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously passed a resolution recommending that the Township Board adopt the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. In January of 2018, the Board unanimously passed a resolution adopting the Plan. Staff is currently in the process of finalizing the Plan's appendices so that it can be forwarded to the MDNR for approval.

CONCLUSION:

Looking ahead, the Township will primarily focus on east side park development and working to secure grant funding for development and acquisition of parklands. More generally, the Township will continue to work to realize all of the goals contained in the new 2018-2023 Master Plan.

ACTION REQUESTED:

That the Commission review this report and request any changes prior to directing Staff to forward it to the Board. The following motion is suggested:

THAT PD Report 2018-15 BE RECEIVED and FORWARDED to the Township Board.

2018 Labor Day Meeting Date Conflict



Charter Township of Garfield Planning Department Report No. 2018-17

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|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Prepared: | January 30, 2018 | Pages: | 1 of 1 |
| Meeting: | February 5, 2018-PRC | Attachments: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Subject: | 2018 Labor Day Meeting Date Conflict | | |

STAFF COMMENT:

This year, Labor Day falls on September 3rd, which is a date on which a Regular Meeting of the PRC would typically be scheduled, being the first Monday of the month. In the case of a holiday conflict such as this one, the Commission typically meets the following Monday (the second Monday of the month).

ACTION REQUESTED:

Commissioners should discuss whether they would like to schedule September's Regular Meeting for the Monday following Labor Day, some other date in September, or cancel September's meeting.