



# Charter Township of Garfield

Grand Traverse County, Michigan

# 2018 - 2023

## DRAFT Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Charter Township of Garfield (“Township”) has developed this five-year parks and recreation master plan (“Plan”) following a thorough process of inventory, analysis, and public input collection. The Plan is a roadmap for the parks and recreation decisions to be made over the next five years and beyond. In addition, this Plan makes the Township eligible for grant programs administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The process of preparing the Plan has provided the Township with a better understanding of its residents’ needs and desires for parks, recreation, and open space. This Plan contains the following sections:

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

### COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Community Description section is simply intended to describe the jurisdiction and focus of this Plan. This section does not include a report regarding the social and physical characteristics of the community; instead, this information is included later in the Plan to describe how these factors relate to the goals and objectives that have been developed.

### ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

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

### RECREATION INVENTORY

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

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

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

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Recommendations section begins with the System Wide Recommendations section that highlights four overarching considerations that must be pursued over the life of this Plan. This section also includes a summary of Park-Specific Recommendations, which include two conceptual development plans for two Township-owned properties. Finally, this section includes the Township's Non-Motorized Plan and the Green Infrastructure Plan.

## ACTION PLAN

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

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## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

This Plan was prepared for the Charter Township of Garfield located in Grand Traverse County in Michigan's northwest Lower Peninsula. *See Map 1 Regional Location Map (top-right).*

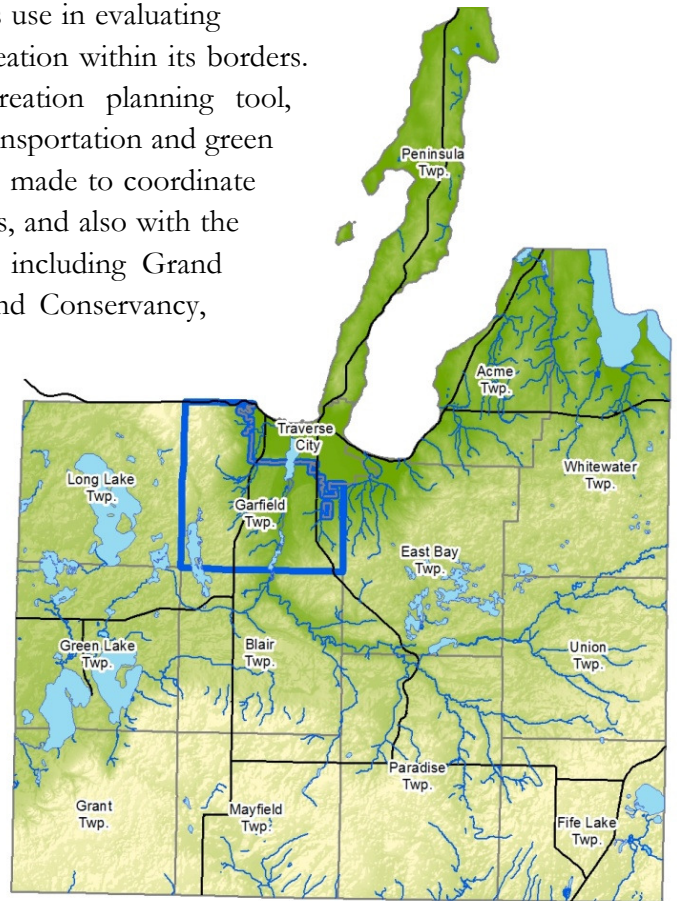


**Map 1 Regional Location Map**

The Township is abutted by the City of Traverse City to the north and east. The Township is also bordered by Elmwood Township to the north, Long Lake Township to the west, Blair Township to the south, and East Bay Township to the east. All are located in Grand Traverse County with the exception of Elmwood Township, which is in Leelanau County. *See Map 2 Grand Traverse County Map (bottom-right).*

## PLAN JURISDICTION AND FOCUS

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



**Map 2 Grand Traverse County Map**

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

### ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

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

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

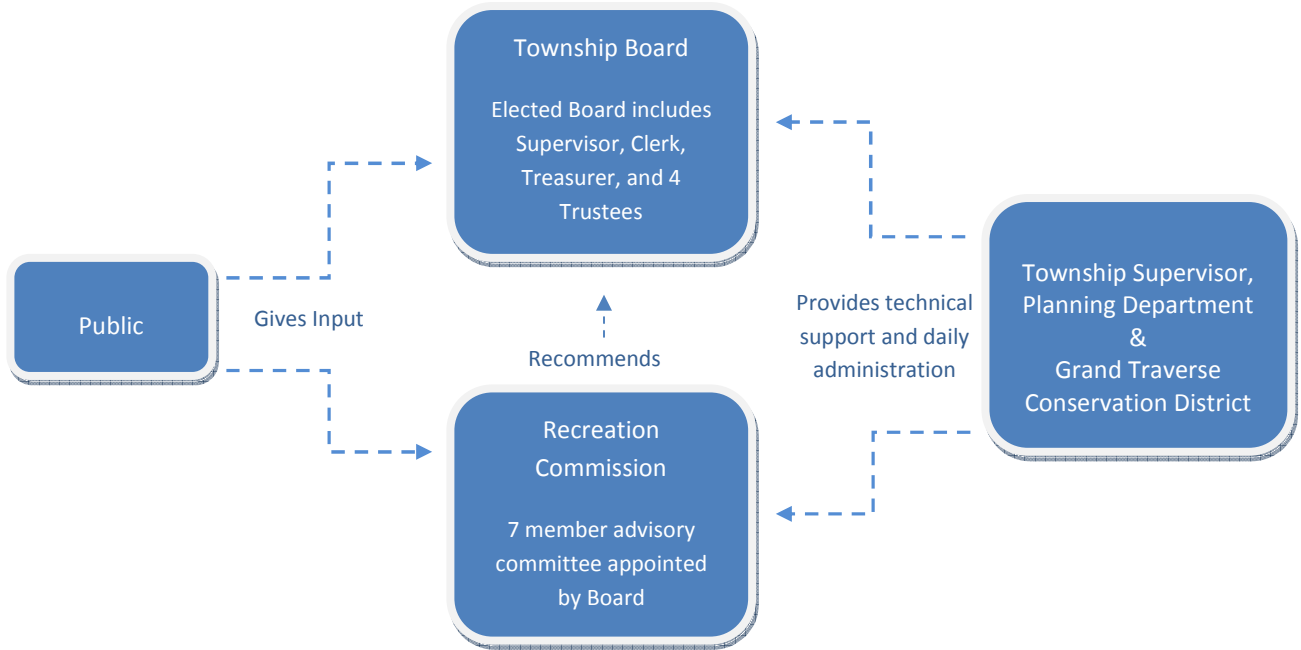
The Parks and Recreation Commission was established in 2010 under the Parks and Recreation Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917. The Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Township Board, and it serves as the recommending body for policy decisions regarding the Township's parks and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

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

The Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance (Articles of Incorporation), as well as the two amendments to it, is attached to this plan within *Appendix B*.

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





**Figure 1 Administrative Structure**

Garfield Township contracts annually with the Grand Traverse Conservation District for the management of its parklands. The Conservation District’s duties include the periodic maintenance and construction of non-motorized trail networks within the parks and green spaces, establishing and maintaining informational kiosks at trailheads throughout the recreational system, and the preparation of grant applications related to natural resource protection and improvement, such as tribal funding to eliminate fish passage impediments in the Township’s tributaries, or Trout Unlimited funding to construct fishing platforms along the Boardman River.

The Conservation District’s staff is instrumental in organizing and leading volunteer labor for single-day outings such as invasive species removal, trail maintenance, and stream bank restoration, and has also initiated a trail-steward program where volunteers observe and report on park conditions on a regular basis. The Grand Traverse Conservation District’s approved schedule of services, including a description of how volunteer service is incorporated, is attached to this Plan as *Appendix D*.

SOURCES OF FUNDING AND PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

Garfield Township has a significant track record of budgeting funds on an annual basis for parks and green infrastructure improvements and maintenance. It is expected that this commitment will continue into the future. *See Table 1 (below).*

<b>Table 1 Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Budget (5-Yr Projection)</b>					
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Contracted Services	\$55,000	\$56,650	\$58,350	\$60,101	\$61,904
S.L.R.A.	\$3,580	\$3,687	\$3,798	\$3,912	\$4,029
B.V.N.P.	\$4,180	\$4,305	\$4,434	\$4,567	\$4,704
M.C.N.R.	\$14,040	\$14,461	\$14,895	\$15,342	\$15,802
G.T.C.	\$12,280	\$12,648	\$13,027	\$13,418	\$13,821
K.C.P.	\$12,260	\$12,628	\$13,007	\$13,397	\$13,799
Boardman River	\$5,000	\$5,150	\$5,305	\$5,464	\$5,628
Maintenance	\$8,500	\$8,755	\$9,018	\$9,289	\$9,568
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,840</b>	<b>\$118,284</b>	<b>\$121,834</b>	<b>\$125,490</b>	<b>\$129,255</b>

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

## PARTNERSHIPS AND OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

The Township is a major provider of recreation within its borders by way of five parks or passive recreation greenspace areas, and has also formed partnerships with several other providers of recreation within the community. A brief description of each of the various non-Township recreation providers follows. Please refer to the Recreation Inventory for further discussion regarding facility ownership and an inventory of all facilities in the Township including those not publicly owned.

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

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

Building on the momentum generated by the Community Recreation Group, which dissolved after project completion, the Grand Traverse Area Parks and Recreation Network was established in December 2011. The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Network is to create an ongoing relationship among interested parties to regularly share information, engage in collective assessments, brainstorm potential opportunities, collectively discuss community need, and formulate cross-sector solutions to realize a shared vision for Grand Traverse County that most efficiently, effectively, and affordably meets identified community needs for recreation programming and facilities.

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

In 2003, the joint City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield Recreational Authority (RA) was formed under Michigan's Recreational Authorities Act (PA 321 of 2000). In 2004, Traverse City and Township voters approved two millages to fund the acquisition and improvement of three properties under the guidance of the RA. Two of these properties, the Historic Barns Park and Hickory Meadows, are now public parks largely within Garfield Township's borders. The third, the former Smith Barney property on West Grand Traverse Bay, is now part of the Open Space and

is wholly within City limits. A management plan for Hickory Meadows has been developed and trailways have been improved there to maintain the park as a natural area for passive recreation. Significant structural stabilization efforts and some improvements have been completed at the Barns, and a master plan has been adopted to help guide the future public enjoyment of the property. The acquisition projects were financed through a 20-year General Obligation Bond, after which time the RA will have to seek a renewal of its operating millage or dissolve. If the RA should ever dissolve, the parklands will be dedicated back to the parent jurisdictions for public use in perpetuity.

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

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

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

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

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

## NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT HISTORY

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

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

For the 2009 project year, the Township was awarded a second acquisition grant for an expansion of the Nature Education Reserve and an extension of the Boardman Lake Trail. This project included the acquisition of three parcels on the east side of the Boardman River and the establishment of trail easements from South Airport Road south to the southernmost acquisition property.

Grant Number: TF-09-173  
Project Title: Boardman Lake Trail and Nature Reserve Expansion  
Acreage acquired: 61 acres  
Grant Amount: \$1,231,800.00  
Project Status: Closed  
Current use: The park is used for hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, canoeing/kayaking, nature watching, and natural resource preservation.

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

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

For the 2012 project year, the Township was awarded a development application grant for the Buffalo Ridge Trail Development. Phase I of the Buffalo Ridge Trail begins in the Grand Traverse Commons and extends south across Silver Lake Road to reach West Middle School. This grant helps to fund Phase II, which extends further south from the school to reach the "Y" on Silver Lake Road, as well as Kids Creek Park. This connection was envisioned long ago in the Township's Non-Motorized Plan.

Grant Number: TF-12-141  
Project Title: Buffalo Ridge Trail Development

Grant Amount: \$199,000.00

Project Status: Active

For the 2013 project year, the Township was awarded a third acquisition grant for an expansion of the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. This project includes acquiring two parcels totaling roughly 30.5 acres and 2,500 feet of additional river frontage. The project provides an opportunity for recreation on the eastside of the Township that did not otherwise exist. Desire for an eastside park was a high priority for our residents during the development of this Plan.

Grant Number: TF-13-118

Project Title: Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Acquisition

Acreage acquired: 30.5 acres

Grant Amount: \$270,000.00

Project Status: Active

For the 2015 project year, the Township was awarded a development application grant for the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. This project involves a number of elements intended to improve user access to and enjoyment of the Boardman River, including a floating kayak and canoe launch, vehicular turnaround and access to the launch, trailhead signage, vault toilets, a picnic shelter, benches, renovation of the pickleball courts, and native landscaping.

Grant Number: TF-15-141

Project Title: Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Improvements

Grant Amount: \$100,000.00

Project Status: Active

## **RECREATION INVENTORY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

The Parks and Recreation Inventory begins with an explanation of the park facility classification system that was used to conduct this inventory, followed by the recreation inventory itself, which details the park type, park name, accessibility rating, park acreage, likely service area, and available recreational activities. The inventory includes all resources that are available within the Township,

regardless of whether they are owned by the Township, such as private facilities, semi-public facilities, or public facilities managed by another entity.

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

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

This inventory was completed in June of 2017. Information used in the inventory was collected from the previous Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan (adopted in 2012), Township Green Infrastructure Plan (adopted in 2007), the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan, aerial photo interpretation, current and previous plans of surrounding municipalities, field verifications, and internet research. The *Recreation Inventory, Table 2*, begins on Page 13 of this Plan.

## PARK FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

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

**Mini Parks** are used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs. They generally measure between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size, and serve a population within a quarter-mile in a residential setting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### TRAIL FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

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

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

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

**Mountain Bike Trails** are off-road trails generally designed and intended for biking, but also provide opportunities for hiking where conflicts can be avoided. Horseback riding and mountain biking are not usually compatible uses. Mountain Bike Trails may also be used for cross-country



skiing (non-maintained) or snowshoeing in the winter, and are usually looped networks located in larger parks and natural resource areas.

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

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

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

## ACCESSIBILITY ANALYSIS

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

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

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Table 2 Recreation Inventory

Facility Name		Facility Type	Size (acres)	Likely Service Area	Description of Amenities (Accessibility Rating also provided for Township-owned parks)
Garfield Township Parks	Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area	Natural Area	142 ac	Entire Township and surrounding areas	Accessibility Rating: 1 Amenities: Hiking Trails, Walking Trails, Cross Country Skiing, and Mountain Biking
	Boardman Valley Nature Presep. 13rve	Natural Area	92 ac	Entire Township and surrounding areas	Accessibility Rating: 1 Amenities: Hiking Trails, Walking Trails, Cross Country Skiing, Hunting, Fishing, Boardman River Access, Tennis, Beach Volleyball, and Pickleball
	Silver Lake Recreation Area	Community Park	84 ac	Less than 3 mi	Accessibility Rating: 2 Amenities: Hiking Trails, Walking Trails, Picnic Pavilions, Playgrounds, Restrooms, Tennis, Basketball, Sledding Hill, T-Ball Field, and Multi-Purpose Field
	Miller Creek Nature Reserve	Natural Area	67 ac	Less than 3 mi	Accessibility Rating: 1 Amenities: Hiking Trails, Walking Trails, Cross Country Skiing, Mountain Biking, Nature Watching, and Hunting
	Kids Creek Park	Natural Area	20 ac	Less than 3 mi	Accessibility Rating: 3 Amenities: Hiking Trails, Walking Trails, Nature Watching, and Fishing Pond
	River East Recreation Area	Natural Area/ <i>Planned</i> Community Park	62.2 ac	Less than 3 mi	Accessibility Rating: 1 Amenities: None; not developed (Playground, Dog Park, Paved Walking Trail with six Exercise Stations, Picnic Pavilion, Observation Deck, Fishing Platform, Restrooms, and Parking planned— <i>see</i> River East Recreation Area Development Plan)
	Hughes Drive Natural Area	Natural Area	7.5 ac	Less than 1/2 mi	Accessibility Rating: 1 Amenities: None; not developed
Rec. Authority Parks	Historic Barns Park	Community Park/Natural Area	53 ac	Entire Township and surrounding areas	Amenities: Under development; nearly complete (Renovated Historic Barns, Outdoor Amphitheater, Interpretive Center, Community Gardens, and Trails planned)
	Hickory Meadows	Natural Area	110 ac	Entire Township and surrounding areas	Amenities: Hiking Trails, Cross Country Skiing, and Nature Watching
County Parks	Civic Center	Sports Complex	45 ac	Entire Township and surrounding areas	Amenities: Walking Trails, Indoor Pool, Skate/Bike Park, Baseball and Softball Fields, Ice Rink, and Playgrounds
	County Nature Education Reserve	Natural Area	505 ac	Entire Township and surrounding areas	Amenities: Hiking Trails, Walking Trails, Cross Country Skiing, Fishing, and Boardman River Access
	Keystone Soccer Complex	Sports Complex	15 ac	Entire Township and surrounding areas	Amenities: Soccer Fields and Playground.
	Maple Bay Park	Natural Area	n/a	Entire Township and surrounding areas	Amenities: Hiking Trails, Nature Watching, and Lake Michigan Beach

Table 2 – Recreation Inventory

Facility Name		Facility Type	Size (acres)	Likely Service Area	Description of Amenities
County Parks	Medalie Park	Community Park	15 ac	Less than 3 mi	Amenities: Picnic Shelter, Restrooms, Walking Trails, Fishing, Boardman River Access, Boardman Lake Access, and Canoe Launch
	Power Island/Bassett Island	Natural Area	202 ac	Statewide	Amenities: Lake Michigan Beach, Picnic Areas, Hiking Trails, and Primitive Camping
	Twin Lakes Park	Community Park	175 ac	Entire Township and surrounding areas	Amenities: Community Lodge, Soccer Fields, and Swimming
GT RLC	Mitchell Creek Nature Preserve	Natural Area	128 ac	Entire Township and surrounding areas	Amenities: Hunting, Fishing, and Nature Watching
School Parks	Traverse City Central High School	School Park	n/a	Less than 3 mi	Amenities: Multi-Purpose Fields, Baseball and Softball Fields, Running Track, Tennis Courts, and Basketball Court
	Traverse City Central East Middle School	School Park	n/a	Less than 3 mi	Amenities: Baseball and Softball Fields, Running Track, and Tennis Courts
	Traverse City West Middle School	School Park	n/a	Less than 3 mi	Amenities: Multi-Purpose Fields, Baseball and Softball Fields, Running Track, and Tennis Courts
	Traverse City West High School	School Park	n/a	Less than 3 mi	Amenities: Multi-Purpose Fields, Baseball and Softball Fields, Running Track, Tennis Courts, and Basketball Court
	Former Sabin Elementary	School Park	n/a	Less than 1/2 mi	Amenities: Playground
	Carlisle Field	School Park	n/a	Less than 3 mi	Amenities: Baseball Field
	Silver Lake Elementary	School Park	n/a	Less than 1/2 mi	Amenities: Playground

Table 2 – Recreation Inventory

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

Table 2 – Recreation Inventory

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

Trail Facilities		Trailway Type	Length	Description
	<b>Leelanau Trail</b>	Type I & II	15.5 mi	The Leelanau Trail is a non-motorized pathway connecting Traverse City at its southern end point with Suttons Bay at its northern end point.
	<b>Mall Trail</b>	Type III	2 mi	The Mall Trail parallels US-31 from 14th St to South Airport Rd near the Grand Traverse Mall. The Mall Trail connects downtown Traverse City residents with many commercial businesses and restaurants.
	<b>Boardman Lake Trail</b>	Type I & II	2 mi	The heavily wooded, serene trail along the east side of Boardman Lake is paved for the northern mile. The southern mile has a crushed limestone surface. The vision for this trail is a pathway that encircles Boardman Lake.
	<b>Boardman River Trail</b>	Type II	24 mi (planned)	The Boardman River Trail Committee formed in 2010 to explore the feasibility of developing a 24-mile trail that follows the Boardman River Valley from Traverse City to the North Country Trail (NCT). Most of the proposed trail is in forested area on existing dirt paths and two-tracks. From the NCT users can continue on to connect with the Vasa Pathway and head back to Traverse via the TART Trail, resulting in a 46-mile loop.
	<b>Buffalo Ridge Trail</b>	Type I	2.7 mi (planned); 1.5 mi in place)	The Buffalo Ridge Trail is a proposed 2.7 mile trail (1.5 mi complete) connecting Division Street to South Airport Road. The trail will link to the existing Mall Trail and Boardman Lake Trail by way of Griffin Street. The trail will provide access to three schools, numerous natural areas, the Commons, Historic Barns Park, Great Wolf Lodge, and the YMCA. It will allow thousands of residents in Garfield Township and Traverse City to get where they want to go without a car.
	<b>3-Mile Trail</b>	Type I & II	2 mi	The 3-Mile trail follows Three Mile Road from the State Park beach on US-31 to South Airport Road.
	<b>TART Trail</b>	Type III	10.5 mi	The TART Trail is a paved urban transportation and recreational corridor with an eastern end point at M-72 (Bates Road) in Acme Township and a western end point at the M-22/M-72 intersection in Traverse City.
	<b>Lake Ann Pathway</b>	Type II	5.8 mi	The Lake Ann Pathway is divided into two loops; the first, at 3.5 miles, is more strenuous and often used by mountain bikers, and it passes Mary's Lake and Shavenaugh Lake. The second loop, at 1.8 miles, meanders more gently along Platte Lake and Lake Ann.
	<b>Lost Lake Pathway</b>	Type II	6.3 mi	Starting from the Lake Dubonnet State Forest Campground, this trail offers a loop for mountain bikers, hikers, and XC skiers to enjoy.
	<b>North Country Trail</b>	Type II	4,600 mi	The North Country Trail (NCT) is America's longest National Scenic Trail, running from New York to North Dakota, linking 7 states, 10 National Forests, and more than 150 public lands. The NCT passes through Grand Traverse County to the east of Garfield Township.
	<b>Shore-to-Shore Trail</b>	Type II	220 mi	A hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trail that runs between Oscoda, on Lake Huron, and Empire, on Lake Michigan. The trail also meets with the North Country Trail in Kalkaska.
	<b>VASA Pathway</b>	Type II	25 K	Located in the Pere Marquette State Forest, the Vasa Pathway features a series of loops (3K, 5K, 10K, 25K) that offer users a variety of challenges from easy to difficult. The Vasa Pathway is maintained and groomed for cross country skiing by TART Trails under an agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Grand Traverse County. The Vasa Pathway is used by cross country skiers, runners, hikers, mountain bikers, walkers, and naturalists year round. It is the home of the North American Vasa cross country ski race and the annual Iceman Cometh mountain bike race also uses a portion of the trail.
	<b>VASA Singletrack</b>	Type II	13 mi	A trail loop primarily used for mountain biking but also available for hiking and Cross Country skiing.

## PARKS AND RECREATION AREA DESCRIPTIONS

### TOWNSHIP-OWNED PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

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

#### ***Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area – Natural Resource Area***



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

formerly part of the Traverse City State Psychiatric Hospital and was obtained from the State of Michigan in the early 1990s. Numerous trailheads provide access to the park.

#### ***Kids Creek Park – Natural Resource Area***

Kids Creek Park is a 20-acre park along US-31, one of the busiest arterial roads in Grand Traverse County. Historically, the land was used by the Oleson family for a number of purposes, including a buffalo pasture and a commercial trout fishing pond. A historic grist mill is also present on the site, but has fallen into significant disrepair. A structural analysis performed by a structural engineer concluded that the foundation is not in a condition that would lend to a restoration of the existing structure. The Township has approved the demolition of the mill; however, given the historic value of the waterwheel and drive system, the Township hopes to preserve these items.



The land that would become Kids Creek Park was dedicated to Garfield Township for parkland and open space preservation when the Great Wolf Lodge Planned Unit Development was approved in 2002. In the time since, the park has been the site of extensive volunteer efforts to restore the banks of Kids Creek, which meanders through the park. The stream banks had been damaged by decades of buffalo traffic (the former buffalo herd was once the largest east of the Mississippi River), but volunteer efforts have made an incredible difference to the stream's health, and ultimately, West Bay's health by reducing sedimentation and increasing shade and habitat for fish and insects.





**Buffalo Pasture: Before and After**

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

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

The 200-acre Boardman Valley Nature Preserve follows the west bank of the Boardman River south from South Airport Road. This park currently includes both active and passive recreational opportunities, including hiking, fishing, canoeing/kayaking, tennis, pickleball, beach volleyball, soccer, cross-country skiing, hunting, and nature watching. The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA has occupied the northern portions of the site for a number of years and currently uses the site through a lease agreement with Garfield Township.



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

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

***Miller Creek Nature Reserve – Natural Resource Area***



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

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

***Silver Lake Recreation Area – Community Park***

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



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

The Silver Lake Recreation Area is one of two remaining publicly-owned properties with frontage on Silver Lake (the other being the MDNR boat launch). Currently, the roughly 100-foot shoreline within the park is in a natural state.

***River East Recreation Area – Natural Resource Area and Planned Community Park***

The 62-acre River East Recreation Area is located on North Keystone Road along the east banks of the Boardman River and 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 in the west and residents identifying a need for east side opportunities through the public engagement efforts underlying this Plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission created a conceptual development plan for this land and formally named it. The land was acquired by the Township via a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund acquisition grant.

Currently, the park is in an undeveloped state with an existing storage building, which could be converted into a planned picnic pavilion; a small gravel parking area; hiking trails; open spaces; woodlands; and several hundred feet of Boardman River shoreline. As it exists now, the park offers ample opportunity for quiet recreation such as nature watching. Several active recreation features are planned for the park with the goal of having a good balance of passive and active recreation elements in the future (*see* River East Recreation Area Park Development Plan).

## OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN GARFIELD TOWNSHIP

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

### ***Boardman River Nature Center – Private Recreation Facility***

This facility is owned and operated by the Grand Traverse Conservation District, and is located within the County Nature Education Reserve. Created as a way to help foster the exploration, appreciation, and conservation of the natural world, the Boardman River Nature Center has become a destination for the Grand Traverse



community to nurture their connection to nature. Inside, the Boardman River Nature Center features an exhibit gallery, nature theater, and activity area for kids. Outside, there are picnic pavilions, native plant gardens, a demonstration wetland, and access to hiking trails in the 505-acre Natural Education Reserve. Nature themed programs for families, children, and adults occur regularly on evenings and weekends, and custom programs are available for schools and groups. The facility is directly accessible from the BVNP.

### ***Historic Barns Park – Large Community Park***

Owned and operated by the City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield Recreational Authority<sup>1</sup> (RA), this 56-acre property was once used by Traverse City State Psychiatric Hospital patients for farming activities as a form of therapy. The property was acquired for public use in 2005. Plans for Historic Barns Park include an event venue, additional trails, botanical gardens, and community educational and agricultural activities. The Historic Barns Park is adjacent to the Township-owned Commons Natural Area and includes a trailhead to that park.

### ***Grand Traverse County Natural Education Reserve – Natural Resource Area***

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<sup>1</sup> The joint City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield Recreational Authority was formed in 2003 under Michigan's Recreational Authorities Act (PA 321 of 2000). In 2004, Garfield Township and Traverse City voters approved a ballot measure to fund the acquisition and improvement of three properties under the guidance of the Recreational Authority. Those properties include the Smith-Barney property in Traverse City (now part of the Open Space), Historic Barns Park at the Grand Traverse Commons (predominantly in Garfield Township), and Hickory Meadows (also predominantly in Garfield Township). The acquisition projects were financed through a 20-year General Obligation Bond, after which time the RA will have to seek a renewal of its operating millage or dissolve. If the RA should ever dissolve, the parklands will be dedicated back to the parent jurisdictions for public use in perpetuity.

Nearly every natural cover type in the state is found in the 505-acre Natural Education Reserve along the Boardman River, which abuts the Township's Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. Features include bog, marsh, true swamp, level terrain, upland forest, pine forest, creek, river, and an active beaver pond. Several miles of improved trails provide access to bridges, boardwalks, canoe portage sites, boat launches, picnic areas, and opportunities for hiking, photography, nature watching, and other forms of quiet recreation.

***Hickory Hills Ski Area – Special Use***

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

***Hickory Meadows – Natural Resource Area***

Hickory Meadows is owned and operated by the City of Traverse City and Garfield Township Joint Recreational Authority. The natural area is adjacent to Hickory Hills Ski Area, and may be accessed either by Randolph Road or M-72. The 113-acre parcel offers miles of Type III park trails that wander over hills, across meadows, and through woodlands.

***Keystone Complex – Sports Complex***

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

***Medalie Park – Community Park***

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

***Mitchell Creek Preserve – Natural Resource Area***

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

***Traverse City West Middle School***

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

### ***Traverse City West High School***

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

### ***Former Sabin Elementary School***

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

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

## REGIONAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### ***Lake Michigan Beaches***

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

### ***Hull Park***

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

### ***Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore***

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

### ***Boat Launches and Marinas***

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

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

### ***Civic Center – Large Community Park***

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

### ***Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park***

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

### ***Interlochen State Park***

The Interlochen State Park is located in Green Lake Township, to the southwest of Garfield Township. The park includes a modern campground with 421 sites, and a rustic campground with 59 rustic sites. The park is located on two fishing and swimming lakes; Green Lake and Duck Lake. The park was established as Michigan's first state park in 1917 to preserve one of the last virgin pine stands for the people of Michigan.

### ***Brown Bridge Quiet Area***

Brown Bridge Quiet Area is located in East Bay Township, to the east of Garfield Township. The park measures approximately 1,300 acres, and is maintained in a natural state for public enjoyment

of the woodlands and the Boardman River. The planned Boardman Valley Trail will provide a direct non-motorized connection between Garfield Township and the Brown Bridge Quiet Area.

### ***TART Trail***

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

### ***C.E.N.T.R.E. Ice***

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

## **DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

### Overview

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

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

### Planning Methods

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

The Plan also includes a Green Infrastructure element. Though no standards exist to determine how much open space a community needs, the Green Infrastructure element is reflective of earlier open space and natural area plans, and noted public desire for the preservation and protection of natural resource areas.

#### Preliminary Public Input

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

The agenda of the Commission's business is published on the Township website in advance of each meeting so that the public is aware of an opportunity for involvement in any given discussion. Despite this opportunity for public involvement, public comment during regular Parks and Recreation Commission meetings did not prove to be an extensive public involvement element of this Plan. To supplement public input, the Commission decided to develop an online survey and to seek out opportunities for face-to-face discussion with interested residents.

The online survey consisted of seven multiple choice and open-ended questions, and it was prominently displayed on the Township website homepage, parks page, and Facebook page from July 6, 2017 to September 20, 2017. The opportunity to take part in the online survey was also published in a September 15, 2017 Traverse City Ticker article that highlighted the Township's pump track planning efforts. The Ticker is a free daily news provider featuring Traverse City-area news and has more than 32,000 subscribers. In total, 206 individuals participated in the online survey, which represents more than a doubling of the number of survey respondents in comparison to a similar survey administered in 2011—it received just under 80 responses. The results of this survey are briefly summarized under the Basis for Goals and Objectives section of this Plan.

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

#### Development of Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

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

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



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## **BASIS FOR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

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

### **DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION**

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

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

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

#### **SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS**

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

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

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

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

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS - NATURAL FEATURES

The Boardman River and Boardman Lake are the most prominent natural features within Garfield Township. The river flows north through Garfield Township before emptying into Boardman Lake, which subsequently enters the City of Traverse City before draining to the Grand Traverse Bay. The Boardman River and Boardman Lake divide the Township from east-to-west. Roughly ¼ of the Township's geographic area lies to the east of the river and lake.

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

### BOARDMAN RIVER WATERSHED

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

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

The Boardman River has been impounded by a series of dams since the late 1800s. From upstream to downstream, the dams include Brown Bridge Dam, Boardman Dam, Sabin Dam, and Union Street Dam. Two of the dams, Boardman and Sabin, are within Garfield Township. The three upstream dams have historically been used for hydroelectric power generation, but have not been in operation since 2006. Each of these dams is scheduled to be removed, except for the Union Street Dam, which will be modified. In 2012 and 2013, the Brown Bridge Dam was removed and habitat restored in former impoundment. In 2017, the Boardman Dam was removed and the restoration of the river's natural course began. The Sabin Dam is scheduled to be removed in 2018.



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

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



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

#### BOARDMAN LAKE

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

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



Although a public use analysis has not been performed, the public's use of the resource is thought to be lower than what might be expected for a lake in the center of the Traverse City urban area. This is thought to be due to the public's perception of the environmental health of the lake, specifically concerns over contamination resulting from the industrial uses that are adjacent to Boardman Lake. Past studies have indicated that there are elevated concentrations of contaminants in the sediments of Boardman Lake, and that the sediments in some areas are toxic to sediment-dwelling freshwater organisms. However, a 1992 Michigan Department of Natural Resources analysis found only minute concentrations of chemical contaminants within fish in the lake, and not at levels which warranted a specific consumption advisory for the lake.

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

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

#### SILVER LAKE

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

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

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

#### INVASIVE SPECIES

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

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

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

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

#### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS - SIGNIFICANT MANMADE FEATURES

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

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

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

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

#### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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

- Walking (with and without dogs), hiking, and nature watching were some of the most common responses when participants were asked why they use Township parks.
- Many comments focused on keeping the Township's natural areas in a largely undeveloped state for both recreation and open space purposes, and keeping the active-recreation facilities at the Silver Lake Recreation Area, or at a future park elsewhere in the Township.
- Proximity and convenience to parks was an important consideration for many respondents. Some comments highlighted the lack of a Township-owned community park on the east side of the Township.

- Participants generally were of the opinion that the parks are well cleaned and well maintained. Some comments did raise concerns about poor cleanliness, or about the need for improved maintenance of facilities such as trails, garbage disposal, or the need for improvements, such as better trail signage and way finding markers.
- Increasing public awareness and use of the Township’s park system was encouraged. The Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area was the most well-known of all parks. The Boardman Valley Nature Preserve is also well-known. On the other hand, about 60% of respondents did not know that the Miller Creek Nature Preserve exists.
- The Commons Natural Area and the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve were the most visited parks. Despite being adjacent to some of the region’s largest shopping centers, the Miller Creek Nature Reserve and Kids Creek Park were the least visited of the Township’s Parks.
- The majority of respondents rated the Township park system as “Good” or “Great” when considering the amount of parkland, the number of parks, park distribution and convenient location, beauty, cleanliness and maintenance, variety of recreational opportunities, safety, and size.
- When asked if there was a need for certain facilities, the majority of respondents replied “Yes” to the need for the following: Beach Access, Dog Park, Mountain Bike Trails, Nature Center/Gardens, Outdoor Ice Rink, Paved Bike Paths, Pickleball Courts, Picnic Shelter, Playgrounds/ Equipment, Sledding Hill, Walk/Hike/Jog Trail, and XC Skiing Trails. The majority of respondents were “Neutral” to the need for the following: Amphitheater/Bandstand, Baseball/Softball Fields, Basketball Courts, Beach Volleyball, Disc Golf, Equestrian Trails, Shuffleboard/Bocce Ball, Skateboard/Bike Park, and Tennis Courts. The majority of respondents replied “No” to the need for the following: Swimming Pool and Snowmobile Trails.
- When asked to consider recreation priorities for the next five years, over 70% of respondents identified building pathways (both locally and regionally) as either “Important” or “Very Important.” Over 70% of respondents identified the acquisition and protection of sensitive natural areas and habitats as either “Important” or “Very Important.” The next highest priorities included improving the maintenance at existing parks, improving barrier-free access at parks, and expanding the amenities and activities available at parks. Some support was shown to acquire more parkland and developing additional parks throughout the Township. Little support was shown for the need for increased hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities.



One of the online survey questions asked: “Do you believe there is a need for the following facilities in Garfield Township?” 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/Gardens

**Table 3 Inventory Analysis**

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

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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

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

### Objectives:

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

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

### Objectives:

- Provide continuous improvements to existing Township parks
- Identify and provide funding for annual improvements to Township facilities that maintain or exceed current levels
- Develop annual maintenance plans to maintain park and recreational facilities to a high standard so that major repairs or complete replacement of a resource is rarely necessary
- Develop management plans for each of the parks
- Continue to improve safety at each of the parks
- Include a broad range of recreation facilities within each park where feasible, provided that the facility meets the spirit and intent of the park

- Develop amenities in park facilities to include those identified by the Township as well as by residents through the public input process
- Maintain a logical balance between active and passive pursuits in the parks
- Continue to collaborate with partners such as adjacent municipalities, the Grand Traverse Conservation District, Regional Land Conservancy, Joint Recreational Authority, and the Parks and Recreation Network to provide broadly beneficial improvements to the active and passive regional recreation network
- Within all parks, the development of a self-guided nature education tour would be relatively simple, cost effective, and broadly beneficial
- Continue to let the Silver Lake Recreation Area Development Plan guide improvements to that park

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

**Objectives:**

- Identify important and recognized natural features and open spaces in the Township
- Enhance the green infrastructure network by expanding on and providing enhanced buffering to already protected areas
- Plant additional native vegetation and plants at all parks to protect water quality and improve habitat
- Continue to invest in water quality improvements such as stream bank stabilization and restoration projects
- Work with neighboring communities to identify and protect cross-jurisdictional natural areas which enhance the regional green infrastructure
- Encourage the Planning Commission and Township Board to develop and maintain Zoning Ordinance standards and Master Plan policy which encourage recognition and preservation of sensitive natural areas
- Identify priorities for acquisition as well as priorities for non-acquisition preservation. Priorities for acquisition should be areas that can also provide a recreational resource to Township residents, such as the opportunity for expanded non-motorized connections, or where the acquisition would protect and buffer already protected lands. Priorities for non-acquisition preservation (i.e. a conservation easement) should be identified where preservation is important, but acquisition is not critical to the recreational infrastructure
- Continue to work with the Grand Traverse Regional Invasive Species Network to prioritize and remove invasive species, prevent the spread of new invasive species, and educate the community about the stewardship of its natural resources

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

**Objectives:**

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

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

**Objectives:**

- Pursue all available funding sources for capital improvements and operations and maintenance, including local sources, a parks and recreation millage, state and federal grant programs, local business, and other sources
- Adopt policies that any money generated by the Park System, such as reservation and rental permits, shall be redirected towards park funding
- Explore the possibility of a regional recreational authority which will manage and maintain the regional trail network
- Coordinate efforts with local interest groups and recreation providers and create partnerships for providing these resources
- Encourage the Township Board to maintain a small millage to maintain consistent funding for the purpose of general maintenance, improvements, acquisition, and for local match purposes for grant opportunities

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

**Objectives:**

- Invest in the restoration of bottomlands within former backwater areas as the three Boardman River dams are removed
- Invest in the acquisition of properties with Boardman River frontage, or properties that will buffer previously protected parkland within the Boardman River valley

- Plan for anticipated commercial pressures on the Township’s parkland and natural resources, such as kayaking or canoeing liveries utilizing the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve for launch and recovery, or the potential to develop a whitewater park similar to the Bear River project in Petoskey. Consider permitting managed commercial pressure as a method of increasing public access to resources while incorporating a commercial fee structure to provide expanded Township-wide recreation opportunities
- Continue to seek funding and easements for the completion of the Boardman Lake Trail and Boardman Valley Trail. Incorporate water access elements with trail planning, such as fishing decks or swimming platforms
- Consider increased access to the public beach area on Sliver Lake within Silver Lake Recreation Area, but take care to involve neighborhood stakeholders early and often in the consideration of this objective
- Work with landowners, the DEQ, the DNR, and other stakeholders to manage the spread of invasive aquatic species within these waterbodies

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

**Objectives:**

- Continue to promote the park system via the Township website, Facebook page, newsletter articles, and by including information about the entire park network at trailhead kiosks
- Optimize the availability of mobile park information by taking advantage of technology such as Smartphone applications and Tag barcodes. For example, a Tag barcode (see example to the right) could be used to link users to digital park maps. On a more advanced level, an application could be developed to provide interactive directions to trailheads or even GPS-based trail guidance systems. Development costs could be shared through partnerships with other regional recreation providers who would also benefit from this technology



## SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

## PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### BOARDMAN VALLEY NATURE PRESERVE (BVNP)

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

Sentiment expressed by the Parks and Recreation Commission has generally supported the use of this park as a key element in the regional trail system, but wide asphalt bike paths are not envisioned

as compatible with this nature area. Rather, the existing single-track type trail system would be more appropriate, or perhaps a crushed limestone pathway similar in nature to the Boardman Lake Trail. Care must be taken to avoid conflict between cyclists and other trail and park users. It will be necessary for the Township to plan in advance for the type of trail that will be permissible, as well as the location of the trail.

The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA currently occupies space on the northern area of this park, including a large building, parking lot, athletic fields, and volleyball courts. As the YMCA is currently evaluating options for its future on this property, the Township's plans should continue to be coordinated closely with the YMCA administration.

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

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

Non-motorized access to this park would be greatly enhanced by a grade-separated crossing of South Airport Road at Medalie Park, as more thoroughly discussed under the Non-Motorized Plan element of this Master Plan. The remainder of this section will present a development plan map, description, and general policy discussion for the "Templeton Parcel" at the BVNP.

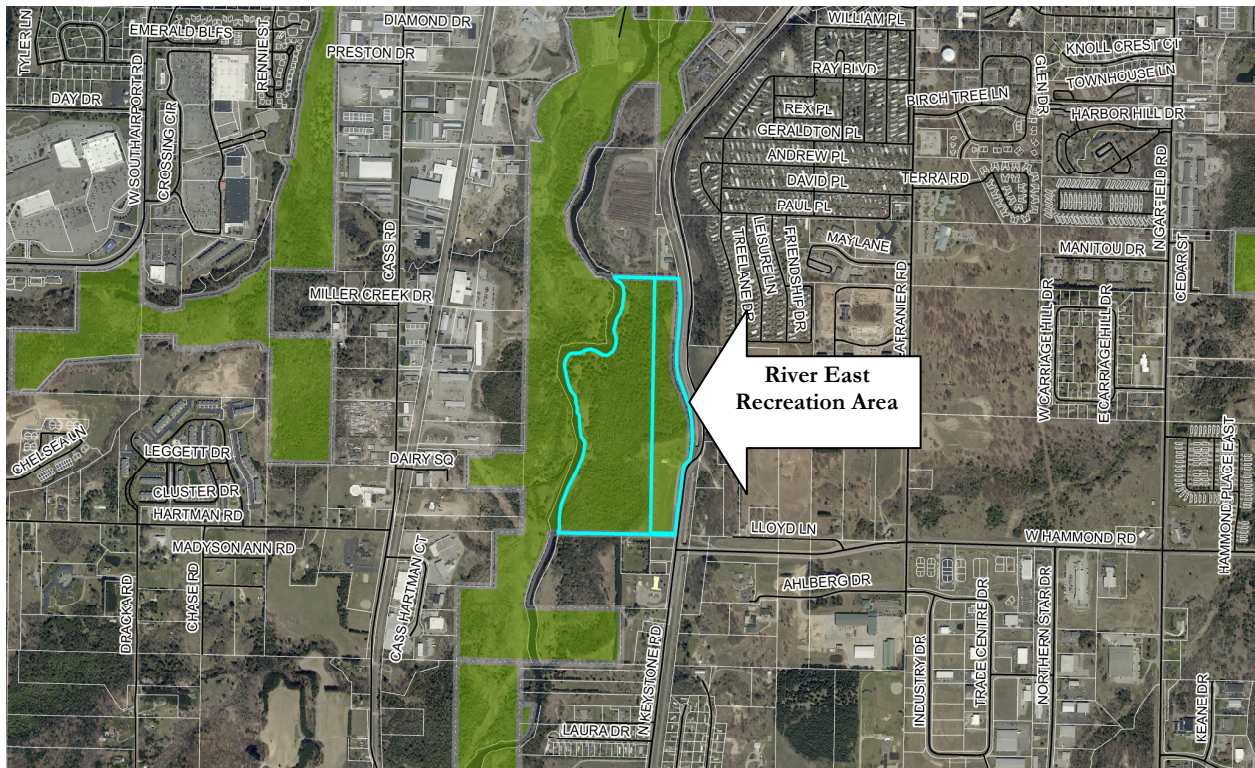


## RIVER EAST RECREATION AREA PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

The Charter Township of Garfield has developed this descriptive development plan for the River East Recreation Area located at 2143 North Keystone Road. The River East Recreation Area is situated along the east banks of the Boardman River and part of the larger Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. (*See* the two parcels highlighted in blue in the location map below). The property was acquired by the Township via a Natural Resources Trust Fund acquisition grant. The development plan contains the following components:

- Development Plan Map
- Development Plan Descriptions
- General Policy Discussion
  - Developed-Natural Balance
  - Tree Plantings and Invasive Species Removal
  - Picnic Shelter Reservations





# River East Recreation Area Park Development Plan

Garfield Charter Township  
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Traverse City, MI 49684  
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NOT A LEGAL SURVEY

Garfield Township Planning Dept: 10/10/2017

#### DEVELOPMENT PLAN DESCRIPTIONS

The following describes planned amenities at the River East Recreation Area which fronts on North Keystone Road. A majority of the improvements described below were identified through the Public Involvement efforts underlying this Master Plan. The number of each description corresponds to the numbers on the Development Plan Map legend.

1. Fishing Platform

One wooden fishing platform with railings is envisioned along the park's frontage on the Boardman River. Currently, there are no designated fishing areas on the property to take advantage of the Boardman River, a great river for fishing which is anticipated to become more popular as the upstream dams are removed and the River's natural course is restored.

2. Observation Deck

One wooden observation deck with railings and perhaps a fixed pair of binoculars for wildlife watching is envisioned at a point of high elevation along the Boardman River's banks. The proposed location is scenic, feels secluded, and is situated at the end of an existing dirt path.

3. Natural Trail

This trail currently exists in a rough and unmaintained condition. The idea is to improve and maintain this path as a connection between the proposed paved walking loop and the proposed observation deck and fishing platform.

4. Paved Trail (ADA Compliant)

A paved trail which is constructed to ADA standards is envisioned in a loop through the park. It would be roughly a half-mile in length and would connect the proposed amenities. Results of the Township's Public Engagement efforts indicate that walking and hiking trails are among the most popularly supported park improvements.

5. Exercise Stations

Six exercise stations are envisioned along the paved trail described above. These stations would each provide opportunity for exercising a different muscle group. For example, two low bars could be installed for push-ups at one station and two high bars at another for pull-ups.

6. Playground Area

A playground area is envisioned near the middle of the proposed paved trail. Playground areas are concentrated in the western portion of the Township and therefore this playground would bring balance by providing one that can be easily reached by eastern portion residents.

7. Picnic Pavilion

A covered picnic area is envisioned in the location of the only existing building on the property. This location is appropriate since the existing building is underutilized and the pavilion is in close proximity to parking, a restroom, and the playground. As identified through the public engagement efforts underlying this Plan, picnic areas are an amenity that Township residents would like to see more of. Existing picnic areas in the Township are reserved at a very high frequency.

8. Fenced Dog Park Area

A fenced dog park area is planned for the northernmost portion of the parcel. There is an existing well near the area which would allow for a water supply for filling dog bowls. It is located away from the pavilion, playground, and trail so as to discourage conflict between dog owners and other park users. The public engagement efforts underlying this plan indicate that dog parks are an amenity which Township residents would like to see more of. The only dog park within the Township is currently on the western side of the Township.

9. Gravel Parking Area

A gravel parking lot with capacity for 15-20 vehicles is planned for the parcel to provide parking for park visitors. Its planned location would allow for easy access to all of the park amenities, and it builds upon an area of the parcel which is already very flat and occasionally used for parking.

10. Restroom Facility

A restroom facility with a pit or vault style toilet is planned for the parcel since users would likely remain for a long period of time. It is located so as to be easily accessed by pavilion, playground, and trail users. In addition, its location close to the parking lot allows for a truck with pumping equipment to pull in and clean out the facility.

## GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION

### **Developed-Natural Balance**

The Township's intent is to keep the western half of the parcel along the Boardman River in a relatively undeveloped state. This half is at a considerably higher elevation and more wooded than the eastern half and provides ample opportunity for taking in the natural scenery with a feeling of seclusion from urban facilities. This area will become more accessible as attention is given to improving the existing dirt trail that leads to the riverfront and planned observation deck and fishing platform. Although a paved path would vastly improve accessibility to this section of the parcel, such a path would likely be improper in light of the topography and density of the woods. The eastern half of the parcel is relatively flat and grassy where the steep slopes coming down from North Keystone Road end, which makes it conducive to active recreational features.

### **Tree Plantings and Invasive Species Removal**

As time and budget permits, priority should be given to establish a wide variety of native vegetation in the eastern part of the park to compliment the recreational features. For example, trees could be

planted along the North Keystone Road frontage to provide a visual and sound buffer. In addition, removal of invasive species on the parcel should be encouraged to the extent possible to maintain the long-term health of the natural area and its scenic quality.

### **Picnic Shelter Reservations**

If it is observed that the picnic shelter is getting significant use, establish a timeslot reservation policy. A flat rate could be charged for 2-3 hours after which an hourly rate would be charged. Otherwise, leave the shelter open to anyone who wishes to use it.

### **GRAND TRAVERSE COMMONS NATURAL AREA**

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

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

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

A 40-acre parcel of land to the west of the Commons (the “State 40”), which was owned by the Michigan DNR and already being broadly used by the public as a natural extension to the Commons, was formally deeded to the Township in 2017.

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

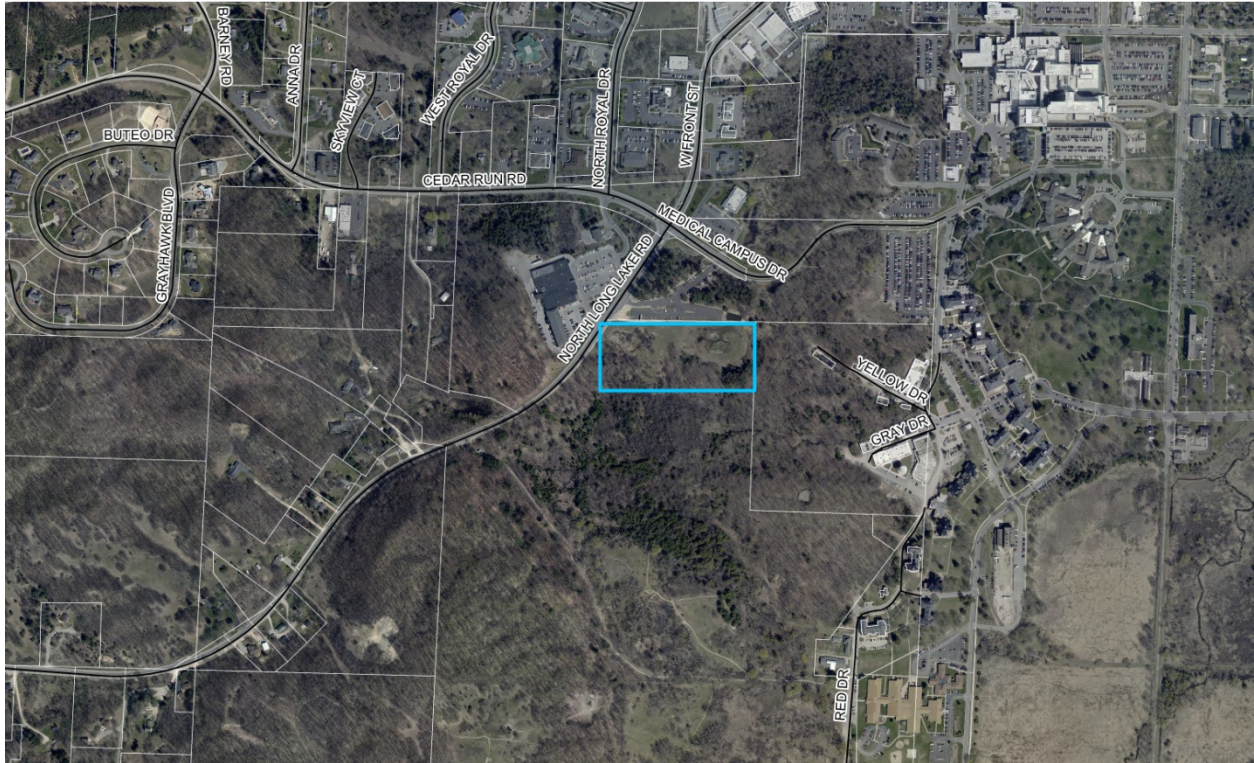
The remainder of this section will present a development plan map, description, and general policy discussion for the “North Parcel” at the Commons Natural Area.

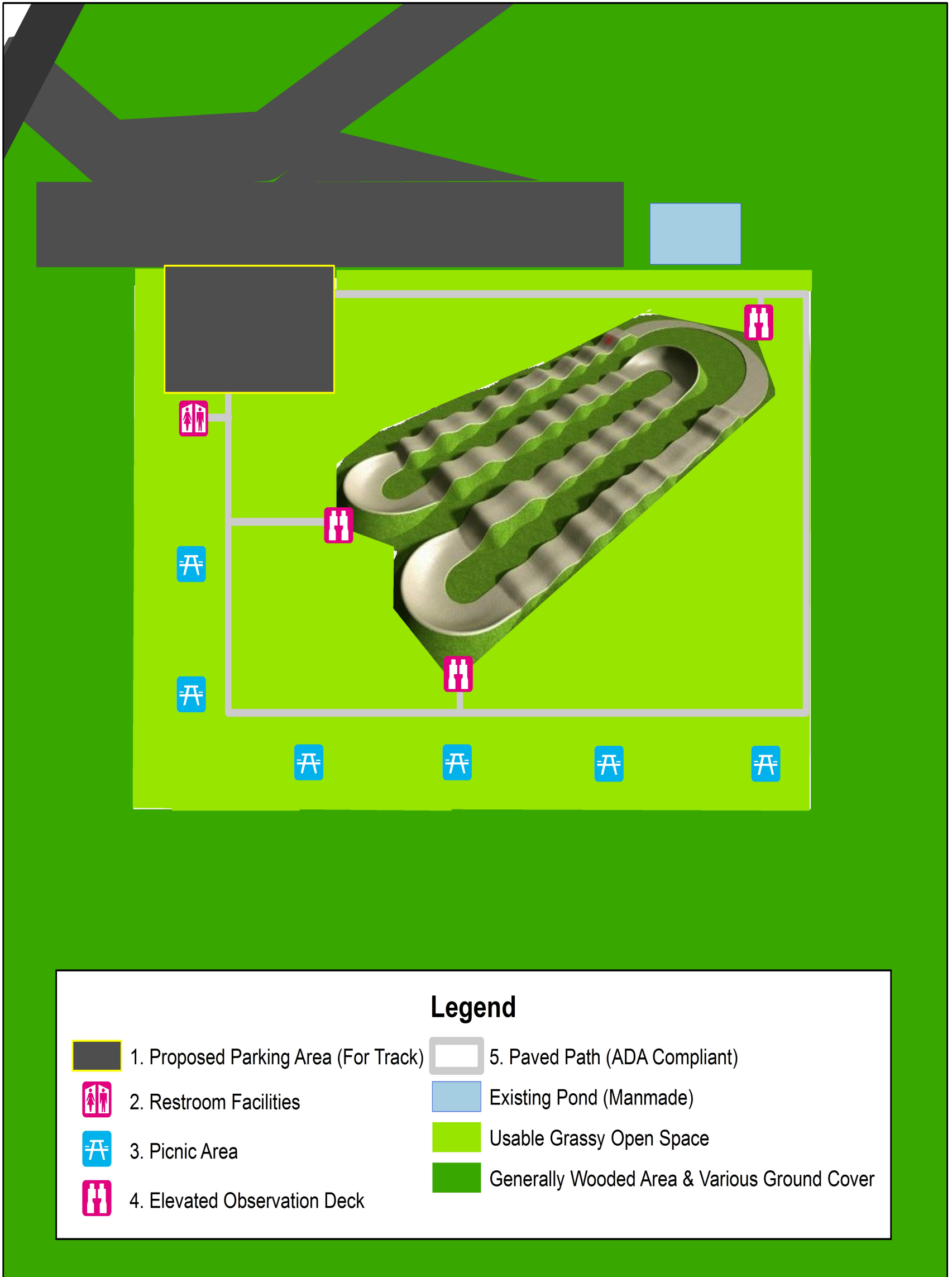
## COMMONS NATURAL AREA “NORTH PARCEL” PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### INTRODUCTION









The Charter Township of Garfield has developed this descriptive development plan for the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area “North Parcel,” which is located between North Long Lake Road on the west, Red Drive on the east, and Medical Campus Drive to the north. The parcel is situated just west of the Village at Grand Traverse Commons and part of the larger Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area. (See the parcel highlighted in blue in the location map below). The development plan contains the following components:

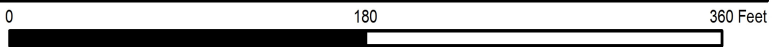
- Development Plan Map
- Development Plan Descriptions
- General Policy Discussion





**Legend**

	1. Proposed Parking Area (For Track)		5. Paved Path (ADA Compliant)
	2. Restroom Facilities		Existing Pond (Manmade)
	3. Picnic Area		Usable Grassy Open Space
	4. Elevated Observation Deck		Generally Wooded Area & Various Ground Cover



**GT Commons Natural Area "North Parcel"  
Park Development Plan**

Garfield Charter Township  
3848 Veterans Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
Phone: 231.941.1620  
Fax: 231.941.1688  
[www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)



NOT A LEGAL SURVEY

Garfield Township Planning Dept: 9/18/2017

#### DEVELOPMENT PLAN DESCRIPTIONS

The following describes planned amenities at the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area “North Parcel” which fronts on North Long Lake Road. The number of each description corresponds to the numbers on the Development Plan Map legend.

The focal point of this park is envisioned to be a paved “pump track” for use with bicycles, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, and wheelchairs. A pump track is a continuous loop of berms and “rollers” (smooth mounds or hills) that you ride without pedaling. The name “pump track” comes from the pumping motion used by the rider’s upper and lower body as they ride around the track. The idea of a pump track is to use this pumping motion to maintain your speed without pedaling. Paved pump tracks can be used by people of all ages and skill levels. (*See the Development Plan Map for a rough rendering of what the pump track might look like; however, the potential for different shapes and configurations is nearly endless*).

Aside from the pump track itself, there are other complementary amenities envisioned for the property:

1. Proposed Parking Area (For Track)

A parking area with space for 30-40 vehicles is envisioned extending off of the existing parking area used by Munson Medical Center. This would provide parking for users of the pump track and spectators.

2. Restroom Facilities

A restroom facility with a vault or pit style toilet is envisioned on the property to serve track users and spectators. It should be located close to the parking lot so that a truck with pumping equipment can easily access it.

3. Picnic Area

Several picnic areas are planned for the open space surrounding the track so that spectators and users may gather to have lunch or a break while viewing the activity on the track.

4. Elevated Observation Deck

Several elevated observation decks are envisioned at various high points along the track for excellent spectator views. These would likely be wooden, have railings, and perhaps fixed binoculars. The idea is to make these accessible by persons in wheelchairs by having paved connections to them at a grade that is very gradual.

5. Paved Path (ADA Compliant)

An ADA compliant paved path is envisioned that would connect all of the planned amenities.



## GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION

### **Pump Track Potential**

A pump track has the potential to be a key regional asset, drawing people to Garfield Township from a wide radius. In addition, one might expect that many users of the skatepark in Traverse City would use the pump track frequently, thus bringing a younger demographic into the Township's park system. This younger demographic would be accompanied by their parents in many cases, and with the Village at the Commons and Oleson's West so close by, parents could do their shopping while their child is using the pump track, for example.

Pump tracks are a very effective but fun workout, and they build skills. They are great cross-training for other sports like skiing, snowboarding, and track sports. Riding together at a pump track is a great family activity. Finally, the fact that pump tracks can be used by wheelchairs makes it an inclusive project where both able-bodied and disabled people can have fun alongside one another on precisely the same facility.

### **Trail Network Position**

The property plays an important role in the Township's non-motorized transportation planning. A future east-west trail connector and trailhead are envisioned for the property, which would directly connect the Tanglewood and Garfield Trails. This future connector would be complimentary to the proposed pump track in allowing direct non-motorized access for those travelling northwest up Yellow Drive from the Village at the Grand Traverse Commons, for example.

## KIDS CREEK PARK

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

The fishing pond, which was dredged and restored in 2009, will continue to be one of the primary focus points of this park. The recently implemented stocking plan for the pond will ensure the continued availability of this in-town fishing resource. The fishing pond provides an opportunity for families of all ages and income levels to introduce children to the sport of fishing.

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

The Township should continue to increase the public visibility and awareness of the park. A new sign was installed in 2011 along the park's US-31 frontage, which helped a great deal.

## MILLER CREEK NATURE RESERVE

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

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

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

## SILVER LAKE RECREATION AREA

The Silver Lake Recreation Area will continue to be improved upon as an active and passive recreation resource. The park has much room for active recreation improvements such as an additional ball field or further improvements to the existing ball field. Additional opportunities here may include an outdoor ice rink or splash pad.

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



The remainder of this section includes a development plan (map and description) followed by a general policy discussion. The Silver Lake Recreation Area Park Development Plan reflects many requested amenities, such as a public beach area on Silver Lake.

## SILVER LAKE RECREATION AREA PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### INTRODUCTION




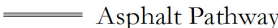
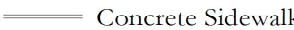
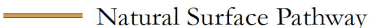
The Charter Township of Garfield has developed this descriptive development plan for the Silver Lake Recreation Area at 1785 East Silver Lake Road. The plan contains the following components:

- Development Plan Map
- Development Plan Map Descriptions
- General Policy Discussion
  - Tree Plantings / Invasive Species Removal
  - Park Lighting
  - Water Resources
  - Reservations

# Silver Lake Recreation Area

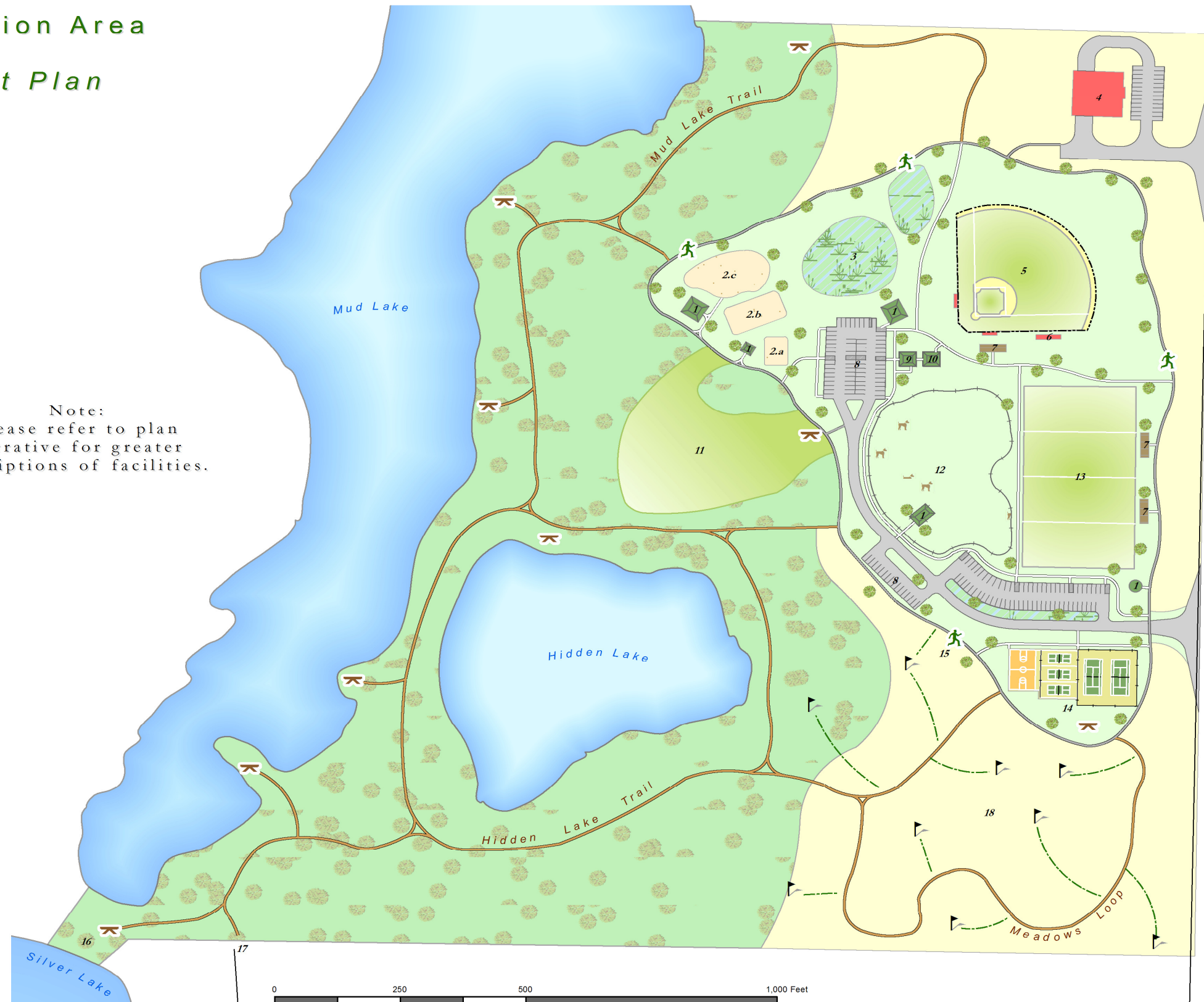
## Park Development Plan

### Legend

-  Exercise Station
-  Disc Golf Hole
-  Picnic Table / Bench
-  Asphalt Pathway
-  Concrete Sidewalk
-  Natural Surface Pathway

- 1. Picnic Shelter
- 2a. Playground - 2-5 years
- 2b. Playground - 5-12 years
- 2c. Outdoor Gym - Adult
- 3. Drainage Area
- 4. Fire Station
- 5. Little League Field
- 6. Batting Cages
- 7. Observation Deck
- 8. Parking Lot
- 9. Restrooms / Utility Building
- 10. Storage Barn
- 11. Sledding Hill
- 12. Off-Leash Area
- 13. Multi-Purpose Field
- 14. Courts
- 15. Exercise Station
- 16. Natural Beach Area
- 17. South Park Entrance
- 18. South Meadow

Note:  
Please refer to plan narrative for greater descriptions of facilities.



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NOT TO SCALE



#### DEVELOPMENT PLAN DESCRIPTIONS

The following section describes existing and planned amenities at the Silver Lake Recreation Area. The majority of the improvements described below were identified through the public engagement efforts underlying this Plan.

##### 1. Picnic Shelters

Three of the five picnic shelters indicated on the development plan are in existence. In light of the public desire for additional shelters in this particular park and high frequency of reservations (113 reservations in 2016), two additional shelters are planned.

##### 2. Playground / Outdoor Gym Area



Two playgrounds (designed for 2-5 and 5-12 aged children) indicated on the plan have been built. Some comment received during the development of the Township's 2012-2017 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommended that these playgrounds may be safer and more enjoyable if the wood mulch is replaced with "rubber mulch."

The third area in this vicinity is envisioned as an outdoor gym, or "fitness zone." Outdoor gyms provide opportunities for adult health and wellness via a variety of exercise equipment built to withstand the rigor of weather. Because the equipment utilizes the user's body weight for resistance, it allows for both a safe and effective workout regardless of the age or fitness level of the users. In this location, the outdoor gym provides an opportunity for users to watch their children in the playgrounds while exercising. A high priority will be placed on establishing ADA-accessible fitness units alongside traditional units to ensure opportunity for all members of the community. As such, a wheelchair-friendly surface will also be required.

A significant amount of shade tree plantings should occur in this area in the immediate future to provide for a cooler exercise environment. Public input also requested adding an additional picnic shelter and additional trash receptacles in this area.

##### 3. Drainage Area & Rain Garden

The north drainage basin appears to have been grossly overbuilt for the amount of stormwater runoff that is generated by the north parking lot. Accordingly, it may be possible to decrease the size of this basin to reclaim some parkland for recreational use. The Township may consider establishing a rain garden within this basin to provide an example to the community of how modern stormwater systems can look and function. Alternatively, it may be possible to establish a fishing pond within this basin.

##### 4. Fire Station 12

Fire Station 12 was completed in 2011. The firehouse will continue to evolve into an important park neighbor by providing a sense of security to park users, and also from a recreational standpoint by offering firehouse walkthroughs for park users.

5. Little League Field



Historically used as a T-Ball field (an amenity lacking in the area), the field is planned to be renovated to continue to serve T-Ball leagues, but also act as a regulation-size Little League Field. To accommodate this, the playing surface must be shifted to the northeast while the existing backstop remains where it is today. An outfield fence must also be installed for the field in order to host tournament play. Quality dugouts will greatly increase the player experience while using this facility. In addition to an

elevated viewing platform (see 7., below), additional bleachers, benches, and other seating should be installed as demand for field time increases. Grass hillside seating is also an option due to topography.

6. Batting Cages

Room exists to establish one or two batting cages along the right-field line of the ball field, providing an opportunity for simultaneous training and ball play.



7. Observation Decks

Taking advantage of existing topography, a number of elevated observation decks are planned adjacent to sports fields. These platforms will ideally be level with the adjacent sidewalks or pathways and will provide an ADA-accessible opportunity to watch sporting events.

8. Parking

A new, eastern parking lot was built in 2012 adjacent to the multi-purpose field. Even though expanded parking availability is anticipated to remain relatively tight as the park grows in popularity and demand for its resources increase. Past bad habits of vehicle parking on the grass alongside the driveways must be discouraged to avoid damage to the irrigation system; methods likely include a combination of signage, physical barriers, and enforcement by the Sheriff's Deputies who patrol the park. The Township should encourage frequent, common users such as sports teams to carpool to the park to conserve parking spaces.

9. Restrooms and Utility Building

No changes are planned to the existing restrooms, which are anticipated to adequately serve the park over the life of this plan. This structure also houses the electrical controls for the park and irrigation system.

10. Storage Barn

An additional utility barn is proposed near the restrooms to provide storage space for sports equipment. This barn should be designed to enclose the well head, but must allow access to the well for future maintenance.

### 11. Sledding Hill

Already a popular spot for sledding, the Township may consider formalizing this area into a dedicated sledding hill in the winter months. Careful consideration must be given to user safety if this sledding area is formalized, possibly including padded buffer walls to keep sledders within the designated hill area and away from trees.



### 12. Off-Leash Area

Desire for a dog park was among the most popular comments received in the public input phases of the Township's 2012-2017 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This fenced off-leash dog area is a popular regional amenity, and is also anticipated to reduce the recurring problem of people walking their pet off-leash in other areas of the park (which is prohibited by ordinance). This off-leash area is intended to be self-policed by the users.

### 13. Multi-Purpose Field

Constructed in 2012, this large area is designed to accommodate demand for all field sports such as rugby, football, lacrosse, and soccer. However, because it is also meant for the general public for casual uses such as kite flying or Frisbee tossing, the Township must take care to regulate league and club use to allow for adequate opportunity for public use.



### 14. Court Area – Basketball, Pickleball, Tennis

Observations of park use have resulted in the planned reduction of one of the two existing basketball courts. In place of the basketball court, and also expanding towards the tennis court, three Pickleball courts will be constructed. The existing two tennis courts will remain unchanged.

### 15. Exercise Stations

In addition to the Outdoor Gym described above, a series of exercise stations are planned along the paved walking loop to provide an opportunity for well-balanced physical fitness. Typically, the participant will proceed from one exercise station to the next and perform the exercise illustrated at each station.



### 16. Natural Beach Area

The beach area provides a small but important opportunity for the public to access Silver Lake for swimming and recreation, which was one of the most requested improvements stated during the public input process of the 5-Year Master Plan, for both the 2012-2017 plan and this updated 2018-2023 Plan. The soils in the area may require a hard-surfaced walking path to achieve good access from the park.

Because the beach area is located a significant walking distance from the parking lots, users are anticipated to come primarily from the neighborhoods to the south and/or users who may have

completed a run or workout on the park's trail system and fitness equipment and are looking to cool off. Some families will likely walk from the parking area for picnic and swimming opportunities.

Care must be given to keep this area open to park users without disturbing adjoining properties. As such, this area will remain in a primarily natural state, with only minor weed removal and cleanup contemplated. Additional signage should be installed here to indentify hours, property boundaries, and potential hazards such as unstable soils and the drop-off into the lake.

#### 17. South Park Entrance

The Lake Drive road right-of-way abuts the south property line of the park. This south entrance will be maintained in its current state to provide non-motorized access to the park from the adjacent subdivision.

#### 18. South Meadow

Due to topography and sandy, unstable soils, the south meadow area will be maintained primarily for foot trails and open space.

### GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSION

#### **Developed and Natural Areas of Park**

In both current and planned states, most active recreation areas are concentrated within the eastern portion of the park, particularly those areas within the paved walking loop. Areas that lie west of the developed land should remain in a more natural state as a contrast to the developed land. The natural areas provide a useful buffer to the residential neighborhoods and give users the opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreational experiences. Trails within the natural area will be maintained in good condition, with attention given to poison ivy control.

#### **Tree Plantings and Invasive Species Removal**

As time and budget permits, priority should be placed to establishing a variety of vegetation for shade, aesthetics, and buffering. All plantings should be native to the region. To encourage deep root growth new trees should be located out of the path of regular irrigation system watering, or the irrigation system should be modified accordingly. Trees subjected to regular (bi-weekly) watering do not develop deep root systems.

Prior to the planting of new trees, efforts must be made to eradicate the population of spotted knapweed. This invasive species emits a chemical that inhibits the health and growth of other plantings.

Although the Silver Lake Recreation Area does not have a significant problem with other invasive species, the park should be frequently monitored and problem species quickly removed.

#### **Park Lighting**

Presently, the only lighting within the park is security lighting on the restroom facility. As the park is available for use from two hours before sunrise to two hours past sunset, additional lighting to illuminate the parking areas and paved walking loops is desirable. This lighting should be of a low-intensity and warm color so as not to disturb neighboring property owners. Intense lighting of the multi-purpose field or tennis courts is not appropriate.



## **Water Resources**

The Silver Lake Recreation Area contains or has frontage on three separate water bodies; Silver Lake, Mud Lake, and Hidden Lake.

As described above, continued use of a natural existing beach area has been identified for the park's Silver Lake frontage. A hard-surfaced pathway could be installed to improve access to this frontage.

In current form, Hidden Lake is very shallow, approximately one to four feet deep on average. Presumably the shallow depth comes from decades of aquatic vegetation growth, death, and infill. An opportunity may exist to dredge this lake and establish a dedicated fishing pond. However, prior to any dredging, soil sampling would be necessary to determine if past agricultural use of the property has contaminated the lake.

Mud Lake is also quite shallow, but offers opportunities for wildlife watching. A series of benches, observation decks, and picnic tables along the shores of this lake would be beneficial.

## **Reservations**

The following reservations recommendations either exist or should be implemented to ensure the most enjoyable experience for all park users. To allow for efficient policy changes from time to time, these recommendations should be adopted by resolution of the Township Board rather than incorporated within this document.

### **1. Reservations – Leagues**

- a. Require reservations for regular league or club use and practice.
- b. Ensure adequate public opportunity to use facilities outside of regular reservation times, particularly the multi-purpose field.
- c. Require the designated league play area to be positioned to maximize open area for other users (i.e. a football field takes up significantly less than full multi-field area, and could be shifted to one area of the field).
- d. Ensure adequate parking exists so that vehicles do not park outside of designated parking areas. Require leagues to provide estimated traffic generation counts. If a league is anticipated to regularly generate traffic in an amount greater than 50% of available spaces, then that league is not likely an appropriate partner to the park.
- e. Permit leagues to use existing and future utility structures to store equipment.
- f. Adopt appropriate league fees which will contribute to maintenance costs

### **2. Reservations – Facilities**

- a. Establish time-slot reservation policy for picnic shelters rather than allowing all-day reservations for one fee. For example, start with 2-3 hours for \$X, then charge hourly rates.
- b. Identify one or two pavilions which may not be reserved to adequate opportunity for first-come, first-served use.

## NON-MOTORIZED PLAN

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

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

Two particular trail development projects are envisioned as the highest priority items over the 5-year life of this plan. One of these priority projects is the Buffalo Ridge Trail, which will connect numerous neighborhoods, schools, parks, and the YMCA facility on Silver Lake Road. The other high-priority trail is completion of the West Boardman Lake Trail, which will result in a 5-mile loop encircling Boardman Lake. The **Non-Motorized Plan Map** is located on page 75.

### BOARDMAN RIVER TRAIL

The Boardman River Trail is a planned land and water trail which was first conceived by TART in 2010. The land portion of the trail is a 24-mile trail that follows the Boardman River Valley from Traverse City to the North Country Trail (NCT). Most of the proposed trail is in forested area on existing dirt paths and two-tracks. From the NCT users can continue on to connect with the Vasa Pathway and head back to Traverse City via the TART Trail, resulting in a 46-mile loop. The water portion of the trail is along the Boardman River from the upper navigable portions of the river to the confluence with West Grand Traverse Bay. Together, the land and water elements of the Boardman River Trail will offer a unique recreational opportunity to residents and visitors alike.

A ribbon cutting for phase I of the land trail, from Mayfield Pond to the NCT, was held on October 8, 2014. Phase II was just completed in 2017 and phase III is still being developed. Phase III, the section nearest to Traverse City, will utilize existing singletrack trails within the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve and the wider bike path along Boardman Lake.

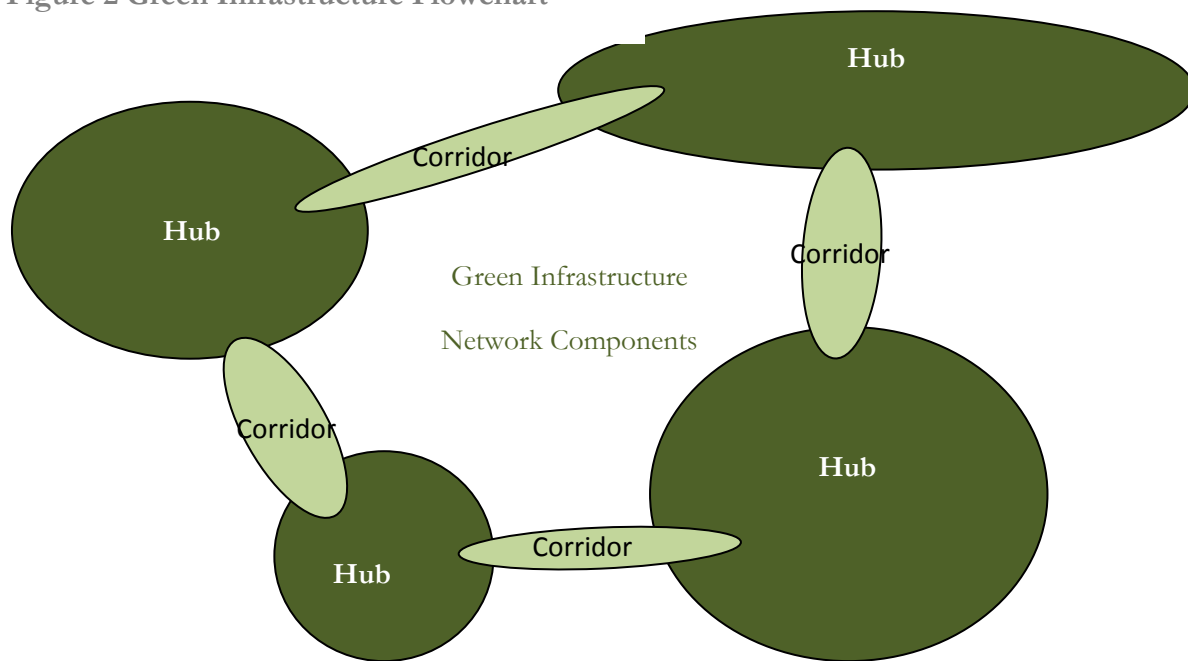
With the ongoing removal of dams on the Boardman River, it became apparent that the Boardman River Trail could also function as a water trail. Future Township efforts should be sure to take into account how planned trails will connect to both the land and water elements of the Boardman River Trail and, ultimately, the larger regional network. The **Boardman River Land Trail Map** is located on page 67. The **Boardman River Water Trail Map** is located on page 68.

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

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

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

Figure 2 Green Infrastructure Flowchart



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

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

nature areas for Township residents. When evaluating any application for land use development, the Township should analyze the existing natural characteristics of the development site, as well as the relation of those natural features to surrounding properties, to identify and encourage the preservation of these natural features.

Table 4, below, identifies priority properties that have been identified for acquisition or protection through a conservation easement. **The Green Infrastructure Plan Map** (see page 76) shows the location of each priority property, as well as other natural features such as streams and wetlands. As time permits, the Township should perform greater analysis of other green infrastructure elements such as significant woodlands. As noted above, though a particular property may not be indicated on the plan, efforts should be made to protect green infrastructure at all scales.

**Table 4 Green Infrastructure Program**

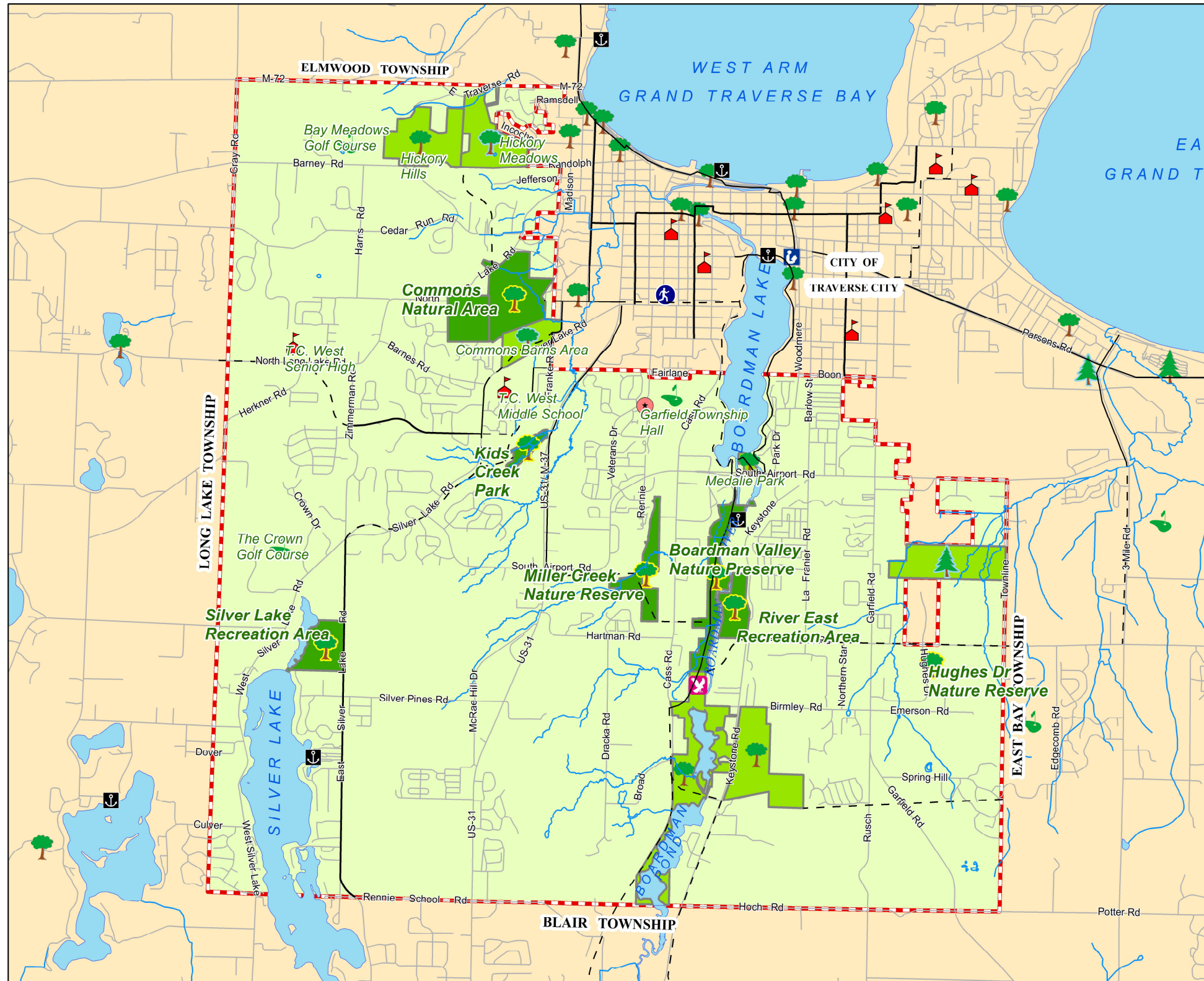
Map Index	Name	Method of Protection
A1	Silver Lake Connection to W. Silver Lake Road	Acquisition
A3	Oleson PUD Open Space and Wetlands	Donation
A4	Oleson, Schlude Wetlands	Acquisition
A5	Applebees Parcel	Acquisition, Access Emnt.
A6	Commerce Center Wetland	Donation, Access Emnt.
A7	City-Owned Boardman Parcel	Acquisition
A8	Hanson Parcel	Acquisition
A9	Traverse Software	Acquisition
A10	Cass Road Self Storage	Donation or Cons. Emnt, Access Emnt.
A11	Miller Creek Corridor; BVNP/Miller Creek Connector	Donation or Cons. Emnt, Access Emnt.
A12	BVNP Parcels	Acquisition
A13	Logan Valley Pond	Donation or Cons. Emnt.
A14	Misc. West Boardman River Parcels	Acquisition
A15	Misc. East Boardman River Parcel Easements	Easement
A16	Fraser Parcel	Acquisition
A17	Future East Side Community Park?	Acquisition
A18	SVEC, McClain, Godzibiewski Parcels	Acquisition
A19	Airport Approach	Donation
A20	Boyd	Acquisition
A22	Logan Valley Development	Acquisition
CE1	Lewis, Church, Outlet Mall, Tireland Parcels	Donation or Conservation Emnt.
CE2	Sleder Wetlands	Donation or Conservation Emnt.
CE3	C D F, Chelsea Park	Donation, Acquisition via PUD, Cons. Emnt.
P1	S. Airport Road	Protected
P2	Silver Lake Road Conservation Easement	Protected
P3	Lowes Wetlands	Protected
P4	Hughes Drive	Protected
P6	Misc. Acquisitions	Protected
PUB 1	Future East Side Community Park?	Publicly Owned (BPW)
SP1	Silver Lake Elementary School	School Park
SP2	TC West High School	School Park
SP3	TC West Middle School	School Park
SP4	Former Sabin Elementary Playgrounds	Donation
SP6	Traverse Bay Christian School	School Park

## ACTION PROGRAM

Table 5 Proposed Recreation Projects

Table 5 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan		Funding Sources: TF: Township Funds; G: Grants; PD Private Donations	
Year	Facility/Improvement	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
2018	Contracted Services	\$46,000	TF
2018	Park Trail Development/Maintenance	\$14,500	TF
2018	Long Lake Rd Pump Track	\$70,000	TF
2018	Miller Creek Connector To BVNP	\$25,000	TF
2018	Water Mill Demo Or Rebuild	\$20,000	TF, (PD)
2018	Boardman River Misc.	\$5,000	TF
2018	Maintenance	\$8,500	TF
2018	Land Acquisition	\$50,000	TF, (PD)
2018	Contingencies	\$50,000	TF
2019	Contracted Services	\$47,380	TF
2019	Park Trail Development/Maintenance	\$14,935	TF
2019	Trail Development	\$60,000	TF
2019	Templeton Parcel Improvements	\$200,000	TF, G
2019	Crushed Gravel Path To Trailhead YMCA	\$20,000	TF
2019	Boardman River Misc.	\$5,150	TF
2019	Maintenance	\$8,755	TF
2019	Land Acquisition	\$51,500	TF
2019	Contingencies	\$51,500	TF
2020	Contracted Services	\$48,801	TF

Table 5 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan		Funding Sources: TF: Township Funds; G: Grants; PD Private Donations	
Year	Facility/Improvement	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
2020	Park Trail Development/Maintenance	\$14,827	TF
2020	Trail Development	\$60,000	TF
2020	Trailhead Construction (Hanson Parcel)	\$10,000	TF
2020	Boardman River Misc.	\$5,305	TF
2020	Maintenance	\$9,018	TF
2020	Land Acquisition	\$53,045	TF
2020	Contingencies	\$53,045	TF
2021	Contracted Services	\$50,265	TF
2021	Park Trail Development/Maintenance	\$15,271	TF
2021	Trail Development	\$60,000	TF
2021	Boardwalk To Silver Lake	\$10,000	TF
2021	Boardman River Misc.	\$5,464	TF
2021	Maintenance	\$9,289	TF
2021	Land Acquisition	\$54,636	TF
2021	Contingencies	\$54,636	TF
2022	Contracted Services	\$51,722	TF
2022	Park Trail Development/Maintenance	\$15,729	TF
2022	Trail Development	\$60,000	TF
2022	Boardman River Misc.	\$5,628	TF
2022	Maintenance	\$9,568	TF
2022	Land Acquisition	\$56,275	TF
2022	Contingencies	\$56,275	TF



# Local Park Map

- Legend**
- Township Boundary
  - Roads
  - Public Parkland**
  - Owner\_Generalized**
  - Township Parkland
  - Other Public Parkland
  - Bike Trails**
  - Status**
  - Existing Trail
  - Planned Trail
  - Existing On-Street Route
  - Parks and Rec Facilities**
  - Type**
  - Township Park
  - Other Municipal Park
  - Rec Authority Park
  - GTRLC Preserve
  - State Land/Park
  - Township Hall
  - Boat Launch/Access Site
  - Golf Course
  - Library
  - Nature Center
  - School
  - School Sports Facility

Charter Township of Garfield  
 3848 Veterans Drive  
 Traverse City, MI 49684  
 Phone: 231.941.1620  
 Fax: 231.941.1688




Prepared by: Garfield Township Planning Dept - October 2017  
 Data Source: Garfield Township, 2017










# Regional Recreational Resources and Trailways Map

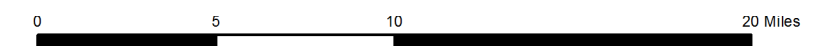


## Legend

### Parks and Recreation Facilities

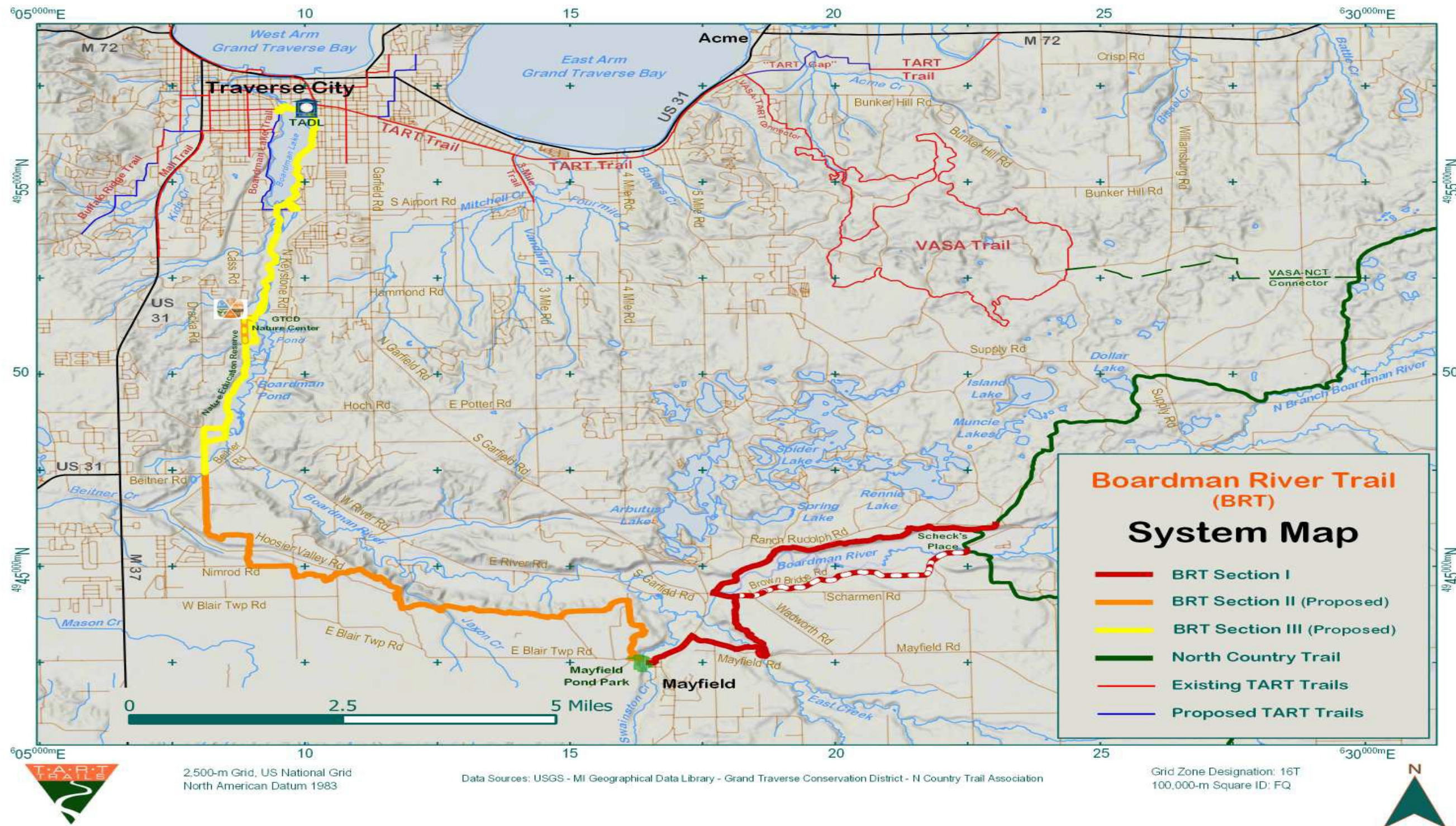
#### Type

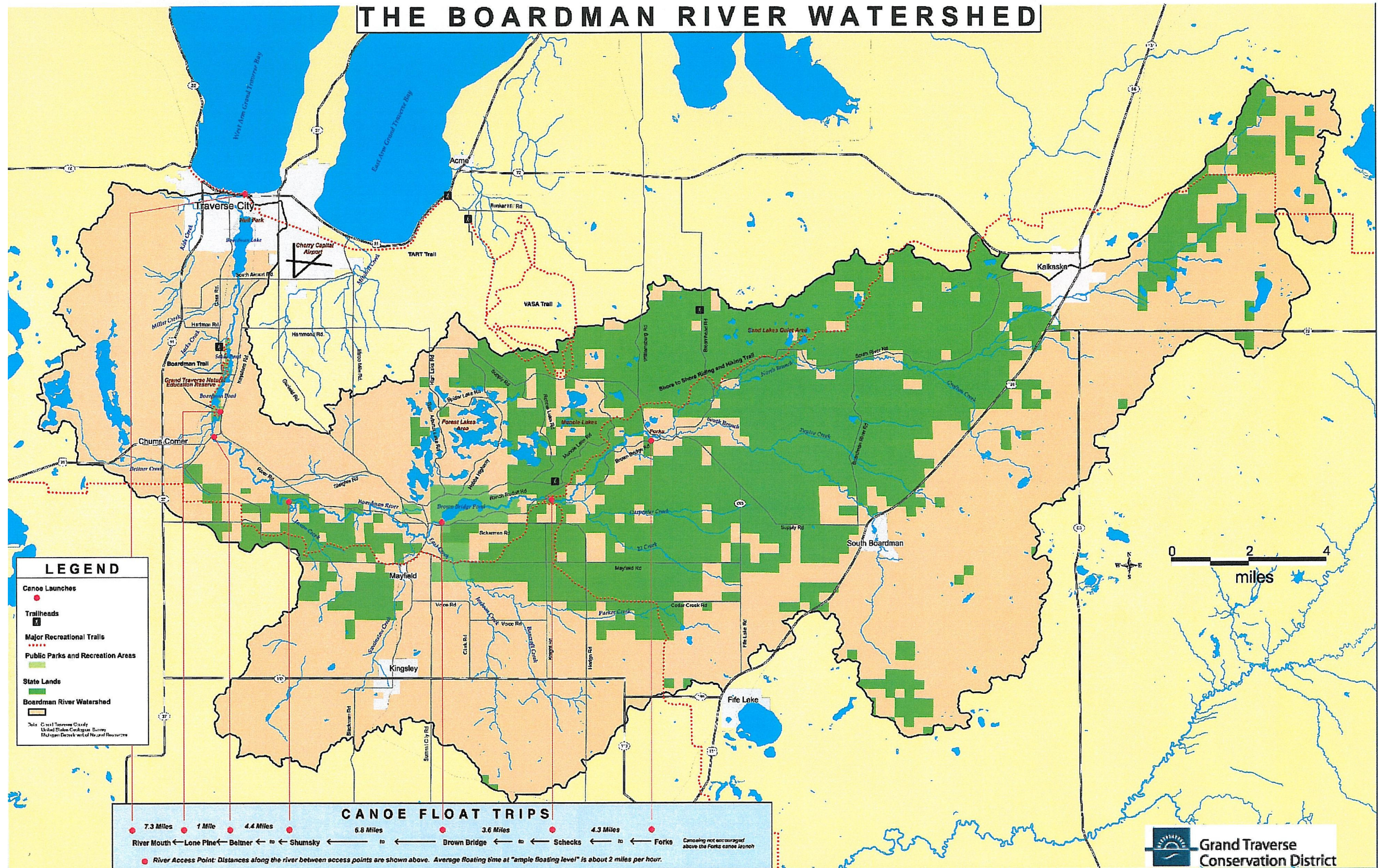
-  State Land/Park
-  Nature Preserve
-  National Lakeshore
-  Planned/Existing Regional Trail
-  Ferry Line
-  Major Roads
-  Town or City



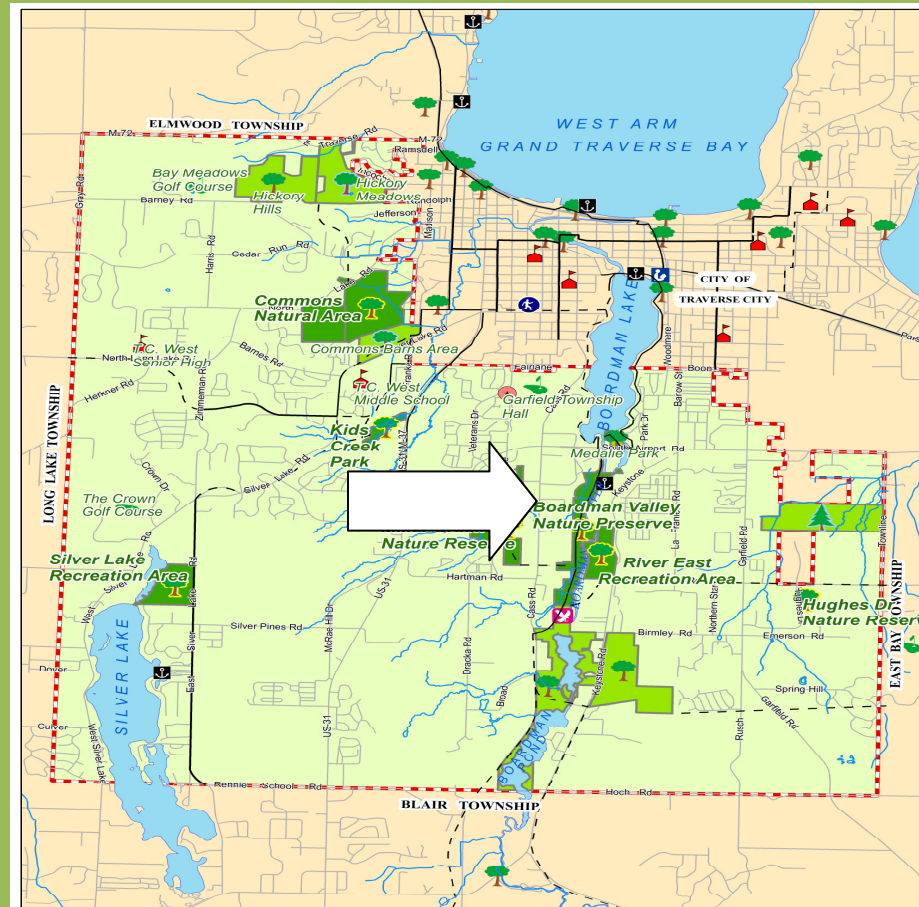
Prepared by: Garfield Township Planning Dept - January 2012  
 Data Source: Garfield Township, 2012





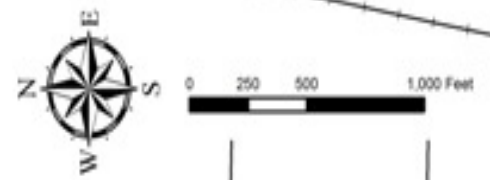
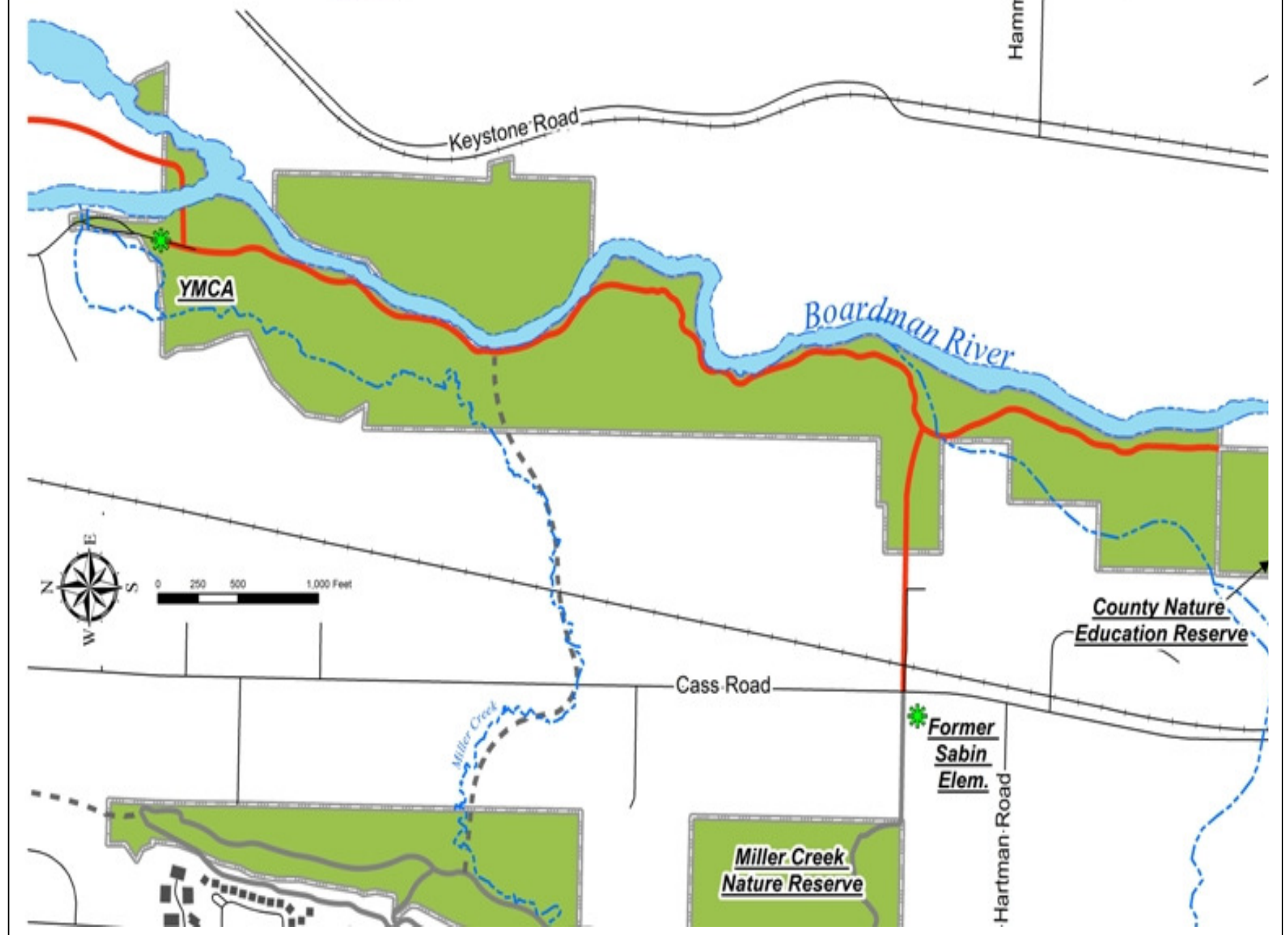


# PARK MAP BOARDMAN VALLEY NATURE PRESERVE

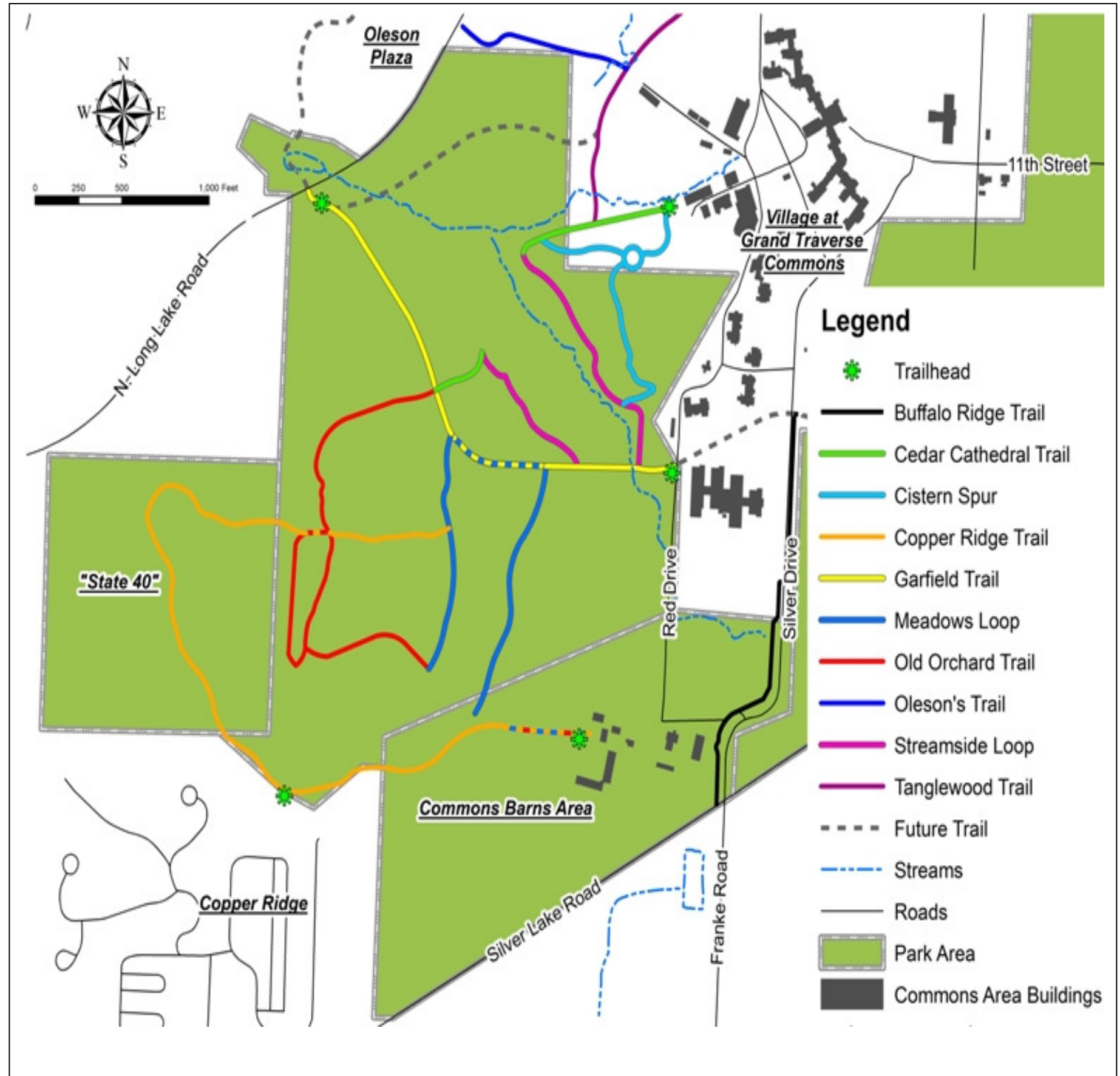
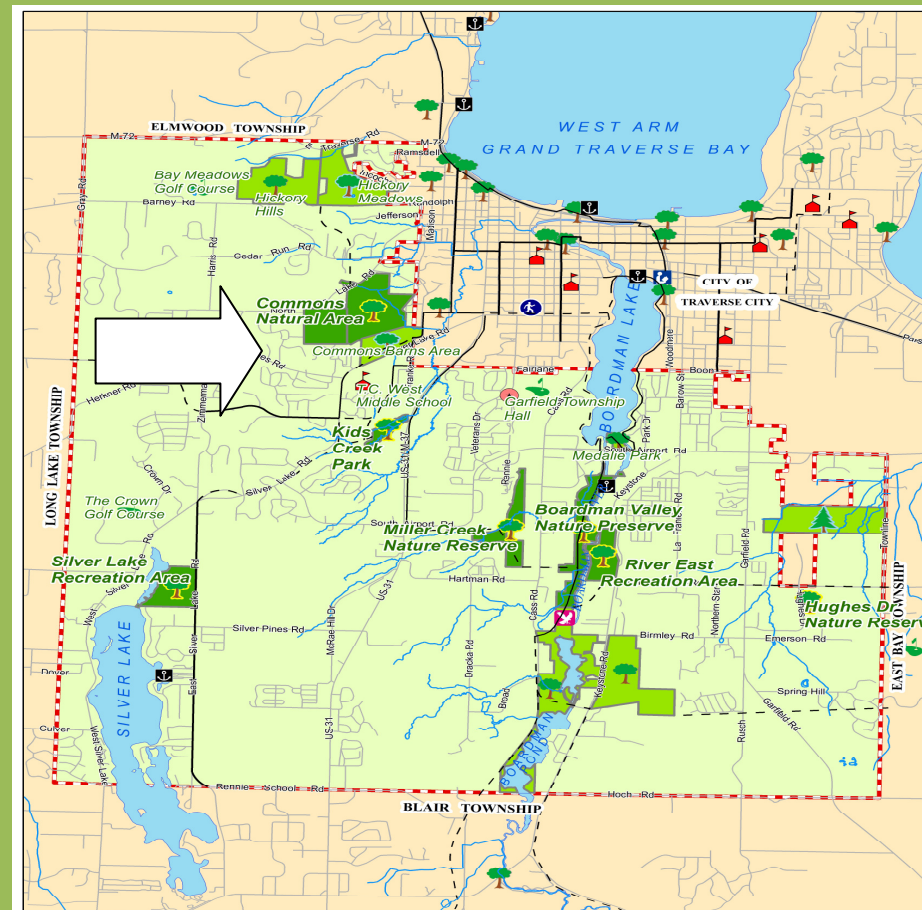


## Legend

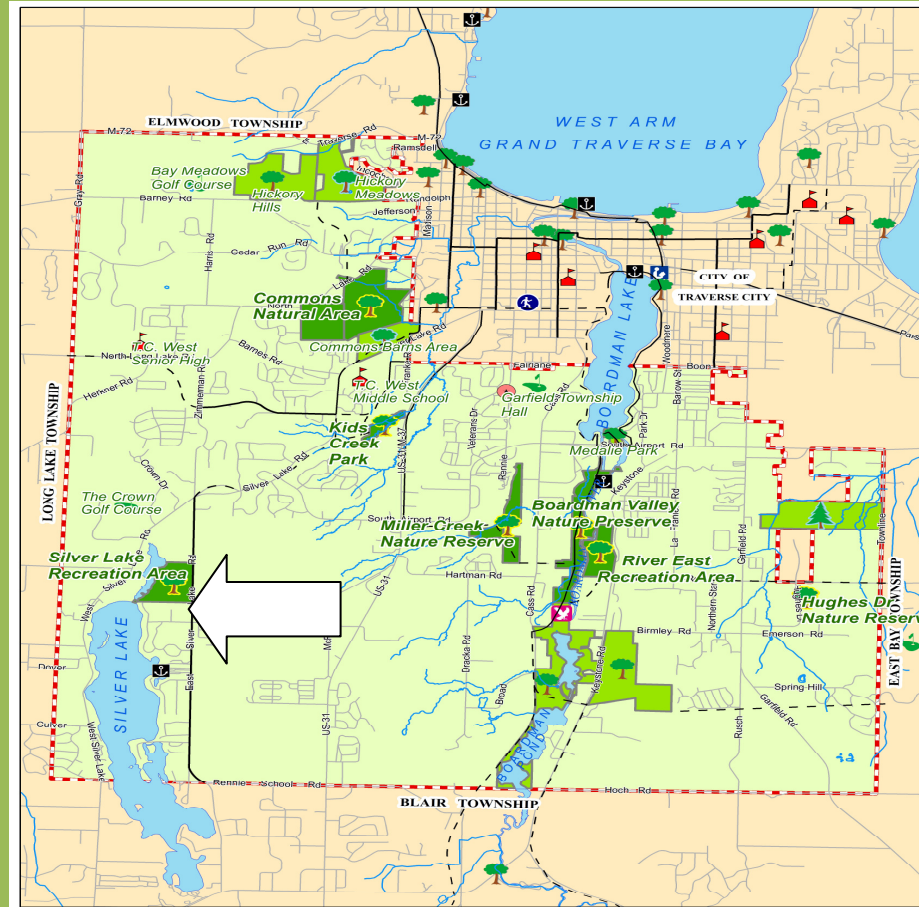
- Trailhead
- Boardman Valley Trail
- Future Trail
- Miller Creek Trails
- Streams
- Roads
- Rail
- Park Area



# PARK MAP GRAND TRAVERSE COMMONS NATURAL AREA



# PARK MAP SILVER LAKE RECREATION AREA

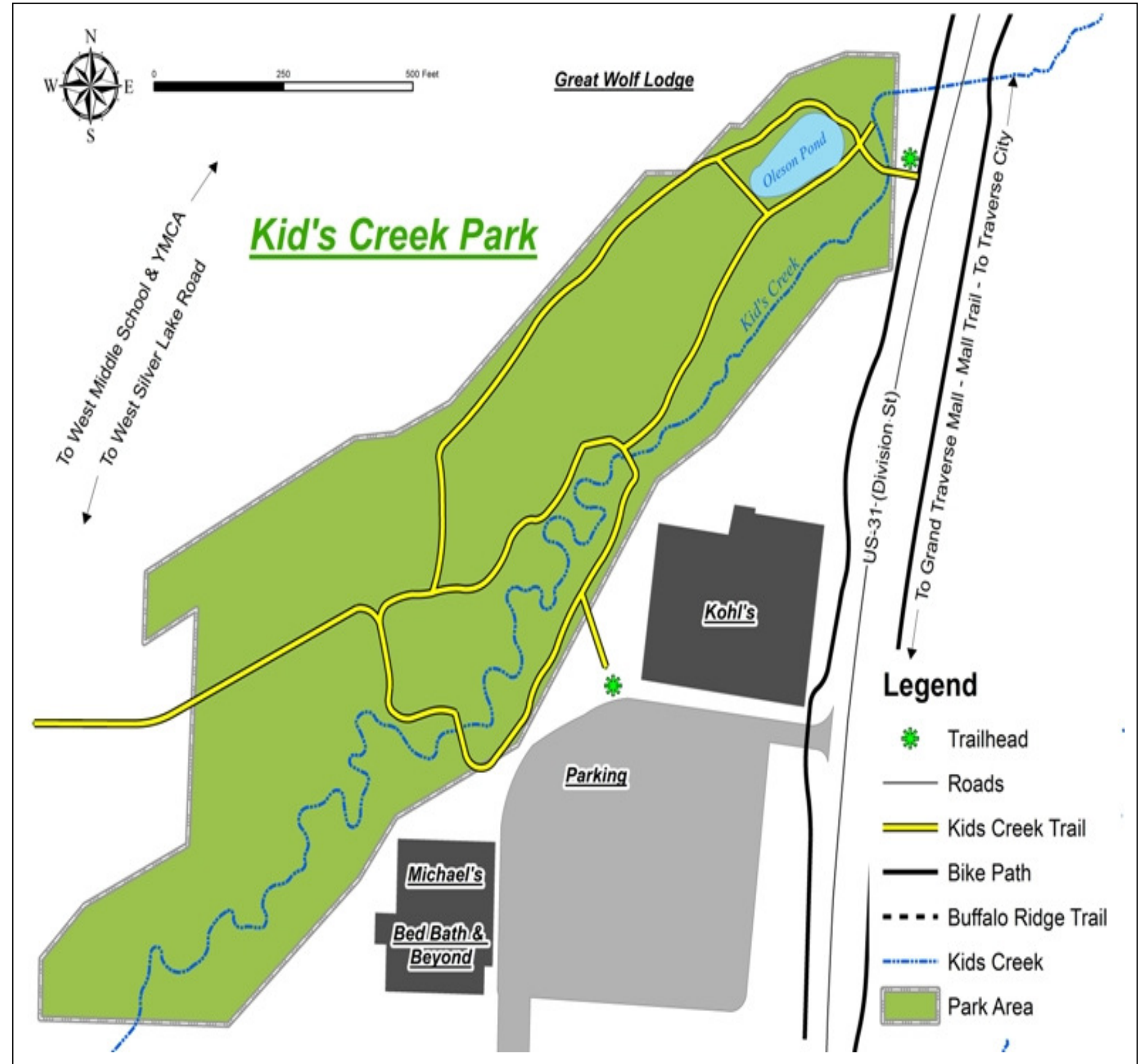
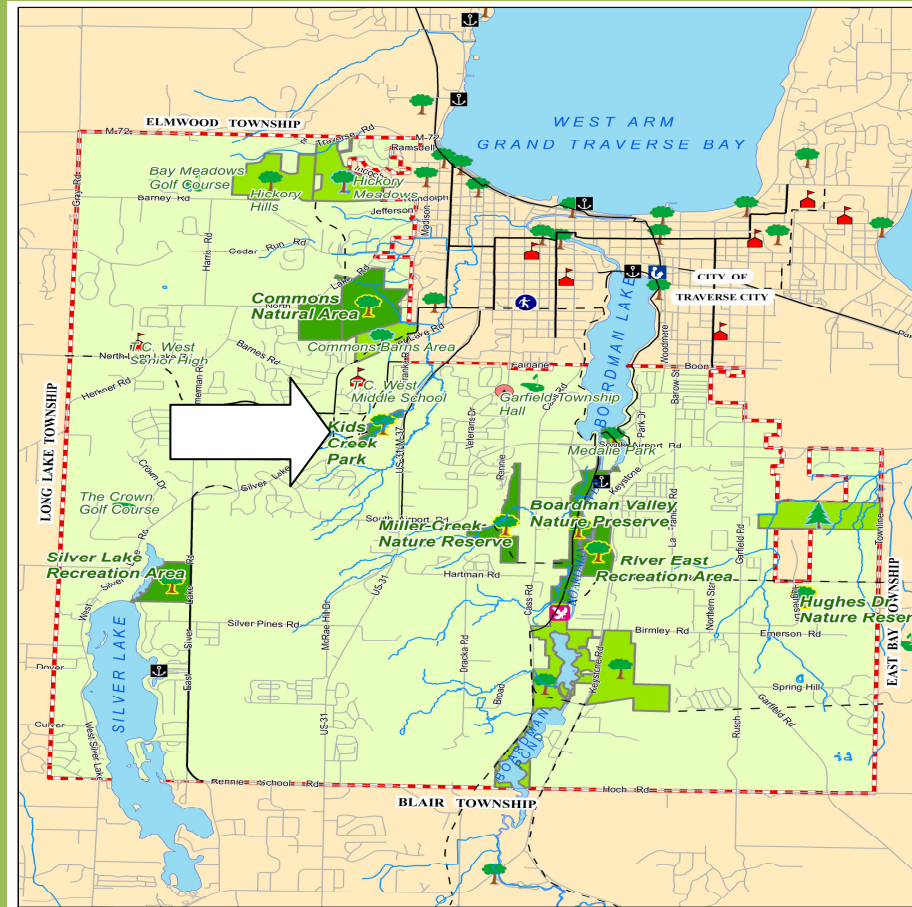


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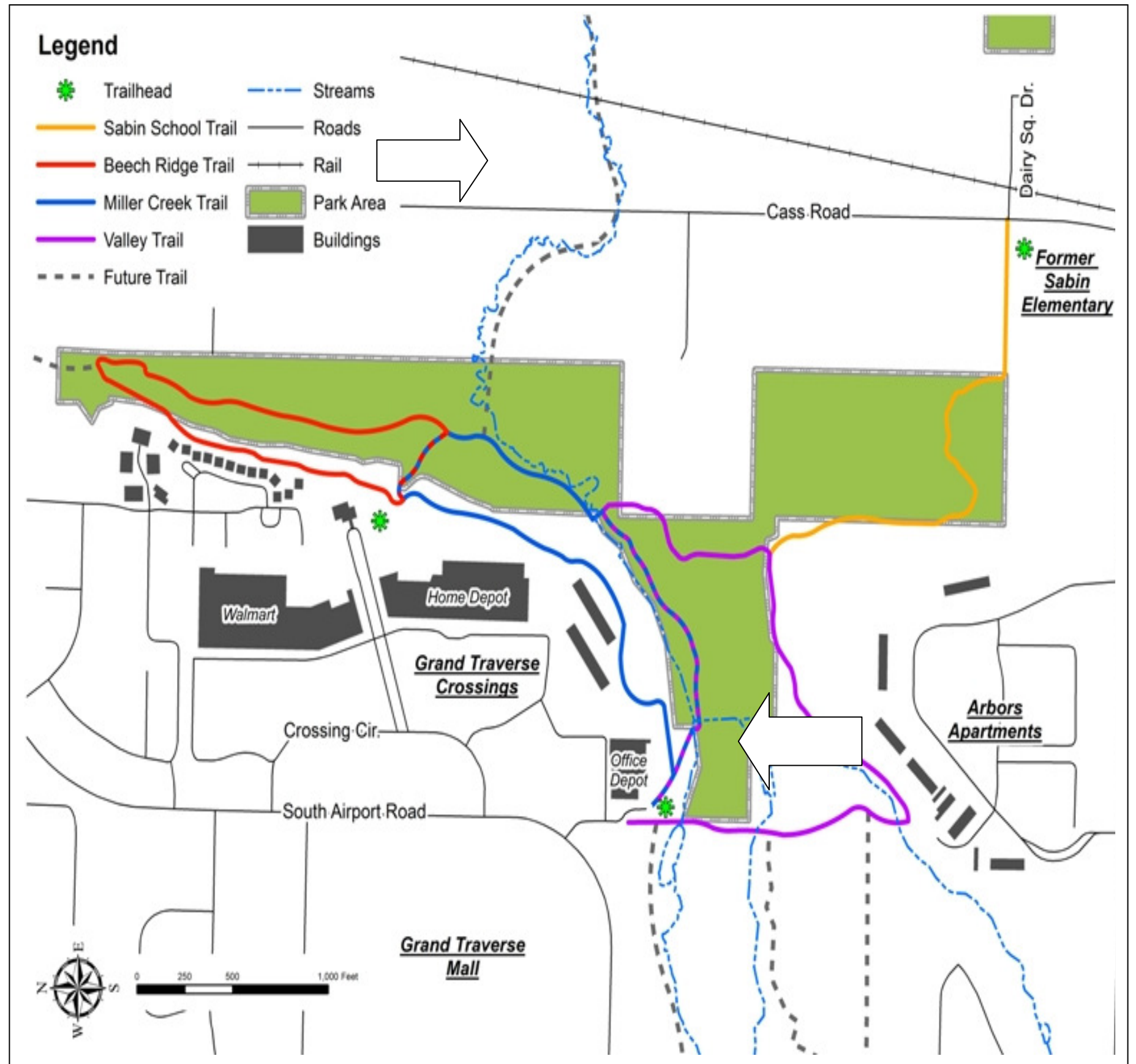
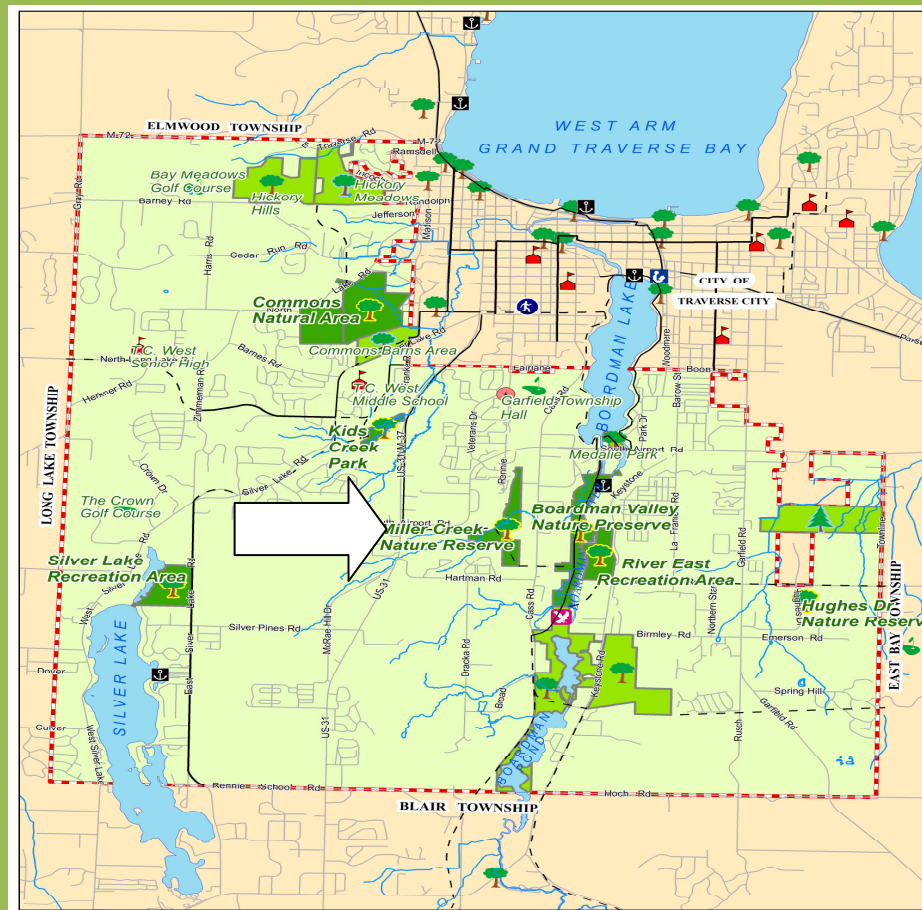
- Pavilion
- Restrooms
- Hidden Lake Trail
- Meadows Trail
- North Branch Trail
- Paved Loop Trail
- Basketball Courts
- Drive/Parking Area
- Maintained Yard Areas
- General Open Space
- Playground
- Tennis Courts
- Generally Wooded Areas



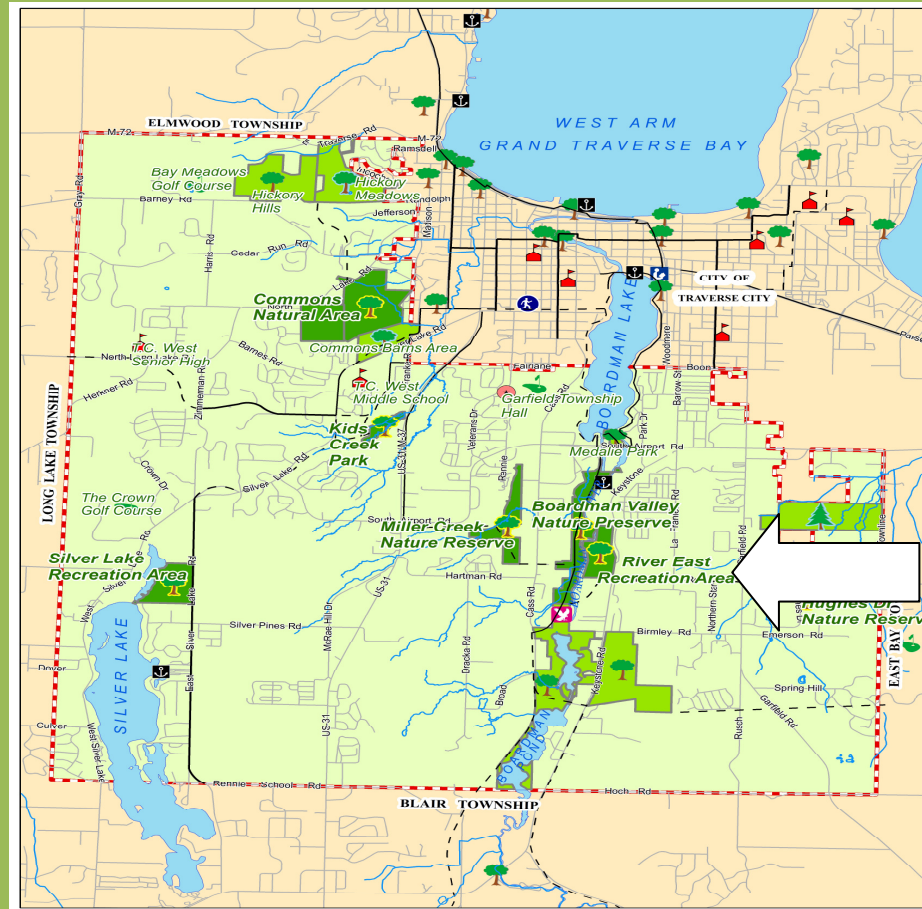
# PARK MAP KIDS CREEK PARK



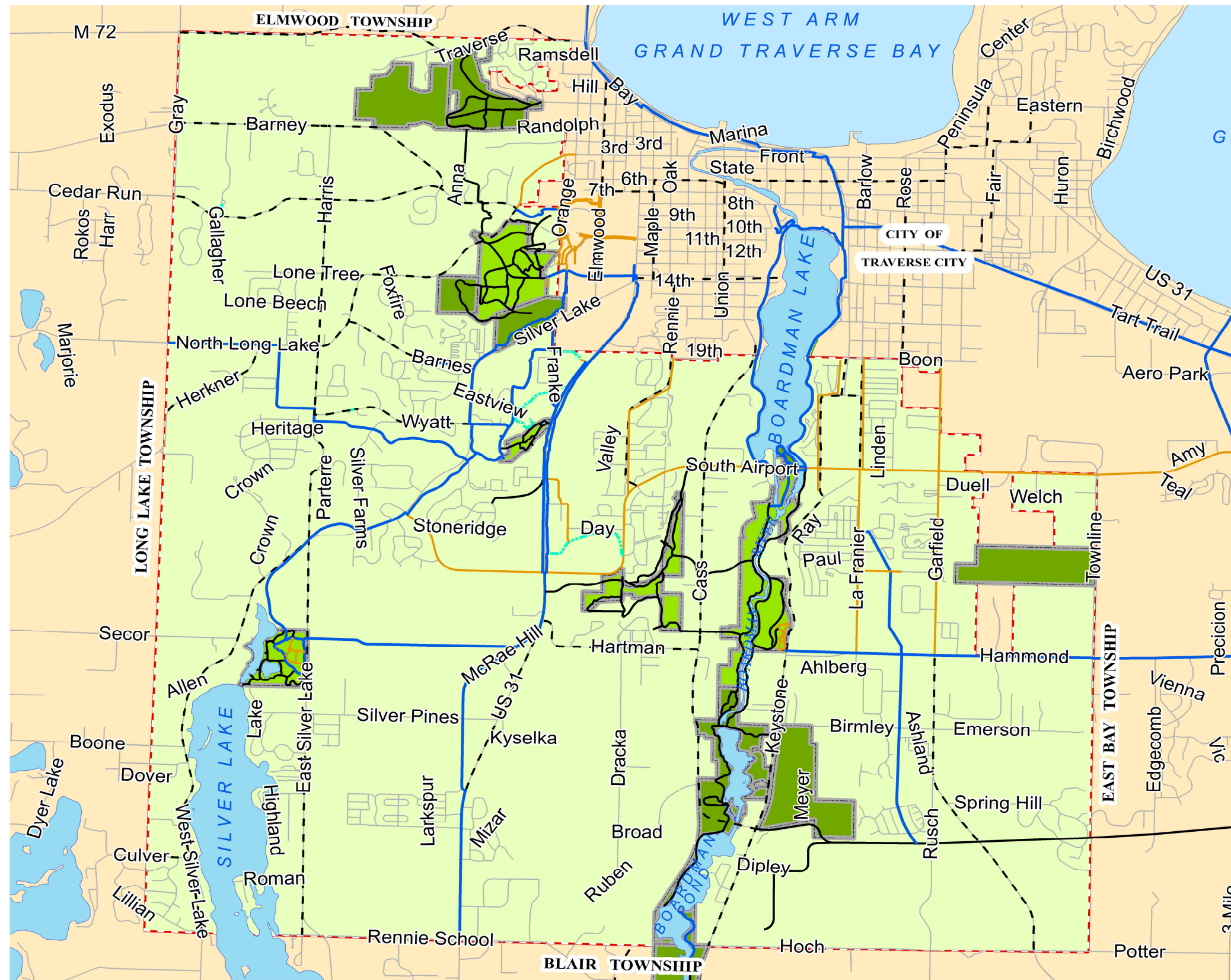
# PARK MAP MILLER CREEK NATURE RESERVE



# PARK MAP RIVER EAST RECREATION AREA





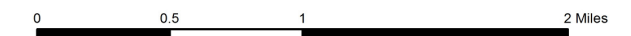


## Non-Motorized Plan Map

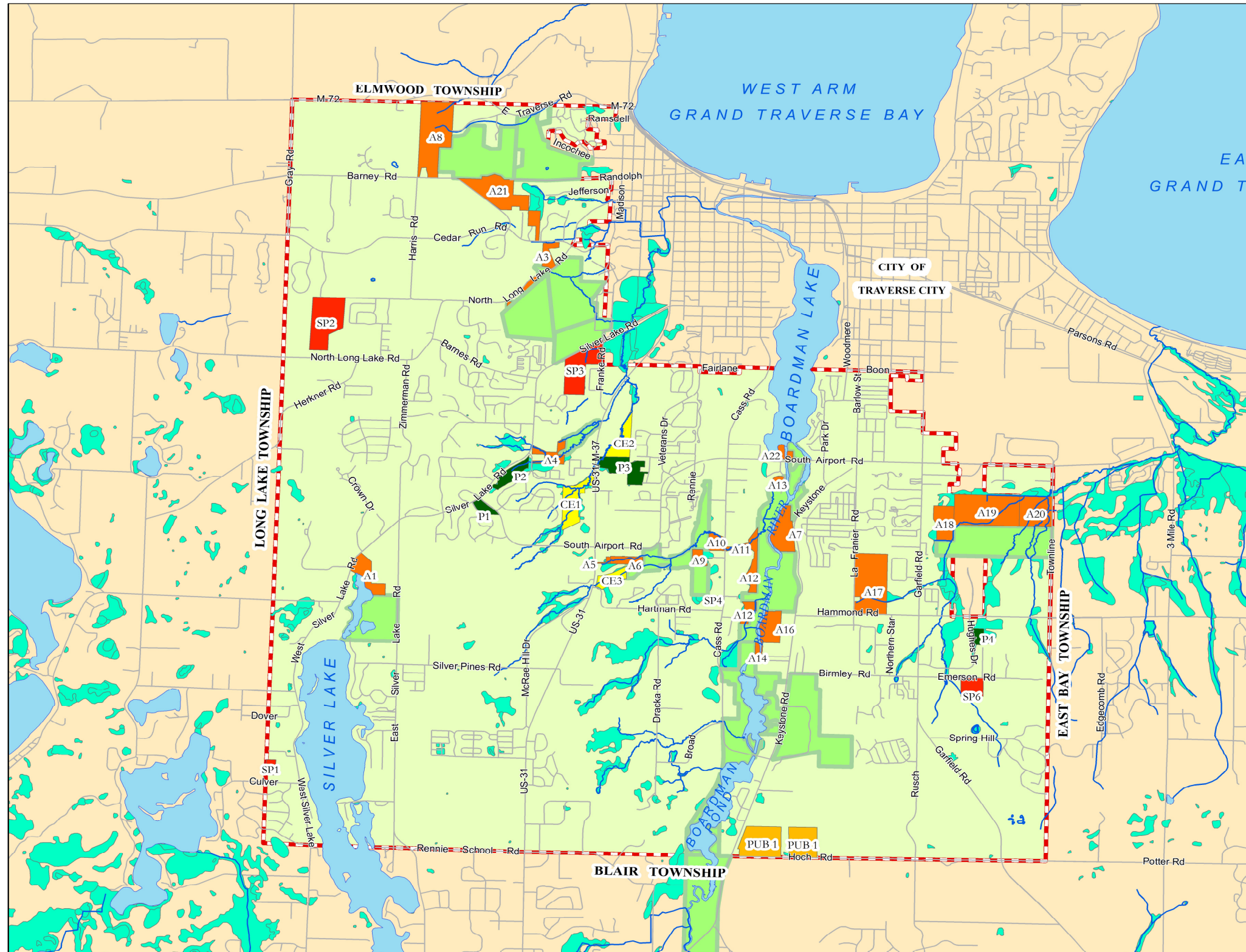
### Legend

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

Charter Township  
of Garfield  
3848 Veterans Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
Phone: 231.941.1620  
Fax: 231.941.1688



Prepared by: Garfield Township Planning Dept - October 2017  
Data Source: Garfield Township, 2017



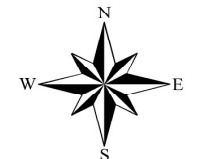
# Green Infrastructure Plan Map

**Legend**

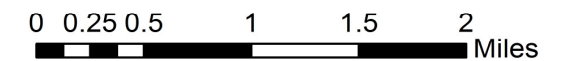
**Green Infrastructure Plan**

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

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## APPENDIX A: ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q1

Customize

Export ▼

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

Answered: 201 Skipped: 5

	I KNEW THIS PARK EXISTED	I DID NOT KNOW THIS PARK EXISTED	TOTAL
Boardman Valley Nature Preserve	87.44% 174	12.56% 25	199
Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area	92.89% 183	7.11% 14	197
Kids Creek Park	76.02% 149	23.98% 47	196
Miller Creek Nature Reserve	59.38% 114	40.63% 78	192
Silver Lake Recreation Area	81.73% 161	18.27% 36	197

Q2

Customize

Export

Roughly how many times did you go to each of the following Township parks within the last two years?

Answered: 199 Skipped: 7

	0 TIMES	1-5 TIMES	6-10 TIMES	11-20 TIMES	MORE THAN 20 TIMES	TOTAL
Boardman Valley Nature Preserve	29.47% 56	38.42% 73	10.53% 20	3.68% 7	17.89% 34	190
Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area	22.51% 43	32.98% 63	15.18% 29	10.47% 20	18.85% 36	191
Kids Creek Park	63.19% 115	29.12% 53	3.85% 7	1.65% 3	2.20% 4	182
Miller Creek Nature Reserve	71.98% 131	22.53% 41	2.75% 5	1.10% 2	1.65% 3	182
Silver Lake Recreation Area	39.79% 76	31.41% 60	8.90% 17	6.28% 12	13.61% 26	191

Q3

Export ▼

### Why did you visit the Township park(s)?

Answered: 169 Skipped: 37

Respondents	Responses	Categories
1	its nice with the way it is set up. I like the trails . Not a lot of people use it,.	
2	To walk and run. Silver Lake to play on playground equipment with grandkids and to take dog to the dog park as well as walk and run.	
3	Hiking trails.	
4	Hiking	
5	Dog Park and Graduation Open House	
6	Walking trails, playground with grandchildren. Quiet, solitude.	
7	To leave the cell phone in the car and get away. Get with nature. Exercise. Enjoy the natural beauty of these areas. Take photographs. Breathe!	
8	Walks	
9	Tennis, hiking, and kayaking	
10	Walking	
11	For hiking, walking my dog, to enjoy the outdoors, to run on the trails	
12	Hiking	
13	Running, skiing, snowshoeing & dog walking	
14	Skateboarding	
15	I am looking more for bike trails these days. It's easy on my body and I get to see beautiful nature.	
16	Just to walk around	
17	I love the parks and walk regularly at Silver Lake and Commons. I enjoy them all for different reasons. Silver Lake is perfect - it has the right amount of open space and trails, paved and wooded. Love the Commons for the more natural atmosphere.	
18	Hiking and views.	
19	For fresh air and to walk around.	
20	Hiking	
21	Occupy the kids	
22	Walking	
23	Hiking	
24	To enjoy the natural areas away from town	
25	recreation	
26	Mostly mountain biking	
27	Hiking and parks for kids	
28	Walk dogs.	
29	To enjoy nature and walk my dog.	
30	To walk with my dog.	
31	To enjoy healthy outdoor activities in a place that is quiet & safe "free of motorize vehicles"	
32	hiking, baseball game	
33	cycling, walking	

- 34 Hiking or sitting out in nature
- 35 To hike, bike walk the dog, get kids outside and moving
- 36 Exercize
- 37 kayaking
- 38 I visit the parks that allow mountain bikes.
- 39 Running
- 40 Hiking, dog walking, xc skiing, to be in nature and be active!
- 41 nearby to walk
- 42 Bike ride
- 43 Hiking
- 44 for recreation. hiking, walking dogs etc
- 45 Hiking/running
- 46 walking the dog/or just hiking
- 47 Cycling/ walk with dog and kid.
- 48 I was leading hikes for the Grand Traverse Hiking Club.
- 49 Mostly walking/hiking, but also for events that were being held there by my workplace.
- 50 never did
- 51 Serenity, nature, to be outdoors in a safe environment.
- 52 to roller ski and mt. bike
- 53 Walking the dog, kids play, exercise
- 54 A church picnic
- 55 To hike, photograph, kayak
- 56 Hiking and walking the dog
- 57 Exercise
- 58 Hike, snowshoe
- 59 hiking, playdates, biking, picnics, family get togethers, jogging
- 60 Exercise, nature
- 61 Views, check progress of new dams.
- 62 Biking and hiking
- 63 Hiking
- 64 Recreate
- 65 Hiking
- 66 To get outside.
- 67 for recreation
- 68 play pickleball or walk
- 69 To walk the trails or use the tennis courts.
- 70 Hiking & walking
- 71 Hiking & disc golf
- 72 To walk the paths
- 73 Walk our dog and to take nature hikes.
- 74 N/A
- 75 Relaxation, bike riding, exercise
- 76 pickleball and walks
- 77 Hiking and taking grandkids to the park
- 78 Walking with and without a dog I

- 79 play pickle ball
- 80 Walking, exploring
- 81 Kids and ballgames
- 82 Exercise and enjoy the outdoors
- 83 Dog park, grandkids play on playground and picnic under cover tables
- 84 Hiking with the kidsni
- 85 Walk, Dog Park.
- 86 Walking trails, playing tennis, cross country skiing, kayaking, using playgrounds, etc.
- 87 Walking, jogging, tennis
- 88 Looking for places to play pickleball.
- 89 Pickleball
- 90 pickleball
- 91 Hiking walking
- 92 To play picklball and walk my dogs
- 93 Hike, play pickleball and just enjoy the outdoors
- 94 Pickleball at Boardman. hiking, cross country skiing at GT Commons
- 95 To play pickleball on the old outdoor courts
- 96 Pickleball and hiking
- 97 Picnics, walking and tennis
- 98 One big reason is to play Pickleball
- 99 We play pickleball at the Y next to the park
- 100 To play pickleball
- 101 Pickleball and nature walks
- 102 To play pickleball, but now I go elsewhere as the courts are not in good shape.
- 103 to hike
- 104 Hike, play on equipment, walk
- 105 To enjoy nature and a good walk for exercise.
- 106 Hiking, walks, playground
- 107 Pickleball
- 108 River use. Pickelball. Use of walking area
- 109 walk in the woods.  
I walk alot and am always looking for places year round to walk stay fit and active. I am a senior.
- 110 Need to keep moving!!
- 111 To hike, recreate, enjoy serenity and our natural beauty that surrounds us.
- 112 Birthday Party
- 113 to enjoy
- 114 Exercise enjoy beauty of nature
- 115 Playgroundl
- 116 hike, walk, tennis
- 117 Walk
- 118 Hiking
- 119 For hiking
- 120 Walking
- 121 We use the tennis courts to practice pickleball even though the courts are not lined for pickleball at this time

- 122 Walking, hiking, quiet reflection
- 123 We are new to the area so have not used the park system much yet.
- 124 Play tennis, and the playground equipment.
- 125 To look at the plants.
- 126 Hike
- 127 Hiking, taking grandkids
- 128 Walking, dog park, Frisbee
- 129 We go to hike in the beautiful nature areas. Silver Lake park is less than a half mile from our home. We use that almost daily to walk and run
- 130 De- stress, get outside, get away from the "city", exercise and general well being.
- 131 Walk the trails
- 132 Mainly to ride my mountain bike.
- 133 Running trails.
- 134 To exercise, relax
- 135 mountain biking, trail running, hiking
- 136 walking/hiking, bird watching
- 137 biking, hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, picnicing, dog walking, etc
- 138 To walk my dogs and get some fresh air!
- 139 We love the GT Commons Nature Area for all year round dog walking and hiking. Silver Lake is a wonderful area to have our children play, ride bikes, play basketball and plan a group picnic.
- 140 Hiking/biking. Easy access to the great outdoors !!
- 141 School field trip & Commons Area for Mtb. Biking.
- 142 Being able to hike in nature so close to our house is important. Also a safe place to exercise and play with our kids is important
- 143 Rented for party
- 144 Hiking, Running, Fishing, DogPark
- 145 Convenient
- 146 Kids, hiking
- 147 I often visit the parks to go for a hike with friends and/or my dog. The Silver Lake Rec. Park is very close to my house and offers so many great options.
- 148 For biking, dog walking, hiking, and having fun!!!
- 149 To spend time outside
- 150 Cycling and hiking
- 151 nature.  
Running m
  
- 152 Mountain biking
- 153 I use the trails for hiking and biking
- 154 Playground, dog park, picnic, walk the trail.
- 155 hiking
- 156 I love being about to go out and explore without having to go far. My wife and I run, hike and bring friends and family to these areas. Its amazing to have.
- 157 We like the picnic pavilions, the walking path and the playground.  
Common park: for active recreation.
  
- 158 Silver lake: to visit playground with my children.
- 159 For the walks and the relaxation
- 160 Peaceful walks, flora, educate the grandkids



- 161 Hiked the trails to view natural environment.
- 162 Bike & hike.
- 163 They are beautiful
- 164 Nature walk. Stress relief. Pokemon GO. Photography. Exercise.
- 165 Class reunion & walk trails
- 166 We enjoy quiet walks and hiking.
- 167 Hike, Kids play
- 168 To have a quiet place to read and be outside in nature.II
- 169 Because of a birthday get together

**Q4** Export ▼

What do you like about the Township parks? What could be done to improve the Township parks?

Answered: 148   Skipped: 58

Respondents	Responses	Categories
1	lights would be nice	
2	I love the woods and trails.	
3	Hiking trails. I think they are wonderful, wish Long Lake had a dog park	
4		
5	Silver lake park: Provides for the interests of many i.e. Tennis, dog park, pavilions, playground, trails, and none of these activity areas interfere with the others.	
6	I love the fact that they are within the township.	
7	Nature areas	
8	Easy access to the Boardman river. Tennis courts need some work. Cleanup the courts in back of the tennis courts at the Boardman Preserve. Looking very shabby.	
9	Natural beauty Safe, well maintained.	
10	Need more parks on the east side of the county, and easily accessible by foot / bike.	
11	Lots of space to roam	
12	Skateboarding I wish more bike trails existed from park to park. Much larger projectI know.	
13	Would love to see it connect with the tart trail or Lelanau trail.	
14	Gives people a place to go and enjoy nature. A place to	

take your family for a getaway.  
 Silver Lake Park and Commons parks are perfect just like they are. Silver Lake, I know, there is an idea of an ice  
 15 rink and another pavillion and that would be nice. Do nothing more to the Commons, leave it as it is.  
 Dedicated trails, to differing  
 16 activities.  
 Not  
 17 sure....  
 Ability to be "within  
 18 nature".  
 restrooms, playground, dog park, track to  
 19 bike/run along.  
 20 More bike attractions  
 more bike trails tempelton property to logans  
 landing and sabin dam  
 21 Like:  
 Unique trails and features  
 Strong community of riders at Copper Ridge  
 Great volunteer trail building and maintenance  
 Improve:  
 Trail signs/map  
 Bike only/hike only trail designation  
 22 Bigger trail system  
 The pump track sounds great. Something for skating would be awesome. And even a  
 23 climbing wall would be nice. And I like to sound of exercise stations in the trails.  
 More trails designated for mountain bikers. The Grand Traverse Commons has seen a huge increase in bikers over  
 24 the last 25 years. The fast descents by bikers need to be managed so they don't conflict with other trail users.  
 I love them all for different reasons. I love that they are nestled into urban areas. Sometimes I am alarmed when bikers come up suddenly behind me and yell "Behind You!" I feel this is an accident waiting to happen,  
 when bikers use trails that people walk on. I am saddened at the spray painting of trees, rocks and signs at the Commons. But I don't know how to discourage this. The directional signage at Miller Creek is  
 25 confusing in places (not the main trails by the creek but the ones that are farther afield.) The fairy trail at the commons, people used junky materials for the fairy houses and I cleaned that up. I also routinely clean  
 up abandoned homeless people campsites and debris, mostly at the commons but I have seen campsites at Miller Creek.  
 I like everything about the township parks, most of all I like the fact that we have  
 26 them & for the love of God, please don't stop planning/building them  
 27 Well maintained  
 natural setting--please don't go  
 28 overboard with the dog parks  
 I like that they're dominated by passive recreation like hiking and biking and skiing, well maintained, and  
 29 often not too crowded. Improved boardwalks etc. in wetlands would be much appreciated.  
 Preserved open space for all. Lots of  
 30 natural areas and habitat.  
 more placing to put in a kayak  
 31 and to fish  
 32 Add bike trails where possible....but definitely NOT

where they don't make sense.  
Commons could use better signage, similar to Miller  
33 Creek. Better trail maps needed in general.  
34 increase awareness  
Water bottle stations, bike stations, both are  
35 great. More bike trails needed.  
Bathrooms and water  
36 stations  
clean, away from downtown, not too  
37 many people or overcrowding  
Good places to walk in  
38 nature  
More  
39 trails.  
We would hike the GT Commons if there weren't so many rude bikers on the trails. They fly by you, come up behind you fast  
40 and expect you to dive out of the way. Not all, but every time we have walked we haven't had a good experience.  
They are wonderful! They always seem clean and well-maintained. I like longer hikes so it's always nice when  
41 trails loop together to create those, but I understand this may not be the goal of these parks in particular.  
access to the park and  
42 parking  
The beauty, cleanliness.  
  
43 Add more amenities.  
improve mt. biking at GT commons natural area. Reason nice place  
44 to mt. bike when you have limited time because of work.  
Long pathways for walks - drinking  
45 water availability  
Liked seeing a dog park at Silver Lake park. Like  
46 the feel of being out in the country.  
I really like the idea of a pump track over by the commons. I love that the parks are so close to town or even in town- most other cities can't say that! I also like the idea of a loop with exercise stations.  
47 Also, being able to bike to the parks would be nice- something like the TART trail; no one likes biking in traffic, it's too dangerous. How can we get people to leash their dogs at the Commons?  
Trails with natural beauty close  
48 to town.  
I like that they are minimally invasive to the natural habitats, support healthy exercise, and active lifestyles. ATV, Snowmobiles, boats, and any other motor driven vehicle, destroy natural habitats both land and water.  
Please look into studies on this. If anything is added or improved upon-I'd think that the health of these natural areas are preserved as they should be, not to make it more "convenient" for people to use their toys that  
49 actually destroy the places they are using them.  
50 Trails.  
51 Keep bikers and noise out.  
I like that they are rustic but  
52 nice trails, etc  
  
Like:Trails. Signage  
  
Improve: ?  
53  
Great parks, would like to see more progressive amenities, mtn bike trails along boardman  
54 river near the old Y would be great. You have the best dog park within hours!  
Restrooms are needed at the Grand Traverse  
55 Commons Natural Area.

56 I like that they are well-maintained. I wish Silver Lake Recreation Area was accessible by non-  
 57 motorized trail. I see that it is in the Garfield Twp. Master Plan. What gives?  
 58 all the parks are in need of upkeep Miller Creek is a muddy mess in the spring some bridges or elevated  
 59 areas in low walking paths would make this a wonderful trail in the spring and after rainy weather.  
 60 well maintained  
 61 Parks are nice and clean. Love the dog park! Silver Lake Park  
 62 could use more trees along the trail for shade.  
 63 Get the new pickleball courts started  
 64 st the old Y.  
 65 Need outdoor Pickleball  
 66 courts.  
 67 Clean & safe  
 68 Make more Pickleball  
 69 courts!  
 70 It would be wonderful to have the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve developed to include courts devoted to Pickleball. Currently, the courts there are  
 71 virtually unusable and with the burgeoning interest in the sport, it's becoming more and more difficult for players to find a place available to play.  
 72 need updates, Reno on the south Y pickleball courts. They are almost  
 73 unusable. Have not played there this yr because of that.  
 74 Love the trails. Probably just keeping trails in good shape  
 75 and park equipment in good safe shape  
 76 strip more pickle ball  
 77 courts  
 78 Great Hiking. Trail maintenance. Put Dow wood chips so that trail don't  
 79 erode and become dangerous with exposed roots.  
 80 I like they have proposed more pickleball courts.I'd like  
 81 to see them move forward with it!  
 82 Maybe mow the dog parks and clean up the poo that  
 83 others left.....shame on those pet owners.  
 84 Convenient and Close, good green space, multiuse  
 85 facility, well maintained, etc.  
 86 Well maintained  
 87 They are mostly peaceful places to share time  
 88 with family and friends.  
 89 Build the planned eight courts on the Boardman rive,it will be one  
 90 of the best places to play in the whole Midwest  
 91 pickleball  
 92 Silver Lake tennis courts could be painted  
 93 over with pickle ball dimentions!  
 94 Less parking would be good. Better trail  
 95 connections to the parks would be good  
 96 add pickleball courts at all of them, especially the  
 97 Boardman Nature Preserve  
 98 More pickleball courts at  
 99 Boardman  
 100 Like the location. Please upgrade, improve and  
 101 add  
 102 more pickleball courts  
 103 Redo/build additional pickleball  
 104 courts!

82 A great place to take the family to get  
 fresh air and at no cost

83 More Pickleball courts

84 We understood that the new pickleball courts we to be done early last  
 spring and had been looking forward to playing outside

85 More pickleball courts

86 More Pickleball

87 Replace the old worn out tennis courts with  
 dedicated pickleball courts.

88 nice to walk along the edge of the Boardman - getting to  
 the path can be swampy, though.

All tennis courts should serve a dual purpose. They all should be set up for pickleball along with tennis. The way I see it, the tennis players didn't pay for the courts themselves, all tax payers did. To build separate courts for pickleball is a waste of tax payer money until the tennis courts are striped for pickleball and the courts are never open for othe players, tennis or pickleball. I use Silver Lake park a lot and the tennis courts are empty more than they are used. The area has many pickleball players and the courts would get more use. I have heard of plans to build new pickleball courts in the future along with other ideas, until that is funded and the construction starts, all tennis courts should be set up for pickleball also.

89 You just might find that setting up the courts for fuel use may be all that is needed to satisfy both tennis players and pickleball players thereby saving the taxpayer money.  
 The commons area is hard to find and follow.

90 Could use better signage.  
 I don't understand why the two is holding out on marking the silver  
 lake tennis courts for pickle ball. They would get more use.

91 Build new Pickleball courts

92 Remove and redo the pickelball area. Courts are  
 almost unusable and dangerous.

93 very quiet and usually no garbage  
 laying around.

94 We REALLY need MORE PICKLEBALL COURTS!!!

So many people who want to play pickleball in the area and either cannot aford or do not want to ay for the YMCA. The dog park is very limited and the senior center has limited hours. WE NEED MORE!- especially right by the Y. Build it and they WILL come!

95 For many, it is the only/best way to access nature & water, de-stress,  
 96 commune with important recreational opportunity affordably.  
 Pickleball courts

97 please  
 Would like to have  
 98 pickleball courts  
 I'd love to see more dedicated pickleball  
 99 courts in the Township.  
 Add pickleball courts into the immediate plans for the Boardman Valley Nature  
 100 Preserve. How nice will that be to swim following a great Pickleball Game?  
 101 Like the variety.  
 Separate tennis and pickleball courts. It is difficult to play  
 102 tennis or pickleball if they are on the same court.  
 Great natural areas. Miller Creek gets ugly when get to the industrial area near  
 103 Cass. Would be nice to have trees/shrubs blocking those views.  
 Bike paths to the  
 104 parks  
 We like the walking path & would like to see pickleball  
 105 courts in the future!! Nice dog park too!!!  
 It would be nice to have pickle  
 106 ball courts.

107 Accessible. Nice  
trails.  
Additional pickle ball courts.

108 Kayak launch site on the river.  
Hoping for pickleball  
109 courts!  
The open space, pavilions,  
110 playground, trails  
We love Silver Lake Park. We can walk through the woods to get to the paved trail and love the peaceful walk with water on both sides of the trail. We would like the park to be smoke free. There are a  
111 lot of butts left along the trails in the woods. We are so grateful to not have to compete with disc golf while walking and running through the woods. Please leave this area undeveloped, it is beautiful.  
Natural sanctuaries that are close to  
112 town, easy to bike to.  
Trail. Maintain a walking trail in  
113 the winter.  
I like the location of the GT Commons Natural Area (close to town). I think this park could benefit from a professionally built trail system. A  
114 sustainable trail system would allow for use by Traverse City residence as well as draw mountain bikers from the region for years to come.  
Frisbee golf would be  
115 great  
Nice trail infrastructure. More trails  
116 would be nice.  
Silver Lake Recreation area -- I mostly enjoy the  
117 hiking/running trails, the natural area of the park  
Better connections to be able to bike to  
118 the various locations.  
I like that the parks are clean and  
119 well maintained.  
GT Common Area needs more trash  
120 receptacles.  
Improve biking trails with IMBA professionally designed  
121 mountain bike trails to suit the needs of all riders.  
Develop purpose built mtb. trails & for recreation planners to see pump tracks  
122 as a standard park features; just as base ball diamonds etc.  
I like that we have preserved areas that are "wild". We like Silver Lake Park for its recreation opportunities. I  
123 wish that the trail did not cross the driveway, especially right when people turn into the park.  
Like having the areas for families to use. Like having land  
124 put aside as open space that's non buildable.  
Protect them from major  
125 automotive bridges!  
Small enough to get through easily  
126 but still educate.  
I like the Silver Lake Rec. Park because it's easy to get to and offers a variety of activities. I like that I can walk/run on the trails or a paved loop. The dog park was also a nice addition. I do wish that the disc golf  
course would've been completed. I don't like that a bunch of trees were cut down for nothing.

127 The Commons is such a nice "in town" getaway. Again, it gives me many options for walking/running.  
They're all great!! Easier access by bike  
128 is always appreciated.  
Improved amenities. My  
129 biking/pump track opportunities

130 nature  
More trails. More  
131 singletrack  
I like the natural setting so close to everything yet preserved. The commons could use a bathroom facility near one of the main trailheads.  
132 Also, as a female I sometimes feel unsafe being by myself on the trails because of the homeless people who camp in the woods  
Telling us the park gowers how we can help the parks! I feel that there are  
133 lot of people who would love to help but don't know how.  
134 The natural aspects.  
See  
135 above.  
I like the scenic beauty.

Events could be held to increase public awareness and encourage  
136 use of these parks  
Taking the grandkids to  
137 the parks  
They're not built up - still in a  
138 natural state.  
The natural areas. No  
139 improvements are necessary.  
No cars allowed near the trails, quiet reserve,  
140 preserved area with no development.  
Easy access is a pro.

141 Better maintenance of the trails.  
Always are clean and enjoyable  
142 to walk  
It is always disappointing to see/encounter people with their dogs off leash. I realize this is not a solvable problem via the  
143 township. However, as a pet owner I don't visit parks as much as I would if I knew my pet and I would be safe.  
Put in pickellball  
144 courts  
Important goals of township parks are to facilitate a healthy life style and a strong sense of community among township residents. Before Garfield Township seeks to serve the needs of outside groups,  
145 it should clarify it's mission to serve the needs of township residents first. All are welcome in our parks, but strategies and tactics for building parks should be based on the idea that township resident needs and  
desires come first. In this way, twonship parks differentiate themselves from federal, state, county and city parks. Each has a different role to play.  
146 Splash pad would be awesome. Parks are  
usually clean and well kept.  
I liked the cleanliness of  
147 the park.  
Nothing. A waste of taxpayer  
148 money.

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Q5

Customize

Export

Please rate the existing Township park system in the following categories:

Answered: 180 Skipped: 26

	POOR	FAIR	NEUTRAL	GOOD	GREAT	TOTAL
Amount of Parkland	2.81% 5	15.17% 27	17.98% 32	51.69% 92	12.36% 22	178
Number of Parks	1.68% 3	21.23% 38	18.44% 33	44.69% 80	13.97% 25	179
Location of Parks	3.39% 6	10.17% 18	14.69% 26	51.98% 92	19.77% 35	177
Beauty	0.00% 0	3.37% 6	10.67% 19	50.56% 90	35.39% 63	178
Cleanliness	0.57% 1	8.57% 15	13.14% 23	59.43% 104	18.29% 32	175
Variety of Recreational Opportunities within Parks	8.47% 15	24.29% 43	21.47% 38	35.03% 62	10.73% 19	177
Safety	0.00% 0	6.18% 11	26.97% 48	52.25% 93	14.61% 26	178
Size	0.57% 1	7.95% 14	27.84% 49	51.70% 91	11.93% 21	176
Handicap Access	4.57% 8	6.86% 12	59.43% 104	25.14% 44	4.00% 7	175
Convenient Location	2.23% 4	7.82% 14	16.76% 30	50.28% 90	22.91% 41	179
Maintenance	2.81% 5	9.55% 17	23.03% 41	54.49% 97	10.11% 18	178

Q6

Customize

Export ▼

Do you believe there is a need for the following facilities in Garfield Township? (If the facilities already exist, are more needed?)

Answered: 205 Skipped: 1

	NO	NEUTRAL	YES	TOTAL
Amphitheater/Bandstand	36.11% 65	40.00% 72	23.89% 43	180
Baseball/Softball Fields	28.89% 52	53.33% 96	17.78% 32	180
Basketball Courts	29.21% 52	47.19% 84	23.60% 42	178
Beach Access	20.56% 37	25.00% 45	54.44% 98	180
Beach Volleyball	28.89% 52	44.44% 80	26.67% 48	180
Disc Golf	29.28% 53	43.09% 78	27.62% 50	181
Dog Park	24.86% 45	33.70% 61	41.44% 75	181
Equestrian Trails	42.70% 76	46.63% 83	10.67% 19	178
Mountain Bike Trails	16.39% 30	30.60% 56	53.01% 97	183
Nature Center/Gardens	12.71% 23	35.36% 64	51.93% 94	181
Outdoor Ice Rink	17.22% 31	26.67% 48	56.11% 101	180
Paved Bike Paths	11.29% 21	23.12% 43	65.59% 122	186
Pickleball Courts	15.92% 32	29.85% 60	54.23% 109	201

DRAFT Garfield Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2018

▼ Pickleball Courts	15.92% 32	29.85% 60	54.23% 109	201
▼ Picnic Shelter	11.41% 21	34.78% 64	53.80% 99	184
▼ Playgrounds/Equipment	11.80% 21	38.76% 69	49.44% 88	178
▼ Shuffleboard/Bocce Ball	24.18% 44	51.10% 93	24.73% 45	182
▼ Skateboard/Bike Park	30.56% 55	40.56% 73	28.89% 52	180
▼ Sledding Hill	16.57% 30	29.28% 53	54.14% 98	181
▼ Snowmobile/ATV Trails	58.66% 105	32.40% 58	8.94% 16	179
▼ Swimming Pool	41.44% 75	30.94% 56	27.62% 50	181
▼ Tennis Courts	29.44% 53	47.22% 85	23.33% 42	180
▼ Walk/Hike/Jog Trail	5.95% 11	16.22% 30	77.84% 144	185
▼ XC Skiing Trails	10.44% 19	25.82% 47	63.74% 116	182

Q7

Customize Export

In considering priorities for the next five years, how important are each of the following?

Answered: 197 Skipped: 9

	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Building pathways to connect neighborhoods to schools, parks, entertainment, etc.	5.76% 11	9.95% 19	13.09% 25	32.98% 63	38.22% 73	191
Building regional trail connections	5.15% 10	9.79% 19	11.86% 23	36.60% 71	36.60% 71	194
Acquiring more park land	5.26% 10	9.47% 18	25.79% 49	37.37% 71	22.11% 42	190
Developing smaller neighborhood parks throughout the Township	11.52% 22	12.57% 24	33.51% 64	29.32% 56	13.09% 25	191
Improving the maintenance of existing parks	3.63% 7	6.22% 12	33.68% 65	43.01% 83	13.47% 26	193

DRAFT Garfield Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2018

▼ Expanding the amenities and activities available at parks	5.70% 11	7.77% 15	25.91% 50	42.49% 82	18.13% 35	193
▼ Improving barrier-free accessibility at parks	2.62% 5	11.52% 22	37.17% 71	35.08% 67	13.61% 26	191
▼ Increasing fishing/hunting opportunities	35.60% 68	12.04% 23	39.27% 75	9.95% 19	3.14% 6	191
▼ Increasing boating opportunities	31.94% 61	10.99% 21	40.84% 78	12.04% 23	4.19% 8	191
▼ Acquiring land to preserve natural areas, wetlands, habitat areas, and other similar resources	4.69% 9	8.33% 16	15.63% 30	33.85% 65	37.50% 72	192

## APPENDIX B: PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION ORDINANCE & AMENDMENTS

### Ordinance # 63

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ORDINANCE

##### **Preamble**

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

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

##### **Section 1: Scope, Purpose and Intent**

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

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

##### **Section 2: Establishment**

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

##### **Section 3: Membership**

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

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

**Section 4: Appointments and Terms**

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

**Section 5: Solicitation for Membership**

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

**Section 6: Removal**

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

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

**Section 7: Conflict of Interest**

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

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

**Section 8: Compensation**

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

**Section 9: Training**

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

**Section 10: Officers and Committees**

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

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

**Section 11: Bylaws, Meetings and Records**

A. The parks and recreation commission shall adopt bylaws for the transaction of business.

B. The parks and recreation commission shall hold at least 4 regular meetings each year, and shall by resolution determine the time and place of the meetings.

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

C. The business that the parks and recreation commission may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, MCL 15.261, *et seq.*

D. The parks and recreation commission shall keep a public record of its resolutions, transactions, findings, and determinations. A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by a parks and recreation commission in the performance of an official function shall be made available to the public in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, *et seq.*

**Section 12: Staff**

A. The parks and recreation commission shall be assigned staff from the planning department to carry out the duties of Section 15.

B. The appointment of all employees shall be subject to the same provisions of law, employment policies, employee roster, and employee or union contracts, if any, as govern other employees of the township.

C. Employees that are assigned to work with the parks and recreation commission shall follow the directives of the parks and recreation commission in matters of park and recreation planning issues, but shall not be subject to parks and recreation commission directives concerning employment provisions of law, employment policies, employee roster, and employee or union contracts, if any.



**Section 13: Liaisons**

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

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

**Section 14: Annual Report**

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

**Section 15: Duties and Authority**

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

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

**Section 16: Severability**


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

**Section 17: Effective Date**

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

**CERTIFICATE**

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

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_, Chair.

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

Signed   
Kay Schumacher, Garfield Township Clerk

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD**

**ORDINANCE NO. 63**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 63  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ORDINANCE**

**WHEREAS** the Charter Township of Garfield Ordinance No. 63, adopted on July 13, 2010, established the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, to provide for the composition of that parks and recreation commission and to provide for the powers, duties and limitations of that parks and recreation commission; and

**WHEREAS** the Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission has guided the development and adoption of a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Charter Township of ; and

**WHEREAS** it is important to the citizens of Garfield Township that the recommendations of that Five-Year Plan be implemented; and

**WHEREAS** the Charter Township of Garfield has experienced difficulty in attracting qualified electors of the Township to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD ORDAINS:**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO GARFIELD TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 63:**

**That Section 3: Membership is hereby amended by adding a new item 4. to read as follows with the current items 4. and 5. to be renumbered 5. and 6.:**

4. One member may be an individual who is not a qualified elector of the Township.

Amendment No. 1 to the Charter Township of Garfield Ordinance No. 63 shall become effective immediately upon its publication.

MOVED: Bob Featherstone

SECONDED: Jeane Blood

YEAS: Korn, Schumacher, Blood, Featherstone, Schmuckal, Wilson and Agostinelli

NAYS: None

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: None

AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO ORDINANCE NO. 63 DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an ordinance amendment adopted by the Garfield Township Board at a regular meeting held on June 26, 2012, pursuant to the required statutory procedures.



Kay Schumacher, Clerk  
Charter Township of Garfield

Introduced: June 12, 2012  
Adopted: June 26, 2012  
Published: July 2, 2012  
Effective: July 2, 2012

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD

ORDINANCE NO. 63

AMENDMENT NO. 2

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 63  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ORDINANCE

**WHEREAS** the Charter Township of Garfield Ordinance No. 63, adopted on July 13, 2010, and as amended on June 12, 2016 established the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, to provide for the composition of that parks and recreation commission and to provide for the powers, duties and limitations of that parks and recreation commission; and

**WHEREAS** the Township Board has determined that increasing the membership to seven would bring the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) more in line with other recommending bodies;

**WHEREAS** The Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees desires to increase the Parks and Recreation Commission membership to seven (7) members.

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD ORDAINS:**

**AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO GARFIELD TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 63:**

**That Section 2: Establishment, be amended to provide for 7 members and the section shall read:**

Section 2: The township board hereby establishes under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission shall have ~~five~~ **seven** members.

Amendment No. 2 to the Charter Township of Garfield Ordinance No. 63 shall become effective immediately upon its publication.

MOVED: Dan Walters

SECONDED: Jeane Blood Law

YEAS: Walters, Blood Law, Schmuckal, Duell, Agostinelli, McManus

NAYS: None

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Korn

AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO ORDINANCE NO. 63 DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I, Lanie McManus, hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an ordinance amendment adopted by the Garfield Township Board at a regular meeting held on April 11, 2017, pursuant to the required statutory procedures.



Lanie McManus, Clerk  
Charter Township of Garfield

Introduced: March 14, 2017

Adopted: April 11, 2017

Published: April 16, 2017

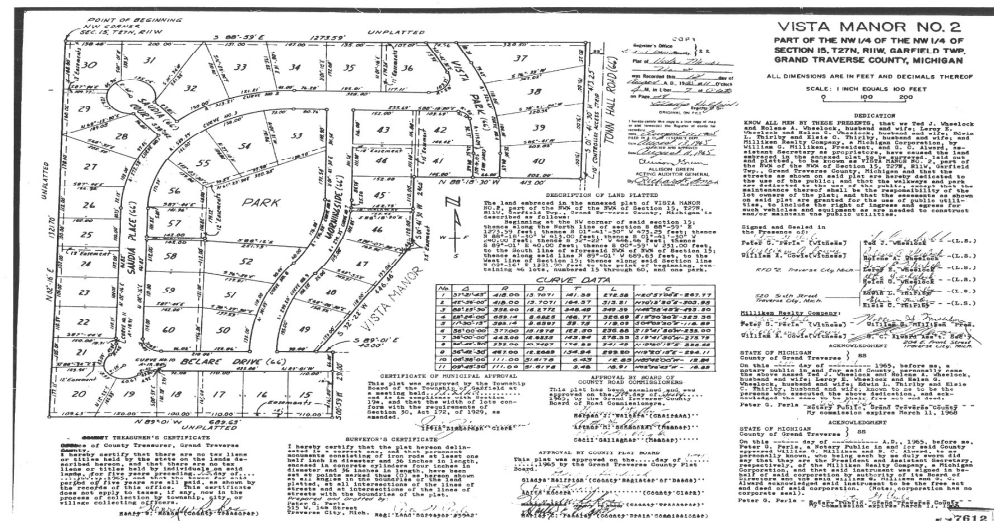
Effective: April 16, 2017

## **APPENDIX C: “PLATTED PARKS” INVENTORY**

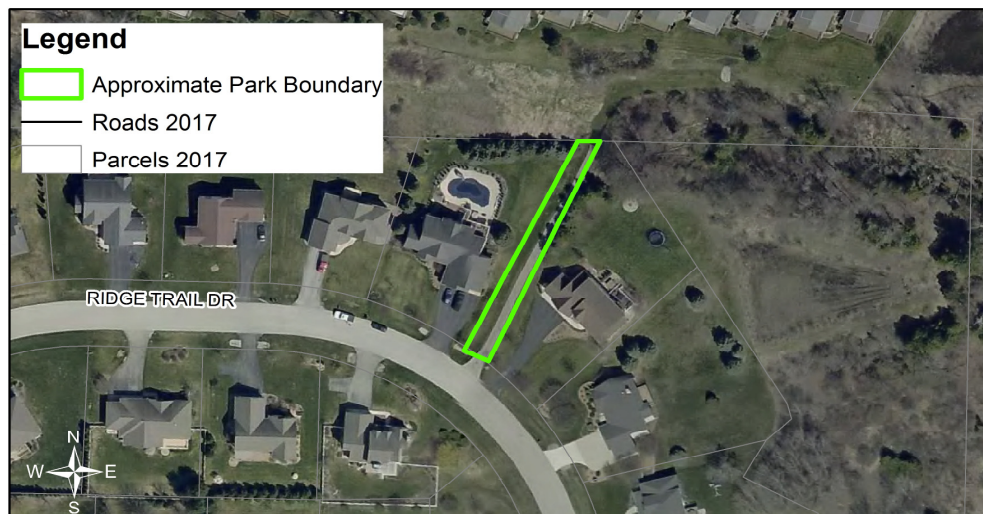
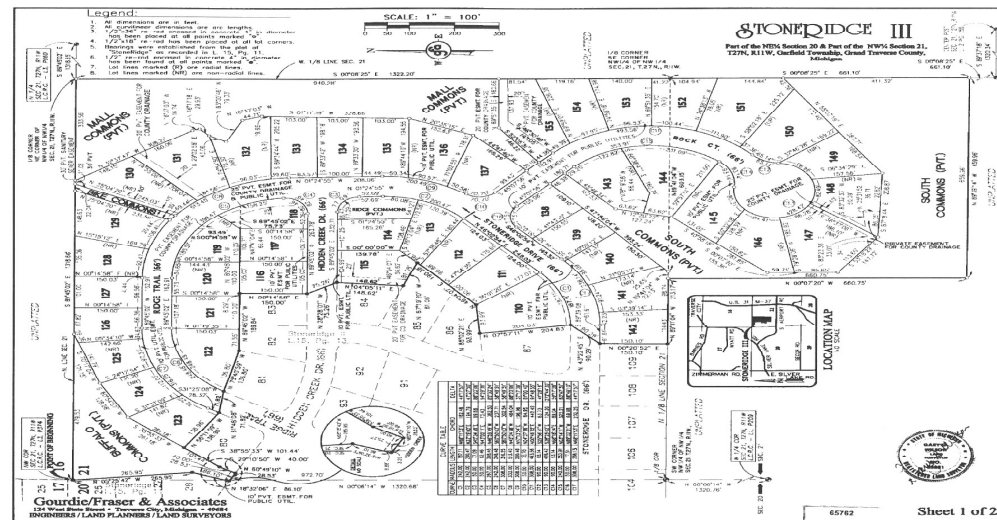
### OVERVIEW

This appendix identifies the location of each of the nine “platted parks” dedicated to public use within the Charter Township of Garfield. In this context, “platted parks” is intended to mean parks created via dedication in a recorded subdivision plat. Whereas some of dedications specifically call for owners within the subdivision to maintain its “platted park” in common, others do not specify the party responsible for maintenance. In including such information in this Plan, the Township does not intend to assume maintenance responsibility or any form of liability whatsoever with respect to any of these nine “platted parks.” Rather, in doing so, the Township simply intends to make the location and characteristics of such parks public information.

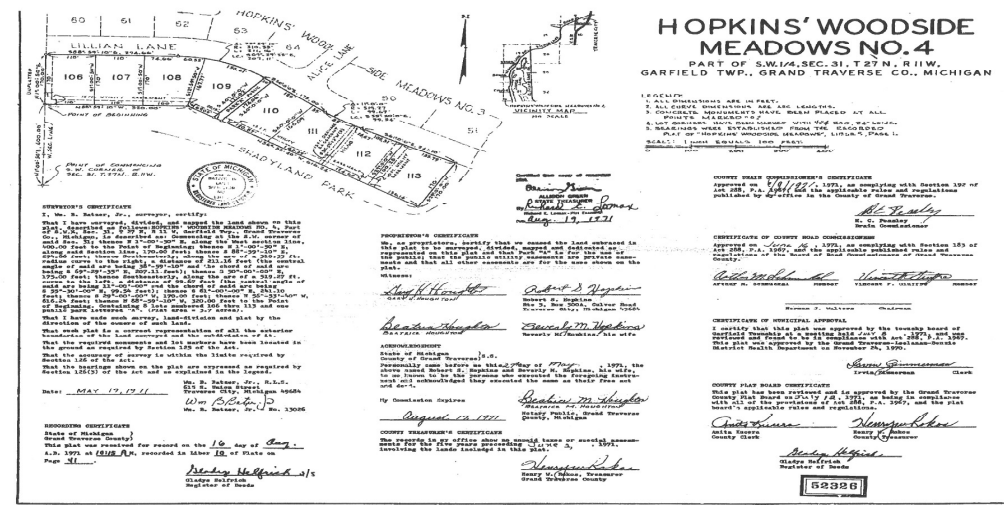
For each of the nine “platted parks,” the three pages that follow this one include an image of the recorded plat map, a map showing an aerial view of the corresponding dedicated “platted park,” and a brief description of some of the park’s characteristics.



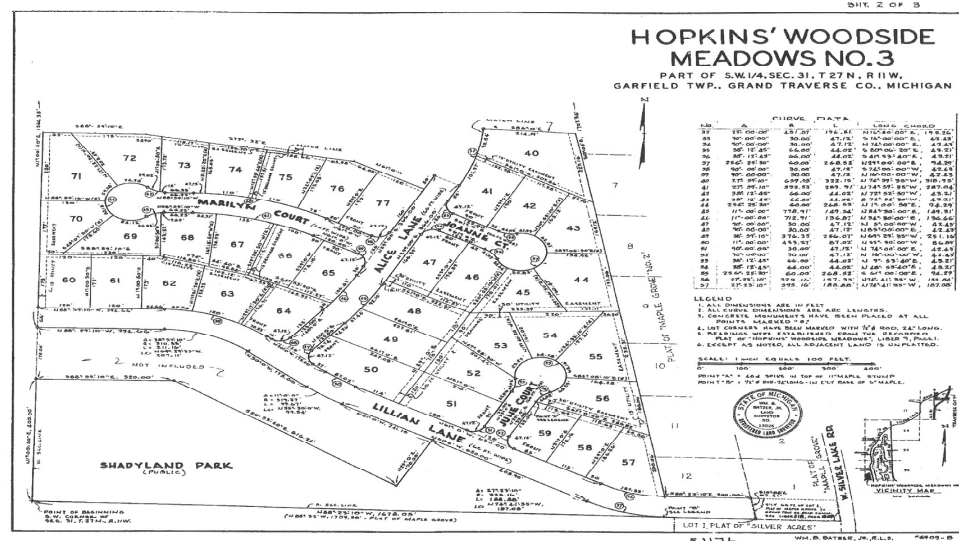
Plat: Vista Manor No. 2  
Park Name: Unknown  
Approx. Size: 1.7 ac  
Access: Public  
Maintenance: Owners Responsible



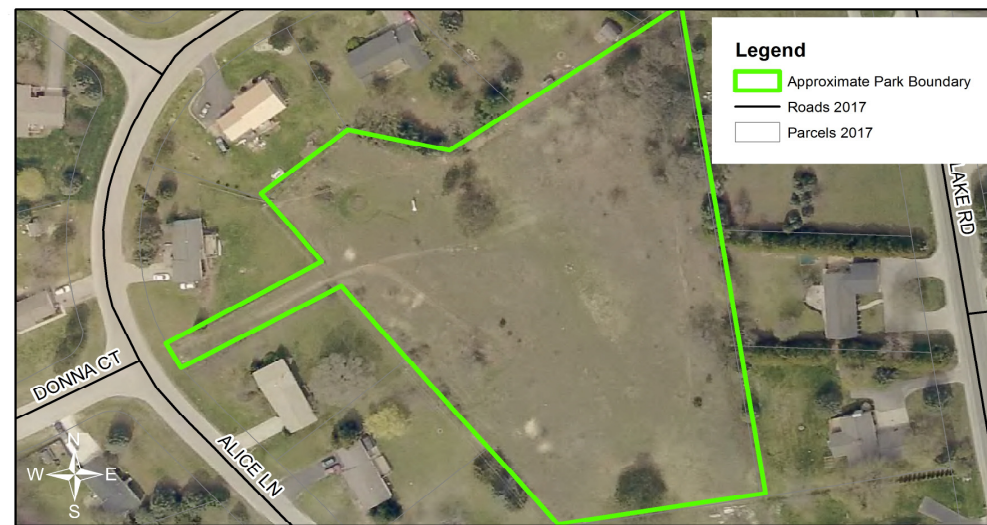
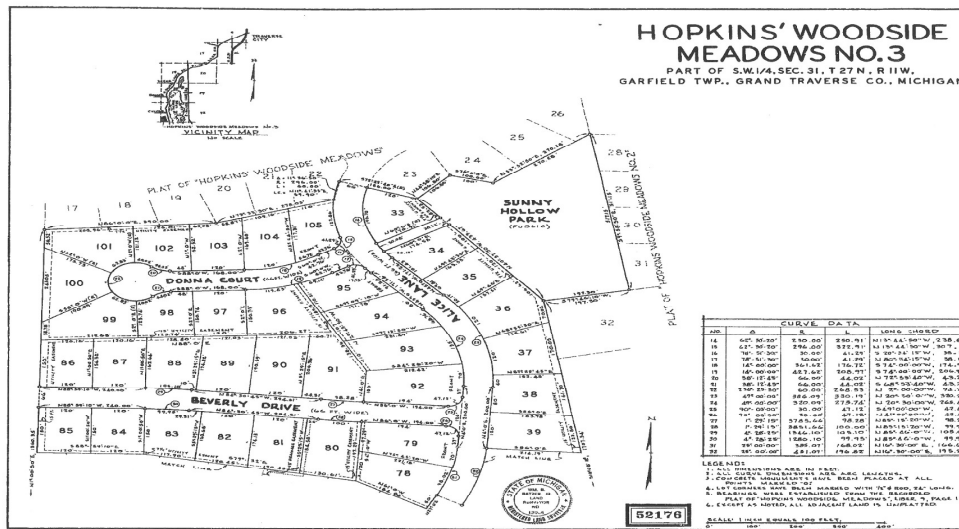
Plat: Stoneridge III  
Park Name: "Bike Commons Trail"  
Approx. Size: 0.11 ac  
Access: Public  
Maintenance: Unknown



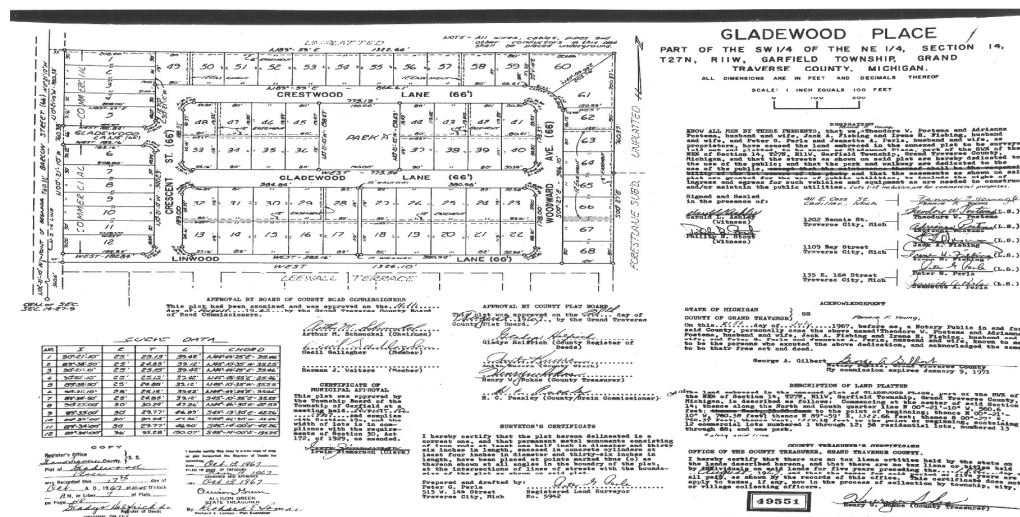
Plat: Hopkins' Woodside Meadows No. 4  
Park Name: "Park 'A'"  
Approx. Size: 0.80 ac  
Access: Public  
Maintenance: Unknown



Plat: Hopkins' Woodside Meadows No. 3  
Park Name: "Shadyland Park"  
Approx. Size: 7.5 ac  
Access: Public  
Maintenance: Unknown

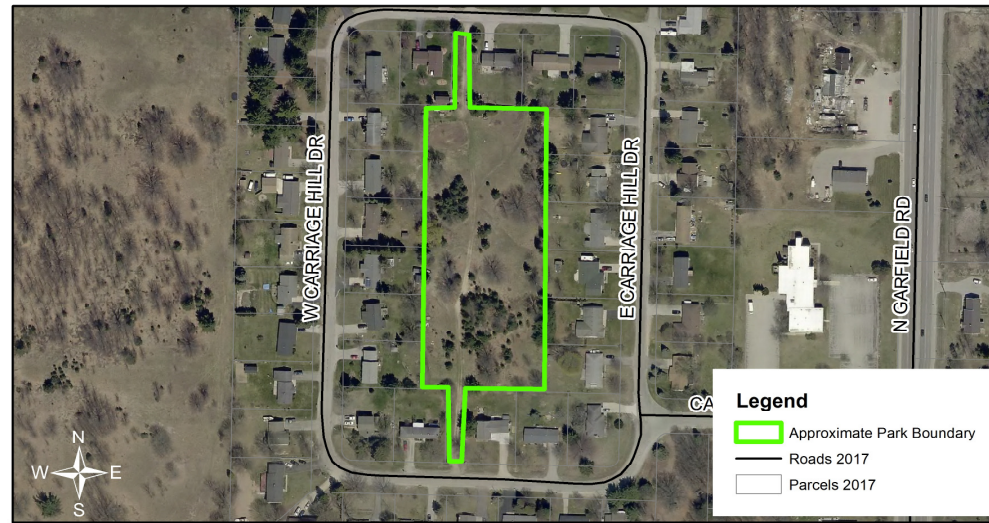
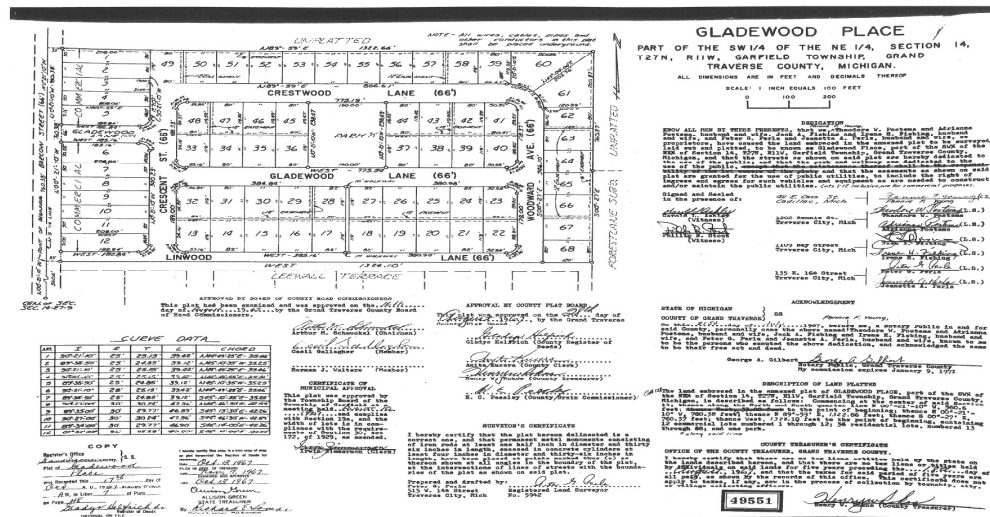


Plat: Hopkins' Woodside Meadows No. 3  
Park Name: "Sunny Hollow Park"  
Approx. Size: 3.4 ac  
Access: Public  
Maintenance: Unknown

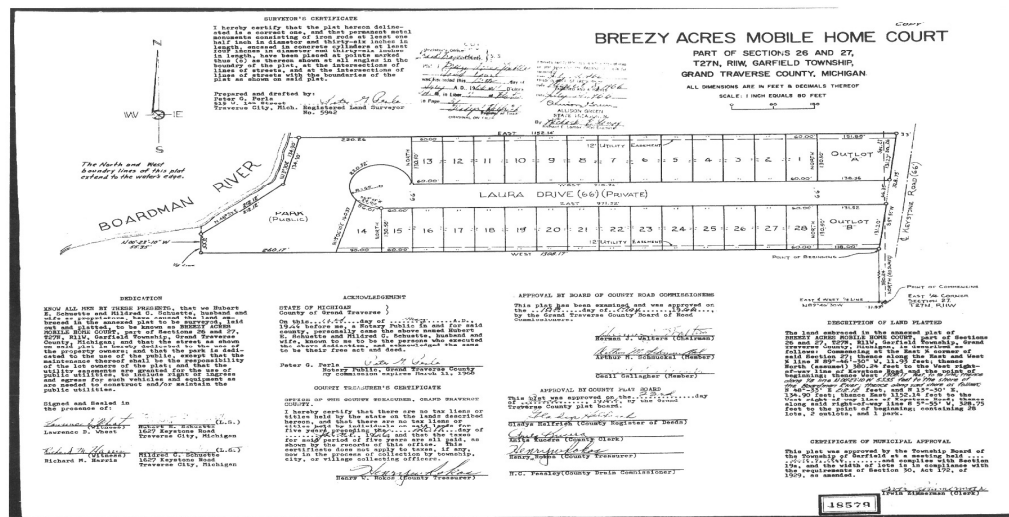


Plat: Gladewood Place  
Park Name: Unknown  
Approx. Size: 1 ac  
Access: Public  
Maintenance: Unknown

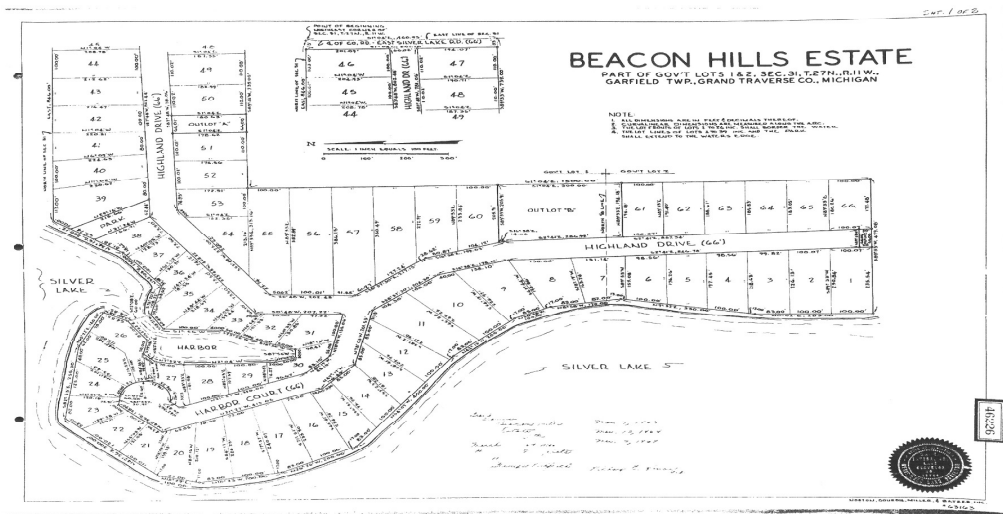




Plat: Carriage Hill  
Park Name: Unknown  
Approx. Size: 3.4 ac  
Access: Public  
Maintenance: Unknown



Plat: Breezy Acres  
Park Name: Unknown  
Approx. Size: 1.9 ac  
Access: Public  
Maintenance: Owners Responsible



Plat: Beacon Hills Estate  
Park Name: Unknown  
Approx. Size: 0.25 ac  
Access: Public  
Maintenance: Owners Responsible and  
Dedication Specifically Prohibits  
Township Maintenance Obligation

## APPENDIX D: GRAND TRAVERSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT SCOPE OF SERVICES

### GRAND TRAVERSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S SCOPE OF SERVICES

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

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