

# 2013-2018 Grand Traverse County Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan

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Prepared by: Jason Jones and Erith Welch, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation

*Also known as the Community Recreation and Natural Resources Conservation Plan*

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Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation would like to thank the following members of our community for their extensive help and contributions to the development of this plan.

**The Citizens of Grand Traverse County**

**Bob McCord, Grand Traverse County GIS Department**

**Matt McDonough, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy**

**Megan Olds, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy**

**Rainer Reichert, Grand Traverse County GIS Department**

**Nick Sawinski, Lake Superior State University**

**John Sych, Grand Traverse County Planning Department**

**Midge Werner, Grand Traverse County Planning Department**



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February 28, 2013

Mr. Matt McCauley  
Northwest Michigan Council of Governments  
PO Box 506  
Traverse City, MI 49685

Mr. McCauley,

Enclosed is a final copy of the 2013-2018 Grand Traverse County Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plan. This document has been prepared to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources specifications and will assist in decision making that guides development of County Parks and Recreation opportunities for the next five years. Within the plan are several key pieces of information including a description of our community, the administrative structure of our department, an inventory of the publicly owned parks and recreation facilities within the county, information related to past planning processes that have influenced the plan, a description of the public input process, derived goals and objectives, and finally an action plan for achieving these goals.

In developing this plan, our department tried to make the document more user friendly, formatted to be easily read online, graphic and table intensive, as well as inclusive of other plans and studies. The strength in this document is the references to other key parks and recreation studies that have been completed over the past three years. The comments received during the previous planning processes reinforced the comments received during our public input process, further validating the community's identification of its priorities as outlined in the Goals and Objectives Chapter.

It is my hope that you will utilize this document to consider Parks and Recreation during the planning process for our community. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at 231-922-4511, or via email at jjones@grandtraverse.org.

Sincerely



Jason Jones, CPRP  
Director of Parks & Recreation



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February 28, 2013

Mr. John Sych  
Grand Traverse County Planning Commission  
400 Boardman Ave  
Traverse City, MI 49686

Mr. Sych,

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Sincerely



Jason Jones, SPRP  
Director of Parks & Recreation

Resolution

29-2013

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COMMUNITY RECREATION AND  
NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PLAN  
(For County Parks and Recreation Commission, Grand Traverse County)**

WHEREAS, the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2013 through 2018, and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, a final public comment session was held on February 21, 2013 at Grand Traverse County Government Center to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

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

WHEREAS, after the public meeting, the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission voted to adopt said recreation and natural resources conservation plan on February 21, 2013.

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

APPROVED: February 27, 2013

HEREBY CERTIFY THIS COPY TO BE A  
TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE RECORD ON  
FILE WITH THE OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK  
BONNIE SCHEELE  
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY CLERK  
BY: Bonnie Scheele  
CLERK/DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK  
DATE: February 28, 2013

At a Regular Meeting of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission , held on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. with ten members present the following resolution was proposed:

Motion by: Bob Carstens

Supported by: William Dorrier

### RESOLUTION 01-2013

#### COMMUNITY RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PLAN

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

WHEREAS, the *Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission* has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2013 through 2018, and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, a final public comment session was held on *February 21, 2013* at Grand Traverse County Government Center to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan; and

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

WHEREAS, after the public meeting, the *Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission* voted to adopt said recreation and natural resources conservation plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the *Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission* hereby adopts resolution 1-2013, the 2013-2013 Grand Traverse County Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Plan.

(Yeas: 10      Nays: 0      Absent: 0      )



Signature

CHRISTINE MAXBAUER

Christine Maxbauer  
Parks and Recreation Commission President

CERTIFICATION

I, W. Peter Doren, Secretary of the of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission, County of Grand Traverse , State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission at the Regular Meeting of the 21 day of February, 2013



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W. Peter Doren  
Secretary, Grand Traverse County  
Parks and Recreation Commission

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# Community Description

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*2013-18 Grand Traverse Parks and  
Recreation Plan*

“Grand Traverse County residents and visitors enjoy some of the most beautiful countryside in the Midwest”.

## Plan Jurisdiction and Focus

The purpose of the 2013-2018 Parks and Recreation Plan is to guide future decisions on recreational facilities, park land and properties of Grand Traverse County, Michigan. This plan focuses on all aspects of parks and recreation within the County, from land and trail acquisitions, infrastructure development, facility improvement, all the way to development of recreational programs.

Grand Traverse County is approximately 485 square miles in size.

The County includes:

-297,000 acres of land

-13,400 acres of surface water



Grand Traverse County is comprised of rolling and hilly forest uplands, extensive wetlands and low areas, numerous inland lakes and streams and the shorelines of East and West Grand Traverse Bay. The influence of glacial activity is clearly evident in the outwash plains and steep gravel and clay slopes that make the majority of the southern two-thirds of the County. Reaching 1,071.4 feet in elevation and 620 feet in depth in Grand Traverse Bay, these facts lend special character to the County, with its lofty vistas of the bay, lakes and farmlands, and its deep wooded valleys.



Grand Traverse County residents and visitors enjoy some of the most beautiful countryside in the Midwest. The citizens of the County take advantage of a generally healthy economy and a quality of life that offers the amenities of a modern urban environment that is in proximity of unspoiled natural resources of the region. The various jurisdictions within the County have proven themselves willing to cooperate with the County Parks and Recreation Commission in regards to

the development and operation of park facilities, to the benefit of all who live and visit the region.

The benefits and natural amenities of life in Grand Traverse County have not gone unnoticed. The community is among the fastest growing in the state and in the next twenty-five years will likely see a population increase of over sixty percent. As a result, many of the unique features, the natural resources, and the quality of life within the County are at risk. Certainly the region can sustain such an expansion of its population, but the Parks and Recreation Commission must work with the citizens of the County on a continual basis, to protect and manage those natural resources; the key reasons for the growing population.

***Grand Traverse County will continue to grow in harmony with the natural environment, protecting the area's unique resources, while also assuring that the economic, cultural, and recreational advantages of life in the County are within reach of all its citizens.***

This is a fundamental principle upon which this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is based. It's essential elements – harmony with the natural environment, protection of the unique resources, and the inclusion of all residents enjoying healthy and full recreational experiences, embody the spirit of this Plan.



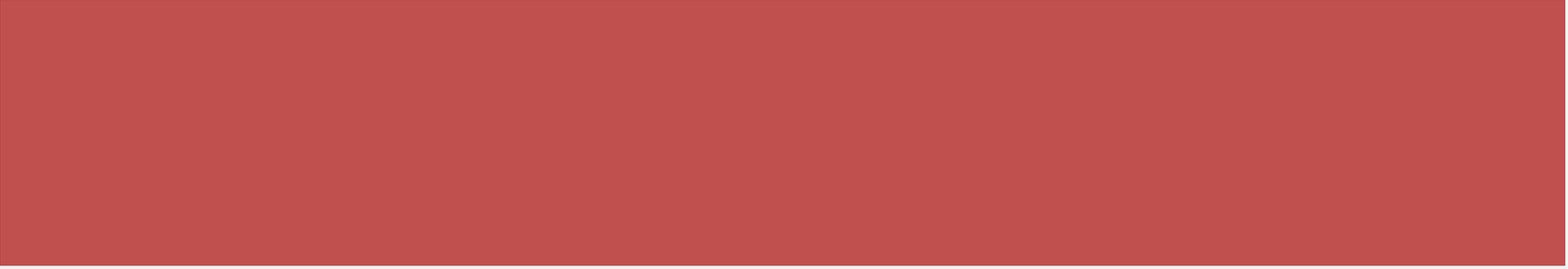
In a 1992 nationwide study conducted at Pennsylvania State University, researchers compiled a listing of the benefits of local recreation and park services as perceived by the American Public.

❖ **Personal Benefits:**

- Exercise, fitness & conditioning
- Fun and entertainment
- Learning and education
- Relaxation
- Health

❖ **Social Benefits:**

- Getting to know people
- Group participation
- Interaction of adults and kids
- Community awareness
- Team spirit



# Administrative Structure

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*2013-18 Grand Traverse County Recreation  
Plan*

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This section describes how park and recreation activities are carried out within Grand Traverse County. Included in this section are descriptions of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department, partnerships pertaining to the operations of public recreation areas, and budget information.

## **Grand Traverse County**

Grand Traverse County established the Parks and Recreation Commission that operates in compliance with the state law, Act 261 of the Public Acts of 1965, as amended. The Parks and Recreation Commission is a public body of the existing local government and may be subject to the supervision of the County Board and all applicable laws. Legal advice is provided by the County Prosecuting Attorney's office.

## **Department Organization and Operation**

### Parks and Recreation Commission

The County's Park and Recreation department is overseen and supervised by a commission of ten members having staggered terms. Members are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners. The Parks and Recreation Commission monitor activities of the Director and associated personnel. The mission of the Parks and

Recreation Commission is to “enhance community and quality of life through people, parks and programs.”



### Parks and Recreation Department

The Director of Parks and Recreation is appointed by the County Administrator and is charged with the task of overseeing and directing the Parks and Recreation Department in carrying out the goals and objectives that have been established by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission's directives are outlined within several documents including the 2012-2015 Parks and

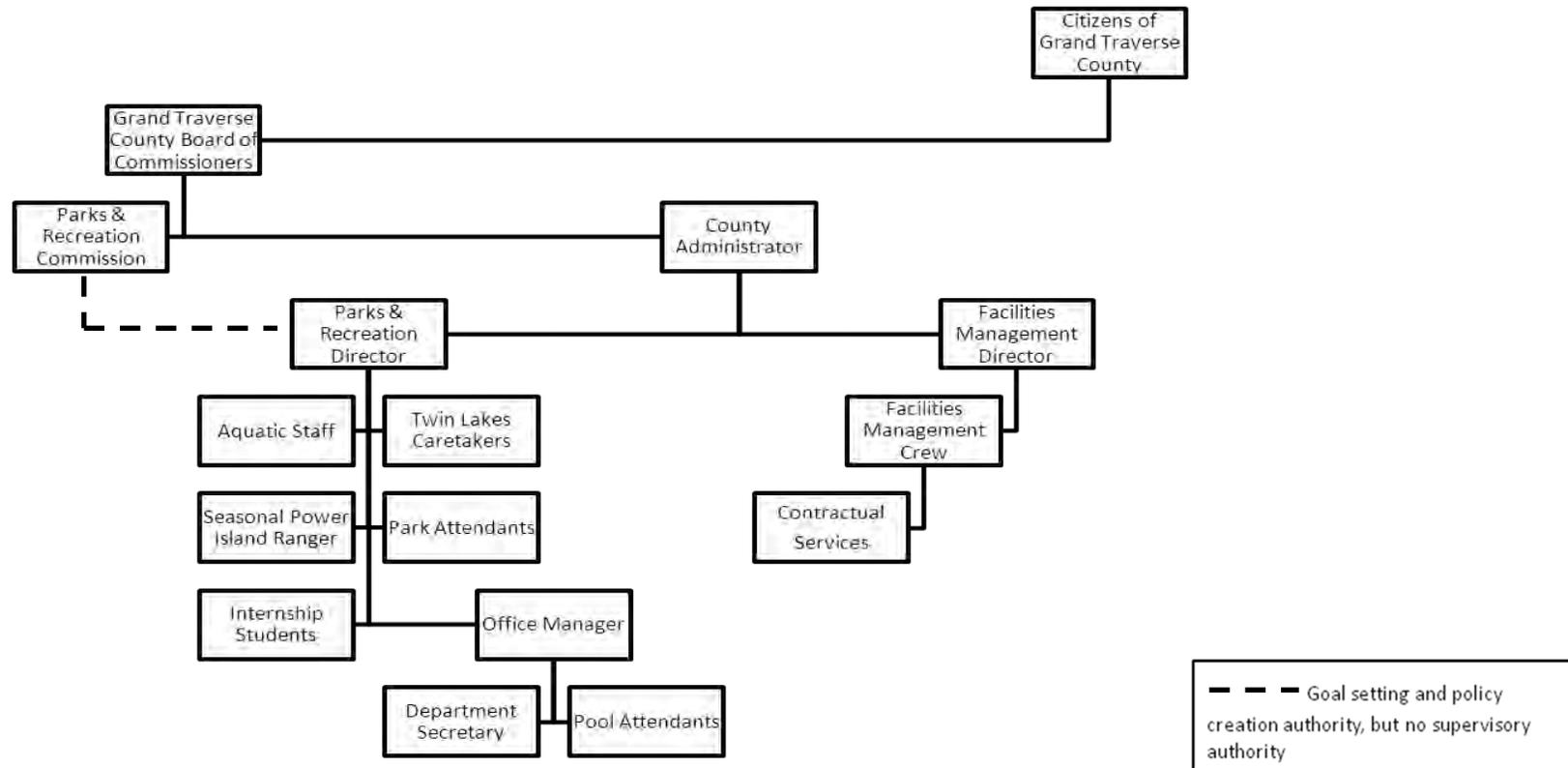
Recreation Strategic Plan, as well as the 2013-2018 Community Park, Recreation, Open space and Greenway Plan. The administrative office is located in the County's Civic Center Building. The department personnel practices are supervised and implemented by the County's Human Resource Department and under its master union contract where applicable.

### Facilities Department

The Director of Facilities Management is charged with overseeing the County's Facility Management Department, a separate department from Parks and Recreation, which is responsible for the maintenance duties for all of the County's facilities, including Parks and Recreation. The Facilities Management Department provides a full line of skilled employees such as electricians, mechanical, plumbing, carpenters, masons, grounds keepers, and custodial services for the Parks and Recreation Department. In addition to these employees, the County had a good working relationship with the Michigan Department of Corrections, which provides a crew of prisoners on a daily basis to assist with maintaining park properties and facilities. The Facilities Management Director works in conjunction with the Director of Parks and Recreation, and is supervised by the County Administrator.



## Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Organizational Chart



*Figure 1*

The figure of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Organizational Chart shows the relationships between the departments and the hierarchical order of effective communications within the Parks and Recreation Department of Grand Traverse.

## Relationships and Collaborations with other Agencies

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

The following chapter (3) outlines the County Parks and Recreation Inventory; a significant number of the park sites within Grand Traverse County are maintained or managed by the State of Michigan, Grand Traverse County, Traverse City, various Townships, the Public School Systems, and the villages of Kingsley and Fife Lake. Grand Traverse County itself provides recreational opportunities at its eleven county parks. Each of the County Park facilities were evaluated as part of this planning process and the evaluations are presented in Chapter three.



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

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

Grand Traverse County also collaborates with the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, the Grand Traverse Conservation District, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (Northwest Michigan Conservation Resource Alliance). The federal government has shown support for the provision of recreation opportunities within the County. All three of the above mentioned agencies have proven to be instrumental factors

in the past purchases of County Park lands. Maple Bay Park is an example of a land purchase that was made possible through contributions from the three agencies.

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

-65,785 acres of land

-156 inland lakes

-19,162 collective surface acres of inland water based recreation and public access points

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

Interlochen State Park, Michigan



Interlochen State Park, Michigan



## Partners, Collaborators, and Relationships

The local school systems, Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS), and the Traverse Bay Intermediate School District (TBAISD) offers a limited number of recreational opportunities providing access to indoor and outdoor facilities to both city and county parks and recreation departments and other community organizations such as the YMCA and churches. In particular, the extensive TCAPS has eighteen elementary, two junior high, and two senior high schools located throughout the county. Each of these properties has its own individual indoor and outdoor recreational facilities which are widely used through school recreation and sport programs. The school system is dependent on the County for some recreation facilities; specifically the Easling Pool and Howe Arena located at the Civic Center. As the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department has evolved, our partnerships with TCAPS have become more reciprocal, working on larger endeavors such as fighting childhood obesity, and developing recreational opportunities within schools.

Nonprofit volunteer organizations are active in providing parks and recreation services in the County and through them, most of the recreational programs are provided to residents and visitors of the County. Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation operate much as a landlord with acres of property, and the many volunteer organizations act as

tenants using these park lands to provide the recreational programs to the residents. The volunteer effort greatly enhances the abilities of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and helps keep the County General Fund tax dollars needed by the Department to a minimum. Some of our key long-term partners include:

**Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS)** – TBAYS provides the lion’s share of the youth soccer opportunities within our County. There is a management agreement in place for the Keystone Soccer Complex that allows TBAYS to manage the property on behalf of the County. This agreement will expire in March, 2020.

**Interested Citizens Enterprises (ICE)** – Grand Traverse has an agreement in place with ICE to manage Howe Arena August-March of each year. During this time ICE installs ice within Howe Arena and manages all youth, adult, and community ice skating and hockey programs. This agreement will expire in August, 2019.

## Grand Traverse Conservation District (GTCD) – GTCD



manages the Nature Education Reserve on behalf of Grand Traverse County. In 2008, the Conservation District built the Boardman River Nature Center to anchor the recreational

programs, and house the staff of the Conservation District within the Natural Education Reserve. The agreement with the GTCD is a three year agreement that will currently expire on December 31, 2013.

GTPR has several relationships with private, non-profit, and public organizations to operate parks and recreation opportunities to a lesser extent than those listed above. Related to our previous landlord style management, we provide services to several organizations, including, but not limited to:

- American Legion Bowen-Holliday Post 35 (Baseball)
- Traverse City Swim Club (Breakers)
- Traverse City Area Public Schools
- Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District
- Grand Traverse Bay YMCA
- Grand Traverse Rugby Club
- North American VASA
- Bayside Travelers
- Traverse City Roller Derby
- Michigan Association of Recreational Vehicles and Campgrounds (MARVAC)
- Blue Water Promotions



## The Parks and Recreation Network

While Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation has worked within several partners to ensure Parks and Recreation Services are provided to our Community, in 2011 there was a need for our department to be a founding member of our Parks and Recreation Network (PRN). The PRN is a network made up of the local organizations (Local Units of Government, Non-Profit, For-Profit, and Volunteer) that provide parks and recreation services to our citizens. The Mission of the PRN 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 following organizations comprise the Parks and Recreation Network:

Botanic Garden Society of Northwest Michigan

Camp Hayo-Went-Ha

Camp Leelanau/Kohana

Centre ICE

Cherry Capital Cycling Club

City of Traverse City Parks and Recreation

East Bay Township

Garfield Township

Garfield Township/City of Traverse City Parks and Rec. Authority

Grand Traverse Health Department

Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore

Grand Traverse Conservation District

Grand Traverse Parks and Recreation Department

Grand Traverse Hiking Club

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

Land Information Access Association

National Cherry Festival

Natural Education Reserve

Northern Michigan Mountain Biking Association

NorthSky Nonprofit Network

Old Town Playhouse

Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails (TART)

Traverse City Area Public Schools

Traverse Area Community Sailing

Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer

Traverse Bay Underwater Preserve

Traverse City Little League

Traverse City Roller Derby

Traverse City Rugby Club

Traverse City Senior Center

Traverse City Ski Club

Traverse City Breakers Swim Club

Traverse City Track Club

Grand Traverse Bay YMCA



## Budget Analysis

The Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners is ultimately responsible for the overall supervision and budgetary support of the Parks and Recreation Department. Accounting for the department is provided by the County's Financial Services Department. Figure 2 shows a five year budget for the Parks and Recreation Department in an effort to show the trend of decreased allocation from the General Fund to the Parks and Recreation Department. As mentioned earlier, the Facilities Management department is responsible for the parks maintenance and a portion of the Capital Improvements. Figure 2 shows the 2013 budget for parks maintenance per park.

<b>Parks and Recreation Department Budget Summary</b>							
Revenues	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Budgeted	
<b>Parks and Recreation Commission</b>							
General Fund Contribution	\$ 450,718.00	\$ 333,901.00	\$ 271,121.00	\$ 220,636.00	\$ 170,636.00	\$ 170,636.00	
Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ 77,318.00	\$ 104,953.00	\$ 83,512.00	\$ 100,536.00	\$ 67,718.00	
Other Revenue	\$ 1,120.00	\$ -	\$ 211.75	\$ 2,189.00	\$ 5,525.00	\$ -	
Civic Center (User Fees)	\$ 54,932.81	\$ 40,277.02	\$ 36,821.03	\$ 39,880.91	\$ 47,548.57	\$ 37,000.00	
Easling Pool (User Fees)	\$ 234,327.67	\$ 187,920.30	\$ 287,881.32	\$ 252,393.00	\$ 259,664.54	\$ 296,237.00	
Power Island (User Fees)	\$ 4,508.65	\$ 5,066.03	\$ 5,073.87	\$ 6,426.98	\$ 5,815.08	\$ 13,000.00	
Nature Education Reserve (User Fees)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Twin Lakes (User Fees)	\$ 67,760.00	\$ 32,456.50	\$ 48,012.25	\$ 41,469.00	\$ 39,310.00	\$ 46,314.00	
Howe Arena (User Fees)	\$ 39,959.50	\$ 43,813.25	\$ 45,022.75	\$ 54,797.00	\$ 57,205.00	\$ 46,800.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 853,326.63</b>	<b>\$ 720,752.10</b>	<b>\$ 799,096.97</b>	<b>\$ 701,303.89</b>	<b>\$ 686,240.19</b>	<b>\$ 677,705.00</b>	
<b>Expenditures (Parks Operation, Programming and Limited Capital Improvments)</b>							
Parks and Recreation Commission	\$ 25,609.29	\$ 27,082.53	\$ 39,257.12	\$ 43,347.91	\$ 43,327.15	\$ 50,431.00	
Civic Center	\$ 133,289.59	\$ 138,739.50	\$ 96,654.04	\$ 93,946.13	\$ 100,542.05	\$ 111,113.00	
Easling Pool	\$ 330,909.43	\$ 346,317.52	\$ 358,333.11	\$ 331,170.77	\$ 293,704.90	\$ 341,956.00	
Power Island	\$ 22,816.85	\$ 24,334.77	\$ 24,315.75	\$ 30,295.05	\$ 43,797.42	\$ 33,313.00	
Nature Education Reserve	\$ 59,062.28	\$ 59,037.56	\$ 56,081.25	\$ 57,310.72	\$ 56,052.76	\$ 60,747.00	
Twin Lakes	\$ 71,761.13	\$ 69,055.57	\$ 87,093.00	\$ 91,052.08	\$ 72,989.95	\$ 69,982.00	
Howe Arena	\$ 37,706.67	\$ 32,963.03	\$ 21,870.22	\$ 16,471.52	\$ 15,582.32	\$ 19,199.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 681,155.24</b>	<b>\$ 697,530.48</b>	<b>\$ 683,604.49</b>	<b>\$ 663,594.18</b>	<b>\$ 625,996.55</b>	<b>\$ 686,741.00</b>	
<b>Expenditures (Parks Maintenance and Limited Capital Improvments)</b>							
Civic Center						\$ 111,800.00	
Maple Bay						\$ 1,100.00	
Easling Pool						\$ 58,000.00	
Power Island						\$ 1,600.00	
Nature Education Reserve						\$ 12,100.00	
Twin Lakes						\$ 30,200.00	
Bartlett (VASA Trailhead) Park						\$ 3,750.00	
Howe Arena						\$ 84,500.00	
Medalie						\$ 2,650.00	
TART Trail						\$ 5,000.00	
<b>Total</b>						<b>\$ 310,700.00</b>	

Figure 2 (above) shows the Parks and Recreation Department's budget from the fiscal year of 2008 through the budgeted year of 2013. Shown are the revenue and expenditure summaries for each activity within the Parks and Recreation Fund with over \$500.00 in activity.



# Recreation Inventory

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*2013-18 Grand Traverse County  
Parks and Recreation Plan*

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# County Facilities

## Civic Center Grounds

The 45 acre Civic Center attracts over 1 million visitors per year. There is something for everyone to enjoy at the Civic Center. It is a multi-use facility that offers swimming at the indoor Easling Pool, many shows and interesting exhibits in Howe Arena during the spring and summer, children can play endlessly at Kids Kove, skateboarders and bike enthusiast may enjoy the skate park, baseball and softball is played all summer long at the ball diamonds, hockey and ice skating are enjoyed at Howe Arena in the winter months.

The Civic Center is located within the city limits of Traverse City where it occupies 45 acres of land. The property first served as the County's fairgrounds when it was purchased by Grand Traverse County in 1912. The value of the property was recognized after 60 years of fairground service and the County Board of Commissioners decided to move the fairgrounds to another location and to start rebuilding the Civic Center into what it is today.

In 2012, a Civic Center Master Plan was adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The plan in its entirety is in Appendix A.



Civic Center-Fields



Civic Center Kids Kove



Civic Center-Basketball Courts

**PARK NAME: CIVIC CENTER**

**45 Acres**

**PARK ADDRESS: 1213 West Civic Center Drive**

**PARK PURCHASE/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT: 1973-1975, Fairgrounds changed to Civic Center**

**FACILITIES AND USE OF THE PARK: Athletic fields-multiple uses, one mile long walking path, destination playground, skate park, basketball courts, picnic shelter, wooded area for outdoor shows**

**CAPITAL RENOVATION HISTORY & DATES: 1980-Bubble built, 1989-Howe Arena built, 1994-Replace ball field fencing, 1996-Kids Kove parking, Basketball courts built, 1998-Bridge path for walking rebuilt, 1999-Parking lot expanded & rebuilt, 2000-Skate park built.**

**DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: January 2013**                      Revisit Needed: **Yes**

**INSPECTOR: Jason Jones**

PRIMARY FACILITIES	CONDITION
<b>PARKING LOTS:</b> Same parking area as noted on pool and arena evaluations	5
<b>ROADS:</b> Maintenance room access road	4
<b>PICNIC SHELTERS:</b> Existing shelter:	5
Kids Kove Shelter:	6
<b>PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES:</b> Old playground:	4
Kid's Kove:	3
<b>TRAILS/WALKWAYS:</b> Pathways:	5
Pathway bridge:	3
<b>RESTROOM(S):</b>	4
<b>STORAGE SPACE:</b>	2
<b>MAINTENANCE FACILITY:</b>	5
<b>OPEN SPACE/ATHLETIC FIELDS:</b>	5
<b>PERIMETER FENCING:</b>	5
<b>BASKETBALL COURTS:</b>	4
<b>GENERAL BEAUTIFICATION/LANDSCAPING:</b>	3
<b>AMPHITHEATER:</b>	2



Civic Center-Baseball Fields



Civic Center Kids Kove

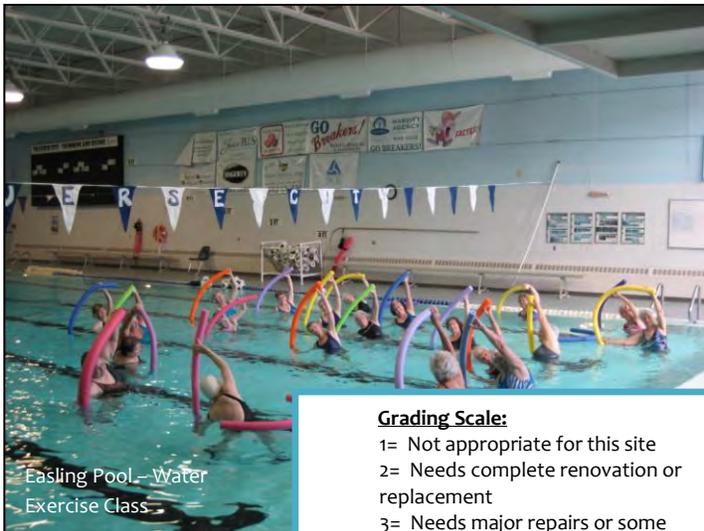
**Grading Scale:**

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

# Easling Pool

Easling Pool is the only public pool in Grand Traverse County and the surrounding area. The pool is a 6 lane, 25 yard, "L" shaped pool with a 18' x 25' shallow teaching area and a dry sauna on deck.

Easling Pool is also home to the "Breakers" a private swim club for the 6 year to 18 year old swimmers as well as our excellent high school women's swim team at Traverse City West and Traverse City Central High Schools. In addition to the various public swim opportunities, swim lessons are offered year round and taught to ages as young as eighteen months up to adults of all abilities along with our very own water aerobics program. We also host and instruct private lessons with the public as well as our local Intermediate School District.



Easling Pool – Water Exercise Class

**Grading Scale:**

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

<b>PARK NAME: EASLING POOL</b>	
<b>20,118 sq. ft including all support facilities</b>	
<b>PARK ADDRESS:</b> 1213 West Civic Center Drive	
<b>PARK PURCHASE/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT:</b> 1970	
<b>FACILITIES AND USE OF THE PARK:</b> 25 Yard, six lane pool	
<b>CAPITAL RENOVATION HISTORY &amp; DATES:</b> 1989-Lockerrooms remodeled, 1991-Plumbing remodeled, 1991- Pool air circulation system installed, 2000-Locker room air handlers installed, 2012- Limited plumbing replacement, 2011 – Wireless Internet	
<b>DATE OF LAST INSPECTION:</b> January 2013	<b>REVISIT NEEDED:</b> Yes
<b>INSPECTOR:</b> Jason Jones	
<b>PRIMARY FACILITIES</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
<b>PARKING LOTS:</b> Same as area as noted on Grounds & Arena evaluation	5
<b>ROADS:</b> Maintenance room access road	4
<b>PICNIC SHELTERS:</b>	1
<b>PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES:</b>	1
<b>TRAILS/WALKWAYS:</b>	1
<b>RESTROOM(S):</b>	4
<b>STORAGE SPACE:</b>	6
<b>MAINTENANCE FACILITY:</b>	4
<b>MECHANICAL/ EQUIPMENT ROOM:</b>	3
<b>CHEMICAL ROOM:</b>	5
<b>LOCKER ROOMS:</b>	4
<b>POOL DECK:</b>	4
<b>ENTRANCE DOORS (A.D.A.)</b>	5

**PARK NAME: HOWE ARENA**

25,000 sq. ft.

**PARK ADDRESS:** 1213 West Civic Center Drive**PARK PURCHASE/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT:** 1989-Constructed**FACILITIES AND USE OF THE PARK:** Ice skating rink and dry land exhibition hall**CAPITAL RENOVATION HISTORY & DATES:** 1991-Air conditioning installed, 1994-Dehumidification installed, 2001-Replaced front doors (ADA), 2011 - Wireless Internet**DATE OF LAST INSPECTION:** January 2013**REVISIT NEEDED:** Yes**INSPECTOR:** Jason Jones

PRIMARY FACILITIES	CONDITION
<b>PARKING LOTS:</b> Same parking area as noted on Grounds evaluation	5
<b>ROADS:</b> Maintenance room access road	4
<b>PICNIC SHELTERS:</b>	1
<b>PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES:</b>	1
<b>TRAILS/WALKWAYS:</b>	1
<b>RESTROOM(S):</b>	4
<b>STORAGE SPACE:</b>	6
<b>MAINTENANCE FACILITY/CUSTODIAL ROOM:</b>	5
<b>LOCKER/SHOWER ROOMS:</b>	4
<b>LIGHTING:</b>	5
<b>BLEACHERS</b>	2
<b>ENTERANCE DOOR (ADA):</b>	5
<b>COMMUNITY/MEETING ROOM:</b>	4

## Howe Arena

Howe Arena is a 25,000 square foot building which is a multiple use facility within the Civic Center Property and attached to Easling Pool. From March to September the arena is utilized as an exhibition hall to host a variety of expos and events. The arena becomes an ice rink during the months of September to March. This is managed and operated by Centre I.C.E.; ice skating and hockey opportunities are available to the public.

Some of the events that are annually held at Howe Arena consist of a Hunting and Fishing Expo, an R.V. and Camper Show, a Boat Show, a Cottage and Lakefront Living Expo, and a Women's Expo. Howe is the home venue for our high school hockey teams, Traverse City Roller Derby, and the City/County Daycamp. Howe Arena is often the host to many charitable organizations that typically kick-off various walk-a-thons at the Arena, including the March of Dimes, Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society.



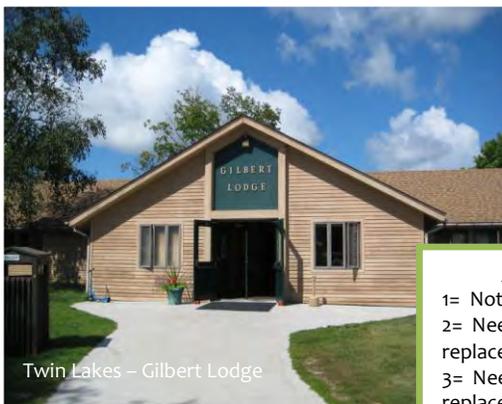
Howe Arena – Dog Show

**Grading Scale:**

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

# Twin Lakes Camp

Twin Lakes host a variety of events such as wedding receptions, church retreats, graduation parties, business meetings, scouting activities, dances, etc. During the summer months, weekly camps, such as soccer camps, church day camps, dance groups, and 4-H youth camps rent the facility. Twin Lakes Camp holds a wide variety facilities and activities to meet the needs of any type of group. The 3,000 square feet within Gilbert Lodge are capable of holding 200 people, with enough seating available for 100 people. The Lodge also has a kitchen that can be rented out for events.



Twin Lakes – Gilbert Lodge

**Grading Scale:**

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

<b>PARK NAME: Twin Lakes Camp</b>	
<b>175 Acres</b>	
<b>Gilbert Lodge: 3,000 sq. ft., Dorm: 6,000 sq. ft.</b>	
<b>PARK ADDRESS: 6800 North Long Lake Road</b>	
<b>PARK PURCHASE/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT: 1940-Land donated to County, 1944-Lodge built, 1980-Dorm built</b>	
<b>FACILITIES AND USE OF THE PARK: Residential camp servicing user groups at functions such as weeklong camps, weekend retreats, training seminars, dinner meeting, etc.</b>	
<b>CAPITAL RENOVATION HISTORY &amp; DATES: 1987-Lodge remodeled, 1992-Ballfields constructed, 2000-New dock system installed, 2001-Walking trails developed, 2002-Dorm/Lodge fire alarms system installed, 2009- Universally accessible waterfront/play area (4.75 acres)</b>	
<b>DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: January 2013</b>	<b>REVISIT NEEDED: Yes</b>
<b>INSPECTOR: Jason Jones</b>	
<b>PRIMARY FACILITIES</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
<b>PARKING LOTS:</b>	5
<b>ROADS:</b>	5
<b>PICNIC SHELTERS:</b>	5
<b>PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES:</b>	5
<b>TRAILS/WALKWAYS:</b>	4
<b>RESTROOM(S):</b>	5
<b>STORAGE SPACE:</b>	5
<b>MAINTENANCE FACILITY:</b>	4
<b>WATERFRONT/SWIM AREA:</b>	4
<b>BOATING AREA</b>	6
<b>PLAYING FIELDS:</b>	5

## Power and Bassett Island

Power Island is a 202 acre property located in the west arm of Grand Traverse Bay. It is approximately 6 miles north of Downtown Traverse City, and 1 mile from the nearest public launch site at Bowers Harbor (located to the Northeast of the Island).



Power Island – Bassett Island

The islands in this area are unique to the County's park system. Power Island is located approximately one mile west of Old Mission Peninsula within Peninsula Township. The island is visible and provides a scenic backdrop when looking north from Traverse City. Power Island boasts over 5 miles of hiking trails and several picnic tables for guests to enjoy. The islands are undeveloped natural areas; homes to a wide variety of wild plants and animals. In 2013, the Park Ranger will begin a fee based ferry service to and from the island.

### Grading Scale:

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

<b>PARK NAME: POWER AND BASSETT ISLANDS</b>	
<b>202 Acres</b>	
<b>PARK ADDRESS: West Grand Traverse Bay</b>	
<b>PARK PURCHASE/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT: 1975</b>	
<b>FACILITIES AND USE OF THE PARK: Nature Preserve, Picnic sites, Campground, Public Beach</b>	
<b>CAPITAL RENOVATION HISTORY &amp; DATES: 2000-Dock, Trail, Restroom renovations, ADA cart purchase, 2012 – Infiltration Septic System Installed</b>	
<b>DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: July 2012</b>	<b>REVISIT NEEDED: Yes</b>
<b>INSPECTOR: Jason Jones</b>	
<b>PRIMARY FACILITIES</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
<b>PARKING LOTS:</b>	1
<b>ROADS:</b>	1
<b>PICNIC SHELTERS:</b>	3
<b>PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES:</b>	1
<b>TRAILS/WALKWAYS:</b>	4
<b>RESTROOM(S):</b>	5
<b>STORAGE SPACE:</b>	5
<b>MAINTENANCE FACILITY:</b>	1
<b>DOCK:</b>	5
<b>BASSETT ISLAND CAMPGROUND:</b>	3
<b>SIGNAGE:</b>	4
<b>RESIDENCE/CABIN:</b>	5
<b>BOAT:</b>	4
<b>ADA ACCESSIBLE CART:</b>	5

Located just off Power Island (connected via isthmus) is a two acre site named Bassett Island. There are four primitive campsites located on Bassett Island. Each site has its own picnic table, cooking grill, and campfire circle. There are maintained restroom privies servicing the Island. However, the nearest source of potable water to Bassett Island is a hand pump that is located over one mile from the campsites.



Power Island Beach



Power Island Boat Dock

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



Power Island Park Ranger Station

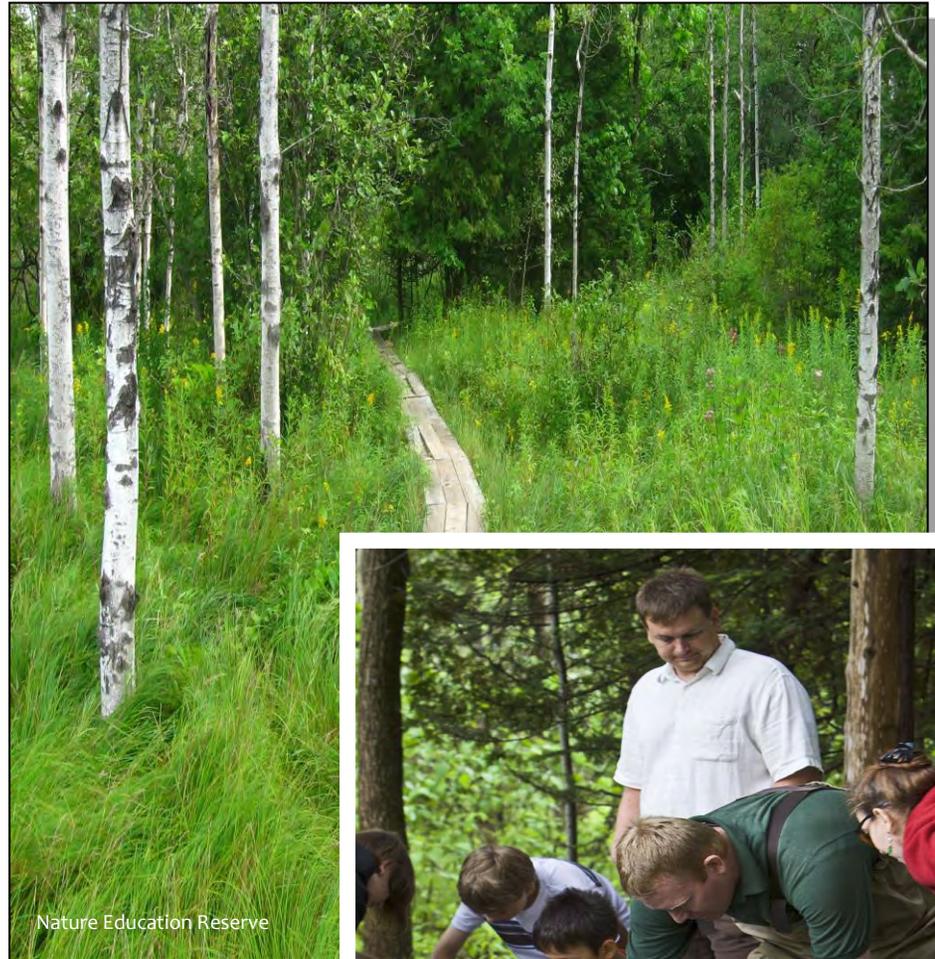


Power Island Beach





In August of 2008, the Grand Traverse Conservation District opened the Boardman River Nature Center on the Reserve, located at the Sabin Dam trailhead. Created as a way to help foster the exploration, appreciation and conservation of the natural world, the Boardman River Nature Center features an exhibit gallery with interactive activities for families. Attached are the District offices, which house 15-20 staff. There is also a classroom space and multiuse community room/rental space with a full kitchen. Outside there are native plant gardens, a demonstration wetland and a multiuse pavilion/outdoor classroom with attached restrooms. A popular canoe/kayak launch and fly fishing area are located 100 yards away on the Boardman River. The center offers an ideal access point to 7 miles of hiking trails within the 420-acre Natural Education Reserve and the adjacent Boardman Valley Nature Preserve.



The Nature Education Reserve was dedicated on July 4, 1976 as a “natural environment classroom for area youth”.

## Beitner Park

The 5-acre Beitner Park is located on the southernmost edge of the Natural Education Reserve. The 5 mile of trails located within the Reserve (NER). Approximately 1 ½ miles of riverside hiking trails are accessible from the parking area on the west side of Beitner Road. The park includes several picnic areas as well as restroom facilities. Beitner Park is heavily used as a boat launch and takeout for canoes, kayaks and inner tubes.



Beitner Park



Beitner Park – Kayak and Canoe Launch

For inexperienced users, the Park serves as an exit off the River to avoid the Keystone Rapids located downstream. More experienced users run the Rapids from Beitner Park to the Lone Pine take out located within the NER.

<b>PARK NAME: BEITNER PARK</b>	
<b>10 Acres</b>	
<b>PARK ADDRESS: Boardman River &amp; Keystone Road</b>	
<b>PARK PURCHASE/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT: From Road Commission 1990</b>	
<b>FACILITIES AND USE OF THE PARK: On the north side of Keystone Rd., parking area and canoe launch. On south side of Keystone Rd., picnic sites</b>	
<b>CAPITAL RENOVATION HISTORY &amp; DATES: 1995-Paved parking area, 1999-Canoe launch built</b>	
<b>DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: January 2013</b>	<b>REVISIT NEEDED: Yes</b>
<b>INSPECTOR: Jason Jones</b>	
<b>PRIMARY FACILITIES</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
<b>PARKING LOTS:</b>	
North:	4
South	5
<b>ROADS:</b>	1
<b>PICNIC SHELTERS:</b>	6
<b>PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES:</b>	1
<b>TRAILS/WALKWAYS:</b>	5
<b>RESTROOM(S):</b>	6
<b>STORAGE SPACE:</b>	1
<b>MAINTENANCE FACILITY:</b>	1
<b>DOCKS ALONG RIVER:</b>	5

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- 6= Develop

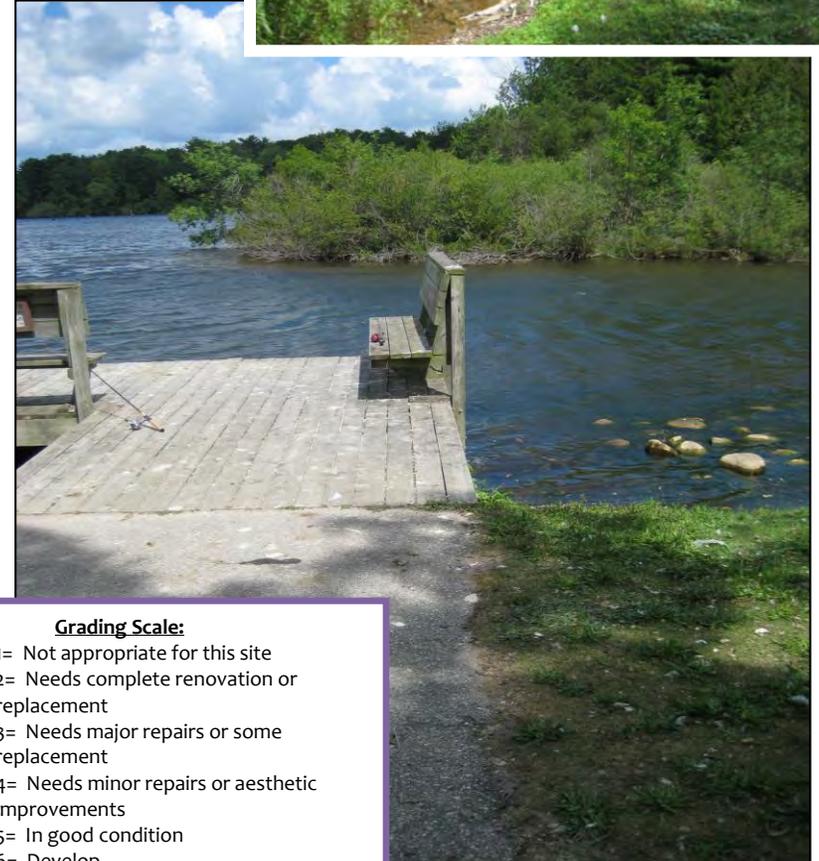
# Medalie Park

Medalie Park is a 15 acre park located on the south side of Boardman Lake. The park has a 50 person picnic shelter, indoor restrooms, 1,000 feet of paved walking path, three overlooks/fishing platforms along the Boardman River, and one canoe launch site accessing Boardman River/Boardman Lake. The major use of Medalie Park is as a passive recreation site where people can drop by to enjoy the open space and hold picnics.

“Parks enhance the overall "quality of people's lives," and contribute to greater civic pride. Parks can be the distinguishing factor that builds community and regional identity”. –Illinois State Librarv Periodicals Online



<b>PARK NAME: MEDALIE PARK</b>	
11 acres	
<b>PARK ADDRESS: Along South Airport Rd. at Logan's Landing</b>	
<b>PARK PURCHASE/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT: 1990-Aquired from the Road Commission</b>	
<b>FACILITIES AND USE OF THE PARK: Roadside park with picnic shelter and modern restrooms, paved walking trail, wooden overlooks to the Boardman River</b>	
<b>CAPITAL RENOVATION HISTORY &amp; DATES: 1992-Major development to the above items</b>	
<b>DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: January 2013</b>	<b>REVISIT NEEDED: Yes</b>
<b>INSPECTOR: Jason Jones</b>	
<b>PRIMARY FACILITIES</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
<b>PARKING LOTS:</b>	5
<b>ROADS:</b>	4
<b>PICNIC SHELTERS:</b>	4
<b>PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES:</b>	1
<b>TRAILS/WALKWAYS:</b>	5
<b>RESTROOM(S):</b>	5
<b>STORAGE SPACE:</b>	1
<b>MAINTENANCE FACILITY:</b>	1
<b>OVERLOOKS:</b>	1



**Grading Scale:**  
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 3= Needs major repairs or some replacement  
 4= Needs minor repairs or aesthetic improvements  
 5= In good condition  
 6= Develop

## Keystone Soccer Complex and Birmley Property

The Keystone Soccer Complex is a 77 acre parcel with 15 soccer fields and is home to over 3,000 soccer enthusiasts in the Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS) organization. Due east of the soccer complex is a 40 acre plot comprised of a wooded hillside. This is to remain in its natural state.

North of the Soccer Complex is the Birmley Property. This 28 acre undeveloped property is located at the corner of Birmley and Keystone Roads. This property is under lease option with the Traverse City Little League to be developed into a baseball/softball complex. The lease option expires in 2013.



Keystone Soccer Fields

Summer of 2012 a youth impact study conducted by Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce and Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer

**“Total direct spending by (non-local) tournament attendees in the region was \$3.4 million, an average of \$985 per attendee family”**



### Grading Scale:

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

### PARK NAME: KEYSTONE SOCCER COMPLEX AND BIRMLEY RD. PROPERTY

77 acres

**PARK ADDRESS:** Keystone Road

**PARK PURCHASE/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT:** 1996

**FACILITIES AND USE OF THE PARK:** Soccer fields

**CAPITAL RENOVATION HISTORY & DATES:** 1996-1998 Developed 8 soccer field, parking area, & roads

**DATE OF LAST INSPECTION:** January 2013

**REVISIT NEEDED:** Yes

**INSPECTOR:** Jason Jones

**PRIMARY FACILITIES**

**CONDITION**

**PARKING LOTS:**

5

**ROADS:**

5

**PICNIC SHELTERS:**

5

**PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES:**

5

**TRAILS/WALKWAYS:**

6

**RESTROOM(S):**

5

**STORAGE SPACE:**

5

**MAINTENANCE FACILITY:**

5

**SOCCER FIELDS:**

5

## Meyer Property

The Meyer Property was purchased in 2002 as part of the several acquisitions that evolved into the Keystone Soccer Complex and Birmley Property.

The Meyer Property is a 15 acre farm located on the west side of Keystone Rd, across from the soccer complex and adjacent to the Nature Education Reserve. The property is a former farm, and has five barns, and one farmhouse. Over the past few years the farmhouse has been renovated to provide for future use as an intern house for both County and partner organizations.



When the Meyer Property was acquired by Grand Traverse County, all of the contents were acquired as well. These contents include vehicles of various ages and conditions, tractors, minor farm implements and several antiques.

### Grading Scale:

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

### PARK NAME: MEYER PROPERTY

15 acres

**PARK ADDRESS:** 1091 Keystone Road

**PARK PURCHASE/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT:** 2002

**FACILITIES AND USE OF THE PARK:** Natural Area

**CAPITAL RENOVATION HISTORY & DATES:** 2002 – Acquired, 2008 – Minor home renovations, 2012 – Asbestos removal, home renovations

**DATE OF LAST INSPECTION:** January 2013

**REVISIT NEEDED:** Yes

**INSPECTOR:** Jason Jones

### PRIMARY FACILITIES

### CONDITION

**PARKING LOTS:**

5

**DRIVEWAY:**

5

**PICNIC SHELTERS:**

6

**PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES:**

1

**TRAILS/WALKWAYS:**

6

**RESTROOM(S):**

6

**STORAGE SPACE:**

5

**MAINTENANCE FACILITY:**

5

**SOCCER FIELDS:**

5

## Maple Bay Park

The Maple Bay property has been an iconic part of the agricultural heritage of the County and a portion of the site remains viable for farming purposes. But other parts of the site offer unique recreational and preservation opportunities and one of the challenges for the Master Plan is to identify an appropriate mix of uses for this valuable resource.

Maple Bay has a tremendously diverse landscape with significant natural and scenic resources including: 2,583 feet of Great Lakes shoreline, sand dunes, and wetlands. These areas have even been known to provide the habitat for a number of rare and endangered species. There are no remaining undeveloped private parcels of land in the Grand Traverse region with its characteristics and size. From the pristine shoreline on the west, the property extends one mile east to the Petobego Mash and State Game Area. The Maple Bay Park development plan is critical to maintain wildlife habitats, provide hunting and fishing opportunities, and for protecting the integrity of the regionally important coastal wetlands, not only on this property but also on adjacent state lands throughout the Petobego watershed.



Highway US-31 splits the property into two distinct portions. The western portion includes the pristine lakeshore/coastal area with sand and cobble beach, open dunes, and undisturbed forested dune-swale complex. The areas are scattered with white pine, red pine, juniper, small-bush blueberry, and dune grass. The diverse coastal zone is home to several Michigan and federally threatened and endangered plant species, such as Pitcher's Thistle, Lake Huron Tansy, and Clustered Brome Rape. Several biologists have indicated that the site's high quality could provide nesting habitat for the endangered Piping Plover. The forested dunes include native species such as white pine, hemlock, maple, beach, red oak, white ash, and balsam fir. The inter-dunal swales are wetlands which include Northern white cedar, paper birch, red maple, sedges, March marigold, dogwood, and irises. The dense lowland conifer habitat in the Eastern and Northern portion of the property is recognized by the DNR as providing important winter thermal cover for white-tailed deer, which are abundant on the property and throughout the Petobego watershed corridor. The proximity of the upland deciduous forest to the wetland areas suggests that there is habitat for the state threatened Red-shouldered Hawk. Bald eagles have nested in the Petobego watershed in the past and breeding pairs nearby continue to utilize the area for feeding throughout the year.

East of US-31, the property includes agricultural lands and a stream corridor resulting from springs that flow eastward into the Petobego Marsh through a wetland corridor. This area is a critical link in the wildlife corridor extending from East Grand Traverse Bay inland to the Petobego watershed, and is extremely important for the incredible diversity of wildlife in the area. By owning this property, Grand Traverse County is protecting the site from water quality diminution, loss of hunting opportunities, fragmentation, and erosion while enhancing the State's investment in the Petobego State Game Area.

Maple Bay Park is open to the public for recreational activities which include swimming, kayaking and canoeing, hiking, hunting, wildlife observation, and nature education. Primary goals are to preserve the natural features of the property, provide public access to Grand Traverse Bay, maintain and enhance the value of the property for the wildlife of the Petobego watershed corridor, encourage environmental education on the property, and provide additional opportunities for hunting.

Maple Bay has a Master Plan that was developed in 2008, it is included as appendix B.

<p><b>Grading Scale:</b>          1= Not appropriate for this site          2= Needs complete renovation or replacement          3= Needs major repairs or some replacement          4= Needs minor repairs or aesthetic improvements          5= In good condition          6= Develop</p>
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<b>PARK NAME: MAPLE BAY</b>	
400 acres, Pole Barn: 4200 sq. ft.	
<b>PARK ADDRESS: 10849 U.S. 31 North</b>	
<b>PARK PURCHASE/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT: Purchased May 2002, Pole Barn enclosed November 2002</b>	
<b>FACILITIES AND USE OF THE PARK: Nature area, open space, 2500 ft. frontage on East Grand Traverse Bay, trail network, hunting opportunities</b>	
<b>CAPITAL RENOVATION HISTORY &amp; DATES:</b>	
<b>DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: January 2013</b>	<b>REVISIT NEEDED: Yes</b>
<b>INSPECTOR: Jason Jones</b>	
<b>PRIMARY FACILITIES</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
<b>PARKING LOTS:</b>	5
<b>ROADS:</b>	4
<b>PICNIC SHELTERS:</b>	6
<b>PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES:</b>	1
<b>TRAILS/WALKWAYS:</b>	6
<b>RESTROOM(S):</b>	6
<b>STORAGE SPACE:</b>	5
<b>MAINTENANCE FACILITY:</b>	5
<b>MASTER PLAN FOR PROPERTY:</b>	5

## VASA Trailhead

The VASA Pathway offers 34 kilometers of non-motorized trail located within the Pere Marquette State Forest. Grand Traverse County owns approximately 40 acres at the Trail Head with a parking lot, restroom facilities and warming area. The trailhead for the Vasa trail is located along Bartlett Road in Acme Township. Grand Traverse County purchased 64 acres known as the “Bartlett Road Property” at the corner of Bunker Hill and Bartlett Roads. The property has never been developed and is used as open space. The property is tied to the Vasa trailhead by a 150 ft wide by 1,000 ft long public easement over private property.

### PARK NAME: VASA TRAILHEAD

40 acres, Warming House: 1,384 sq. ft.

PARK ADDRESS: Bartlett Road / Acme Township

PARK PURCHASE/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT: 1991-Transfer from State to County

FACILITIES AND USE OF THE PARK: Trail Head for Vasa Trail Network

CAPITAL RENOVATION HISTORY & DATES: 1991-Built parking lot, restroom building, 1998-Added on the restroom building - creating a warming room

DATE OF LAST INSPECTION: January 2013

REVISIT NEEDED: Yes

INSPECTOR: Jason Jones

### PRIMARY FACILITIES

### CONDITION

PARKING LOTS:

4

ROADS:

5

PICNIC SHELTERS:

6

PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES:

6

TRAILS/WALKWAYS:

5

RESTROOM(S):

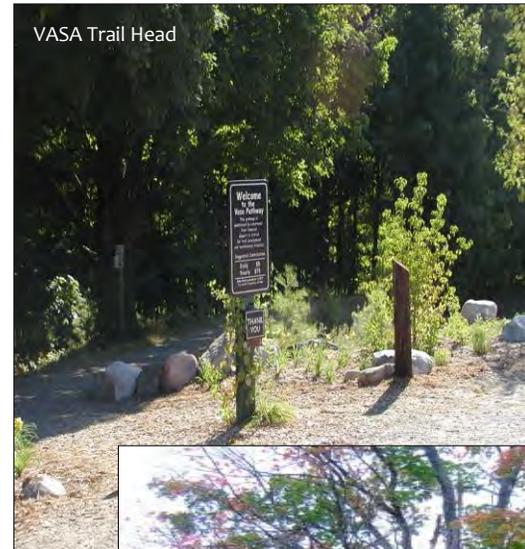
5

STORAGE SPACE:

5

MAINTENANCE FACILITY:

5



### Grading Scale:

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



## Park Primary Service Area and Accessibility Evaluation

The following table identifies each park owned by Grand Traverse County, its size, a brief description, and its classification as outlined in Appendix C of the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans, as well as a brief description of the accessibility evaluation of each park based on the MDNR scoring standards for accessibility.

- Level 1 - The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not accessible.
- Level 2 – The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- Level 3 - The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier free.
- Level 4 - The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.
- Level 5 – The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability or situation.

With the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service, including parks and recreational facilities and areas, are subject to barrier-free requirements. Several of the Grand Traverse County parks and recreational facilities have been altered and renovated to ensure ease of mobility in compliance with the ADA.

Facilities have been made accessible in compliance with the ADA however, fiscal and budgetary constraints need to be taken into consideration in terms of the extent to which the County has been able to currently provide. When improvements to the parks and facilities are made, the importance of creating barrier-free facilities is a top priority.

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>
<b>Beitner Park</b>	10 Acres	Offers 5 miles of trails. Access to these trails can be achieved from the main parking area. Several picnic areas, restroom facilities and canoe launch.	Community Park	20 min – 40 min Drive Time	Level 2 – The parking area at Beitner is paved.
<b>Civic Center</b>	45 Acres	Athletic fields-multiple uses, one mile long walking path, destination playground, skate park, basketball courts, picnic shelter, wooded area for outdoor shows	Large Urban Park	5 min -40 min Drive Time	Level 4 – All main parking areas are paved (overflow parking is compacted gravel), appropriate curb cuts, ADA accessible play structure, all restrooms are accessible. The walking paths and sidewalks are in good condition and free of potential trip hazards. The grounds have barrier-free play structures that are in good shape, but nearing the end of their lifespan. Structures that are not in a good, safe condition have been closed for repairs or removed. Handicap parking spaces are located in the best suited places for access to the facilities as determined by County personnel.

<b>Easling Pool</b>	25,000 sq. ft.	6 lane, 25 yard, "L" shaped pool with a 18' x 25' shallow teaching area and a dry sauna on deck	Recreation Facility	5 min – 75 min Drive Time, only public accessible lap pool for a 45 mile radius	Level 4 – This 40 year old facility has been updated whenever possible. A hydraulic lift provides access to the pool, and the locker rooms are accessible. There is one changing room and one “family” restroom adjacent to the pool that provide some barriers, it would be suggested that these two rooms be combined into one barrier free rest room. Our facility hosts several groups of participants with disabilities.
<b>Howe Arena</b>	25,000 sq. ft.	Ice skating rink and dry land exhibition hall	Special Use	5 min – 60 min Drive Time	Level 3 – Our restroom facilities are accessible. The seating area is in need of significant upgrades for ADA compliance. These upgrades are a very costly replacement, but Grand Traverse County is working to identify funding for the replacement of our bleachers.

<b>Keystone Soccer Complex/Birmley Property</b>	77 Acres	Soccer Fields	Sports Complex	15 min – 45 min Drive Time	Level 4 – The main parking areas are paved, but overflow parking is compacted gravel. The restroom facilities are portable units, with accessible units provided each season.
<b>Medalie Park</b>	11 Acres	Roadside park with picnic shelter and modern restrooms, paved walking trail, wooden overlooks to the Boardman River	Community Park	5 min – 30 min Drive Time	Level 3 – The parking area is paved. Bathrooms, benches and pathways are accessible.
<b>Maple Bay Park</b>	400 Acres	Nature area, open space, 2500 ft. frontage on East Grand Traverse Bay, trail network, hunting opportunities	Natural Resource Area	20 min – 60 min Drive Time	Level 1 – This Natural Resource Area has an improved, compacted parking area and drive way. Significant improvements to the park may degrade the natural environment the park has been established to protect. Any development that may occur at this park in the future must take accessibility into consideration.

<b>Meyer Property</b>	15 acres, Farmhouse: 1,400 sq. ft.	Natural Area	Special Use	15 min – 45 min Drive Time	Level 2 – This passive recreation area has a paved parking area. The structures on the property are not open to the public
<b>Nature Education Reserve</b>	420 Acres	over six miles of walking trails, half mile of paved trails, barrier free fishing pier and picnic sites	Natural Resources Area	15 min – 60 min Drive Time	Level 2 - There is a half mile long, paved, barrier free trail and accessible fishing platform that is in good condition and it is well enjoyed by the local users of the Nature Reserve. The trail is frequently used by regional organizations which work with people with disabilities people. It is also one of the only paved trails within a natural area in Northern Michigan. All pavilions on the property are barrier-free and within close proximity to paved parking areas.
<b>Power Island/Bassett Island</b>	202 Acres	Nature Preserve, Picnic sites, Campground, Public Beach	Natural Resources Area	1 mile water route West of Old Mission Peninsula - 6 mile water route North of Downtown	Level 2 – This Natural Resources Area has some improved trails, but none are paved. In 2000, the county made some improvements to the trails and restrooms to make

				Traverse City	them more accessible. In addition to these improvements an ADA Accessible vehicle was purchased to accommodate users with mobility concerns to explore the islands.
<b>Twin Lakes Park</b>	175 Acres  Gilbert Lodge: 3,000 sq. ft., Dorm: 6,000 sq. ft.	Residential camp, Meeting Room Space, Special Event Facilities	Community Park	15 min – 60 min Drive Time	Level 4/5 – With the help of an Access to Recreation grant, the 4.5 busiest acres of this park have been redeveloped (including the parking lot) to be universally accessible. The dormitory and Gilbert are accessible with easy access to both buildings. If the Craft Trailer is utilized, there are no limiting conditions available for those with physical disabilities. The indoor facilities meet ADA specifications.
<b>VASA Trail Head</b>	40 acres, Warming House: 1,000 sq. ft.	Trail Head for VASA Trail Network	Sports Complex	20 min – 60 min Drive Time	Level 2 - The warming hut and restroom are in good condition and accessible.

# Non-County Owned and Operated Facilities

## State Facilities:

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

Cedar Lake  
Grand Traverse Bay  
Bass Lake  
Fife Lake  
Mud Lake  
Elk Lake

Arbutus Lake  
Silver Lake  
Duck Lake  
Green Lake  
Fish Lake  
Rennie Lake

In addition, State Park Campgrounds and State Forest Campgrounds are provided at:

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



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



## Local Facilities:

There are a total of 220 park and recreational facilities within Grand Traverse County; local units of government contribute 146 of the park and recreation facilities within Grand Traverse County. The city of Traverse City, villages of Fife Lake and Kingsley, many of the thirteen local townships, and the various school districts within the county contribute the recreation facility inventory. Within these various local branches of government there is a wide variety of parks and recreation interests, as well as different levels of developed parks and recreational facilities.

One of the more highly developed park and recreation systems in the county belongs to the city of Traverse City. Traverse City owns and operates nearly 1,600 acres of parkland in 30 different sites. On the other end of the spectrum is Union Township, which owns no local parkland, yet over 90% of the township's property is enrolled in the Pere Marquette State Forest.

Traverse City owned parks and facilities include the Clinch Park Marina, West End Beach, Sunset Park, the Senior Citizen Center, and thousands of feet of open space along the waterfront. It is the goal of the city to continue to acquire this highly sought after waterfront property. With this property, the city has the pleasure of hosting not only city of Traverse City residents, but residents from throughout Grand Traverse County, the State of Michigan, and the entire Nation. Tourism is the major economic revenue producer for Traverse City and the parks and recreational facilities that the city has to offer not only increase the tourism for the city, but also for the Grand Traverse Area in general.

## Park Inventory Table

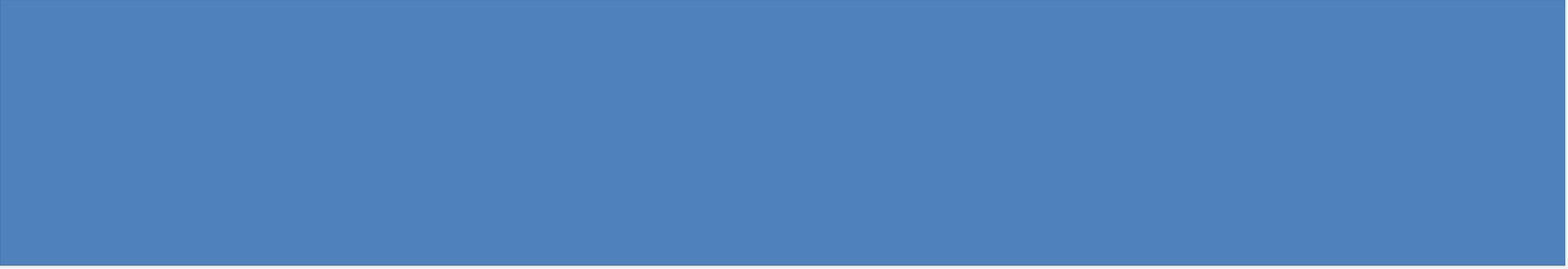
The following spreadsheet layout provides a list of all of the park and recreational facilities in Grand Traverse County. The table provides all of the parks and facilities that are provided by the County, State, local governments, and private recreation providers in the County. Indicated within the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

PARK NAME	OWNER	ADDRESS	JURISDICTION																
				RESTROOMS	NO. PARKING SPACES	PLAYGROUND	PAVILLION	GYM	TRAIL	BOAT ACCESS	SWIM/BEACH	SOCCER	FOOTBALL	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL	PICNIC	BALL FIELDS	CAMPING
MAPLE BAY	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	US 31 NORTH	ACME																
POWER ISLAND	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	WEST BAY	PENINSULA	YES					YES	YES	YES						YES		YES
CIVIC CENTER	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	1213 W. CIVIC CENTER	TRAVERSE CITY	YES		YES	YES		YES				YES				YES	YES	
TWIN LAKES CAMP	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	6800 N. LONG LAKE RD.	LONG LAKE	YES			YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		
BEITNER PARK	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	PART OF NATURE PRESERVE	BLAIR		10					YES							YES		
NATURE EDUCATION PRESERVE	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	N KEYSTONE RD.	GARFIELD		YES		YES		YES	YES							YES		
MEDALIE PARK	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	1910 S. AIRPORT	GARFIELD	YES	30		YES			YES							YES		
BUNKER HILL PROPERTY	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	BUNKER HILL RD.	ACME																
BARTLETT PARK, VASA TRAILHEAD	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	4444 BARTLETT RD.	ACME	YES	YES				YES										
WHITEWATER PROPERTY	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	SAND LAKES RD.	WHITEWATER																
KEYSTONE SOCCER COMPLEX	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	KEYSTONE AND BRIMLEY RDS.	GARFIELD	YES	YES				YES			YES							
EAST BAY PUBLIC ACCESS SITE (FOUR MILE ROAD)	EAST BAY	FOUR MILE RD.	EAST BAY							YES									
DOCK RD. ACCESS SITE	ACME-G.T.C. ROAD COMMISSION	DOCK RD.	ACME							YES									
TIBBETS LAKE ACCESS SITE (BADGER ST.)	EAST BAY	BADGER ST. OFF POPLAR ST.	EAST BAY		YES					YES									
HIGH LAKE ACCESS SITE	EAST BAY	BADGER ST. OFF HIGH LAKE RD.	EAST BAY							YES									
DIAMOND PARK ACCESS SITE	GREEN LAKE	DIAMOND PARK RD.	GREEN LAKE							YES									
DEEPWATER POINT NATURAL AREA	ACME	SHORE RD. AT DEEPWATER POINT R	ACME																
BAYSIDE PARK	ACME	SHORES BEACH LN.	ACME	YES	50				YES		YES		YES		YES	YES	YES		
SAYLER PARK	ACME	YUBA PARK RD.	ACME	YES	20				YES		YES		YES		YES	YES	YES		
YUBA CREEK	ACME	US 31 NORTH, YUBA RD.	ACME																
PETOBEGO WILDLIFE AREA	ACME-ST. OF MICH.		ACME						YES										
EAST BAY PUBLIC ACCESS	ACME-ST. OF MICH.	BUNKER HILL RD.	ACME		5					YES									
EAST BAY SHORE (TONY GILROY ROADSIDE PARK)	ACME-ST. OF MICH.	US 31 NORTH	ACME							YES								YES	
NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH	ACME-CHURCH	US 31 NORTH, BETHESDA CT.	ACME										YES	YES	YES				
EVERFLOWING WATERS CAMPGROUND	ACME-PRIVATE	5481 BRACKETT RD.	ACME														YES		YES
EAST BAY HARBOR MARINA	ACME-PRIVATE	US 31 NORTH	ACME																
GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT	ACME-PRIVATE	US 31 NORTH	ACME																
LOCHENHEATH GOLF COURSE	ACME-PRIVATE	LOCHENHEATH DR.	ACME																
HIGH POINT GOLF CLUB	ACME-PRIVATE	5555 ARNOLD RD.	ACME																
NORTHERN PINES CAMPGROUND	ACME-PRIVATE	5945 YUBA PARK RD.	ACME	YES	YES	YES										YES	YES		YES
TRAVERSE BAY RV PARK INC	ACME-PRIVATE	6500 TRAVERSE BAY DR.	ACME																
BLAIR TOWNSHIP PARK	BLAIR	2121 COUNTY RD. 633	ACME	YES	100	YES	YES		YES				YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		
BOARDMAN RIVER ACCESS (SCHUMSKY RD.)	BLAIR-ST. OF MICH.	SHUMSKY RD.	BLAIR																
BOARDMAN RIVER ACCESS (RIVER RD.)	BLAIR-ST. OF MICH.	RIVER RD.	BLAIR		YES					YES									
MI SHORE TO SHORE RIDING/HIKING TRL.	BLAIR-ST. OF MICH.		BLAIR						YES								YES		YES
BOARDMAN VALLEY SNOWMOBILE TRL.	BLAIR-ST. OF MICH.		BLAIR		YES				YES							YES			YES
HOLIDAY PARK CAMPGROUND	BLAIR-PRIVATE	4860 US 31 SOUTH	BLAIR																
TIBBETS LAKE ACCESS SITE	EAST BAY	21 RASHO RD.	EAST BAY							YES									
KILLINGSWORTH PARK	EAST BAY	2807 CHANDLER RD.	EAST BAY	YES	12		YES			YES									
GRACE MCDONAL PARK (FOREST LAKE PARK)	EAST BAY	133 EAST ARBUTUS LAKE RD.	EAST BAY	YES	100	YES	YES		YES			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
PINE GROVE PARK	EAST BAY	920 HEMLOCK ST.	EAST BAY			YES							YES				YES		
ARBUTUS LAKE, #5 PUBLIC ACCESS SITE	EAST BAY	EAST ARBUTUS LAKE RD.	EAST BAY	YES	15												YES		
PINES PARK	EAST BAY	1750 EIKEY RD.	EAST BAY																
GEN'S PARK	EAST BAY	2263 US 31 NORTH	EAST BAY																
KELLY PARK	EAST BAY	2817 POINT VIEW RD.	EAST BAY	YES	6		YES										YES		
KELLY PARK ACCESS CHANDLER LK.	EAST BAY	2817 POINT VIEW RD.	EAST BAY																
SPIDER LAKE ACCESS SITE	EAST BAY	597 PENINSULA TRL.	EAST BAY		YES					YES									

PARK NAME	OWNER	ADDRESS	JURISDICTION	FACILITIES															
				RESTROOMS	NO. PARKING SPACES	PLAYGROUND	PAVILLION	GYM	TRAIL	BOAT ACCESS	SWIM/BEACH	SOCCER	FOOTBALL	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL	PICNIC	BALL FIELDS	CAMPING
TRAVERSE CITY STATE PARK (BEACH)	EAST BAY-ST. OF MICH.	887MUNSON (US 31 NORTH)	EAST BAY	YES	YES	YES					YES						YES		
TRAVERSE CITY STATE PARK (CAMPGROUND)	EAST BAY-ST. OF MICH.	1132 US 31 NORTH	EAST BAY	YES	YES	YES				YES							YES	YES	
RENNIE LAKE ACCESS SITE	EAST BAY-ST. OF MICH.	BROWNWOOD TRL.	EAST BAY		YES					YES									
SCHECK'S PLACE CAMPGROUND	EAST BAY-ST. OF MICH.	BROWN BRIDGE RD.	EAST BAY	YES	YES					YES							YES	YES	
ARBUTUS LAKE, #4 PUBLIC ACCESS SITE	EAST BAY-ST. OF MICH.	2720 NORTH ARBUTUS LAKE RD.	EAST BAY	YES	25				YES	YES									
ARBUTUS LAKE STATE FOREST CAMPGROUND	EAST BAY-ST. OF MICH.	2720 NORTH ARBUTUS LAKE RD.	EAST BAY	YES	YES				YES								YES	YES	
BOARDMAN VALLEY SNOWMOBILE TRAIL	EAST BAY-ST. OF MICH.	SUPPLY RD.	EAST BAY		YES				YES										
VASA TRAIL	EAST BAY-ST. OF MICH.	SUPPLY RD.	EAST BAY		YES				YES										
MICHIGAN SHORE TO SHORE RIDING/HIKING TRL.	EAST BAY-ST. OF MICH.	RANCH RUDOLPH RD.	EAST BAY						YES										
SPIDER LAKE SOUTH ACCESS SITE	EAST BAY-ST. OF MICH.	GRACE OFF OF EAST ARBUTUS LAKE	EAST BAY						YES										
BOY SCOUT CAMP GREILICK	NONPROFIT-ROTARY CAMPS	4754 SCOUT CAMP RD	EAST BAY																
BASS LAKE SOUTH ACCESS SITE	NONPROFIT-ROTARY CAMPS	SCOUT CAMP RD.	EAST BAY																
BROWN BRIDGE QUIET AREA	TRAVERSE CITY	HOBBS HIGHWAY	EAST BAY		YES														
BROWN BRIDGE DAM (RIVER ACCESS)	TRAVERSE CITY	BROWN BRIDGE RD.	EAST BAY	YES	YES					YES									
MITCHELL CREEK GOLF COURSE	EAST BAY-PRIVATE	2846 THREE MILE RD.	EAST BAY																
ELMBROOK GOLF COURSE	EAST BAY-PRIVATE	420 HAMMOND RD. EAST	EAST BAY																
BAY GOLF	EAST BAY-PRIVATE	1028 US 31 NORTH	EAST BAY																
ADVENTURE GOLF (PIRATE'S COVE)	EAST BAY-PRIVATE	1710 US 31 NORTH	EAST BAY																
PEBBLE BROOK FUN PARK	EAST BAY-PRIVATE	2072 US 31 NORTH	EAST BAY																
MT. HOLIDAY	EAST BAY-PRIVATE	3100 HOLIDAY RD.	EAST BAY																
TIMBER RIDGE CAMPGROUND	EAST BAY-PRIVATE	4050 E. HAMMOND RD.	EAST BAY																
YMCA	EAST BAY-PRIVATE	1350 EAST ARBUTUS LAKE RD.	EAST BAY																
REFFITT NATURE RESERVE	EAST BAY	THREE MILE RD.	EAST BAY																
FIFE LAKE ACCESS SITE SOUTH WEST	FIFE LAKE	11271 LAKE SHORE RD.	FIFE LAKE																
FIFE LAKE ACCESS SITE SOUTH	FIFE LAKE	11597 LAKE SHORE RD.	FIFE LAKE																
FIFE LAKE ACCESS SITE SOUTH	FIFE LAKE-VILLAGE	EVERGREEN ST.	FIFE LAKE																
VILLAGE PARK	FIFE LAKE-VILLAGE	E. STATE ST.	FIFE LAKE																
VILLAGE PARK (FIFE LAKE)	FIFE LAKE-VILLAGE	E. STATE ST.	FIFE LAKE																
FIFE LAKE ACCESS SITE	FIFE LAKE-VILLAGE	E. STATE ST.	FIFE LAKE							YES									
VILLAGE OFFICE & PARK	FIFE LAKE-VILLAGE	E. STATE ST.	FIFE LAKE																
FIFE LAKE ACCESS SITE NORTH	FIFE LAKE	THOMAS ST.	FIFE LAKE	YES	YES	YES	YES										YES	YES	
FIFE LAKE ACCESS SITE NORTH	FIFE LAKE	CENTER ST.	FIFE LAKE																
FIFE LAKE DNR ACCESS SITE	FIFE LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	BATES ST.	FIFE LAKE																
SPRING LAKE	FIFE LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	US 131	FIFE LAKE	YES	15					YES	YES								
MUD LAKE	FIFE LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	GRAND KAL RD.	FIFE LAKE																
HEADQUARTERS LAKE	FIFE LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	US 131	FIFE LAKE																
HEADQUARTERS LAKE DAM	FIFE LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	US 131	FIFE LAKE																
FIFE LAKE TOWNSHIP ROADSIDE PARK	FIFE LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	US 131	FIFE LAKE																
BOARDMAN VALLEY SNOWMOBILE TRL.	FIFE LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	US 131	FIFE LAKE	YES	30												YES		
GRAND TRAVERSE CYCLE TRAIL	FIFE LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	BTW.US131,186,113	FIFE LAKE						YES										
OAK GROVE CAMPGROUND	FIFE LAKE-PRIVATE	11769 UNION ST.	FIFE LAKE						YES										
THE CROSSING	GARFIELD	CROSSING CIRCLE	FIFE LAKE	YES	YES						YES	YES					YES	YES	
ZIMMERMAN PROPERTY	GARFIELD	1785 N. EAST SILVER LAKE RD.	GARFIELD																
COMMONS AREA	GARFIELD	RED DR.	GARFIELD																
SILVER LAKE ACCESS SITE	GARFIELD-ST. OF MICH.	N. EAST SILVER LAKE RD.	GARFIELD																
HICKORY HILLS SKI AREA	GARFIELD-TRAVERSE CITY	2000 RANDOLPH ST.	GARFIELD	YES	45					YES									
YMCA	NONPROFIT- Y.M.C.A.	3000 RACQUET CLUB DR.	GARFIELD	YES	YES														

PARK NAME	OWNER	ADDRESS	JURISDICTION	FACILITIES																
				RESTROOMS	NO. PARKING SPACES	PLAYGROUND	PAVILLION	GYM	TRAIL	BOAT ACCESS	SWIM/BEACH	SOCCER	FOOTBALL	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL	PICNIC	BALL FIELDS	CAMPING	
LAKE POINT WALKWAY	GARFIELD-PRIVATE	EAST SIDE OF BOARDMAN LAKE	GARFIELD	YES	40				YES					YES	YES	YES	YES			
BAY MEADOWS GOLF COURSE	GARFIELD-PRIVATE	5220 BARNEY RD.	GARFIELD																	
TRAVERSE CITY GOLF AND C.C.	GARFIELD-PRIVATE	1725 S. UNION ST.	GARFIELD																	
THE CROWN GOLF COURSE	GARFIELD-PRIVATE	2411 W. SILVER LAKE RD.	GARFIELD																	
GREAT WOLF LODGE WATER PARK	GARFIELD-PRIVATE	3631 FRANKIE RD.	GARFIELD																	
GREEN LAKE ACCESS SITE	GRANT-ST. OF MICH.	BETSIE RIVER RD.	GRANT	YES	30					YES										
ALVINAS CANOE AND BOAT RENTAL	GRANT-PRIVATE	6470 BETSIE RIVER RD.	GRANT		YES					YES							YES			
GREEN LAKE TWP BICENTENNIAL PARK	GREEN LAKE	THIRD ST., INTERLOCHEN	GREEN LAKE																	
GREEN LAKE TWP MEMORIAL PARK	GREEN LAKE	5435 KARLIN RD.	GREEN LAKE	YES	100	YES	YES						YES	YES			YES	YES	YES	
BASS LAKE PUBLIC ACCESS	GREEN LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	5301 BETSIE RIVER RD.	GREEN LAKE	YES	20					YES	YES									
INTERLOCHEN STATE PARK	GREEN LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	9375 PARK ENTRANCE	GREEN LAKE	YES	YES	YES				YES							YES	YES	YES	
ELLIS LAKE ACCESS PARK	GREEN LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	ELLIS LAKE RD.	GREEN LAKE		30					YES										
CEDAR HEDGE LAKE ACCESS SITE	GREEN LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	GONDER RD.	GREEN LAKE	YES	30					YES										
LAKE DUBONNET PUBLIC ACCESS	GREEN LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	MUD LAKE RD.	GREEN LAKE							YES										
LAKE DUBONNET STATE FOREST CAMPGROUND	GREEN LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	LAKE DUBONNET TRL.	GREEN LAKE	YES	YES					YES							YES		YES	
TIMBERS GIRL SCOUT CAMP (SAKAKAWEA)	NONPROFIT-ROTARY CAMPS	5 BASS LAKE RD.	GREEN LAKE	YES	YES	YES				YES							YES		YES	
FUN COUNTRY	GREEN LAKE-PRIVATE	US 31	GREEN LAKE																	
CYCLE-MOORE CAMPGROUND	GREEN LAKE-PRIVATE	11075 US 31 SOUTH	GREEN LAKE																	
INTERLOCHEN GOLF CLUB	GREEN LAKE-PRIVATE	10586 US 31 SOUTH	GREEN LAKE																	
FISHER RD. PARK	LONG LAKE	1247 FISHER RD.	LONG LAKE																	
LONG LAKE TWP. 120 ACRES	LONG LAKE	LUHRS TRL.	LONG LAKE																	
MAURICE E. HAYWOOD TOWNSHIP PARK	LONG LAKE	8870 N. LONG LAKE RD.	LONG LAKE	YES	129	YES	YES		YES			YES		YES	YES		YES	YES		
KENNETH C. TAYLOR PARK	LONG LAKE	9339 N. LONG LAKE RD.	LONG LAKE	YES	45						YES					YES				
GILBERT TOWNSHIP PARK	LONG LAKE	9912 N. LONG LAKE RD.	LONG LAKE	YES	44					YES	YES					YES	YES			
CRESCENT SHORES BOAT LAUNCH	LONG LAKE	END OF CRESCENT SHORES DR.	LONG LAKE		YES					YES										
CEDAR RUN HISTORICAL BUILDING	LONG LAKE	11779 CEDAR RUN RD.	LONG LAKE	YES	YES				YES											
BULLHEAD LAKE NATURAL AREA	LONG LAKE	EDGEWOOD AVE	LONG LAKE						YES											
STATE FOREST, MI SHORE TO SHORE	LONG LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	1670 ACRES M/L (LAKE DUBONNET)	LONG LAKE						YES											
LAKE DUBONNET ACCESS SITE	LONG LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	LAKE DUBONNET ROAD	LONG LAKE																	
CEDAR LAKE ACCESS SITE	LONG LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	CEDAR LAKE RD.	LONG LAKE	YES	15					YES										
BASS LAKE ACCESS SITE	LONG LAKE-ST. OF MICH.	EAST END OF FISHING SITE RD.	LONG LAKE	YES	YES					YES										
TIMBERS GIRL SCOUT CAMP	LONG LAKE-NON-PROFIT	8195 TIMBERS TRAIL	LONG LAKE	YES	YES				YES		YES						YES		YES	
GILBERT PINES BOY SCOUT CAMP	LONG LAKE-NON-PROFIT	CO. RD. WEST OFF OF CEDAR LAKE	LONG LAKE																	
LONG ISLAND (OLESON)	LONG LAKE-NON-PROFIT		LONG LAKE																	
ROUND ISLAND (PICNIC)	LONG LAKE-NON-PROFIT		LONG LAKE																	
CARTER STRONG BIRD SANCTUARY	LONG LAKE	LAKWOOD RD.	LONG LAKE						YES											
SOUTH ISLAND	LONG LAKE		LONG LAKE																	
CEDAR HILLS GOLF COURSE	LONG LAKE-PRIVATE	7525 CEDAR RUN RD.	LONG LAKE																	
BROWN'S GOLF SHOP INC.	LONG LAKE-PRIVATE	6450 SECOR DR.	LONG LAKE																	
WALL TRUST COMMERCIAL FOREST RESERVE	LONG LAKE-PRIVATE	THEIL RD.	LONG LAKE																	
FISH LAKE ACCESS SITE	MAYFIELD-ST. OF MICH.	9341 COUNTY RD. 633	MAYFIELD	YES	30				YES	YES							YES		YES	
MAYFIELD POND PARK	PARADISE	2200 MILL ST.	PARADISE	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES									YES		
PIONEER PARK	PARADISE-VILLAGE OF KINGSLEY	301 N. BROWNSON AVE.	PARADISE															YES		
VILLAGE OF KINGSLEY SOUTH PROPERTY	PARADISE-VILLAGE OF KINGSLEY	SOUTH END OF CLARK ST.	PARADISE																	
BROWNSON MEMORIAL PARK	PARADISE-VILLAGE OF KINGSLEY	SOUTH BROWNSON AVE.	PARADISE		YES	YES										YES		YES		
BOWER'S HARBOR TWP PARK	PENINSULA	2740 BOWERS HARBOR RD.	PENINSULA	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES		YES		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
ARCHIE PARK	PENINSULA	10273 CENTER RD.	PENINSULA	YES	25	YES						YES				YES	YES	YES		

PARK NAME	OWNER	ADDRESS	JURISDICTION	FACILITIES															
				RESTROOMS	NO. PARKING SPACES	PLAYGROUND	PAVILLION	GYM	TRAIL	BOAT ACCESS	SWIM/BEACH	SOCCER	FOOTBALL	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL	PICNIC	BALL FIELDS	CAMPING
LIGHTHOUSE PARK	PENINSULA	20500 CENTER RD.	PENINSULA	YES	40					YES		YES					YES		
HASEROT BEACH	PENINSULA	4064 SWANEY RD.	PENINSULA	YES	30	YES				YES	YES			YES			YES		
OLD MISSION POINT PARK	PENINSULA AND ST. OF MICH.	RIDGEWOOD DR.	PENINSULA	YES	15					YES									
WEST BAY DNR ACCESS SITE (BOWER'S HARBOR)	PENINSULA-ST. OF MICH.	3000 NE AH TA WANTA RD.	PENINSULA	YES	40					YES									
EAST BAY DNR ACCESS SITE (CENTER RD)	PENINSULA-ST. OF MICH.	8400 CENTER RD.	PENINSULA	YES	30														
PYATT LAKE NATURAL AREA	PENINSULA	14826 PYATT RD.	PENINSULA							YES									
FORK'S PLACE CAMPGROUND	UNION-ST. OF MICH.	BROWN RIDGE RD. WEST OF SUPPLY	UNION	YES	YES											YES		YES	
MI SHORE TO SHORE RIDING/HIKING TRL.	UNION-ST. OF MICH.	BROWN RIDGE RD.	UNION							YES									
BOARDMAN VALLEY SNOWMOBILE TRL.	UNION-ST. OF MICH.	SOUTH MUNCIE LAKE RD.	UNION							YES									
MUNCIE LAKE PATHWAY	UNION-ST. OF MICH.	SOUTH MUNCIE LAKE RD.	UNION	YES	YES					YES									
RANCH RUDOLPH	UNION-PRIVATE	6841 BROWN BRIDGE RD.	UNION																
WHITEWATER TWP. TOBECO CREEK PROPERTY	WHITEWATER	ANGELL RD.	WHITEWATER																
WHITEWATER RECREATIONAL FACILITY	WHITEWATER	6075 ELK LAKE RD.	WHITEWATER	YES	75	YES	YES				YES					YES	YES		
WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP PARK	WHITEWATER	9361 PARK RD.	WHITEWATER	YES	YES	YES	YES			YES	YES				YES	YES		YES	
LOSSIE TRAIL	WHITEWATER	COOK RD.	WHITEWATER							YES									
LAKE SKEGEMOG ACCESS SITE	WHITEWATER-ST. OF MICH.	LAKESIDE TRL.	WHITEWATER		YES						YES								
SAND LAKES QUIET AREA	WHITEWATER-ST. OF MICH.	BROOMHEAD RD.	WHITEWATER		YES					YES									
MI SHORE TO SHORE RIDING AND HIKING TRAIL	WHITEWATER-ST. OF MICH.	BROOMHEAD RD.	WHITEWATER							YES									
BOARDMAN VALLEY SNOWMOBILE TRAIL	WHITEWATER-ST. OF MICH.	BROOMHEAD RD. AND SAND LAKES RD.	WHITEWATER							YES									
ASHTON PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	END OF MADISON ST.	TRAVERSE CITY		YES	YES				YES							YES		
BOON ST TOT LOT (ARBUTUS COURT PARK)	TRAVERSE CITY	939 BOON ST.	TRAVERSE CITY			YES								YES			YES		
BOON ST TOT LOT II (ROSE COURT PARK)	TRAVERSE CITY	923 BOON ST.	TRAVERSE CITY		YES														
BRYANT PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	1101 PENINSULA DR.	TRAVERSE CITY	YES	57	YES					YES						YES		
CLANCY PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	WEST ORCHARD DR. AT SHERIDAN DR.	TRAVERSE CITY		YES	YES							YES				YES	YES	
CLINCH PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	ENTRANCE AT 111 E. GRANDVIEW PKWY	TRAVERSE CITY																
CLINCH PARK MARINA	TRAVERSE CITY	ENTRANCE AT 111 E. GRANDVIEW PKWY	TRAVERSE CITY	YES	YES					YES	YES	YES					YES		
DARROW PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	MONROE ST. AT W. GRANDVIEW PKWY	TRAVERSE CITY		YES	YES											YES		
EAST BAY PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	S. EAST BAY BLVD. AT E. FRONT ST.	TRAVERSE CITY	YES	50	YES					YES	YES					YES		
F & M PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	221 CASS ST.	TRAVERSE CITY		YES	YES								YES			YES		
HANNAH PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	SIXTH ST., TRAVERSE CITY	TRAVERSE CITY		YES					YES							YES		
HULL PARK (BOARDMAN LAKE PUBLIC ACCESS)	TRAVERSE CITY	ENTRANCE AT 620 WOODMERE AVE.	TRAVERSE CITY		15						YES						YES		
INDIAN WOODS PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	INDIAN WOODS DR. AT COMANCHE ST.	TRAVERSE CITY		YES	YES											YES		
LAY PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	6TH ST. & UNION ST.	TRAVERSE CITY		YES												YES		
LEGION PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	WASHINGTON ST. AT CASS ST.	TRAVERSE CITY		YES												YES		
MINI PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	FRONT ST. & GRANDVIEW PARKWAY	TRAVERSE CITY																
OPEN SPACE	TRAVERSE CITY	102 E. GRANDVIEW PKWY AT UNION ST.	TRAVERSE CITY		YES						YES						YES		
SUNSET PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	ENTRANCE AT 635 E. FRONT ST.	TRAVERSE CITY		34	YES						YES					YES		
TBAYS COAST GUARD SOCCER FIELD	TRAVERSE CITY	AIRPORT ACCESS RD & PARSONS RD.	TRAVERSE CITY																
THIRLBY FIELD	TRAVERSE CITY	ENTRANCE AT 311 W. THIRTEENTH ST.	TRAVERSE CITY	YES	YES	YES							YES					YES	
TRAVERSE CITY SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER	TRAVERSE CITY	801 E. FRONT ST.	TRAVERSE CITY	YES	94							YES			YES		YES		
UNION ST DAM (BOARDMAN RIVER)	TRAVERSE CITY	BETWEEN E. STATE ST. AND LAKE AVE.	TRAVERSE CITY		41						YES						YES		
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	N. DIVISION ST. AT BAY ST.	TRAVERSE CITY		13	YES									YES		YES		
WELLINGTON PARK (BOARDMAN RIVER)	TRAVERSE CITY	EAST BAY ST. & WELLINGTON ST.	TRAVERSE CITY														YES		
WEQUETONG PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	E. GRANDVIEW PKWY & E. FRONT ST.	TRAVERSE CITY		YES					YES									
WEST END BEACH	TRAVERSE CITY	W. GRANDVIEW PKWY AT DIVISION ST.	TRAVERSE CITY	YES	56						YES	YES				YES	YES		
FULTON PARK	TRAVERSE CITY	CARTER RD. LEELENAU CO. TRAVERSE CITY	ELMWOOD, TC							YES									
GRAND TRAVERSE COMMONS	TRAVERSE CITY	STATE HOSPITAL GROUNDS	TRAVERSE CITY			YES											YES		



# Planning and Public Input Process

*2013-18 Grand Traverse County Recreation Plan*

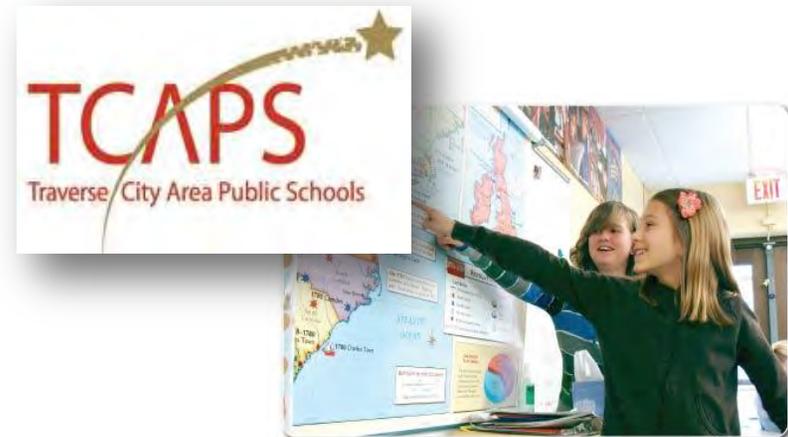
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## Background

Historically our community has not fit the mold that other successful Parks and Recreation Communities have in place. Beginning in 2010, our department's focus changed from an isolated, predominantly landlord type department to a more collaborative minded organization for providing parks and recreation services to the citizens and visitors of Grand Traverse County utilizing community partners. As we have become more collaborative, we have discussed several plans for providing Parks and Recreation Services with our partners, and have executed several studies that evaluate these plans. Through these planning processes our community has developed several key documents that have helped our community build additional data for the proper planning of our 2013-2018 Parks and Recreation Plan. This chapter includes information about the following documents, each of which has been developed since 2010:

- Review of local Recreation Plans
- Program Director Survey
- Needs Assessment SWOT Analysis
- Parks & Recreation Network Executive
- Summary of Needs Assessment
- 2011 Civic Center Master Plan
- 2012-2015 Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan
- Parks and Recreation Network Founding Documents

Each of these plans share common or at least parallel goals that have been used in the development of our Parks and Recreation Plan. The Parks and Recreation Network (PRN) documents and the 2011 Civic Center Master Plan had several avenues for the public to provide input.



These included surveys not only of program directors in our community, but surveys were sent to each household within the Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) to determine the recreational needs within our community.

The Parks & Recreation Commission Organizational Capacity Assessment, and the 2012-2015 Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan, were more internal documents with a tremendous amount of input and surveys done within the Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Commission. The information discussed, especially within the Strategic Plan was information that each Commissioner brought with them as representatives of the public.

In addition to the plans and the documents that we've utilized for this plan, our department solicited input from the public at three specific times; the Parks and Recreation Network Meeting on Thursday December 13, a Community Public Input Workshop hosted by our department on Monday, December 17 and at a public hearing at our Parks and Recreation Commission's monthly meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2013. In addition to these active events to solicit input we asked for open input between Thursday, November 29, 2012, and January 17, 2013. This was requested in all of our communication about the plan via email, over the phone, or in person at any time between November 29, 2012 and January 17, 2013.

**You Are Invited!**

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation invites all County Residents to attend a public input workshop for the 2013-2018 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan. This Plan will serve as a guideline for the development of parks and recreation opportunities from 2013-2018. The public is asked to provide comments and input at the meeting.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

**COMMUNITY PUBLIC INPUT WORKSHOP**

2013-2018 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan

**Monday, December 17, 2012**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
Civic Center Meeting Room

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION**  
we create community...

1213 W. Civic Center Dr. Phone: 231-922-4818  
Traverse City, MI 49686 Fax: 231-922-2064

[www.grandtraverse.org/parks](http://www.grandtraverse.org/parks)

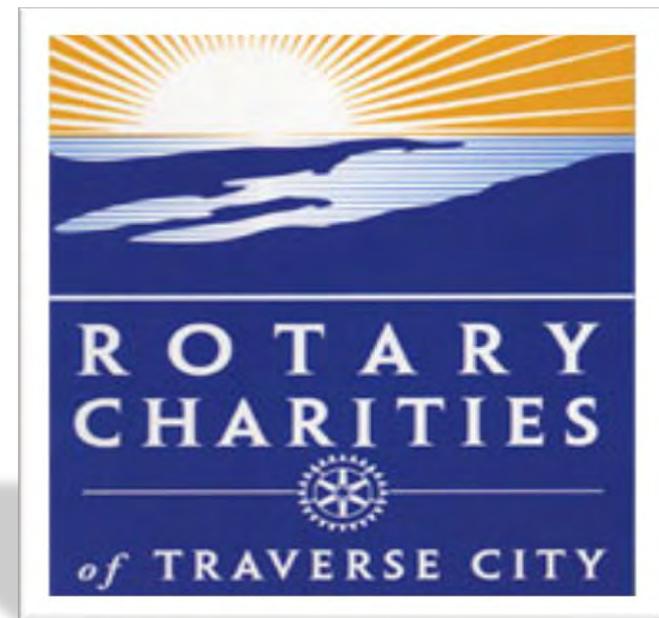


## Planning

As mentioned above, our community has undergone several different studies, and has been part of several planning processes, each of which have been utilized in the development of this plan.

### Parks and Recreation Network

In late 2010, TCAPS called together a meeting of the City Parks and Recreation Division, the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA, and the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department to discuss whether these organizations could work together to offer more programs similar to club programs offered by most public schools. As the conversation continued, the leaders in the room identified that there seemed to be a systematic breakdown in how these programs were offered in the Community, and if the system were not broken then there would be more programs offered, or at least a more efficient means to provide for the community's requests. Over time this small group formed into a committee that received a grant from the Rotary Charities to determine the recreational needs of our community, and those of the program directors that offered the program. In May 2011, a needs assessment was sent to each household in the TCAPS attendance area, with an Executive Summary in Appendix C1. Concurrently the project consultant also surveyed program directors about constraints their organization has identified (Appendix C2).



Woods Consulting, our project consultant for the research phase of Parks and Recreation Network development reviewed 10 of the Recreation Plans for local units of government in Grand Traverse County. The consistent findings within this review were the acquisition of, or significant improvements to park land the support and development of non-motorized trails within each LUG. While the idea of our community's parks and recreation working more collaboratively came after these plans were developed, there is only one of the plans that mention partnering or collaboration within their goals.



As part of the same study our consultant surveyed our community's Program Directors. This included all of the lead people at the organizations that offer recreational programs for youth and adults within Grand Traverse County. These programs, not exclusively, but often take place in parks by organizations that are non-profit, volunteer, or operated by service organizations. 24 individual organizations were asked to complete the survey, with 8 total respondents. The eight that did respond were eight of Grand Traverse County's most significant users. Some key findings from this group:

- Every organization identified that they would like to collaborate to a greater extent.
- Five out of eight respondents listed some type of constraint related to Parks/Facilities as their organization's biggest weakness (e.g. lack of ingress/egress due to park location, age of Community Pool, etc.)
- Each organization charges fees to its users for their most significant source of revenue.
- Two of the eight organizations listed some type of park infrastructure as their strength. One listed the strength as the location of the pool for its users, the other identified the relationship that organization has with the parks departments it uses.

It can be extrapolated from the program directors surveys that our community sees a need for stronger collaboration among Recreation Providers and Parks Providers (public/private partnerships), and that these recreational opportunities could be strengthened by improving parks and facilities owned by the Local Units of Government.

Based on a compilation of the raw data from the needs assessment survey sent to households in Grand Traverse County and the TCAPS Attendance Area, a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis was completed that clearly identified the areas that collectively our organizations could address in an effort to provide a stronger networks of parks and recreation delivery. The SWOT Analysis is included in its entirety in Appendix C3. Below each of the categories are summarized into one or two statements:

- **Strengths** – Our community’s strengths lie predominantly in our natural resources, including our four distinct seasons. These strengths are key not only for our local participants, but for driving our tourism economy because of the bountiful activities within our community.
- **Weaknesses** – While natural resource rich, our weaknesses lie predominantly in man-made constraints, including the transportation infrastructure for traveling east/west in our community. These transportations challenges also negatively impact bicycle and pedestrian travel in

these directions. Indoor swimming opportunities were listed as a weakness, predominantly due to our limited pool space, but swimming being a highly sought recreational activity for youth, adults and seniors. Three weaknesses can be summarized into the lack of collaboration among recreation providers. The final two are universal constraints related to cost of participating and the timing of activities.

- **Opportunities** – The key opportunity is that the recreation providers all identified a need and desire for increase collaboration, with a key collaborative effort going towards a centralized website for information about recreation opportunities. The local units of government and TCAPS are willing to expand parks, and recreational facilities, and evaluate the creation of a new swimming pool. Collaboration related to planning programs, lowering costs, attracting volunteers, and educating coaches was identified as a key opportunity.
- **Threats** – of each of these categories the threats had the most consistency. Concerns were for new programs being created that would compete with existing programs, negative impact new programs would have on the parks and facilities, further depletion of the pool of quality volunteers/coaches, and the concern that Units of Government may not cooperate in extension of non-motorized trails to link these recreational opportunities.

The review of local Recreation Plans, the Program Director Survey, and the SWOT Analysis led to the creation of the Parks and Recreation Network (PRN) in late 2011. The PRN formed based on a problem statement, 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 PRN continues to meet on a monthly basis to explore the following and related issues within our community via the problem statement.

1. Realignment of recreation program providers to more efficiently, effectively and affordably provide 1) “elite” athletic opportunities 2) intramural athletic opportunities and 3) learning/experiential athletic opportunities
2. How will some long-standing models work in the future-such as parks & recreation departments and school-based athletic programs?
3. Are there ways to grow the competencies of the volunteers that are the life-blood of most recreation programs? Are there ways to share services and professional development needs? (background checks, coach training, governance,

fundraising)(specifically-could NMC develop a coach training program) (could we have a shared database of those that have had background checks? Or utilize the same service so they could let us know if it has already been done and is on file)

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

## 2011 Civic Center Master Plan

Between January of 2011 and January of 2012, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation underwent a Master Planning process for our community's busiest parks, the Civic Center. During this planning process the department requested input from the community related to this key recreation estate in our community. As is typical in these processes, the community did a great job in providing input to the Civic Center Plan, but also identified issues and ideas that are complementary to the research for the 2013-2018 Parks and Recreation Plan.

On February 22, 2011, a public input meeting was held at the Civic Center with approximately 30 people in attendance. From this meeting 54 ideas were developed for the Civic Center Property (please see appendix D). While several of these ideas were specific to the Civic Center Property, several could easily be extrapolated into other ideas that may be more, or just as pertinent to the County Parks and Recreation System as a whole elsewhere in our parks system. Some key ideas from this public input session that may be achievable at another location within the County are:

Indoor/Outdoor Pickleball Courts	Make all of the facilities ADA accessible	Build a multi-purpose building with rubberized flooring for multiple activities
Outdoor Splash Pad	Create dog park fenced area	Re-locate Facilities Management
Create community events area	Expand and Update playgrounds	Rent Tents
Develop a dance studio	Build an additional ice rink	Create an additional 8-10 lane indoor pool
Create an indoor play area/facility	Paintball gaming area	Build an outdoor pool
Create a Land/Facility Procurement Committee	Indoor running track with cardio and fitness facilities	

Included as appendix A, is the 2011 Civic Center Master Plan in its entirety. The plan identifies other key suggestions from the public and how our department intends to implement them

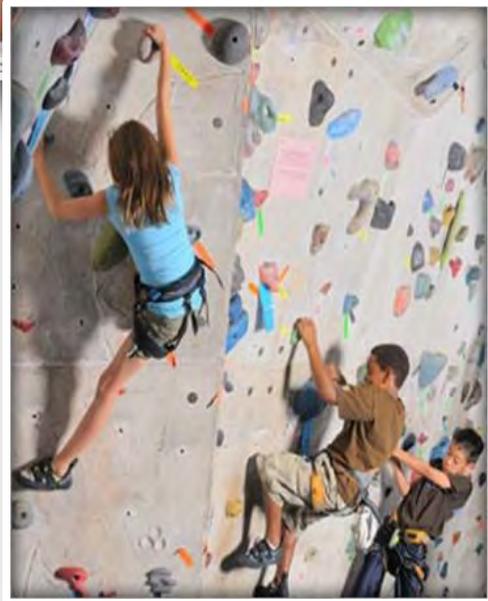
## 2012-2015 Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan

Since the expiration of the 2003-2008 DNR Master Plan, the 2012-15 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan has been the most significant document developed for our department. The nature of the strategic plan did not allow for general input from the public, although each meeting was a public meeting and did allow for public comment. The goals identified in this plan have been discussed, and contributed specifically by our Commissioners and staff. With the appointments of our individual commissioners to our board, each come from diverse backgrounds, and each are placed on our board to represent the public. While we didn't specifically ask for public input, in this plan we relied on ten of our most invested members of the public to provide their input and influence the direction of our department for the next three years, based on their role as the community stewards of our parks.

Our department utilized a grant from Rotary Charities that provided a consulting team to develop an "Organizational Capacity Assessment" (OCA), a requirement for organizations that are seeking funds for other projects. Once the OCA, a very honest look at the internal strengths and weaknesses of our organization, was complete, our Commission decided to take on a three year Strategic Planning process.



In addition to the two special meetings of our Commission for the OCA, we held two additional special meetings for the Strategic Plan. These additional meetings with our Commission helped bring camaraderie as well as a more cohesive commission than we've had in the past 5+ years. Our commission stated several things through the planning process, including wanting to be leaders in the Parks and Recreation Industry within our community.



Their Strategic Plan, as adopted at their September 2012 meeting is attached as Appendix E . Within the plan are 6 goals, with a variety of strategies outlined to help accomplish the goals of the plan. The goals are:

Goal 1. Develop more robust recreational programming

Goal 2. Strengthen financial sustainability

Goal 3. Increase coordination of programs and services

Goal 4. Establish Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation as a recognized leader in the County

Goal 5. Improve Parks & Recreation opportunities within Grand Traverse County

Goal 6. Increase community awareness of and appreciation for the recreational opportunities in Grand Traverse County.

Each of these goals are significant enough to positively impact our community, but the strategies that are part of each may be key inputs to work from within the structure and purview of this document. Some of the key strategies that have been identified by our commission are (identified alphanumerically based on goal # previous and sequentially by letter within each goal):

- 1b. Consider collaborating with other organizations in addressing unmet needs (i.e. Commission on Aging for Senior programs)
- 1c. Develop a program plan for adults including potential partnerships as appropriate.
- 1d. Develop a program plan for youths including potential partnerships as appropriate.
- 1e. Develop a special event program plan.
  
- 3a. Establish a Joint Parks and Recreation Authority as a means of creating economies of scale and helping the community more easily find and engage in parks and recreation activities.
- 3b. Further develop relationships with other key providers of recreational programs and services (businesses, non recreational authority members, etc.)
  
- 5a. Partner with TART, governmental units and County Road Commission to increase the

network of trails both within the parks and connecting to other trails (and to design, build and maintain them.)

- 5b. Assess the need for and feasibility of developing an additional recreation center.
- 5c. Assess the need for and feasibility of creating an additional inland lake beach access.
- 5d. Consider acquiring additional properties in order to provide improved geographic coverage.



- 6c. Conduct a communications campaign to increase community awareness of the value of Grand Traverse County's parks and recreational programs.
- 6d. Increase communication with all constituents as to the value of Grand Traverse parks and recreational programming.

This strategic plan represented a fundamental shift for our department moving away from a very insular, and

landlord type of park department towards a more collaborative and active parks and recreation department.

## Public Input

Grand Traverse County utilized several methods for accepting public input for this plan. Input was solicited from key partners within the Parks and Recreation Network on December 13, 2012 we hosted a facilitated community public input workshop on



December 17, 2012, held public input session during our regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on January 17, 2013, and solicited public input via email, fax, phone, and mail between November 29, 2012-January 17, 2013.

### December 13, 2012 – PRN Meeting

The PRN meeting held on December 13, hosted 18 people, and generated the ideas in Appendix F. These comments were valuable based on the input being specifically from organizations from throughout Grand

Traverse County, but also from several other parks and recreation professionals, or key organizational leaders from within the community. These comments were included in the public input received on December 17, and were incorporated into the prioritization exercise led by our facilitators.



Grand Traverse Bay Sunset



Traverse Vineyard

### December 17, 2012 – Community Public Input Workshop

Our most significant public input event, hosted on Monday, December 17 drew in approximately 70 people. The raw comments are provided in Appendix D. The meeting was facilitated by Megan Olds,

Associate Director of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and John Sych, the Grand Traverse County Planning Director. The diversity of the group was much greater than expected with several different interests, and demographics represented, as well as multiple elected and appointed officials from local units of government within Grand Traverse County. The groups that were in attendance were several groups that our organization typically never interacts with. It was our intent in distributing information about the public input meeting to cast our net of public input as wide as we could. As you can see from the top 5 comments listed below, the comments were very broad, ranging from very activity specific facilities to ways to market our department differently to get the word out to our community members. A key tool we found to accessing members of the public that may not have been informed of the meeting was to stress to our customers and partners to not only show up, but to pass on the invitation to the members of their organization that may have an interest as a community member versus just a member of an organization that uses our facilities. By asking our key organizations to do that, we received a tremendous amount of input from parents of a neighboring school.

The event began with a brief introduction to the department, and an explanation of what the session was for. It was suggested to the public that if they had input that was not directly related to a County owned park, or to a program of the County, that we would be

happy to take the input and try to incorporate it into the community utilizing the right partners within one of our many collaborative relationships. Each attendee was provided an unlimited supply of 3" x 5" cards to provide input. As they completed the cards, their comments were captured, and grouped together categorically, but still with their comments unaltered. We then provided each attendee with six "sticky dots" that they could stick next to the comments they supported most. These dots were then tallied, and kept within groups, and utilized in this plan as the data for our goals and objectives.



The public's input during this session was very diverse ranging from input related to communication of programs to developing very sport specific facilities. The raw comments are located in Appendix D. The top 5 projects in rank order based on the public "votes" were the following:

1. Indoor technical rock climbing facility – 24 votes
2. Improvements to Power Island – 19 votes
3. New Community Center – 15 votes
4. Develop a stronger media and online presence – 15 votes
5. Extend/Complete the Boardman Lake Trail – 14 votes

#### December 20, 2012 – Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

This meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The public input meeting was moved to the January 17, 2013 meeting.

#### January 17, 2013 – Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

At this meeting we heard from zero members of the public.



#### Open public input

As mentioned above our department had an open public input time between November 29, 2012- January 17, 2013. All input received during this time was prior to December 17, and was included in the public prioritization exercise.

#### Public comment on the draft plan

The draft of the 2013-2018 Grand Traverse County Community Park Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plan was posted online on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 for a 30 day public comment period. The plan was available in hard copy to any person that requested it. Public comment during this time period has been captured as part of Appendix G. Where applicable, these changes have been reflected in the plan.

#### Public Hearing Comments from February 21, 2013

At this regularly scheduled meeting of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission, there was 1 comment provided. The Parks and Recreation Commission approved the plan by resolution 01-2013. The affidavit of publication for the public hearing is included in Appendix H, and the minutes from the hearing are included as Appendix I.

## Planning/Public Input Conclusions

The public input received as part of this process reinforces several of the conclusions that have been drawn from the multiple planning processes that have taken place within our community in recent years. The Grand Traverse Region is quickly becoming known nationally as an excellent place for high quality of life predominantly due to the wealth and diversity of our natural resources for year round recreation. Historically, our community has taken a very passive approach in providing recreational programming, but as new members of our community move in, they are beginning to demand the more active recreational programming that they have come to expect from their previous communities. This idea is evident in the priorities the public provided to our department at the public input workshop, calling for a new indoor recreational facilities, as well as improved communications about the services offered. Using these two suggestions as examples provides a great summary for all of the studies and input we have received. Our community is requesting high quality indoor recreation facilities that mirror the quality of our high quality outdoor facilities, and they would like all relevant information regarding those facilities to be properly communicated in several methods.

Overall the communication that our department has received over the past few years has been well received, and while our department may not have the depth necessary to address each of these concerns or suggestions individually or head on, we have developed the necessary partnerships and networks within our community to address the majority of these excellent needs for our community members within the next five years.





# Goals and Objectives

*2013-18 Grand Traverse County Recreation Plan*

The Mission of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department is to “enhance community and quality of life through people parks and programs.” With that mission in mind our department presents the following goals and objectives based on the several planning processes that have occurred within our community over the past 2-3 years, as well as the public input that was received as a part of this planning process.



Grand Traverse County is located in the northwest corner of the lower peninsula of Michigan and covers 464 square miles of land. Today, there are 88,349 residents in Grand Traverse County. Since 2000, the county gained 10,694 new residents making it one of the fastest growing counties in Michigan.

With a median age of 41.3, the county is older than Michigan and the United States. However, it depends on the where you live in the county. Higher concentrations of the senior population live at the northern end of the county, focused around Traverse City, Acme Township and Peninsula Township. Peninsula Township has the highest median age of 53 years. Higher numbers of young families tend to live at the southern end of the county, focused around Kingsley. Kingsley has the lowest median age of 33 years. Almost 1/3 of all households in the county have children. 1 out of 4 of all households is headed by someone 65 years and older.

50.7 percent of the county population is female while 49.3 percent of the population is male. Compared to the state of Michigan, the county is less diverse in its racial and ethnic distribution with the exception of the American Indian population which is slightly higher than the state average. Of the county population in 2011, 94.9% are white; 1.4% are black; 1.2% are American Indian and Alaska Native persons; 0.8% are Asian; less than 0.5% are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons; and, 1.7% of persons report two or more races. 2.3% of persons are of Hispanic or Latino Origin.

The 2011 annual average of unemployment in the county was 9.6%. The most recently reported unemployment rate was 6.4% in November, 2012. With the heavy influence of a summer-based tourism economy, the county typically experiences an increase in unemployment during the winter months of every year.

The median income in the county is \$50,647. Areas of lower median income in the county include the urbanized areas of Traverse City, Garfield Township, Fife Lake and Kingsley while areas of higher median income in the county include Acme and Peninsula Townships along the Grand Traverse Bay. 9.7% of the county population is in poverty. Higher percentage areas of poverty include the south county communities of Kingsley, Paradise Township and Mayfield Township. In the county, 11.4% of the total population has a disability compared to 13.5% of the state population.

By 2040, the county is projected to grow to 120,000 residents – an increase of 32,000 residents. As a whole, the county will get older too. In 2040, 1 out of 3 households will be headed by someone 65 years and older. However, the number of family households will remain steady.

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

Grand Traverse County is approximately 485 square miles in size. The County includes:

- 297,000 acres of land
- 13,400 acres of surface water



Grand Traverse County is comprised of rolling and hilly forest uplands, extensive wetlands and low areas, numerous inland lakes and streams and the shorelines of East and West Grand Traverse Bay. The influence of glacial activity is clearly evident in the outwash plains and steep gravel and clay slopes that make the majority of the southern two-thirds of the County. Reaching 1,071.4 feet in elevation and 620 feet in depth in Grand Traverse Bay, these facts lend special character to the County, with its lofty vistas of the bay, lakes and farmlands, and its deep wooded valleys.

Below is a list of five goals with supporting objectives. As mentioned in previous chapters about the consistency of comments and findings among previous planning processes, and public inputs, these goals find their origins within the 2012-15 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. That being said, the strategic goals and objectives have been cross-referenced with the public input and priorities within that process and adjusted to find a common language with a minimal amount of detail lost from the comments. In addition, to the altered language, the objectives have been tweaked to be inclusive of the comments during the public input process and reprioritized based on the number of votes from the public input process. In an effort to incorporate as many of the public comments as we would some liberties were taken in combining comments. An example of where these comments were combined is the five votes in “general support for indoor facilities,” was included in the number of votes for a new Community Center, since the shortfall in current indoor facilities would indicate additional indoor facilities would have to be developed in order to be supported. This method of cross-referencing the goals from the Strategic Plan and the Public Input Process would not have been appropriate for this use, if they had not has such as consistent message from both processes.



**Goal 1 – Facilities: Improve Parks and Recreation opportunities within Grand Traverse County**

**Objective 1a** – Develop a new Community Recreation Center, including indoor rock climbing facility, and new aquatic facilities (62)

**Objective 1b** - Increase the network of trails both within the parks and connecting to other trails (35)

**Objective 1c** – Improve facilities and activities at Power Island (23), Maple Bay (15), and Medalie Park (2)

**Objective 1d** – Improve Civic Center Grounds (9)

**Objective 1e** – Acquire park property on inland lakes for accessible beaches (1)

**Objective 1f** – Acquire park properties within Grand Traverse County to better geographically meet the needs of all county residents where public greenspace is deficient(1)

**Goal 2 – Programs: Develop more robust recreational programming**

**Objective 2a** - Develop a program plan for youths including potential partnerships (23)

**Objective 2b** – Establish a youth stewardship program (11)

**Objective 2c** - Consider collaborating with other organizations in addressing unmet needs

**Objective 2d** - Develop a program plan for adults including potential partnerships

**Objective 2e** - Develop a special event program plan

**Goal 3 – Funding/Revenues: Strengthen financial sustainability of Parks and Recreation**

**Objective 3a** – Establish millage for parks and recreation (9)

**Objective 3b** - Evaluate value and effectiveness of current partnerships

**Objective 3c** – Develop a business plan for the Parks and Recreation Department



**Goal 4 – Partnerships: Increase coordination of programs and services**

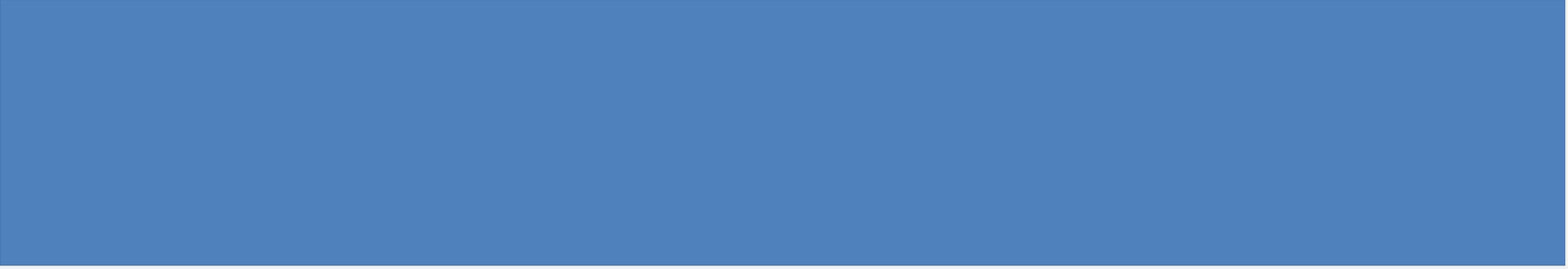
**Objective 4a** - Establish a Joint Parks and Recreation Authority as a means of creating economies of scale and helping the community more easily find and engage in parks and recreation activities (6)

**Objective 4b** - Further develop relationships with other key providers of recreational programs and services (businesses, non recreational authority members, etc.) (3)

**Goal 5 – Information distribution/Marketing: Increase community awareness of and appreciation for the recreational opportunities in Grand Traverse County**

**Objective 5a** – Develop an educational and communication campaign about Parks and Recreation Opportunities within Grand Traverse County (15)

**Objective 5b** – Establish a county wide single source website for parks and recreation opportunities



# Action Program

*2013-18 Grand Traverse County Recreation Plan*

DRAFT 01/22/2015

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This chapter is a key in developing our Parks and Recreation Plan, allowing us to focus and bring attention to the excellent community and state resources that will allow us to follow through and complete the goals and objectives that have been identified by our community members for the next five years. While this list is certainly not exhaustive, we look forward to using other resources that are fostered or developed in the next five years as our department continues to build capacity, and works with new partners and community resources to fulfill our mission of enhancing the community and quality of life within Grand Traverse County.



## Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Commission

Our Parks & Recreation Commission, with its newest 2012-2015 Strategic Plan have identified as a strategic goal to establish Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation as a recognized leader in the County. The other goals and strategies within their plan support this goal. This is an asset and included in our Action Program due to the shift this represents in how our Commission intends to support providing recreational opportunities to the citizens and visitors of Grand Traverse County.

## General Funds

Our department utilizes an annual allocation from the Grand Traverse County General Fund to help to partially fund the opportunities that are currently provided. This funding over the past several years has significantly declined, from \$450,718.00 in 2008 to \$170,636.00 in 2013. This 62% decrease has forced our department to do business differently, exploring different options including partnerships. Our department will continue to be reliant on these funds, but will seek ways to better leverage these funds in the next five years to maximize their effectiveness.

## Local Grants

Grand Traverse County and the surrounding region are rife with several very community minded foundations. Historically our department has had great relationships with these foundations, and looks forward to continuing our relationships with these local granting agencies on a project by project basis. A sampling of some key foundations includes Rotary Charities (and the NorthSky Nonprofit Network), the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, the Oleson Foundation, and the Schmuckal Foundation. Each of the foundations have different qualifications and match requirements.

## Land and Water Conservation Grants (LWC)

This federally funded opportunity is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and requires a minimum of 50% match. These funds are awarded on an annual basis, with a heavier emphasis on outdoor recreation than indoor recreation. Historically our department and community have been successful in the management of LWC grants.

## Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants (MNRTF)

The MNRTF grant, again through the MDNR, offers funding to recreational opportunities for the acquisition of park land, and for the development of recreation facilities.

Funding for this program comes from the oil, gas and mineral royalties from state owned lands. These grants have a minimum of 25% match, and should consider the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

## Recreation Passport Grants

This MDNR program utilizes funds from the sale of the Recreation Passport to fund local development projects. The Passport grants have a minimum of a 25% cash match, with grant request between \$7,500.00 and \$45,000.00.

## Local Partnerships

For the past two years, our department has worked extensively to develop key partnerships within the community to help leverage resources and build community. The most extensive example of these partnerships is the Parks and Recreation Network. Collectively, the PRN represents over 30 local units of government, and parks and recreation providers to collectively solve issues to build a stronger recreational opportunity delivery system. While our department manages several extensive partnerships, we also have smaller scale partnerships such as working with the City of Traverse City to offer a summer daycamp program. This category of resources may be the most exciting, due to the nature and ability for these partnerships to continually evolve and be developed strategically where each organization utilizes its resources to meet the needs of the community.

## Land Information Access Association (LIAA)

LIAA is a non-profit community service organization with a mission of “Helping people shape better communities through participation, education, information and the effective use of technology.” Within our community LIAA has a history of being a key member of several projects, most recently working with the Parks and Recreation Network to create a centralized hub website for recreation organizations within Grand Traverse County.

## Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC)

Our community is very fortunate to have the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. The GTRLC has been a long standing partner of Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation, and we look forward to further collaboration to ensure key properties are protected, and appropriately utilized by our community members and visitors.



## Grand Traverse Conservation District (GTCD)

The Grand Traverse Conservation District is a long standing partner of our department. GTCD has been the leading stewardship organization within the Natural Education Reserve for years. Not only do they serve as key stewards of our parks and open spaces, they provide our community with educational opportunities, and are always willing to advise our organization on proper management of our natural resources.

## Parks and Recreation Network (PRN)

The PRN is a new organization within our community. Founded in December 2011, the organization provides a forum for broader Parks and Recreation issues to be explored, and to collectively bring resolution to common challenges within our community’s diverse and very specified parks and recreation providers. While fairly new, the PRN has focused on development of a centralized website for all of its member organizations to distribute their information to the public in a “one-stop shop” environment that will inherently be optimized when search online.

## Local Philanthropy

In addition to our local foundations, our community is fortunate to be the home to citizens that have a strong collective thought to contribute their wealth back into the community. This local movement is somewhat tumultuous and very project specific, but does exist within our community.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Goals/Objectives Achieved</b>
<b>Develop a new Community Recreation Center</b>	Local Philanthropy Local Grants General Fund Allocation Passport Grant MDNR Trust Fund	Traverse City Senior Center TCAPS	1a, 1d,2a,2d, 2e, 4b,5a,
<b>Develop Connection to TART Trail to the Civic Center Walking Path</b>	General Fund Allocation	TART Trails	1b
<b>Establish a trail connection between Medalie Park, to the Nature Education Reserve to Keystone Soccer Complex</b>	Local Grants Local Philanthropy MDNRTF MDNR LWC Fund	TART Trails GT Conservation District TBAYS Garfield Township	1b, 1c
<b>Improve trails on Power Island</b>	MDNRTF MDNR LWC Passport Grant Local Grants Local Philanthropy General Fund Allocation	GT Hiking Club GT Bay Underwater Preserve GT Conservation District GT Regional Land Conservancy	1b, 1c, 2b,
<b>Improve dock, moorings, and support infrastructure at Power Island</b>	MDNRTF MDNRLWC Passport Grant Local Grants Local Philanthropy General Fund Allocation	GT Hiking Club GT Bay Underwater Preserve GT Conservation District	1c,2b,
<b>Develop and Implement Corridor Plan to include Maple Bay</b>	Local Grants Local Philanthropy MDNRTF MDNRLWC Passport Grants General Fund Allocation	GT Regional Land Conservancy GT Conservation District	1c, 2b,2c, 2e, 4b
<b>Develop and Implement Medalie Park Master Plan</b>	Local Grants General Fund Allocation	GT Conservation District Garfield Charter Township TART Trails	1b, 1c,4b
<b>Implement Civic Center Master Plan</b>	Local Grants Local Philanthropy General Fund Allocation	GT Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Local Pickleball Enthusiasts	1a, 1b, 1d

<b>Project</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Potential Partners</b>	<b>Goals/Objectives Achieved</b>
	MDNRTF MDNRLWC Passport Grant	Traverse City Swim Club	
<b>Acquire park properties on inland lakes for accessible beaches</b>	Local Grants MDNRTF MDNRLWC Passport Grant General Fund Allocation Local Philanthropy Local Donations	GT Regional Land Conservancy GT Conservation District	1e, 1f
<b>Acquire park properties within Grand Traverse County to better geographically meet the needs of all county residents where greenspace is deficient.</b>	Local Grants MDNRTF MDNRLWC Passport Grant General Fund Allocation Local Philanthropy Local Donations	GT Regional Land Conservancy GT Conservation District	1e, 1f
<b>Expand Staff to accommodate Recreation Programmer</b>	Local Grants General Fund Allocation Programmatic Revenues		2a, 2b, 2d
<b>Develop business plan for parks department</b>	Local Grants General Fund Allocation	NorthSky Nonprofit Network	3c
<b>Determine need and feasibility of a Joint Parks and Recreation Authority within Grand Traverse County</b>	Local Grants General Fund Allocation Local Donations	LIAA Parks & Recreation Network	4a, 3a, 4b
<b>Complete an educational campaign about the benefits of Community Recreation</b>	Local Grants General Fund Allocation	Parks and Recreation Network NorthSky Nonprofit Network	5a
<b>Develop a centralized “hub” website for all parks and recreational opportunities within Grand Traverse County</b>	Local Grants General Fund Allocation	Parks and Recreation Network LIAA	5b

# Appendix A

-2012 Civic Center Master Plan-

*Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation*  
Civic Center Park Master Plan

January 2012







*Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation*  
Civic Center Park Master Plan



- December 2011 -

Prepared by

R. CLARK ASSOCIATES, INC.  
3335 W. SOUTH AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE 9B  
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN 49684





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- II. Park Property History and Existing Facilities
- III. Park Property Site Analysis
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  - b. General Recommendations
  - c. Sidewalk Linkage to Garfield Avenue
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  - e. Fair Street Drop-off Area
- VII. Appendices
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## I. Introduction and Planning Process

The forty-five acre Civic Center Park is located in Traverse City, Michigan and it is the most heavily used of the 13 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission park properties. The Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission Strategic Plan recommends that a new master plan be created for the Civic Center Park.

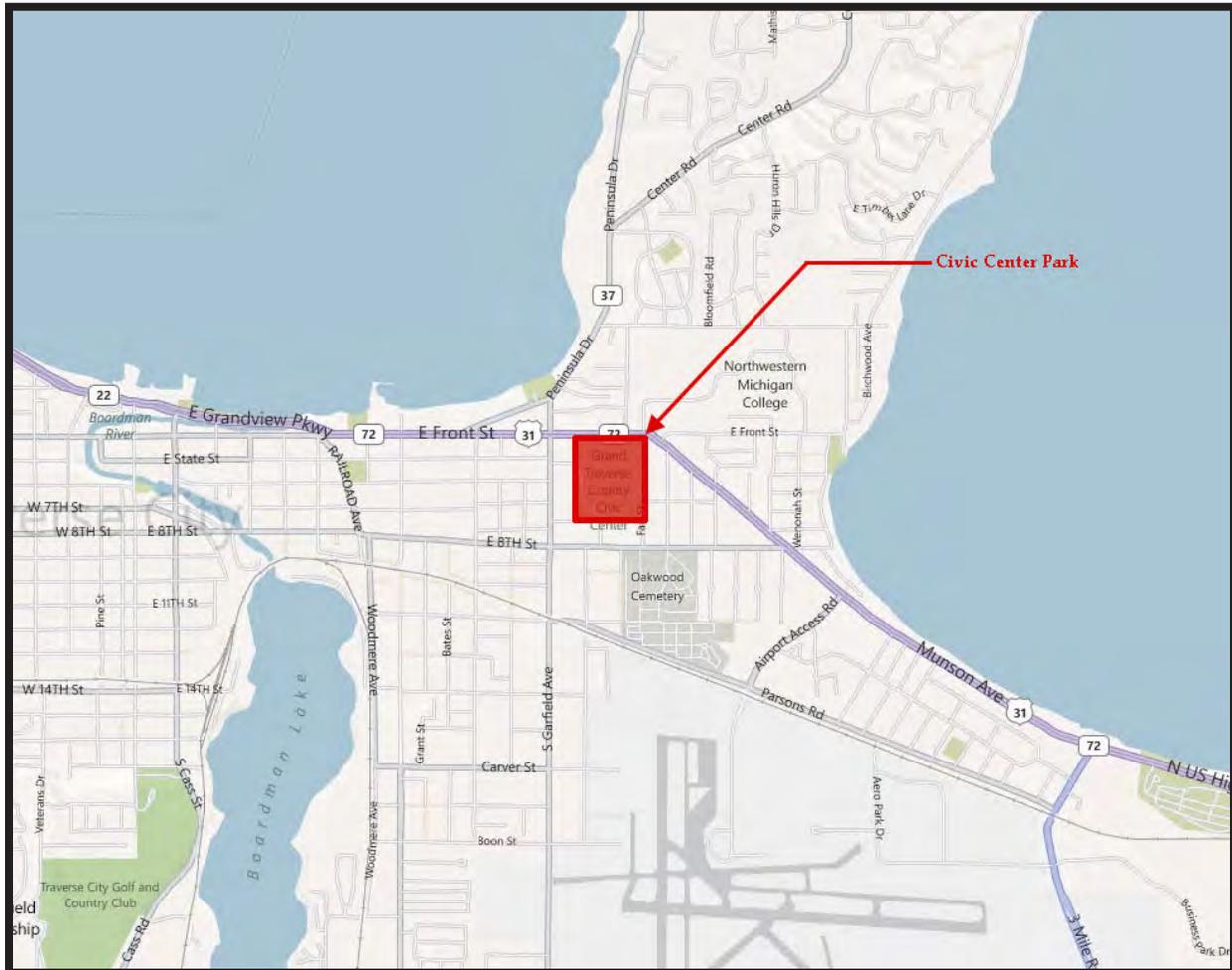


Exhibit A: Vicinity Map (Image Source: Bing.com Maps)

*"The 45 acre Civic Center attracts over 1 million visitors per year. There is something for everyone to enjoy at the Civic Center. It is a multi use facility that offers swimming at the indoor Easling Pool, many shows and interesting exhibits in Howe Arena, children can play endlessly at Kids Kove, skateboarders and bike enthusiast may enjoy the skate park, baseball and softball is played all summer long, and there is hockey and ice skating in Howe Arena in the winter months." -Source: Grand Traverse County Website*



In 2010 R. Clark Associates, Inc. agreed to prepare a pro-bono Civic Center Park Master Plan for the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks Commission) with the understanding that the funds budgeted for the design (\$15,000.00) will be set aside and used to implement a portion of the approved master plan. With this understanding and approval by the Grand Traverse County Board, R. Clark Associates, Inc. (RCAI) initiated the following master planning process for the Civic Center Park.

1. RCAI prepared an Existing Facilities Plan to identify the existing land uses and facilities in the Civic Center Park.
2. RCAI prepared a Site Analysis drawing to identify existing limitations and opportunities within and adjoining the park property. The purpose of this analysis is to evaluate pedestrian and auto circulation patterns, land use relationships, etc. This was presented to the Recreation Commission on January 12, 2011.
3. RCAI facilitated a Public Participation and Brainstorming Exercise to explore new ideas for the Civic Center Park and assist in prioritizing the new ideas. The Public Input meeting was held on February 22, 2011.
4. Parks Commission reviewed the recommendations and public input on April 4, 2011. The Commission provided RCAI with their recommendations to be included in the Preliminary Master Plan.
5. RCAI prepared the Preliminary Master Plan and presented it to the Parks Commission on May 19, 2011. The Parks Commission authorized RCAI to prepare a Conceptual Master Plan based on their recommendations from the review of the Preliminary Master Plan.
6. RCAI presented a Conceptual Master Plan to the Parks Commission on August 8, 2011 and recommended that a Public Hearing be scheduled for public review.
7. A Public Hearing on the Civic Center Master Plan was held on August 16, 2011. The Parks Commission authorized RCAI to prepare the Master Plan Report for the Civic Center Park.

This report is the summary of the planning process and documentation to create the recommended master plan for the Civic Center Park. Recreation master planning is an ongoing process and should be re-evaluated often due to the changing recreation demands and needs of the citizens in the community.



## *II. Park Property History and Existing Facilities*

### **Civic Center Park Property History**

The Civic Center Park property was originally purchased by Grand Traverse County in 1912 and developed as the county fairgrounds. In 1973 the Easling Pool facility was built on the property. The county fairground land use was moved to another property and in 1975 a grant was awarded to Grand Traverse County to build ball diamonds, bathroom /concessions building, walking path and bridge, and parking improvements. In 1989 Howe Arena was built and attached to the Easling Pool building.

In 1991 lighting was added to the loop walking path. Kids Kove wood adventure playground was built in 1996. The outdoor basketball courts and adjoining parking area were built in 1997. The Skate Park was built in 2000 and is the latest major recreation improvement to the property.

### **Existing Facilities**

The following list summarizes the existing major features in the park:

- Eight ball fields, dugouts, bleachers, restroom & concessions building
- Easling indoor swimming pool
- Howe ice arena & multi-purpose meeting room
- Lighted asphalt walking trail loop & wood bridge over the entry drive
- Skate park
- Amphitheater and stage
- Picnic shelter
- South area restrooms
- Kids Kove Wood Adventure Playground
- Outdoor basketball courts (2 full size & 2 ½ size)
- County Facilities Management Office & Maintenance Building
- Multiple parking areas
- Internal sidewalks
- Perimeter 6 foot tall chain link fence
- Older oak tree canopy (The majority of the trees in the park are older oak trees)

Please refer to Exhibit B – Existing Facilities Plan for an illustration of the layout of the existing built features in the Civic Center Park.



## Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation

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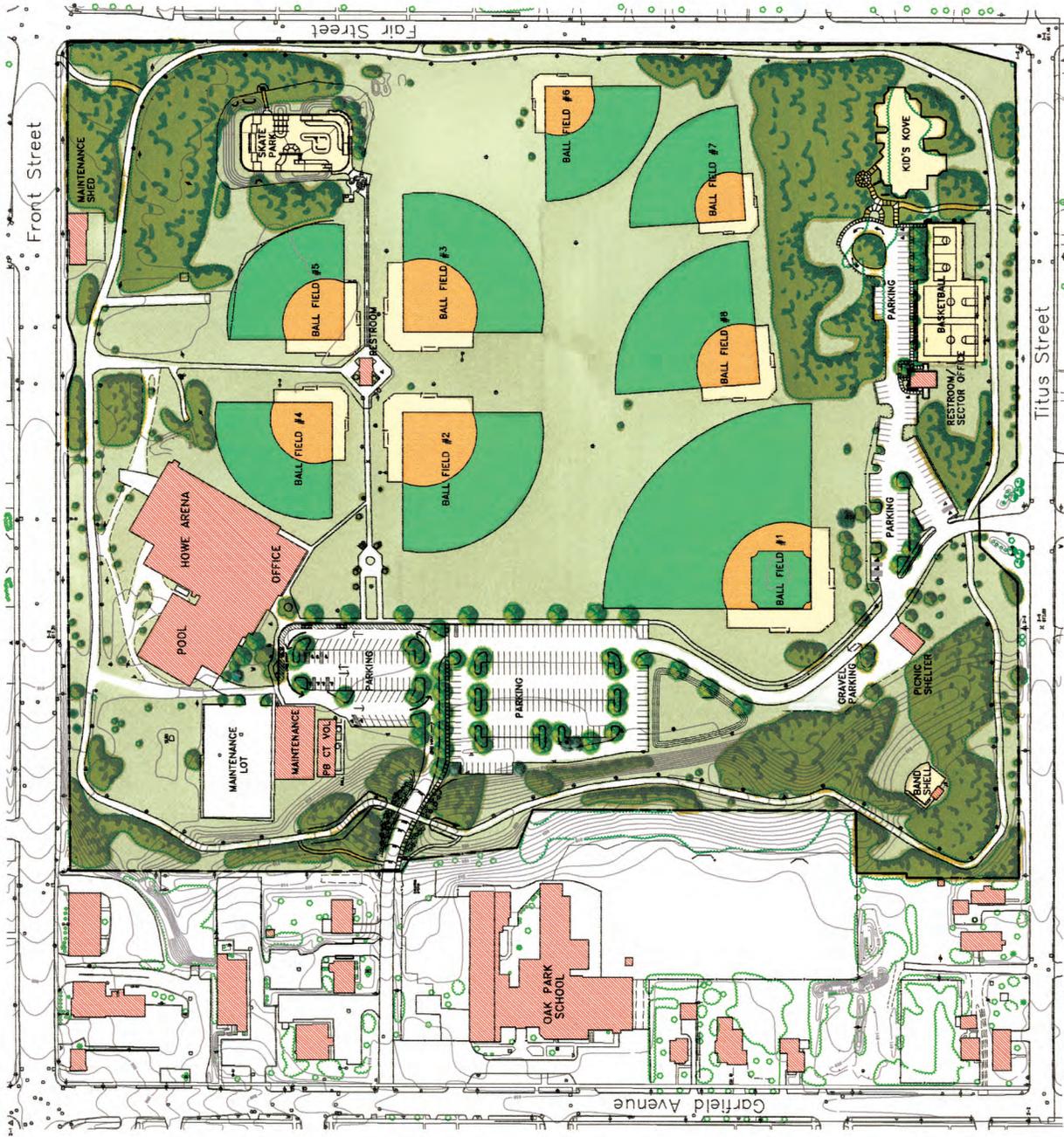
*Easling Pool is the only public swimming pool in Grand Traverse County. It is used by people of all ages and abilities for recreation and competition.*



*Howe Arena is used for shows, events and childrens activities in the off season.*



*The Civic Center Skate Park is the only facility of this size in Grand Traverse County.*



# GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY CIVIC CENTER



Exhibit B: Existing Facilities Plan





### *III. Park Property History and Existing Facilities*

RCAI prepared a site analysis to explore the opportunities and limitations of the park property. The purpose of this effort is to better understand how the various uses and functions of the site relate to each other to better understand the limitations of the site and explore additional recreational opportunities for the site. Some of the major limitations and opportunities of the site are:

#### **Limitations**

- No pedestrian access to the park from Garfield Avenue
- Internal pedestrian walkway does not connect the to the walking loop from the skate park
- Countywide Grounds Maintenance Facility has a big impact on the footprint of the park with traffic, vehicle parking, and equipment storage. Equipment and staff vehicle parking is currently using the former tennis court area within the fencing.
- The entire park is enclosed with a six foot high chain link fence that has been in place since the property was used as a fairground. It does offer additional safety in some critical areas along the loop walkway but it also does have a negative impact on the park and limits access to the park.

#### **Opportunities**

- Outdoor Pickleball courts can be added to the park with minimal tree removal
- Potential multi-purpose sports field improvements can expand sports field activities within the park
- The Facilities Maintenance parking area (former tennis courts) can be screened from view with vines and cedar trees
- Playground expansion at Kids Kove is possible in the area to the north of the playground and south of the baseball fields
- Front Street roadway visual improvement is possible

The site analysis plan will be part of the background information for the evaluation of the Civic Center Park during the public input process. Please see Exhibit C: Site Analysis Plan for further information.



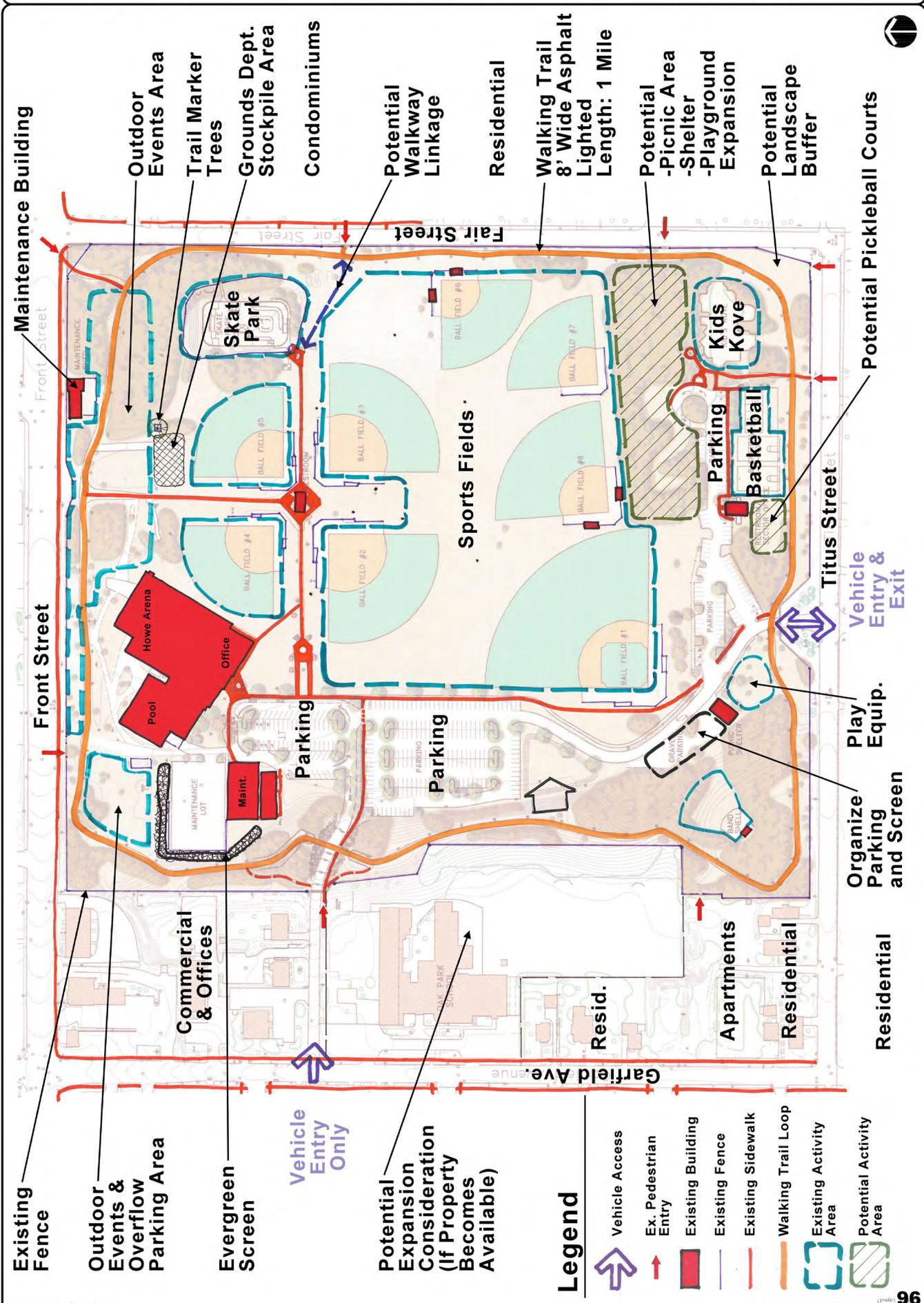


Exhibit C: Site Analysis Plan





#### *IV. Public Input Summary*

A Public Input Meeting was held on February 22, 2011 at the Civic Center with approximately 30 people attending the meeting. The members of the community were at the meeting to represent their interest in the Civic Center as citizens and/or representatives of organized recreation groups who utilize the facilities at the Civic Center Park.

The potential ideas for the Civic Center Park that have been recommended in the past by citizens were listed and reviewed. The Public Meeting participants were asked to provide their recommendations for the park through a facilitated brainstorming exercise.

##### **Brainstorming Process Outline Provided at Public Input Meeting**

We want to identify all of the ideas that you think should be considered for the Civic Center Park.

- Several ideas have been expressed in the past for the park and they have been listed on the walls.
- We will review the previous ideas, ask you for additional thoughts and add them to the charts.
- When the Brainstorming is complete you will vote for your top five choices by placing a dot on the ideas that you support the most.

The results of the Brainstorming Exercise and votes cast by the participants to represent their top five priorities are summarized in Appendix A – Civic Center Park Ideas Summary List. A total of 54 ideas were recommended for consideration and they were grouped into three categories. The first and largest group was Grounds and Park Activities with 32 ideas. The second group was Buildings and Indoor Activities with 20 ideas recommended. The third group was titled Other Ideas for Consideration with 2 ideas recommended.

The participants were asked to vote for their top five choices from the list of all of the ideas presented and listed. The Civic Center Park Ideas Summary List in Appendix A is intended to provide a guide for the Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Commission as they establish potential priorities of elements to be considered in the creation of a Preliminary Master Plan for the park.

On April 21, 2011 the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the entire Ideas Summary List and recommended that several of the ideas from the Public Participation meeting be included in the Preliminary Master Plan for the Civic Center Park.



The ideas that the Parks Commission considered to be the most important to be included in the master plan were as follows and they were not prioritized:

- a. Connecting the Civic Center to the TART trail system
- b. Improving paths and sidewalks within the Civic Center Park
- c. Develop outdoor Pickleball courts
- d. Consideration of expansion or other use of the Amphitheater area
- e. Increase and improve lighting
- f. Making all facilities ADA accessible
- g. Improved parking and landscaping at the Pavilion
- h. Removal of fencing along Front Street
- i. Install a community events sign on Front Street
- j. Expand and update playground equipment at Kid's Kove
- k. Improvement and/or expansion of Aquatic facilities at Easling Pool
- l. Consider an outdoor Splash Pad
- m. Consider safe pedestrian access to Garfield Avenue and Oak Park School
- n. Enhance the Indian Trail Marker Tree
- o. Improve and enhance the Multi-purpose field capability
- p. Consider future acquisition of Oak Park School for a recreational facility
- q. In the future consider the removal of the Grand Traverse County Facilities Management operation from the park and reduce the facility to support the maintenance needs of the Civic Center

The Parks Commission recognized that they can not accommodate all of the ideas for the park from the public input session but felt that the list above could be supported at this time.



## *V. Preliminary Master Plan Concept*

The purpose of the Preliminary Master Plan is to provide the Recreation Commission with an initial Conceptual Master Plan recommendation for them evaluate and comment on. This plan was the basis for the Conceptual Master Plan for the park with changes as requested by the Recreation Commission.

The ideas that the Parks Commission considered to be the most important to be included in the master plan for the Civic Center Park were included in the Preliminary Master Plan along with some additional recommendations by RCAI. The Preliminary Master Plan that was presented to and reviewed by the Recreation Commission on May 19, 2011 is Exhibit D - Preliminary Master Plan.

The Parks Commission requested that the potential Bike Skills Course be removed from the master plan at this time for further evaluation by the commission. The Recreation Commission also recommended that the master plan propose a smaller building for maintenance assuming that the county will relocate the Facilities Management function to another property and to include additional outdoor pickleball courts on the current parking area. The rest of the recommendations for the master plan as illustrated, were supported by the Recreation Commission.





Lower Fence From 6' to 3'  
 Remove Existing Fence (880' +/-)  
 New Landscape Beds, Hedges, Trees  
 Community Events Sign  
 Outdoor Events Area  
 HOWE ARENA  
 POOL  
 OFFICE  
 BALL FIELD #1  
 BALL FIELD #2  
 BALL FIELD #3  
 BALL FIELD #4  
 BALL FIELD #5  
 BALL FIELD #6  
 BALL FIELD #7  
 BALL FIELD #8  
 BALL FIELD #9  
 KID'S COVE  
 BASKETBALL COURTS  
 PICNIC SHELTER  
 BAND SHELTER  
 OAK PARK SCHOOL  
 PAVILION PARKING LOT  
 GARFIELD AVENUE  
 FRONT STREET  
 TITUS STREET  
 Lower Fence From 6' to 3'  
 Landscaping, Wood Fence, & Traffic Control For Pavilion Parking Lot  
 Lower Fence From 6' to 3'  
 Outdoor Pickleball Courts  
 Landscape Entry Feature  
 Trail Connection to TART Trail  
 Expand Play Area & New Equipment (Potential Future Shelter)  
 Expand Length of Trail Loop to Equal 1 Mile  
 Potential Bike Skills Course  
 New Walkway to Trail Marker Tree  
 Extend Walkway and Connect to Loop Trail  
 Multi-Purpose Sports Field  
 Possible Park Expansion if Property Becomes Available  
 -Community Recreation Center  
 -Additional Play Area  
 -Senior Activities  
 Retain and Maintain Existing 6' Chain Link Fence Along West Property Line  
 Sport Field Sizes  
 -Football: 172' x 372'  
 -Flag/Touch: 132' x 312'  
 -Football  
 -Men's Field Hockey: 180' x 300'  
 -Men's Lacrosse: 220' x 370'  
 -Rugby: 180' x 330'  
 Relocate Facilities Management to Another Property (Maintain a Small Facility for This Property)  
 Screen Maintenance Lot (Vines on Fence)  
 Extend Sidewalk to Garfield Ave. Sidewalk (Cooperative Effort Between City, TCAPS, and County)  
 Splash Pad  
 Picnic Tables  
 Outdoor Drinking Fountain

Exhibit D: Preliminary Master Plan





## *VI. Civic Center Park Master Plan*

The major items recommended for the Civic Center Master Plan are summarized below. These recommendations are based on the public input provided by the citizens of Grand Traverse County and the Recreation Commission. Please refer to Exhibit E – Master Plan Concept for the illustrative representation of recommended items.

### **Existing Chain Link Fencing**

The perimeter fence is recommended to be removed along Front Street for approximately 880 feet to open up the park visually from the highway. The rest of the fence along Front Street should be retained and reduced in height to three feet. The fence along Fair and Titus Streets is recommended to be cut down in height from six feet high to three feet. This effort will retain the safety factor along the loop walkway and reduce the visual impact of the park from the surrounding neighborhoods. All of the six foot tall chain link fence along the west property line should be maintained.

### **Community Events Sign**

A new identification sign along Front Street with an electronic reader board to announce the activities of the park is recommended to be placed at the intersection of Front and Fair Streets or near the center of the park frontage on Front Street. These locations should be evaluated by a sign expert to determine which location will work the best.

### **Front Street Landscape Feature**

To improve the community image of the park, we recommend that a landscape hedge of shrubs, perennials and trees be installed in the area where the existing chain link fence is recommend to be removed. The proposed landscaping should be designed to enhance and facilitate the future community events sign if it is to be placed along Front Street in the center of the road frontage. The landscape bed and hedge is intended to allow visibility into the park and still define the park edge along the road right-of-way.

### **Outdoor Pickleball Courts**

Four outdoor pickleball courts are recommended to be placed west of the existing outdoor basketball courts and south of the existing restroom facility. There is an existing clearing with one smaller tree that will need to be removed. This area will accommodate four courts side by side and they can be enclosed with fencing if necessary. There was strong support for this recreation activity during the Public Input process.

### **Multi-Purpose Sports Field**

The public input process recommended that the multi-purpose sports field be improved to facilitate several different types of field sports. This also should include lighting improvements for additional evening events in the spring and the fall.









### **Screen Maintenance Facility Parking**

Recommended planting cedar trees around the chain link fence and plant vines to grow on the fence to screen the parking area for Facilities Maintenance

### **Easling Pool Outdoor Patio**

An outdoor patio adjacent to Easling Pool with access control fencing is recommended. This outdoor patio could allow for additional functions related to the pool facility in the spring, summer, and fall. The outdoor patio area could also include a small splash pad function if a separate large splash pad area as shown on the master plan is not desired.

### **Splash Pad**

A splash pad area is recommended east of the Easling Pool building as a new recreation function at the Civic Center. This activity requires water, drainage and electrical services. It will require a specialized water play designer to conceptualize, estimate, and engineer the details of the facility.

### **Indian Trail Tree Marker & Walkway**

Develop a sidewalk loop to the tree and install an identification sign for the Indian Trail Marker Tree. This may require that the existing materials storage for the baseball infields and mulch be relocated.

### **Extend Sidewalk to the Loop Walkway**

An extension of the main sidewalk from the ball field restrooms and concession area is needed to the east from the skate park to the east side of the loop walkway towards Fair Street. This new sidewalk should match the existing core walkway and it should connect to the loop walk way near the existing fence opening on Fair Street.

### **Expand the Length of Loop Walkway**

One of the items identified in the public input process was that the loop walkway is slightly under a mile in length. There is an opportunity to create an extended loop into the northwest corner of the property to facilitate the one mile length to the walkway.



### **Kids Kove Play Area**

Kids Kove is an existing wood adventure playground built in 1996 by a friends group and volunteers. The play structure was built with wolmanized wood and it is showing signs of wear from use. It currently does not conform to playground safety standards. Portions of the facility will need to be removed over time for safety reasons. This playground has been a destination playground for schools and other organizations that bring children by bus from throughout the region. This playground area needs to be expanded with new play structures and portions of the existing play area need to be redone for safety compliance. We recommend that the Parks Commission support a new friends group to focus on the adventure playground area. This effort will require volunteers, grant assistance, and local fund raising.

### **TART Trail Connection**

Work with the TART organization and the City of Traverse City to create a connection from the southeast corner of the Civic Center south to the existing TART Trail. Limited improvements are required on the park property if the existing loop walkway is used to connect to a future trail from the southeast corner of the park.

### **Picnic Shelter Parking Enhancements**

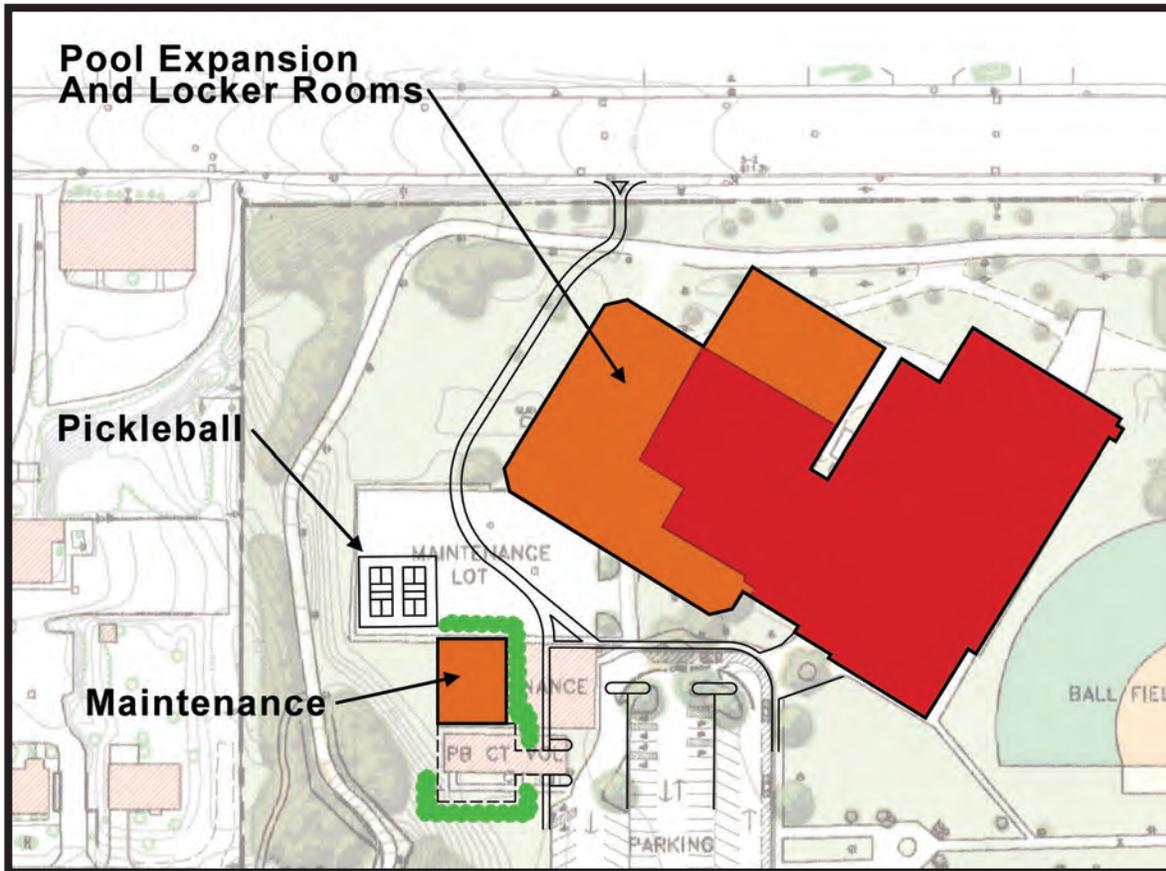
The existing Picnic Shelter along the entrance road from Titus Street has a gravel parking area north of the structure that is not well organized in terms of vehicle circulation. We recommend that wood fencing like the existing fence on the other side the drive be installed to define two points of access to the parking area on the north and south ends. Landscaping with trees, shrubs and perennials should be installed between the new wood fence and the drive to improve the aesthetics of this area along the entry drive.

### **Facilities Management Building & Parking**

The Parks Commission has recommended that the Grand Traverse County Facilities Management operation be relocated to another county property in the future. There should still be an on site facility for the maintenance operation of the Civic Center Park for employees, equipment and supplies. This facility will still need to be screened from public view where possible and we assume that it will be a smaller building. The current building may be able to be reused for additional recreation activities or it may be removed or partially removed depending on future needs.

### **Future Pickelball Courts**

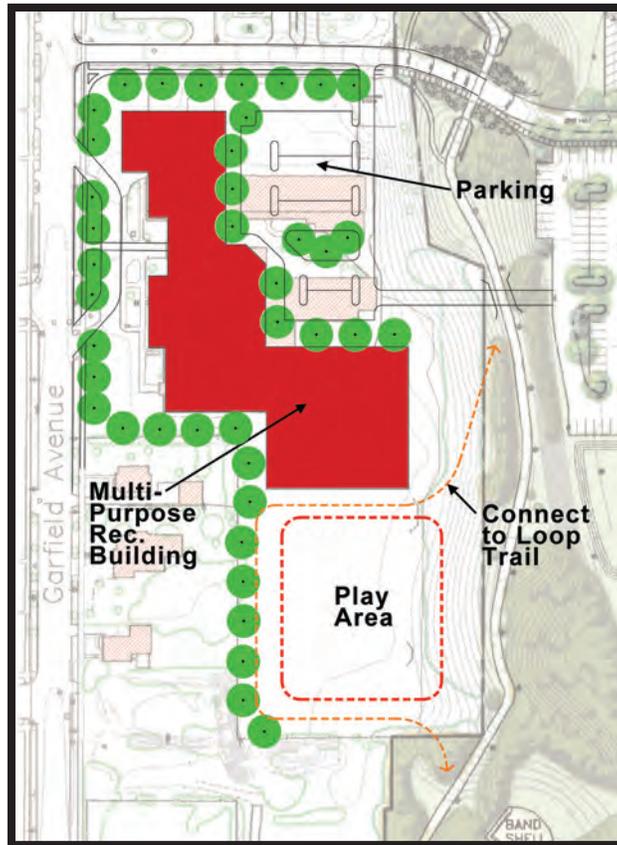
It is recommended that the existing parking area for Facilities Management (Former Tennis Courts) be considered for outdoor pickelball courts if there is a need for more courts in the community or on this property.



*Exhibit F: Easling Pool Expansion Concept*

### **Easling Pool Expansion Concept**

RCAI provided an Easling Pool Expansion Concept sketch to illustrate the opportunities to expand the indoor swimming pool and locker room facilities. Please refer to Exhibit F – Easling Pool Expansion Concept. The large indoor pool and locker room expansion to the west and south (approx. 27,000 sq. ft.) assumes that the County Facilities Maintenance operation has been moved off site and that a portion of the building is retained for Civic Center Park maintenance operations. Potential Pickleball courts could utilize a portion of the original tennis court area. The expansion of the building to the north (approx. 12,000 sq. ft.) is limited in size by the location of the existing loop walkway and utilities. A future detailed architectural and engineering study will be required to determine the feasibility of the indoor pool expansion.



*Exhibit G: Potential Future Community Recreation Center*

**Potential Future Community Recreation Center**

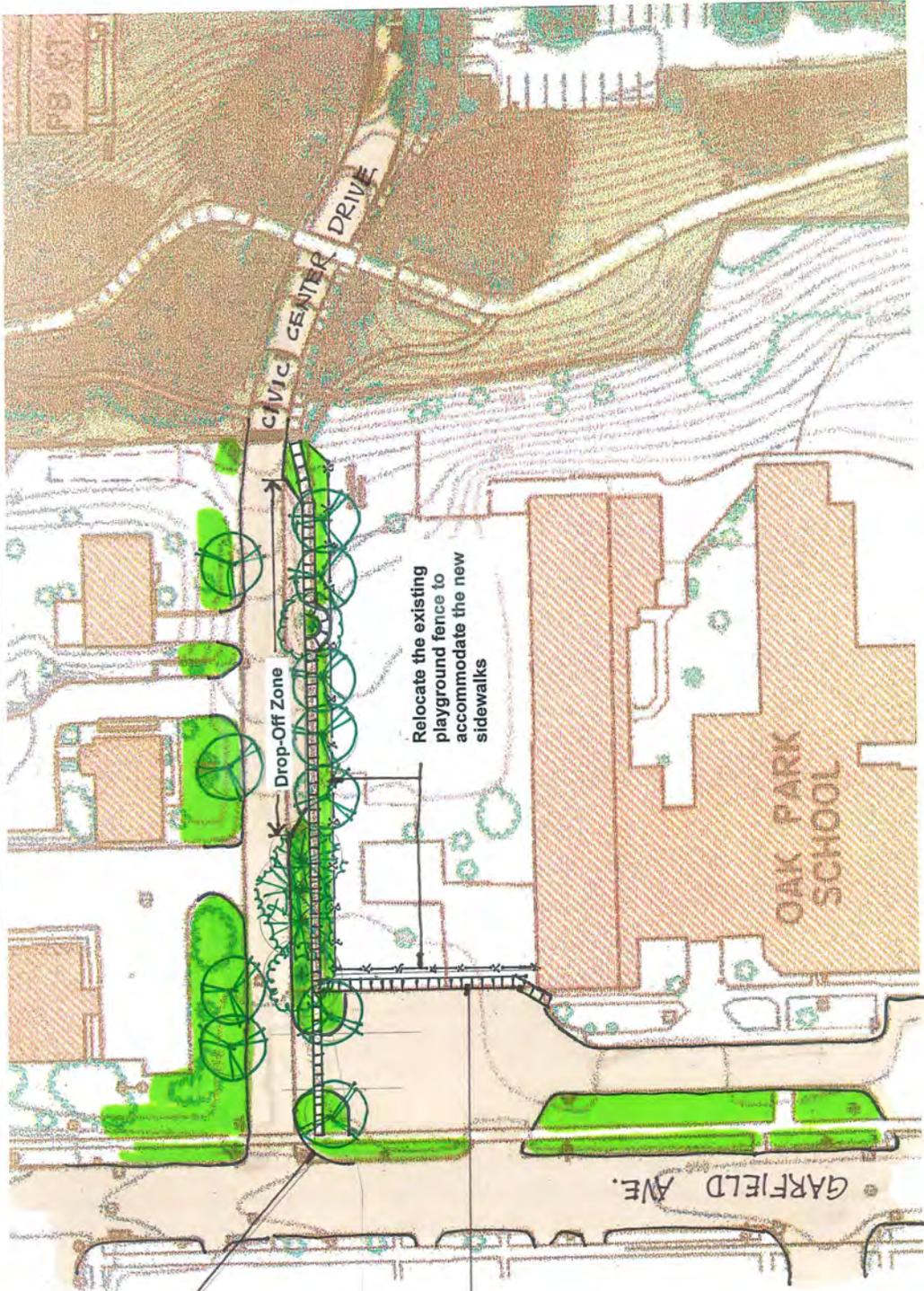
RCAI provided a Potential Future Community Recreation Center sketch to illustrate the opportunities to expand the Civic Center Park onto the Oak Park School property. This could be the best opportunity to provide a future full service community recreation center within Traverse City. If the property becomes available and funding can be obtained this expansion offers many possibilities for future recreation facilities and services to the residents of Grand Traverse County. Please refer to Exhibit G – Potential Future Community Recreation Center. The existing school building and grounds could be utilized for additional community recreation programs and activities. Consideration should also be given to a potential partnership arrangement between Traverse City Schools, City of Traverse City Parks and Recreation and Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation to utilize this facility as a Center Point for community recreation services.

This concept as illustrated assumes that the existing main parking lot of the park be utilized and connected to future parking on the west side of the recreation center. This will require a second loop walkway bridge to separate the walkway and auto circulation patterns for safety. A future detailed architectural and engineering study will be required to determine the feasibility of a Community Recreation Center when there is a need and community support for it.



**Civic Center Drive Entry Concept**

RCAI prepared a Civic Center Drive Entry Concept sketch to illustrate the possibility of creating a safe sidewalk linkage from the Civic Center park sidewalk to the existing Garfield Avenue sidewalk. This concept also provides for a pick-up and drop-off area along Oak Park School on the south side of Civic Center Drive. This concept assumes that the existing school chain link fence can be moved to the south approximately ten feet to make room for the drop-off area and sidewalk. This concept will require cooperation and potential shared cost between Traverse City Area Schools, City of Traverse City and Grand Traverse County. (Please see Exhibit H on the next page.)



Create a new 30' radius curb for right turns

Create a Greenway walk corridor from Garfield Ave. sidewalk to the Civic Center sidewalk

Plant trees along Civic Center Drive to enhance the park entry

Consider a sidewalk linkage to the school building entry from the new sidewalk

Relocate the existing playground fence to accommodate the new sidewalks

**Civic Center Entry Concept**



R. Clark Associates, Inc.  
Planners & Landscape Architects  
May 19, 2011 #10061

Recommend a cooperative effort between:

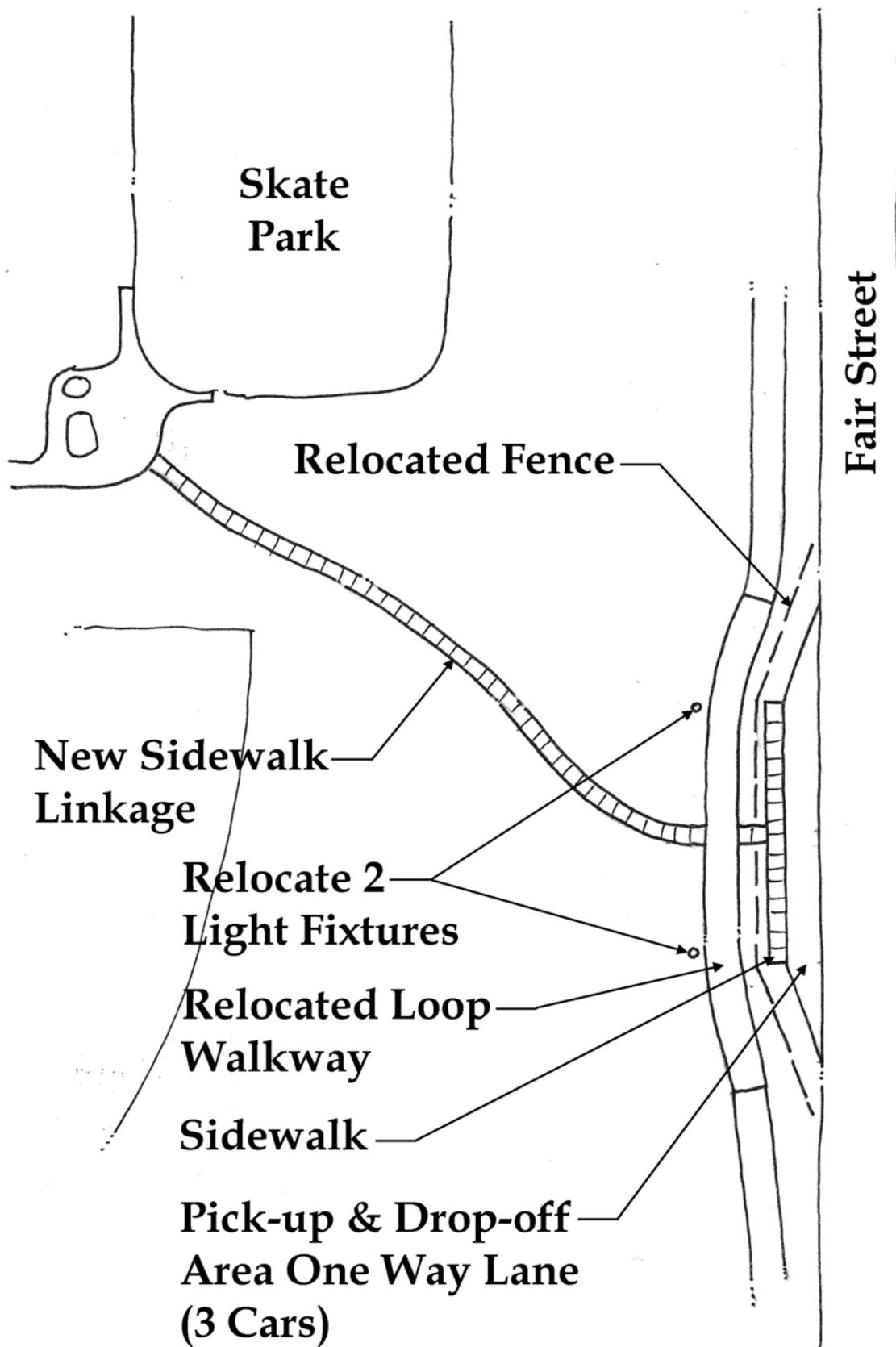
- City of Traverse City
- Traverse City Area Public Schools
- Grand Traverse County
- Adjoining Property Owners

*Exhibit H: Entry Drive Concept*



**Fair Street Drop-off Area Concept**

RCAI prepared a concept of a potential Drop-off area on Fair Street near the skate park based on recommendations from the public and the Parks Commission. This drop-off area will allow up to three cars to pickup or drop off park users. It will be a one way traffic flow going south along the east edge of the south bound lane on Fair Street. This concept will require relocating the existing fence and a portion of the west loop walkway. This concept will require the approval of the City of Traverse City. (Please see Exhibit I on the next page.)



*Exhibit I: Fair Street Drop-off Area Concept*



*VIII. Appendices*

**Appendix A - Public Input List**

**Appendix B - Public Notices for Civic Center Master Plan**



# Appendix A - Public Input List

## Civic Center Park Ideas Summary List

### Public Input Brainstorming Ideas for the Civic Center Park

The following list is a summary of the ideas provided for consideration by citizens and recreation groups of Grand Traverse County for the Civic Center Park. The vote column represents the total votes cast by the citizens for specific ideas at the Public Input Meeting on Feb. 22, 2011.

<b><u>Grounds and Park Activities</u></b>	
<b>Votes</b>	<b>Ideas for Consideration</b>
10	Install a Community Events Sign on Front St.
9	Outdoor Pickelball courts
5	Memorialize and enhance the Historic Indian Trail Marker Tree
5	Enhance the Multi-purpose field capability
5	Increase lighting near the Multi-Use Field
4	Do improvements to the Multi-use field
4	Connect the Civic Center to the TART trail system (TART has a route master planned)
4	Provide sidewalks at Garfield entrance to the park
3	Extend the path east from the skate park to the walkway
2	Expand amphitheatre for more cultural events
2	Outdoor Splash Pad
2	Eliminate Field 4 to expand Howe
1	Remove the chain link fence along Front Street
1	Screen the Facilities Maintenance parking area
1	Market the Outdoor Amphitheater for more community events
1	Improve lighting at the amphitheatre & Multi-purpose field
0	Indoor/Outdoor Skate park/BMX facility
0	Make all of the facilities ADA accessible
0	Paintball gaming area
0	Create a Dog park fenced area
0	Rent and utilize basketball courts for tournaments/leagues
0	Find a new home for Facilities Management
0	Rubber surface the Walkway (Better for the joints)
0	Plant more Trees
0	Create a community events area & tent rental
0	Picnic Shelter at Kids Kove
0	Parking organization & landscaping at the Picnic Shelter to buffer the drive
0	Expand and update play ground equipment
0	Add light sensitive switches to the walking track lighting
0	Improve park entry at the corners
0	Adjust width or add a trail lane to the East side of the Civic Center Track to be linked to a TART trail system through the Park

## **Buildings and Indoor Activities**

<b>Votes</b>	<b>Ideas for Consideration</b>
21	Create a 8-10 lane indoor pool in addition to Easling
16	Utilize Easling for family friendly facility (Warm water)
14	Indoor running track with cardio & fitness room
12	Indoor Pickelball courts
5	Add a new aquatics facility to meet the needs for competitive swim, fitness and leisure activities
3	Multi-purpose building with rubberized floor (100' x 110') for activities including dog agility
2	Create a marketing program to better utilize Howe Arena for events or shows
1	Expand the Locker Rooms
1	Expand locker rooms for use other than the pool
1	Add an outdoor Olympic pool
1	Work Out Area – machines, cardio equipment, weights
1	Indoor play area/facility
1	Add a second floor addition to the Civic Center building
1	Add a Dance Studio
0	Add a second sheet of ice (Enclosed)
0	Add facilities to Easling for more indoor water play
0	Screen the building service area from the walkway & Front Street
0	Ensure ADA & Universal Access to the Pool
0	Create a Large Ride, Slide & Glide Indoor Facility
0	Add a second Floor on Howe Arena

## **Other Ideas for Consideration**

<b>Votes</b>	<b>Ideas for Consideration</b>
2	Create a Land/Facility Procurement Committee
2	Expand to include the Oak Park School property (When or if the property is available)

# Appendix B - Public Notices for Civic Center Master Plan

1454  
2. J. Co. Parks & Recreation

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to participate in the February 22 meeting for development of the Civic Center Master Plan.

**Where:** Grand Traverse County Civic Center  
Civic Center Meeting Room  
1215 W. Civic Center Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686

**When:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 6 p.m.

**Contact:** Website: [www.grandtraverse.org/parks](http://www.grandtraverse.org/parks)  
Email: [parks@grandtraverse.org](mailto:parks@grandtraverse.org)  
Phone: (231) 927-4312  
Jason Jones, Parks and Recreation Director

Suggestions or comments for development of the Master Plan are also welcome via the email address listed above.

February 17, 18, 2011-2T 246479

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
County of Grand Traverse

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

02/17/2011

02/18/2011

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



Subscribed and sworn to before  
this 18th of February, 2011 .

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

1454  
2. J. Co. Parks & Recreation

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

## LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to participate in a public input session of the preliminary Civic Center Master Plan on August 4, 2011.

**Where:** Grand Traverse County Civic Center  
Civic Center Meeting Room  
1213 W. Civic Center Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686

**When:** Thursday, August 4, 2011 at 6 p.m.

**Contacts:** Website: [www.grandtraverse.org/parks](http://www.grandtraverse.org/parks)  
Email: [parks@grandtraverse.org](mailto:parks@grandtraverse.org)  
Phone: (231)922-4818  
Jason Jones, Parks and Recreation Director

Suggestions or comments regarding the Civic Center Master Plan are also welcome via the email address listed above.

July 25, 26, 2011-21

265139

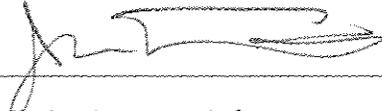
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
County of Grand Traverse

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

07/25/2011

07/26/2011

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



Subscribed and sworn to before  
this 26th of July, 2011 .

*Dennis A. Thayer*

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

# Appendix B

-Maple Bay Master Plan-

# MAPLE BAY PARK & NATURAL AREA

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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## A MASTER PLAN



NOVEMBER, 2008

**Williams & Works**

⋮  
**Cornelisse  
Design Associates, Inc.**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
818 Summit SE / Grand Rapids, MI 49506 / Box 616 949-8166 / phone 616-949-8803



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## APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – Press Release regarding Maple Bay Public Input

APPENDIX B – Newsletter

APPENDIX C – Summary of Comments Received during Open House, September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

APPENDIX D – Open House Synopsis

APPENDIX E – Comments received during Community Meeting, September 27, 2007

APPENDIX F – Summary of participants and resources included in acquiring the property

APPENDIX G – Summary of final Open House Comments



## INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

This report presents the conclusions and recommendations of the consulting team with regard to the improvement of Maple Bay Park and Natural Area in Grand Traverse County. The consulting teams, consisting of the planning and design professionals at Williams & Works and Cornelisse Design Associates, were retained by the County Parks and Recreation Department to explore the various challenges and opportunities associated with the facility and to present a report that seeks to address particular challenges and capitalize on the park's assets.



**A significant amount of public input was received during the planning process**

This report is founded on the significant amount of public input the County received during the planning process. The public input consisted of an open house, mobile tours, community meeting, and meetings of the Parks Board during the summer and fall of 2007 and spring of 2008. Building on that citizen input and our objective analysis, this report outlines our recommendation to address many of the challenges facing this exceptional community facility.

In addition, the County benefited from initial exploratory and design work conducted by the Michigan State University Landscape Architecture students as a class project. Students worked in teams to evaluate the opportunities and challenges of the site and to develop alternative plans for its improvement. These ranged from very low intensity and passive to highly developed facilities. This background work helped to inform this effort and provided a place of beginning for several of the recommendations outlined here.



The process to develop the recommendations set forth here began with a field visit of the facility on July 5, 2007 together with a review of the various published reports and materials provided by the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department. The consulting team, with the assistance of County staff, developed an informational website and newsletter that was mailed to various organizations and members of the public. The initial review was supplemented by further discussions with County Parks and Recreation personnel, and the general public. After the field visit, the consulting team attended a meeting of the County Parks Board where the initial analysis of the site was presented.



Later in the process, the consulting team and County Parks department hosted a two-day open house on the Maple Bay property. The event was a casual, “drop-in” format, where users could take tours of the site that were narrated by a member of the consulting team or the Parks Department staff. The purpose of the open house was to introduce the park to the public and gather input for potential uses or issues this report should address. A summary of the community input received during the open house is provided in Appendix B.

A few weeks after the open house, on September 27, 2007 a community meeting was held at the Civic Center in Traverse City. This was a more focused meeting format than the open house, and about eighty members of the public participated. The meeting began with a presentation of the initial review of the site, its unique features and challenges. Then, the consulting team led discussion tables where participants brainstormed ideas for potential uses, limitations and opportunities for the park. A summary of the community input received during the community meeting is provided in Appendix C.

#### SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDED PLAN

This plan recommends a sensitive use of the site, primarily for community access to natural feature and agriculture (see map 6 on page 31). It outlines low intensity uses of the beach and lower wetlands, but incorporates facilities to improve access while protecting key features. It also recognizes the agricultural heritage of the site and retains active field crop agriculture over a significant area of the upper portions of the facility. Wetland features and wildlife habitat areas would be protected, restored and preserved to the greatest extent possible while walking paths and overlook features and interpretative signage would be provided into and through key areas.

The rural character of the site will continue with regulated hunting permitted in most areas except in the southern portion of the upper croplands and near the trailhead on the east side. Finally, with expanding interest in the facility for a wide range of field-oriented activities, such as model airplane flying and hunting dog training, a portion of the site would be planned for multiple purposes to be coordinated by the County Parks and Recreation Department.

## PARK OVERVIEW

Maple Bay Park and Natural Area is 400 acre property located along both sides of US-31, just north of Angell Road in Acme Township. It is home to a wide variety of features and uses, including active agricultural, wetlands, woodlands, sand dunes and beaches. The property was acquired in 2002 by Grand Traverse County through a collaborative effort involving Grand Traverse County, the Michigan DNR Trust Fund and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. (See Appendix F for a summary of the participants, resources and funding agencies included in acquiring the property.)



The Maple Bay property has been an iconic part of the agricultural heritage of the County and a portion of the site remains viable for farming purposes. Other parts of the site offer unique recreational, habitat restoration and preservation opportunities.



A portion of the site (approximately 135 acres) has been enrolled in the federal Wetland Reserve Program. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It provides technical and financial assistance to the County to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on the Maple Bay Property. The program provides an opportunity for the

County to receive financial incentives to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal lands in the park from agriculture. Development of lands enrolled in this program is restricted and these regulations will apply in perpetuity.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The portion of the site on the western side of US-31 is characterized by approximately one-half mile of undeveloped sand and cobble **beach** on the east arm of Grand Traverse Bay. Currently, Lake Michigan water levels are low, exposing a great amount of beach. Farther offshore, deep water off the beach has been popular with boaters, divers and fishermen. To the east of the beach lies the **lowland and sand foredune**, which consists of open foredunes, and undisturbed forested dune-swale complex. It is home to several threatened and endangered plant species and is important wildlife habitat.



Beyond the lowland and sand dune, the land rises up a steep, stable and heavily wooded bluff that meets the **west croplands**. The crops are actively farmed through an agreement with the Send Brothers, a local farming company. These croplands are somewhat fragmented due to the **west wetlands** areas near US-31 enrolled in the WRP. The croplands are also separated by the **west hardwood grove**, which have very limited understory due to past cattle grazing before the land was acquired for recreational use.



On the eastern side of US-31 are fairly large tracts of rolling, highly visible **croplands west of Bates Road** lands that are bisected with portions of land enrolled in the WRP. Much of the WRP areas are not inundated with water for much of the year, and these areas have been restored by the planting of native grasses and wildflowers. Other portions of the **east wetlands** provide excellent habitat for ducks, herons, and other wildlife.

The easternmost portion of the site contains additional **croplands east of Bates Road**. This area borders the 350-acre Petobego Marsh, which provides many more opportunities for viewing birds and other wildlife.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

The area of the park to the west of US-31 is the “main entrance” to the site. A 10-acre portion of this property is owned and maintained by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. The historic farmhouse is part of this Land Conservancy property, and the future use of the farmhouse has not yet been determined. It is anticipated that the Land



Conservancy will renovate the farmhouse and maintain the grounds immediately surrounding it. The County has acquired an additional 5 acres from the conservancy for accessing the Maple Bay property.

Also providing a unique sense of place to the park is the active farming that currently occurs on each side. In 2007, the agricultural land on the west side of US-31 was used to grow corn and sunflowers. The crop planted will vary of the years depending on soil conditions and markets.

**The park and adjoining Petobego Marsh offer important habitat for many species**

Maple Bay Park and Natural Area is also in very close proximity to other public recreational lands. Aside from one privately owned parcel along Lake Michigan, most of the property to the north is owned either by the Land Conservancy or the State of Michigan. This adjacency not only provides excellent recreational opportunities for residents in the area, but it also facilitates the movement of wildlife throughout the region.



The east side of US-31 contains the **east farm buildings**, which consist of a fairly old barn and a farmhouse. While the condition of the farmhouse is substandard, it represents an important aspect of the park’s history and the agricultural heritage of the region. Structurally, the barn appears to be better condition, and its fate plays a role in the recommendations of this plan.

The **east farm building area**, while relatively small, is shaded and mowed and may serve as an entrance to the larger portion of the park, on the east side of US-31.



Near the center of the property is a steel culvert that was used in the past to move cattle under US-31. This “livestock underpass” is approximately six feet in height and relatively free of debris and obstructions. Whether this connection can be utilized by park users remains to be seen, due to accessibility, periodic stormwater and limited headroom. The tunnel is located at one of the lower points on the property, and is often inundated with water during the springtime.

The barn was evaluated in March 2006 by White Oak Timber Frame Ltd. Their report indicates that the barn is in reasonable condition and can be stabilized for future use for an approximate cost of \$10,000.

The farmhouse has not had a professional evaluation to determine if it is structurally sound and how much it will cost to stabilize the structure. This evaluation should be done before assuming the farmhouse can be reused.



# Maple Bay Park

Grand Traverse County, Michigan



## Existing Conditions



**Legend**

- ▭ Park Boundary
- Powerlines
- ★ High Points

**USGS Contours**  
(Feet above mean sea level)

- ~ 584 - 600
- ~ 600 - 620
- ~ 620 - 640
- ~ 640 - 670

● Wetland Reserve

1 inch equals 650 feet

0 300 600 **133** 1,200 Feet



**Williams & Works**  
engineers · planners · surveyors  
616.224.1500 phone · 616.224.1501 facsimile  
549 Ottawa Avenue NW · Grand Rapids, MI 49503



## CHALLENGES

Maple Bay Park and Natural Area faces numerous challenges. These include challenges determining an appropriate balance of uses for the public, the potential for degradation of some sensitive areas due to misuse or vandalism, the financial burden resulting from maintenance of the park's assets, and the public safety challenges presented by the park's location coupled with its rough terrain. Many of these challenges and problems are inter-related and solutions will need to be multi-faceted. The following paragraphs describe these challenges in greater detail.

1. **Location.** The site is bisected by US-31, a major arterial thoroughfare that runs from southwest to northeast through the Maple Bay property. The road is four lanes through most of the park, and traffic moves at speeds near 55 miles per hour or more; US-31 experiences approximately 7,800 vehicle trips per day near Maple Bay Park.



**The Maple Bay property borders Grand Traverse Bay and is bisected by US-31**

It has been indicated that the only access to the park that will be permitted are those already in existence today; no new driveways are likely to be built from US-31 to access the park. This leaves three options to access the site from US-31: The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy driveway (main entrance), the intersection with Old US-31 on the east side of US-31, or via Bates road on the far east portion of the property.

2. **Identification of Long Term Uses.** Certain areas on the Maple Bay property may be better suited to recreational development than others. For example, properties enrolled in the WRP are very limited for recreational development. However, certain areas that are currently used for agricultural purposes may be appropriate for more intense recreational use.

During the mobile tours and community meetings, there was much discussion among the participants regarding the agricultural activities on the Maple Bay property. Some participants felt that the current farming practice should continue on the site, while others felt that alternative uses may be better suited for these areas. One of the challenges in developing a plan for such a large site is the need to provide a variety of activities for a variety of park users.

Currently, hunting is permitted on Maple Bay Park with the exception of an area on the west side of US-31, north of the Orchard Shores residential development. It is likely that hunting will continue on the site, consideration should be given to the types of firearms that would be permitted.

Areas of the park that are enrolled in the wetland reserve program are limited in the degree and intensity of uses that may occur. Generally, land enrolled in the WRP is limited to “undeveloped” recreational uses if they both protect and enhance the wetland functions and values. While the use of areas in the WRP are not “off the table” in terms of recreation, severe limitations are in place that restrict the intensity of the ultimate recreational developments.

3. **Amount of Development.** One of the key challenges in the planning process was determining the appropriate intensity of uses within the park. This property contains numerous sensitive natural features, and one of the goals of this plan is to achieve an appropriate balance between the protection of those features while still encouraging more active recreational use in certain locations.

4. **Beach and Lowland Access.** A key attraction of the Maple Bay Park is the nearly one-half mile of undeveloped beach front along the east arm



**A key attraction of the park is the nearly one-half mile of undeveloped beach**

of Grand Traverse Bay. This attraction also presents the challenge of determining what level of access should be provided to beach users. Currently, vehicular access to the lowland and beach area is prohibited; only pedestrian access is permitted.

The County is therefore faced with the decision to maintain this current policy, which would prevent people with disabilities from accessing the beach area. The other extreme would be to permit vehicular access to, and parking at the beach, and managing the potential degradation that might result.

5. **Conflicting Activities.** Due in part to its large size, Maple Bay Park will likely see conflicting recreational activities. Conflicts may include more obvious examples, such as users interested in bird-watching and hunters, while others may be more subtle, such as the need to balance public access to key areas of the park with the limitations imposed on the areas enrolled in the WRP.

**The interior of the house has been determined to be relatively poor condition.**

6. **Disposition of Existing Farm Structures.** The old farm house and barn on the east side of US-31 are a key component to the sense of place at Maple Bay Park. However, neither the house nor the barn have been maintained over the years, and as a result their condition has deteriorated. The interior of the house has been determined to be relatively poor condition, and the structural integrity of the barn was evaluated in a report in March of 2006. It indicated that the building may be stabilized and reused, but advancing deterioration ought to be reversed as soon as possible.

Many citizens who participated in the planning process indicated a desire to retain these structures for recreational or other use. However, the renovation of these structures will likely require substantial public investment depending on the desired end use.

7. **Long-term Management.** The Maple Bay property was acquired through a collaborative effort involving numerous organizations and local government officials, and the long-term management of the site will require similar cooperation.

Issues such as public access, hunting, and wildlife management will require on-going communication between the County, the State, local officials and members of the public. Funding for the maintenance of the site may also present a challenge that requires a multi-faceted solution with the effort from these groups.

8. **Natural Area Goals.** While this plan presents three different “levels” of use for the park, many variables and outcomes should be considered by the County. There may be opportunities for portions of the park to be financially self-supporting through user fees, volunteer commitments or other means.

The park also possesses the potential to be used as a valuable public education resource. The variety of wildlife, vegetation and land formations may be used to educate citizens of all ages, and the park may also become a destination for field trips from area schools.

9. **Multiple uses.** The relatively large size of the park provides users the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities at once that may not be compatible in other areas. It is the intent of this plan to maintain the natural character of the site where it is appropriate and feasible without precluding other, more active uses.



## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In September 2007, the County sought public input regarding the future uses of Maple Bay Park and Natural Area. The County held two formal input sessions: The first was a two-day open house and “mobile tour” that allowed residents to tour the site and learn more about the site and its features on September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Tours were offered on the east side of US-31, and the portion west of US-31.



**A BATA bus was utilized for portions of the mobile tour**

The east tour took participants past the old farm structures, areas enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), agricultural areas and Petobego Marsh State Game Area. The west tour brought participants through agricultural areas, through the wooded area and sand dunes and down to the beach. The tours were led by

either a member of the County staff or a member of the consulting team. While the primary goal of the tours was to introduce the public to the park, important and informed input was received from participants. Over the two day span of the open house, more than one hundred interested citizens participated.

The second input session was a community meeting held on September 27 at the Civic Center in Traverse City. The purpose of this meeting was to seek more direct and formal guidance from the public to decide what uses the park should accommodate. The participants were



**The mobile tours allowed the public to familiarize themselves with the park**

broken into smaller groups of 8-12 people, and each group was led by a member of the consulting team who facilitated the discussion. About fifty people attended the community meeting.

The community input resulted in a variety of ideas and opinions. Many citizens wanted the park to remain in its current, relatively natural state. Other participants were interested in more active uses for the park. Given the range of potential uses and suggestions, coupled with the overall size of the park, the plan for potential uses has been organized by three levels of intensity: Low intensity, moderate intensity and “active” uses.



## SITE ALTERNATIVES

The following scenarios, and the plan schematics on pages 15, 19 and 25, describe the elements of each alternative with a focus on the key elements of the site. It should be understood that, although these are presented here as three distinct alternatives, the final recommendation draws elements and features from each.

### LOW INTENSITY

The overall intent of low intensity uses in this plan is to preserve the key elements of a particular area of the park to the greatest degree possible, while allowing reasonable use and access of these features by the public. Therefore, many of the low intensity uses consist of limited improvements to certain areas, or in some cases, ceasing activities currently occurring on the site to foster the rehabilitation of the natural habitats of plant and animal species.

#### WEST SIDE

**Beach Zone.** Low intensity uses along the beach include an improved, but unpaved, pedestrian trail heading from the top of the hill, through the wooded area and sand dunes to the waterfront. Motorized vehicles would not be permitted on the trail, but would be permitted to park in a defined area near the top of the bluff. Basic restroom facilities, such as port-a-jons, would be located at the beach. Camping would not be permitted.



**The existing natural beachfront presents a unique recreational opportunity**

**Lowland Forest and Sand Foredunes.** Low intensity uses in the forested lowlands and sand foredunes areas would consist of maintaining the trails in their current state. Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) use would be prohibited. Currently, the trails are unpaved and unimproved. It is anticipated that only minimal maintenance, such as clearing large obstacles, would be performed. Hunting would continue to be permitted.

**Upper Croplands.** The lowest intensity use for the west croplands would consist of ceasing agricultural production and letting the land revert back to its most natural state. The open areas could be maintained as a northern Michigan prairie, or native grasslands, so only large vegetation would be removed. Hunting would be permitted north of the current firearms boundary.

**Upper Wetlands.** Much of this area is enrolled in the WRP. Therefore, low intensity use of the wetlands consists of leaving the site in its current condition. Hunting would be permitted north of the current hunting boundary.

**Upper Hardwood Grove.** This area is currently characterized by old hardwoods with limited underbrush. A low intensity use for this area would consist of leaving the site as-is and letting the underbrush grow back in, which would be compatible with its WRP designation. Hunting would continue to be permitted in this location.

**EAST SIDE**

**East Croplands (East of Bates Road).** Low intensity uses for the croplands east of Bates Road consist of leaving the site in its current condition and maintaining agricultural activities. Hunting would be permitted in this area. Hunting would be permitted north of the current hunting boundary.



**Plan recommendations present several options for uses in the agricultural areas**

**East Croplands (West of Bates Road).** The lowest intensity use for the west croplands would consist of ceasing agricultural production and letting the land revert back to its most natural state of a northern Michigan prairie or field grasses.

**East Farm Buildings.** The east side of US-31 contains a farm house and old barn that have deteriorated over time. The low intensity use of these structures would consist of razing them and letting the native vegetation reclaim the area. The newer pole barn would be retained as a service building for the park.



**Wetland areas are home to a variety of wildlife**

**East Farmstead Area.** The mowed area near the buildings would be maintained as an entry point from US-31 to the east half of the park, a trailhead, and a picnic area.

**East Wetlands.** Much of this area is enrolled in the WRP. Therefore, low intensity use of the wetlands consists of leaving the site in its current condition. Hunting would be permitted in these areas.



**LEGEND**

- Proposed Improved Trail
- Proposed Paved Trail
- Proposed Foot Trail
- Proposed Gravel Drive and Parking
- Proposed Buffer Landscaping
- Existing Buildings
- Proposed Buildings
- Wetland Reserve (NRCS)

All proposed land uses are subject to review and approval of the funding agencies



Maple Bay Park Concept Plan-Draft  
**Low Intensity Use**  
 Grand Traverse County 4-23-08

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## MODERATE INTENSITY

Moderate intensity uses seek to provide more active recreational opportunities than the low intensity uses, however, the protection of key natural features that make a particular location attractive to visitors remains a high priority. Moderate intensity uses also seek to make portions of the park more accessible to the public, and uses may require more active management of the property than is anticipated for low intensity uses.



The lowland wooded areas between the croplands and the bay are a unique natural environment

### WEST SIDE

**Beach Zone.** Moderate intensity uses along the beach include a paved trail heading from the top of the hill, through the wooded area and sand dunes to the beach. Vehicles would not be permitted down to the beach, but the paved trail would accommodate persons with disabilities on motorized chairs and service/emergency vehicles. Basic restroom facilities, such as port-a-jons, would be located at the beach along with a few picnic tables. No camping would be permitted.



**Lowland Forest and Sand Foredunes.** Moderate intensity development in this area would consist of improving and maintaining the trails with accessible (though not necessarily paved) surfacing. The possibility of an easement would be explored with private property owners to the north to provide trail access to Petobego Pond. A viewing platform near the top of the bluff would provide a view of the Bay. Achieving the view of the bay will likely require limited tree-thinning or removing a minimal number of trees that might obstruct the view from the platform. A gravel access and parking will be extended to the platform.



Many people feel that the “iconic” barn and farm house on the east side of US-31 are important components of the park’s character

**Upper Croplands.** In croplands west of US-31, moderate intensity uses would consist of maintaining the current agricultural activities. Hunting would be permitted north of the current firearms boundary.

**Upper Wetlands.** Wetland activities on the Maple Bay Park are limited because they are enrolled in the WRP. However, a feasible moderate intensity use would consist of mowed trails through the areas of the wetlands that are

generally dry. Paths would tie in to the pedestrian trail under US-31. The livestock underpass below under US-31 is also located in this area, and could be used as a pedestrian crossing during times of the year when it is dry.

**Upper Hardwood Grove.** Currently this area is enrolled in the WRP and development is limited. The current limited underbrush would be maintained to keep this area in its current condition. “Rustic” picnic areas would be permitted in this area. A paved trail connection from the trailhead parking to the pedestrian underpass under US-31 would follow the top of the bluff through the grove.

## EAST SIDE

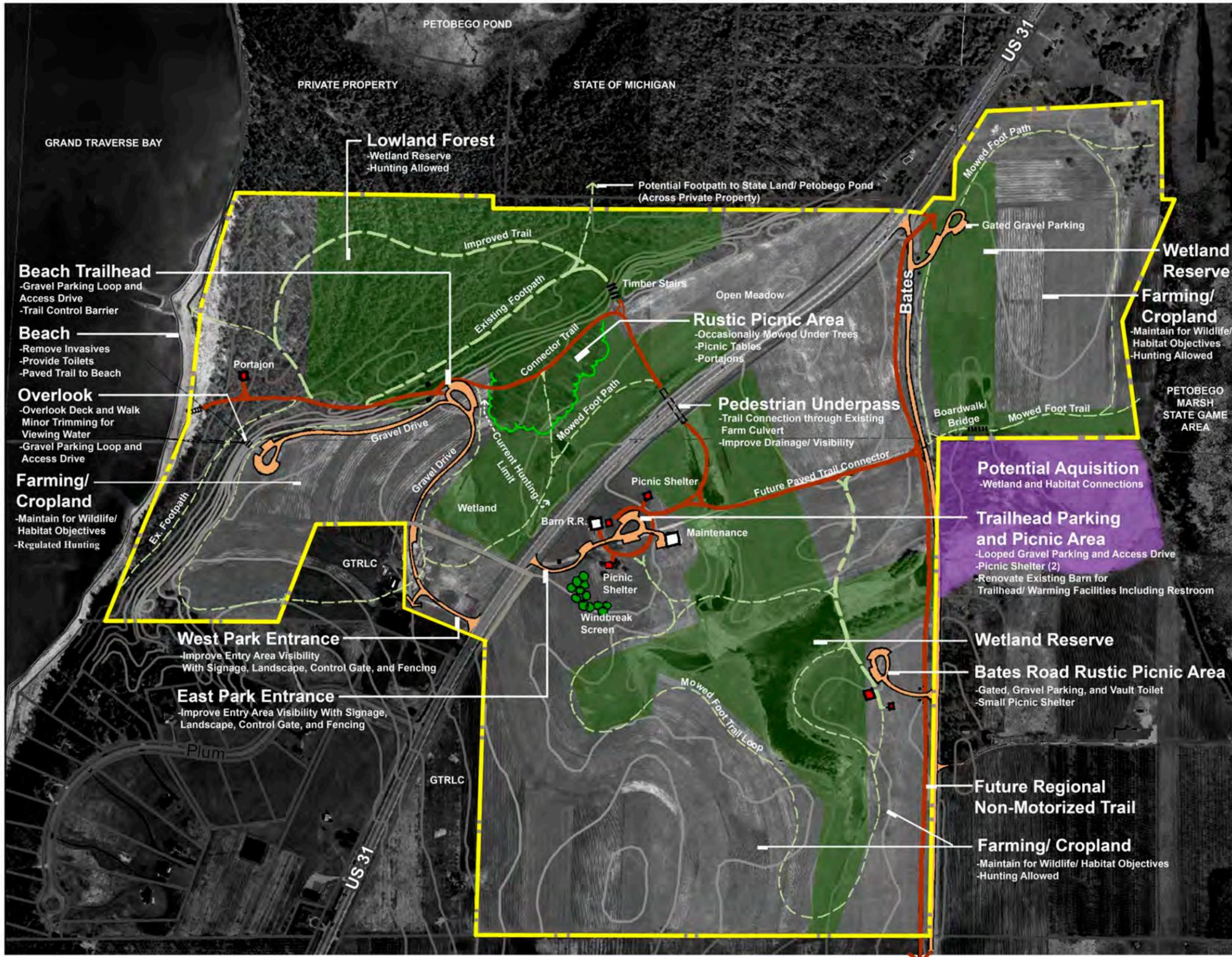
**Croplands (East of Bates Road).** Moderate intensity uses on these areas consist of trail access to Petobego Marsh, a casual or occasional hunting dog training area with a parking lot located off of Bates Road; trails leading from the parking area to Petobego Marsh, hunting, and limited cropland that will support wildlife. Hunting would be permitted west of Bates Road

**Hunting on the east side of US-31 would be permitted but limited to shotgun and archery only.**

**Croplands (West of Bates Road).** In croplands east of US-31 west of Bates, moderate intensity uses would consist of maintaining the current agricultural activities. There is also potential for a small area west of Bates on a high knoll that would contain a picnic area and trailhead accessed from Bates. Hunting on the east side of US-31 would be permitted but limited to shotgun and archery only.

**Farm Buildings.** Moderate intensity use for the farm buildings east of US-31 would consist of stabilizing and preserving the barn, which can be used as a trailhead facility. The farmhouse would be stabilized based on a professional evaluation of the structure and cost estimate. It would be retained for future renovation and potential use as a property care taker’s residence. Restrooms would be installed in this area or as part of the barn structure. The grounds would include a small gravel parking area and access drive off US-31 to serve as the trailhead.

**Wetlands.** Because of the WRP restrictions, a feasible moderate intensity use would consist of mowed trails though the areas of the wetlands that are generally dry. An improved trail is proposed across the wetland dike connecting Bates Road and the rustic picnic area to the south.



**LEGEND**

- Proposed Improved Trail
- Proposed Paved Trail
- Proposed Foot Trail
- Proposed Gravel Drive and Parking
- Proposed Buffer Landscaping
- Existing Buildings
- Proposed Buildings
- Wetland Reserve (NRCS)
- Potential Aquisition

All proposed land uses are subject to review and approval of the funding agencies

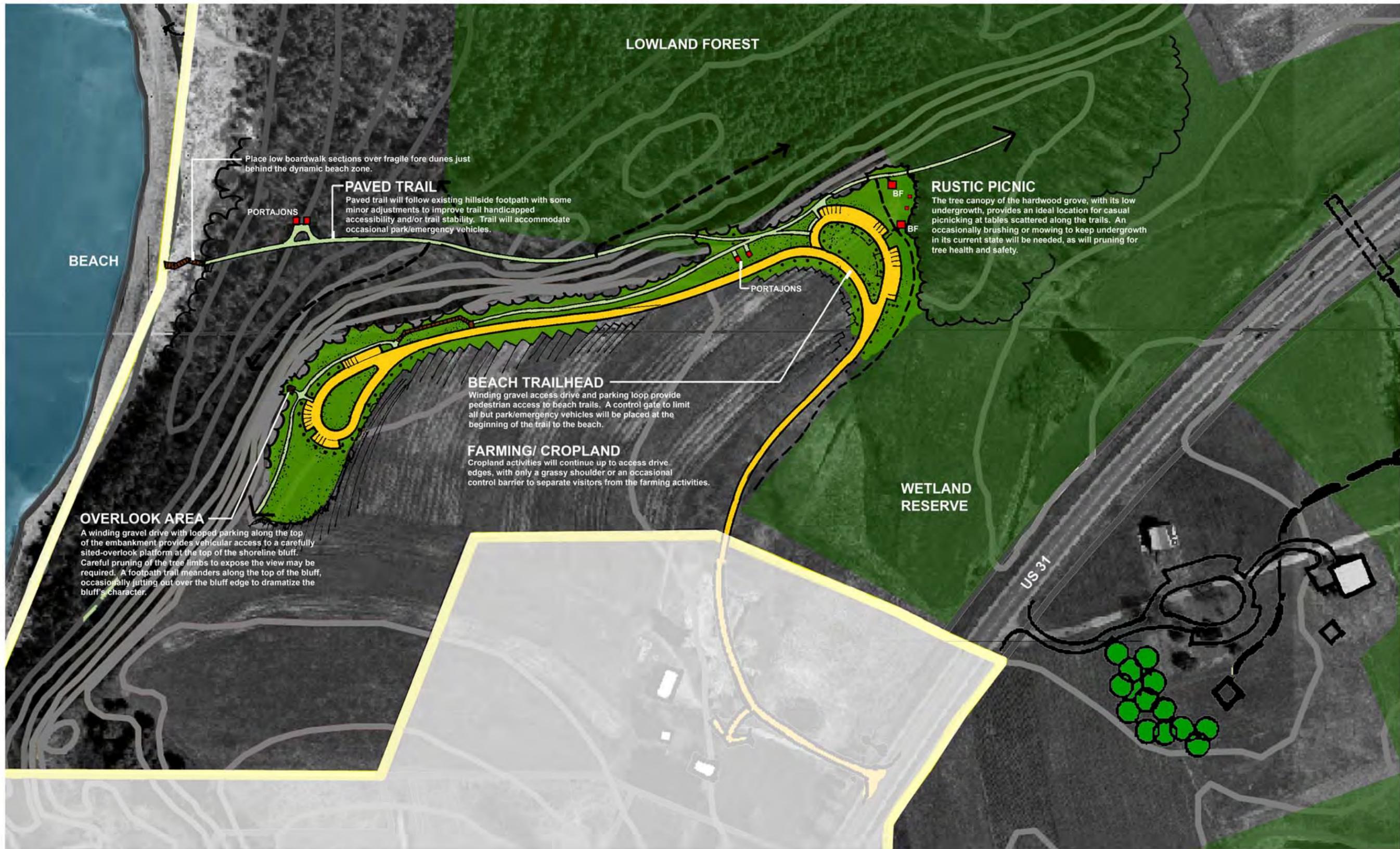


Maple Bay Park Concept Plan-Draft  
**Moderate Intensity Use**  
 Grand Traverse County 4-23-08

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Place low boardwalk sections over fragile fore dunes just behind the dynamic beach zone.

**PAVED TRAIL**  
Paved trail will follow existing hillside footpath with some minor adjustments to improve trail handicapped accessibility and/or trail stability. Trail will accommodate occasional park/emergency vehicles.

**RUSTIC PICNIC**  
The tree canopy of the hardwood grove, with its low undergrowth, provides an ideal location for casual picnicking at tables scattered along the trails. An occasional brushing or mowing to keep undergrowth in its current state will be needed, as will pruning for tree health and safety.

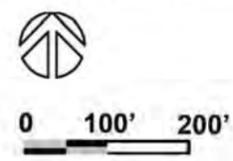
**BEACH TRAILHEAD**  
Winding gravel access drive and parking loop provide pedestrian access to beach trails. A control gate to limit all but park/emergency vehicles will be placed at the beginning of the trail to the beach.

**FARMING/ CROPLAND**  
Cropland activities will continue up to access drive edges, with only a grassy shoulder or an occasional control barrier to separate visitors from the farming activities.

**OVERLOOK AREA**  
A winding gravel drive with looped parking along the top of the embankment provides vehicular access to a carefully sited-overlook platform at the top of the shoreline bluff. Careful pruning of the tree limbs to expose the view may be required. A footpath trail meanders along the top of the bluff, occasionally jutting out over the bluff edge to dramatize the bluff's character.

Maple Bay Park Concept Plan- Draft  
**Moderate Intensity Use- West Side Detail Area**  
 Grand Traverse County

12-03-07



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All proposed land uses are subject to review and approval of the funding agencies



## ACTIVE USES

In certain areas of the park, active uses may be appropriate to provide greater exposure of the park for compatible recreational opportunities not offered elsewhere in the County, and to improve the accessibility for those users who may have difficult reaching various locations on the property. In this instance, active uses may include barrier-free paved trails, increased interpretive and educational opportunities. It should be noted, however, that these recommendations recognize the fact that the natural resources and wildlife unique to the Maple Bay site will be preserved and human intrusions will be managed to reduce the impact in critical areas.



**Picnic facilities may be appropriate where the wooded areas and agricultural areas meet**

### WEST SIDE

**Beach.** Active uses on the beach would include a paved trail to the beach wide enough to accommodate emergency and service vehicles. The beach would also contain a watersport concession area geared toward visitors interested in kite surfing and kayaking on the Bay.

Permanent “pump-out” restroom facilities would be located along the beach. Parking would be located at the top of the bluff to support walk-in use of the beach.

**Lowlands and Sand Dunes.** Active uses in the lowlands and sand dunes would include walk-in camping in clearly defined campsites, allowed by the County by permit only. A viewing platform would be located at the top of the hill with a view to the bay. Direct vehicular access would not be provided through the lowlands to the beach. A picnic area would be located near the beach, and stairs would be constructed leading from the lowlands to the top of the hill.



**Participants on the mobile tours saw a variety of wildlife in the ponds, including herons, ducks and turtles**

**Upper Croplands.** The most active uses anticipated for the west cropland area include agricultural uses such as organic farming, a demonstration farm, or community garden. In this option, with its more active uses, hunting would be prohibited west of US-31. Due to the complexity of funding, operating and maintaining such a facility would have to be undertaken in conjunction with other agencies or groups.

**Wetlands.** While the WRP limits uses of the area, these wetland areas can be improved to contain mowed foot trails with interpretive/educational stops. The pond near

the driveway on the west side of US-31 would be improved and expanded to connect the wetlands, thereby improving and expanding wildlife habitat. The livestock underpass below US-31 is also located in this area, and could be used as a pedestrian crossing during times of the year when it is dry.

**West Groves.** Active uses would consist of maintaining a mowed field grass surface in part of the grove with shelter for small groups. Construction of a picnic facility (e.g. an open air pavilion), permanent barbeque grills, and restroom facilities could accommodate small events related to park uses.

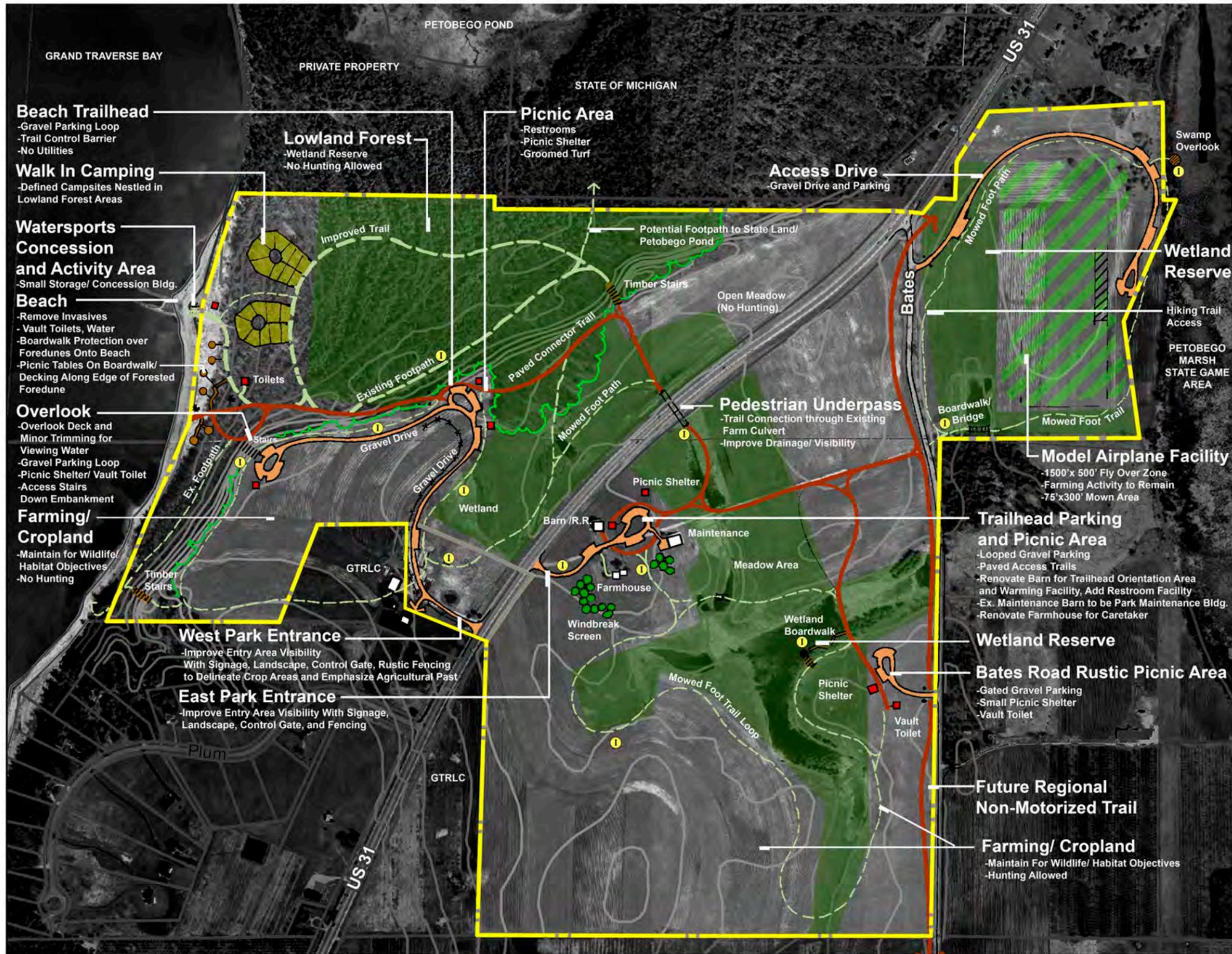
## EAST SIDE

**Croplands (East of Bates Road).** Active uses for this area include a gravel drive from Bates Road that runs to Petobego Marsh, with parking near the marsh. A portion of this area could be set aside for model airplane club use although the proximity to wildlife areas in the Marsh would require further evaluation. Even with this activity, most of the area may still be farmed with some restrictions on crop height to facilitate plane observation and tracking. Regulated hunting would also be permitted on this site.

**Croplands (West of Bates Road).** Active uses anticipated for the east cropland area include agricultural uses such as organic farming, a demonstration farm, or community garden. A small area west of Bates would also be appropriate for a picnic and trailhead.

**Farm Buildings.** Active use of these buildings would result in the rehabilitation of both the farm house and the barn. The barn would be stabilized and used for a trailhead or warming area, and the house would be rehabilitated for use as a caretaker's residence. With more active uses, an on-site caretaker would be needed. Given the deteriorated condition of the farmhouse, this renovation could be treated as an educational opportunity for vocational education. A less costly approach to providing a caretaker residence may be a manufactured housing unit. Restrooms would also be located in this area, perhaps integrated into the barn renovation.

**Wetlands.** While the WRP limits uses of the area, these wetland areas can be improved to contain footpaths, a paved trail connection or elevated boardwalks with interpretive/educational stops. Eventually, future acquisition or management efforts should evaluate an extension of wetland functions to the south and east of the central wetland.

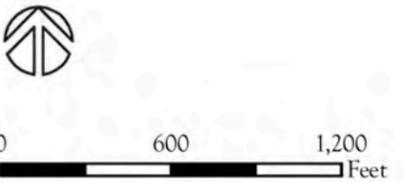


**LEGEND**

- Proposed Improved Trail
- Proposed Paved Trail
- Proposed Foot Trail
- Proposed Gravel Drive and Parking
- Proposed Buffer Landscaping
- Existing Buildings
- Proposed Buildings
- Wetland Reserve (NRCS)
- Interpretive Station

Some of the potential land uses identified on this concept plan may not meet the restrictions of the funding agencies

All proposed land uses are subject to review and approval of the funding agencies



Maple Bay Park Concept Plan- Draft  
**Active Intensity Use**  
 Grand Traverse County 4-23-08

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## MAPLE BAY PARK - RANGE OF USES

The range of alternative uses outlined in the preceding section is summarized in the following table organized by the various segments of the site. In each instance, the reader is encouraged to consult the text above for a more thorough explanation of the alternatives discussed.

Features	Low Intensity	Moderate Intensity	"Active" Use
Beach	Improved (unpaved) trail to the beach	Paved trail to the beach	Accessible, paved trail to the beach that can accommodate emergency vehicles
	No barrier-free access to the beach	Porta-jons located near the beach	Watersport concession area near the beach
	Porta-jons located near the beach	Defined parking area located at the top of the hill	Pump-out restroom facilities near the beach
	Defined parking area located at the top of the hill		Defined parking area located at the top of the hill
Lowlands and sand foredunes	Trails would be maintained "as is"	Improved trails with accessible surfacing	Walk-in camping with clearly defined campsites. Camping would be allowed with only with a permit
	Regulated Hunting	Trail access to Petobego Pond	View to water and direct beach access via stairs down embankment
		View to water via viewing platform located at top of hill	Picnic area near beach
		Regulated Hunting	No hunting
West Croplands	Stop current agricultural and let natural habitat take over	Maintain current farming and wildlife objectives	Agricultural uses such as organic farming, demonstration farming, community garden
	Keep in "field" condition (pasture)	Mowed trails	Mowed trails
	Regulated Hunting in NE corner	Regulated Hunting in NE corner	No hunting
West Wetlands	Leave site as-is	Mowed trails	Improved trails with interpretive/education stops
	Regulated Hunting	Regulated Hunting	Improve pond near the driveway to improve habitat
			No hunting
West Groves	Leave site as is and let underbrush take over	Maintain current appearance through annual maintenance	Keep ground cleared
	Regulated Hunting	"Rustic" picnic area	Picnic facility with open shelter
		No Hunting	Restroom
			No Hunting

Features	Low Intensity	Moderate Intensity	"Active" Use
East Croplands East of Bates Road	Leave site as-is	Trail access to Petobego Swamp	Gravel drive and parking near Petobego swamp
	Regulated Hunting	Casual dog training area with parking area located directly off Bates Rd	Designated model airplane area
		Trails from parking area to Swamp	Regulated Hunting
		Cropland to support natural habitat/species	
		Regulated Hunting	
East Croplands West of Bates	Stop current agricultural and let natural habitat take over	Small area west of Bates with picnic and trailhead area	Agricultural uses such as organic farming, demonstration farming, community garden
	Regulated Hunting	Maintain current farming and wildlife objectives	Small area west of bates with picnic and trailhead area
		Regulated Hunting	Regulated Hunting
East Farmstead	Remove buildings	Stabilize and preserve barn for trailhead	Rehabilitate house for caretaker
		Stabilize and preserve the farmhouse for future use	Stabilize and preserve barn for trailhead or warming area
		Restrooms	Restrooms
East wetlands	Leave site as-is	Mowed trails	Improved trails with interpretive/education stops
	Regulated Hunting	Regulated Hunting	Regulated Hunting

**Most participants favored the less intensive alternatives for the site.**

On April 23, 2008, the Grand Traverse Parks and Recreation Board hosted an open house to consider public comment on the three alternatives presented in this report. At the open houses large-scale illustrations of the alternatives were presented on story-boards along with additional background. Participants also received reduced copies of the three alternative plans along with the matrix presented above. Many participants at the second open house took the time to offer their comments regarding the three alternatives and those are reflected in Appendix G.

From the input received, it was clear that most participants favored the less intensive alternatives for the site. Not only do the funding constraints established by the WRP and the understanding of most participants limit the potential for active use, the site's sensitivity and the desire of local residents all tend toward a passive facility with emphasis on continued agriculture, hunting and natural areas.

## RECOMMENDED PLAN

### A PASSIVE PARK CENTERED ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL AREA STUDY AND ENJOYMENT

The plan described below and illustrated on the following pages incorporates much of the input received throughout the planning process. It describes a facility that is modestly improved to provide more convenient access to portions of the site that are able to endure modest levels of human activity while continuing an emphasis on farming, hunting and nature study. In most instances, the recommended improvements or adjustments are consistent with the constraints resulting from the various funding sources. In a few instances, however, these recommendations may suggest very careful improvements to provide some enhanced access. However, in no case should any uses or improvements be undertaken without clearance from the funding source authorities.

#### WEST SIDE

**Beach Area.** Consistent with the Low Intensity alternative, the recommended uses for the beach would preserve the unspoiled character of the one-half mile of Lake Michigan shoreline. Walk-in and boater use would be accommodated with vault toilets and a modest boardwalk through the fragile foredune. Walk-in access to the beach would continue to be along the existing drive which would only be improved to the extent of a more serviceable surface of gravel or crushed limestone to accommodate persons with disabilities using motorized chairs and service/emergency vehicles. The upper access of the trail would be secured with a removable trail control barrier to allow occasional emergency or service vehicle access.

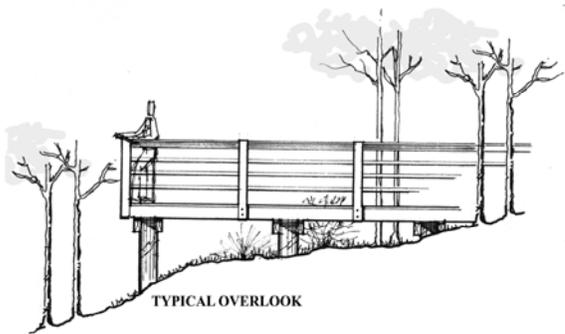


**Recommended uses for the beach would preserve the unspoiled character of the Lake Michigan shoreline**

**Lowland Forest and Foredunes.** The existing foot trail network would be improved only to the extent of clearing brush and leveling where needed to provide safe footing. Some areas may require a gravel or crushed limestone base and simple wooden footbridges may be added to improve the safety and usability of the lowland trail network. Interpretative signage describing the lowland ecology and vegetation can be provided. Regulated hunting would be permitted in this area including shotgun and archery.

**West Croplands.** The existing field crop operation may be continued, or this portion of the site may be programmed more intensely with demonstration agriculture including organic or experimental horticulture. Livestock operations would be inconsistent with the other uses in the park and would not be recommended. Interpretative signage in this area would describe agricultural practices and local wildlife.

The existing parking area near the top of the beach access trail should be improved to include a gravel surface and loop configuration. The loop configuration, while slightly more land consumptive is favored for security as it facilitate patrolling. In addition, vault toilets would be provided to serve trail and beach users as well as picnic area users. (See West Grove description below).



**A Bay Overlook deck structure at the west end of the upper cropland would offer a filtered view of the Bay.**

A Bay Overlook deck structure would be provided at the west end of the upper cropland with a filtered view of the bay established by careful minor trimming of the trees on the downslope. Access to the Bay Overlook would be via an improved foot path connecting to the gravel parking lot at the north end of the cropland area and near the beach access trail.

Interpretative signage at the overlook would highlight features visible in the distance and discuss the dune forest below.

A loop of mowed footpaths would encircle the croplands area, extending to the north end of the property. As is the case presently, hunting would not be permitted south of the parking area, but regulated shotgun and archery hunting would be permitted to the north.

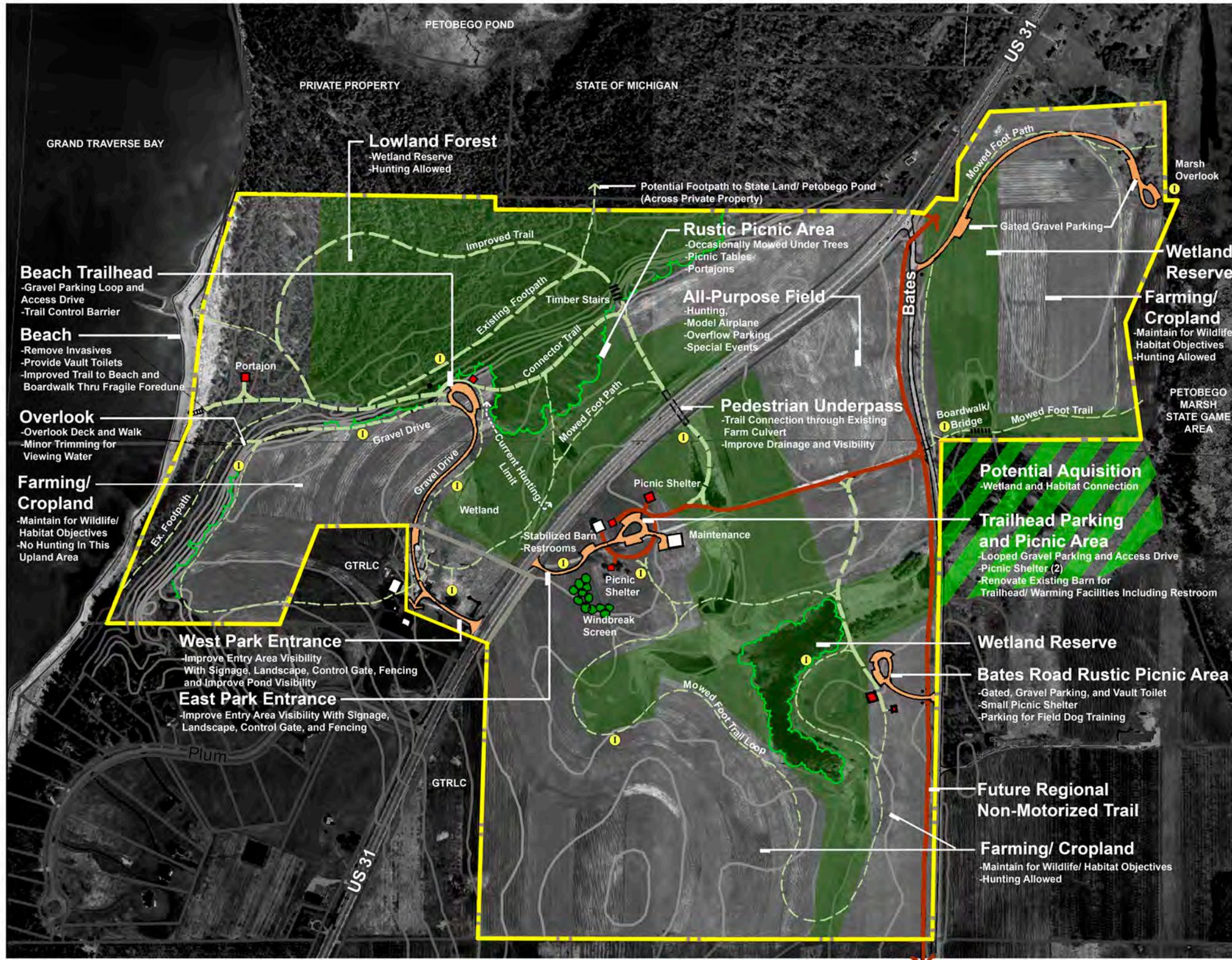


**Regulated shotgun and archery hunting would be permitted on much of the site.**

**West Wetlands.** The WRP areas that divide the upper portions of the west side would include only the extension of the mowed footpath with a link to the livestock underpass beneath US-31. The footpath would be connected to the walking trail system in the lowland forest area with a timber stairway in the vicinity of the existing path. Interpretative signage would be provided to explain the wetlands restoration effort and the broader wetlands system in the region.

At the south end of the upper wetlands, near the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy buildings, the visibility of the existing farm pond would be improved with interpretative signage discussing the history of the farmstead. A small parking area would be offered in this area, as well.





**LEGEND**

- Proposed Improved Trail
- Proposed Paved Trail
- Proposed Foot Trail
- Proposed Gravel Drive and Parking
- Proposed Buffer Landscaping
- Existing Buildings
- Proposed Buildings
- Wetland Reserve (NRCS)
- Interpretive Station

All proposed land uses are subject to review and approval of the funding agencies



# Maple Bay Park and Natural Area Final Development Plan

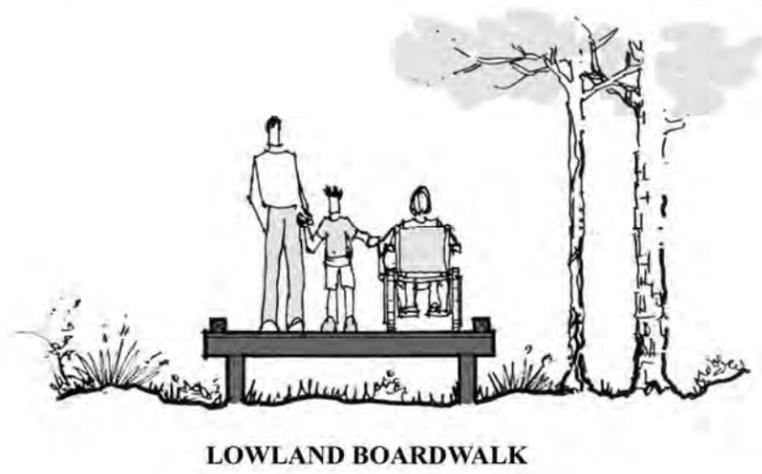
Grand Traverse County

May 2008

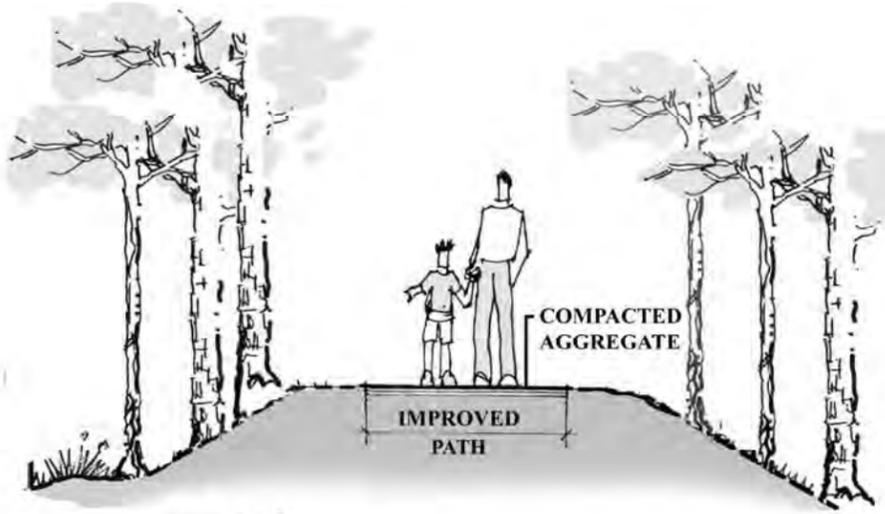
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LOWLAND BOARDWALK

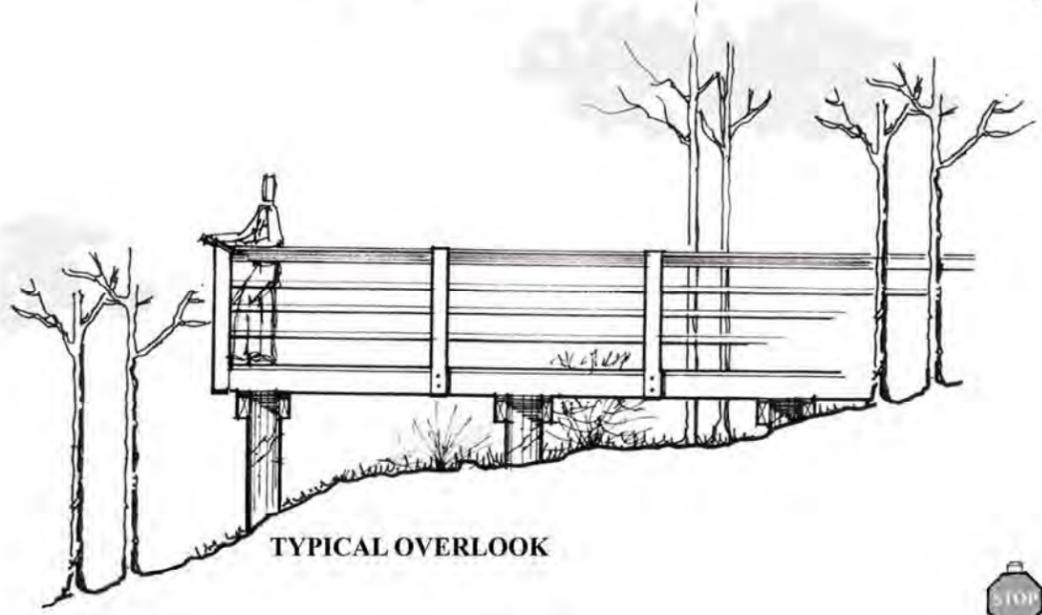


IMPROVED PATH

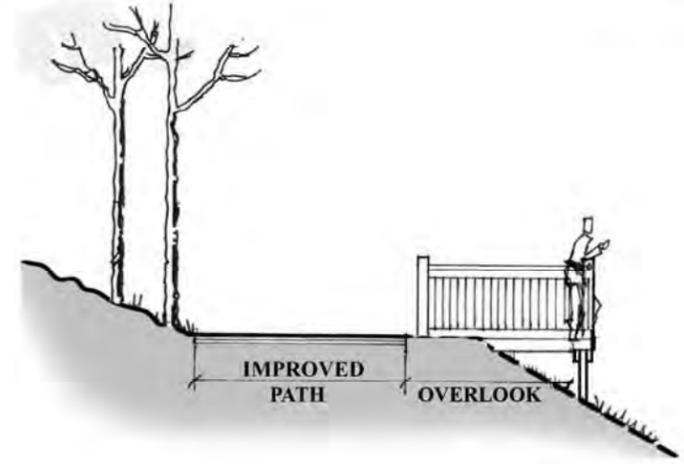


MOWN TRAIL

FOOT PATH

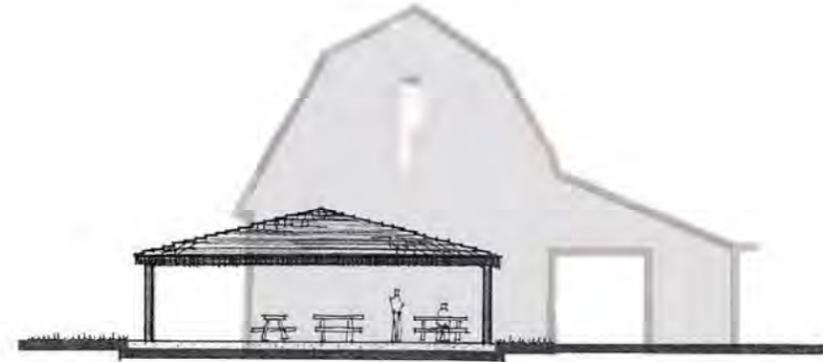


TYPICAL OVERLOOK

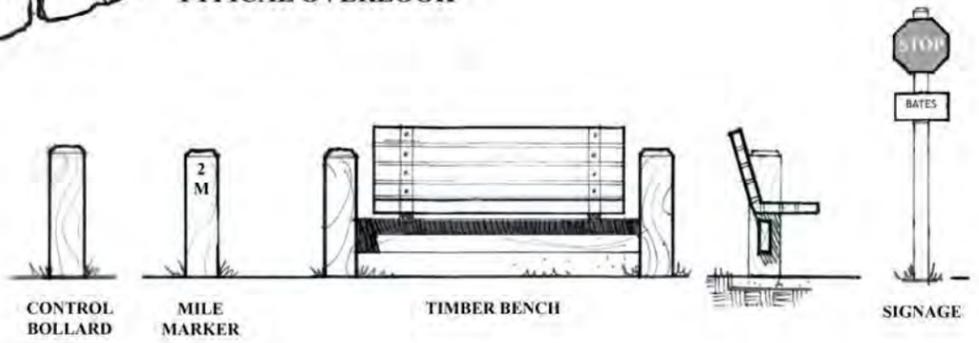


IMPROVED PATH

OVERLOOK



PICNIC SHELTER

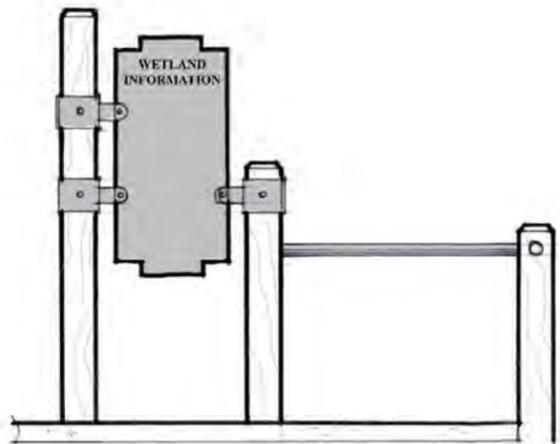


CONTROL BOLLARD

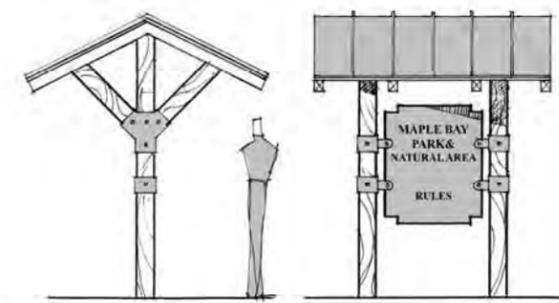
MILE MARKER

TIMBER BENCH

SIGNAGE



BOARDWALK INTERPRETIVE SIGN ELEVATION



MAPLE BAY PARK & NATURAL AREA  
RULES

# Maple Bay Park and Natural Area Design Element Concepts

Grand Traverse County May 2008

Cornelisse Design Associates, Inc. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
319 Spruce St., Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
414.224.1500 Fax: 414.224.1501  
Williams & Works  
1410 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
414.224.1500 Fax: 414.224.1501



**West Hardwood Grove.** This area may be slightly improved to include a rustic picnic area with a modest number of picnic tables. The understory which might otherwise return should be occasionally mowed to allow continued use for picnics, if permitted under WRP limitations.

EAST SIDE

**East Croplands, East of Bates.** The area adjoining Petobego Marsh would be served by both a mowed footpath and a gated gravel drive and parking area. This will allow controlled access for vehicles when impact on the farming and wildlife would be minimal, but year-round access on foot to the eastern portion of the site would be permitted. The Audobon Society has planned a bird-watching platform adjoining Petobego Marsh, and these features would be coordinated with that improvement. Interpretative signage would discuss common and rare species in the area and the regional hydrology.



**Existing field crop operations may be continued or demonstration farming operations may be undertaken**

The existing field crop operation may be continued, or farming operations on this portion of the site may be incorporated into demonstration agriculture undertaken elsewhere on the site. Livestock operations would be inconsistent with the other uses in the park and would not be recommended.

A mowed trail would circumscribe this portion of the site with a boardwalk bridge at the southwest corner of the site at the inundated wetland area. Interpretative signage in this location would describe the regional hydrology.



**A multi-purpose field may serve a number of uses**

Regulated hunting would be permitted in this area.

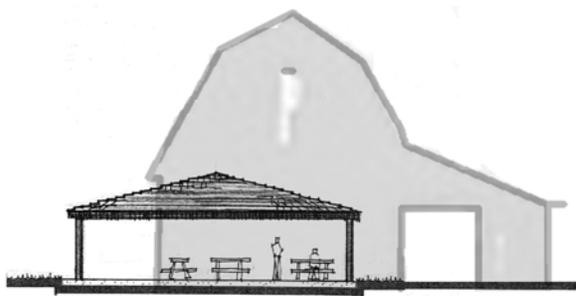
**Paved Trail Connection.** The former US-31 roadway extending east from the farm buildings should be repaired to provide improved access to the facility from Bates Road. This will also enable future bicycle connections should Bates Road form a part of the regional trail extending to Elk Rapids.

**Multi-Purpose Field.** The northern portion of the site between US-31 and Bates may serve several uses, including model airplane flying, hunting dog training and seasonal hunting. This area may also be used as overflow parking for special events when it such use would not conflict with field crop agriculture consistent with model airplane flying, dog training or other uses.

**East Cropland and Wetland Areas.** South of the former US-31 roadway, the wetland reserve area and existing croplands predominate. These uses should continue with a modest rustic picnic area added at the existing farmlane off Bates Road, about midway between the southern property line and the old US-31 roadway. This picnic area would include a gravel parking area and vault toilets with a few picnic tables. The system of mowed and slightly improved foot trails would extend from this location providing an opportunity to view the wetlands dike with interpretative signage explaining the restoration process.

In this area hunting dog training and regulated hunting would be permitted.

**East Farmstead Area.** The area of the existing buildings would be the most intensely used portion of the site. The existing farmhouse would be removed, but the barn would be stabilized and may be used as a trailhead facility with restrooms and warming facilities. The existing polebarn would be retained for maintenance equipment. Two picnic shelters would be provided and a gravel parking area with a looped drive connecting to the rebuilt access road to Bates Road and to US-31. Interpretative signage would present the history of the farmstead and the restored barn.



PICNIC SHELTER

**The restored and stabilized barn can serve as a backdrop for many activities.**

Serving as the trailhead facility for the park, an improved walking trail would extend east and north from this area to provide a connection to the underpass beneath US-31. This trail would cross the WRP area on both sides of the highway and it will be necessary to develop this facility in the least intrusive manner possible. In some areas, an at-grade mowed or gravel base surface may be possible, but in other areas, a boardwalk may be required. Interpretative signage at the underpass would discuss the history of the US-31 alignment and the historic use of the underpass.

## Appendix A

Press Release regarding Maple Bay public input opportunities



**NEWS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

August 28, 2007

**For more information:**

Tim Schreiner, Director or  
Jason Jones, Assistant Director  
Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department  
231.922.4818

**Grand Traverse County seeks public input for Maple Bay Park and Natural Area**

Traverse City, Michigan. Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a two-day open house and tour of the Maple Bay Park and Natural Area. The event will be open to the public free of charge. It will be held on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00PM to 7:00 PM, and Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Maple Bay Park and Natural Area is a 400 acre property located along both sides of US-31, just north of Angell Road in Acme Township.

Refreshments, guided tours of the site, and "rides to the sky" providing a birds-eye view of the entire site, will be provided. Participants will be given a chance to learn more about possible uses of the site and to provide input for a future plan.

“This park is going to be a tremendous asset for the community. It features farmland, woods, natural wetlands and nearly a half mile of shoreline on East Bay.” Tim Schreiner, the County’s Parks Director, said. “This open house is the first step in a planning effort to determine a long range plan for the park.”



The property was acquired in 2002 by Grand Traverse County through a collaborative effort involving the County, the Michigan DNR Trust Fund and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. The County has retained the services of Grand Rapids-based Williams & Works and Cornelisse Design Associates to create the Master Plan for the park. “There is a very broad range of options for this facility. These open houses and a subsequent public input meeting will help us develop a plan that is responsive to local desires,” said Jay Kilpatrick, the project’s manager with Williams & Works.

Schreiner added, “The open house format is geared to let people come and go as they wish and to give us a chance to talk one-on-one with interested citizens.” However, he also recommended that visitors bring sturdy walking shoes and weather-appropriate attire (long pants recommended) to the event, which will occur rain or shine.

- END -



## Appendix B

Newsletter regarding Maple Bay Public Input  
Opportunities



# Plan Maple Bay Park!



## ***What's the Park?***

Grand Traverse County and the Regional Land Conservancy, with the assistance of the Michigan DNR and local donations, recently acquired more than 400 acres of pristine wildlife habitat and active farmland along the East Grand Traverse Bay. This site straddles U.S.-31 just south of the Grand Traverse/Antrim County line. It features rolling farmland, deep woods, natural wetlands and nearly a half mile of pristine shoreline.

The County is now faced with an historic opportunity. The Parks & Recreation Department needs to hear your voice. This open house is the first step in a planning effort to determine a long range plan for the park.

Please attend our open house, take a tour of the site, enjoy the beautiful landscape and tell us about your vision for the future of Maple Bay Park.



## ***What's the Plan?***

We don't know yet. That's why we're asking for your input. Grand Traverse County would like to develop a plan that establishes a number of goals for this site. However, what is most important is learning about the opinions of the surrounding community and those interest groups who are most likely to use potential facilities on a regular basis. While it is already a top priority of the State and the County to preserve as much natural wildlife habitat and wetland as possible, there are a number of other potential opportunities for recreation and preservation in Maple Bay Park as well. These might include such recreational activities as kayaking/canoeing, hiking, wildlife observation, nature education, and limited and managed hunting and shooting.

### **Provided**

Refreshments

Guided Tours of the site

Mobile and walking tour

Rides to the sky--

Birds-eye view of the entire site

### **Opportunities**

Walk the Beach

Explore the Forest

Enjoy the View

Envision the Future

### **What to Bring**

Sturdy walking shoes

Weather appropriate attire  
(long pants recommended)

Camera



# Plan Maple Bay Park!

**What's the Point?** The purpose of this open house is to help you gain a better understanding of the site so you can help us identify the best uses. Later this fall, we will hold a community "visioning" discussion with participants from the open house. With the input from that visioning session, we will begin to craft a number of long-term goals for Maple Bay Park. From those goals we will establish a more refined set of objectives and implementation strategies, which will ultimately dictate how the park is preserved, maintained and used well into the future.

At the open houses, we will provide refreshments as well as guided tours of the site which will run periodically throughout the day on Friday and Saturday. You will have the opportunity to stop and discuss various points of interest, take a walk through the dune forest and down to the beach, identify rare and endangered avian species such as the Sandhill crane and American bald eagle, and photograph the rolling landscape which is so characteristic of northern Michigan.

The members of the Parks & Recreation Commission and staff will be there along with the consulting team aiding the County in developing the plan.

We will look forward to seeing you on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>!



**Directions:**

Maple Bay Park is located on US-31 between Acme and Elk Rapids. It's about 4½ miles north of M-72 and about a half mile north of Angell Road. Look for the farmhouse and barn on the west side of the Road.

**Need More Info?**

For more information, call the Parks & Recreation Department at 922-4818 or check out the Maple Bay Park link on [www.grandtraverse.org](http://www.grandtraverse.org)

Grand Traverse County  
Parks & Recreation Department  
1213 W. Civic Center Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686-2964

## Appendix C

Summary of Comments Received During Open  
House  
September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007





## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Tim Schreiner and Jason Jones  
Parks and Recreation Department

**FROM:** Andy Moore

**DATE:** September 12, 2007

**RE:** Comments from Maple Bay Park Open House

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The following comments were received by the consultant team during the open house held on Maple Bay Park and Natural Area on September 7 and 8, 2007. The comments and concerns below have been grouped in to four general categories, and are in no particular order.

### **Comments regarding the old farm house and barn (east side of US-31):**

- ◆ Don't tear anything else down. If it's going to fall down eventually, just let it.
- ◆ Offer tours of the farmhouse.
- ◆ Turn the east side farmhouse over to one of those vocational education classes for renovation.
- ◆ Use the old barn on the east side as cross-country concession and warming building.
- ◆ Don't bother trying to salvage the old barn.
- ◆ Use the old farmhouse as a practice burn site for volunteer fire departments (We're not sure if that comment was tongue-in-cheek or not).
- ◆ Try to keep the farm house.
- ◆ Make the farmhouse a museum for the public.

### **Comments pertaining to hunting:**

- ◆ Set aside a place for training of hunting dogs.
- ◆ Hunting discussions centered on restricting use of rifles to shotguns only on this site (distance factors) in order to preempt any careless hunter from sending stray bullets off site.
- ◆ Hunting representative suggested adding wildlife plantings to enhance habitat.
- ◆ West side: squirrels and deer; ducks and geese.
- ◆ East side: deer, ducks, geese....some would like additional birding choices.

- ◆ Hunting discussion that included the idea that the west side of US-31 site might be “no hunting” while east side would be unrestricted. We aren’t sure yet how that fits with funding regulations.
- ◆ Some wondered that if hunting is allowed, how would we ensure safety for non-hunters?

**Comments pertaining to the beach:**

- ◆ Put a restroom by the beach.
- ◆ No cars on the beach.
- ◆ Put camping and picnic facilities near the beach. Must have public bathrooms.
- ◆ Do not allow vehicular access to the beach.
- ◆ Establish small shelter on the beach.
- ◆ Leave the beach in its natural state.

**General comments pertaining to the use of the property:**

- ◆ Don’t do things that would interfere with migratory bird flyway.
- ◆ Exploit the “sugar bush” potential of the upper hardwood grove.
- ◆ Avoid uses that would attract large crowds (ball fields, etc).
- ◆ Open up the cattle-crossing tunnel for hiking use.
- ◆ Model plane aficionados are sending Pat more detailed info on their needs. They liked the isolation of parcel east of Bates Road and its flatness and openness; there was plenty of room and open views. However, the area west of Bates would also work if power lines were removed.
- ◆ Petobego Creek has a trail from US-31 wildlife/flooding parking to Petobego Pond according to someone familiar with the trails in the area.
- ◆ A trail enthusiast from Elk Rapids mentioned the desirability of a trail on the east side of US-31 from Elk Rapids to the Maple Bay property, heading south to the TART trail at Bates and M-72. The railroad bed east of Petobego Marsh is too fragmented in his opinion.
- ◆ The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy will need more space than the west farmhouse can supply. Additional building would be needed in the same area. There was some discussions about the Land Conservancy running an organic farming program at Maple Bay.
- ◆ There were some concerns about difficulty of ‘seeing’ the entry drive to west side. It is not readily understood or seen as an entrance.
- ◆ Possibility of educational, organic farming taking place on a small scale
- ◆ Move private gate off US-31 (north of site) at State property to Pulcifer private property line.

- ◆ Informational/interpretive signage along different areas within the park.
- ◆ Don't change anything.
- ◆ Keep the farming on the site.
- ◆ Don't "bend over backwards" for ADA compliance regarding beach access.
- ◆ Par 3 style golf course desired for seniors.
- ◆ Cross country skiing in winter.
- ◆ Use the cow tunnel for pedestrians.
- ◆ Primitive camping, possibly by the beach, but preferably elsewhere.
- ◆ Plant small groves of Spruce trees to shield the wind on upland portions of the site and create cross-country ski trails.
- ◆ Create trails through wetlands, modeled after Grass River program.
- ◆ Use the site for education and preservation of the "old way of life".
- ◆ Any camping facilities should remain primitive.
- ◆ Create easy watercourse connection between Petobego Pond and Petobego Marsh.

c: Jay Kilpatrick, AICP  
Pat Cornelisse  
Ryan Kilpatrick



## Appendix D

### Open House Synopsis



# MAPLE BAY PARK & NATURAL AREA MASTER PLAN

## Open House Synopsis

During September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, Grand Traverse County sponsored an Open House at Maple Park and Natural Area in Acme Township. The purpose of the open house was to allow the public to tour the site and offer comments and insight regarding the park. The open house was held in support of the Park's Master Plan.

The open house was "headquartered" on the Land Conservancy property on the west side of US-31, and in addition to the tours, attendees were able view several maps and aerial images that were taken earlier in the week. Refreshments were also provided, and participants were able to converse with the project's consultants and County staff regarding the park's future uses.



### Mobile Tours

The east tour visited areas on the east side of US-31. The tour began along old US-31 near the old barn and farm house. From there, the tour went to Bates Road and then turned westward along a two-track road to one of the larger wetland areas on the site. This tour allowed participants to view first-hand the value of the wetland and agricultural areas, as they saw herons, cranes, ducks, turtles, and a variety of other wildlife species. The east tour also featured a view of the Petobego Marsh Area.

The west tour took the participants through the agricultural areas on the west side of US-31 before heading down to the ½ mile of beach along the east arm of Grand Traverse Bay. Here, participants were shown the park's boundaries, and the important role the sand dunes play in the ecology of the site.



### What's the Next Step?

The Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission welcomes citizen participation in helping to develop a Master Plan for Maple Bay Park & Natural Area.

On the evening of **Thursday, September 27**, the Parks and Recreation Commission will be hosting a public input session beginning at **7:00PM** at the Civic Center meeting room. We need your input, ideas and requests regarding how Maple Bay Park & Natural Area will be developed. The meeting will be held at the Civic Center, **1125 West Civic Center Drive** in Traverse City.

This will include an overview of the property, its strengths and weaknesses. It will also include break-out discussions where you can participate in outlining the future for Maple Bay Park.



Appendix E

Comments received during Community Meeting  
September 27, 2007



1. In our overview, did we overlook any features of Maple Bay Park which you feel we need to consider?
  - ◆ Cattle crossing tunnel under US-31 provides connectivity
  - ◆ View for motorists from US-31
  - ◆ Interesting rocks on the beach
  - ◆ We should inventory surrounding natural areas to see how they “fit” with this property
  - ◆ Park serves as a gateway into Grand Traverse County
  - ◆ Discuss the potential with linking trails on Maple Bay to trails on State property for “seamless” hiking experience
  - ◆ The psychological experience of walking through a forest to get to a beach is very unique
  - ◆ Potential of bird hunting on the lowland areas near the bay.
  
2. In our overview, did we overlook any challenges pertaining to Maple Bay Park which you feel we need to consider?
  - ◆ Safety regarding hunters and the general public using the park
  - ◆ Funding requirements
  - ◆ Increasing public awareness
  - ◆ Hunting – what about shotgun only or bow only
  - ◆ Hunting precludes skiing, snowshoeing, etc.
  - ◆ Motorized ATVs should be prohibited
  - ◆ Farm house on the East side should be rehabilitated
  - ◆ Security, physical safety, crime prevention
  - ◆ Buildings on east side of US-31 – what should be done with these
  - ◆ Funding for maintaining the park
  - ◆ Possibility of educational opportunity on organic or period farming
  - ◆ Concessions, food, restrooms, benches. The site is so big that one could spend an entire day there. There should be facilities so people don’t have to leave
  
3. What are the most important opportunities you see for Maple Bay Park?
  - ◆ Bird Sanctuary
  - ◆ Primitive camping, for boaters as well as those accessing from land
  - ◆ Connectivity
  - ◆ Agricultural demonstration
  - ◆ Mineral extraction done properly (maybe a demonstration)
  - ◆ Connection to TART trail
  - ◆ Steps around fate to the path
  - ◆ Natural parking areas
  - ◆ No fires on the beach, therefore no camping
  - ◆ Restrooms (not porta-jons)
  - ◆ Sitting areas on beach
  - ◆ Keep agriculture

- ◆ MSU sustainable agriculture and organic agriculture
- ◆ Supplement wetland vegetation with natural food source for birds
- ◆ Access to Petobego pond on State site with parking
- ◆ Limit bikes – no mountain bikes as they tend to go off trails
- ◆ Create a habitat for game birds
- ◆ Loop trails on to Michigan property
- ◆ Farming (demonstration, perhaps) on the East Side
- ◆ Hunting
- ◆ Dog training area for hunting dogs
- ◆ Opportunities for users to freely explore the site
- ◆ Picnic area
- ◆ Opportunity to leave everything alone
- ◆ “Green” facilities (i.e. composting toilets, etc)

**4. What are the most important challenges related to Maple Bay Park use, either now or in the future?**

- ◆ Future pressure for active recreation
- ◆ Mineral extraction opportunities
- ◆ Maintenance
- ◆ Make it a destination
- ◆ Population growth – park might get “loved to death” as population increases
- ◆ We should look at what other parks offer; there should be a variety for park users
- ◆ Park over-use (trash, clean-up, etc)
- ◆ Potential for skiing, showshoeing in winter
- ◆ No motors of any kind should be allowed on beach
- ◆ There is a tendency for people to head north on the lowland/beach area.. we need to get people to use the south part as well.

**5. Please look 100 years into the future and describe Maple Bay Park as you hope it will be at that time. What role would you like to see it play for the community? What would residents be able to do and see there?**

- ◆ In 100 years (2107), park users should be able to look at the park and see what it was like 100 years ago (in 2007). Leave it alone as much as possible!
- ◆ Not much has changed
- ◆ Expanded forests on the east side
- ◆ Retrospective farm
  - Husking bee
  - Barn events
  - Organic farming
- ◆ Only large beach from Acme to Elk Rapids, but its still natural
- ◆ Expand the property
- ◆ There will likely be a lot of subdivisions to the north and south

## Appendix F

Summary of participants and resources included in acquiring  
the property



## Maple Bay Park Purchase

In April of 2002, Grand Traverse County acquired the 400 acre Maple Bay Park from Maple Bay Farms LLP. This purchase was accomplished through the County's ability to receive grants and other funding from State, Federal, and local partnership sources.

The fair market value for the property was: \$9,400,000

Sources of funds to make the purchase:

1. Maple Bay Farms LLP donation of land value:	\$900,000
2. State of Michigan DNR Trust Fund Grant:	\$6,816,920
3. Coastal Management Program Grant:	\$500,000
4. North American Wetland Conservation Act Grant:	\$500,000
5. Wetland Reserve	\$273,000
6. Funds raised by the G.T. Land Conservancy:	\$410,080

In addition to the funds raised locally by the Conservancy, they also have raised funds to secure an additional 70 acres, which they hold title to, and have a option to purchase the remaining 15 acres of the former Maple Bay Farm Property, making for a total property of 485 acres.

Of the 70 acres currently titled by the Conservancy, 44 of those acres are located North of the County property, abutting State owned property of the Petobego Wildlife Area. The other 16 acres are found at the large house and barns on the West side of U.S. 31. The reason these two parcels were not included in the County purchase, is that the 44 acres to the North are hoped to be purchased by the State and the 16 acres around the buildings would not have been eligible for any grants.



## Appendix G

### Summary of Final Open House Comments



## Maple Bay Park and Natural Area Open House Questionnaire

Did you find today's Open House useful? Please explain.

- *Yes – different opinion were helpful in understanding conflicts.*
- *Yes. Good to hear all ideas & how most ideas are not necessarily incompatible with other ideas about use, hours of use, location of use, impact of use, etc.*
- *Yes*
- *Yes – Overall, I would go with the moderate use plan.*
- *Yes – lots of good points to consider and reminders of what the property was designated for.*
- *Informative*
- *Yes*
- *Yes. Good discussion*
- *Yes – It showed me the diversity of interest of the property.*

Which aspects or elements of the alternative plans do you like most?

- Maintain wild character
- Most are rather low impact, and do not remove land from its agricultural, hunting & low impact scenic uniqueness
- I think that pieces of all the plans could and should be used. Don't believe that all of the active plans should be adopted. We don't need all the improved roads & sites. The flying site would not leave a footprint that would affect wildlife. It is also something that can be used by people & family's from the whole area. Also it would be the closest thing to no cost to the conservatory of any of the projects. As far as noise pollution, any of your farm tractors have a louder db rating than aircraft.
- I like the 3 options of intensity use.
- I would like to see low intensity with a blend of the moderate ie. Improved trail to lake for handicap; maybe trail to overlook; maintain current farming; stabilize barn and possibly dog training allowed.
- Moderate minus west drive down
- Low intensity to moderate intensity.
- Combination of low to med impact
- Keep hunting viable

- I like the rustic trail development, rustic camping and picnic areas of the moderate intensity but would like to see the agricultural fields allowed to return to natural fields.
- I'm leaning toward something between low & medium useage. Some parking needs to be established or people will park anywhere. Also very few handicap pathways need to be established.

What concerns do you have about the various alternative plans?

- To much development = not conform to grant restrictions
- Some ideas what to make too much development, which becomes almost irreversible if allowed to go very far.
- Camping sites
  - Require a ranger
  - Control parties
- No to the "Active" as it would discourage intended use or eventually illuminate them altogether eventually.
- More activity More accessibility.
- Grounds that are acceptable to hunting should be open to designated dog training (generally March to September) \*Requires DNR "Special dog training area" permit. See DNR
- Active intensity uses to intense and contradict original intent of grants.  
Low – moderate intensity uses – good.
- No camping. No concession.
- Would like to see more active uses kept closer to the city... with the lower intensity uses kept on this beautiful, somewhat isolated area. This area creates the perfect opportunity to allow people to get out and get away from development.
- Do not want airplanes flying around. Would like some farming but let some land to back to wild. Allow hunting as much as possible according to DNR rules. Airplanes close to Petobego bad idea!!! Maybe next to 31 on east side.

What specific changes would you like to see made in any of the alternative plans? Please explain.

- No overnight camping
- I like the active intensity use without camp sites model airplane facility, and water spots concession. You may say the moderate use probably fits better.
- See above. Hunting grounds and dog training the same however generally would like open access to east side.

- No paved trails. Crushed stone only
- Low impact trail – benched trails down slopes instead of stairs. Steps require more maintenance, are difficult to navigate during the winter and cost more.
- Dog training area established in SE corner w/ a small parking area off Bates Rd as in medium plan.

**Any Additional Comments:**

- Noise and man made interruptions – Everyone seems blind to a major disruptive force – a trunk line highway
- Keep the Red Barn
- Thank you.
- Coordinate agricultural activities w/ hunting/training locations. Put agriculture along roads!
- Work with conservator for joint use.  
Work with MSU
- Would like to see the moderate intensity use minus the dog training and agriculture.  
Demonstration ag okay.
- No new roads for vehicles. Pathways for hiking & improved paths for handicap only. People can get off their lazy asses & walk. Stairs in 1 location only to shore line.

# Appendix C

1. Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Executive Summary
2. Program Director Survey Responses
3. SWOT Analysis

## **Section I: Development of a Parks & Recreation Network**

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

### **Phase 1 of the project included:**

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

### **Phase 2 of the project included:**

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

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

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

### **Phase 3 of the project included:**

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

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

## **Section II: Grand Traverse County Park and Recreation Network**

### **Purpose:**

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

### **Potential Shared Vision:**

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

### **Membership:**

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

### **Potential Benefits/Goals Discussed to date:**

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

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

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

Member responsibilities:

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

### **Sample Types of Topics to be Discussed/Considered**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Major Demographic Trends**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Overview of Community Survey Findings**

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

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

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

Other major findings include the following:

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

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

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

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

Program	# Participants	Location	Income Sources	Strengths	Weaknesses	Promotion	Collaboration
N. A. VASA	1,000 All ages	Timber Ridge VASA Trail_	Event Fees	Strong Board	Funding	Local ads Email Ski Mags	Yes
TBay Youth Soccer_	900 All ages 4-18; adults	Keystone Soccer some travel teams	Registration Tournament fees	Single location	Entrance/exit Crowded	Email (current) Post-cards (new) Newspaper	Yes
TC Central Athletics	H.S. Varsity and JV sports 800 in 25 sports Participation stable	TC Central HS	Participant fee TCAPS budget Fund-raising Sponsorships	Good facilities on Campus	Land-locked No expansion	Meetings Facebook Twitter Email Web-sites	Yes
American Legion Junior Baseball	Leagues for ages 5-15; stable @ 490 players	TC Civic Center Ball diamonds	\$55 registration Sponsor fees Donations	Sportsmanship, team play, learning the game	Volunteer issues	Word of mouth Limited advertising Am Legion reputation Retention strong	Yes
Women's Swim & Dive	HS. Female Athletes 38-42 participants Stable	TC Civic Center	Participant fees TCAPS Budget	Convenient Location for both High Schools	High fees Age of pool and deck space	Club team Word of mouth	Yes
Centre Ice Arena	Sells ice time to groups/individuals All ages GT Hockey Assoc. TC Figure Skating Club Stable participation	Centre Ice Arena	\$220/hour rate charges use groups	Newer facility Very clean	None	User groups market ice time	Yes

GT Bay YMCA	65+ programs for Youth and adults Football: 2,198 Gymnastics: 1,385 Softball: 1,320 Tennis: 848 Soccer: 700 Basketball: 672 Adult B-ball: 584	YMCA New Y Site Several TCAPS school sites City and county parks Civic Center	Participant fees Membership Donations	Diverse locations Good relationships w/schools, parks	Primary indoor facility (YMCA) needs to be replaced	Word of mouth Fliers in schools Mallers, radio Newspaper	Yes
	Areas of growth: Pickleball Child care Flag & Pop Warner Football Gymnastics						
	Stable programs: Adult B-ball Softball Fitness Lacrosse						
	Declining programs: Youth b-ball Youth soccer Camp Family programs Youth programs						
	Overall participants 2005 – 12,128 2010 – 8,071 2011 – 9,803 (forecast)						

TC Swim Club	90 participants: 5-18	Civic Center Pool	Participant fees 2-3 Fundraisers/year	Strong competitive program Passionate families	Coaching turnover Cost of pool time Lack of desirable pool Time	Word of mouth School flyers Interested in collaboration
					Facilities do not allow For sanctioned meets	

## **TCAPS Recreational Assessment/Planning Preliminary SWOT Analysis**

### **Strengths:**

- *Variety of recreational programs – active and passive – available to members of the GT community (challenge for many families is how best to “balance” among the many choices).*
- *Physical/topographic characteristics that allow for the variety of programs: abundance of lakes for sailing/boating/canoeing/kayaking; terrain suitable for downhill skiing*
- *TART trail system – core resource for trail development and cycling at various levels*
- *Strong 4-season sports opportunities for all ages of residents*
- *Strength of tourism economy that provides additional revenues to community-based programs (local programs able to host tournaments/events that attract out-of-town visitors and provide additional revenue; these events add to the range of options available to area residents)*
- *Local governments committed to providing increased volume of recreational trails for residents’ use as evidenced in recreational plans; local governments also committed to acquisition of additional land for long-range recreational purposes*

### **Weaknesses:**

- *Geographical boundaries/limitations that restrict ease of travel from west-to-east and limit access to some facilities and programs, especially during high-traffic times*
- *High traffic volumes along some area roads limit bicycle use (perceived safety issues for riders)*
- *Limited choices for indoor swimming programming (very popular activity among area youth and adults)*
- *Lack of single, reliable source of information regarding scheduling of area recreational activities – difficult to locate information about activities*
- *Variety and abundance of programs may have “stretched” the quality of volunteers, leaders, and coaches too thin*
- *Perceived lack of “learning” (non-competitive) sports programs for developing athletes*
- *Cost of programs – especially for youth – perceived as barrier to participation (some are “high cost” programs that require significant equipment – hockey, lacrosse)*
- *Timing of youth program offerings conflict with parents work obligations, dinner hour, and other “family” activities – is there a “best time” for youth programming that minimized conflicts?*

### **Opportunities:**

- *Recreation program directors report a strong interest in collaborative planning – opportunity exists to identify “low hanging fruit” and implement changes and*

*improvements that result in short-term benefits while the group learns to “trust” one another (work toward long-term improvements)*

- *Opportunity to create a reliable source of information for scheduling of activities and coordination between and among programs that attract the same audience*
- *Grand Traverse County, Traverse City, Acme Township, Blair Township, Green Lake Township, East Bay Township, and other units of government include development of new facilities in their recreation plans; how well to these plans reflect the needs and interests of recreation program providers*
- *Evaluate potential for TCAPS facilities to be sites for “passive” or non-competitive recreation activities after school or during summer months and/or for limited youth sports programming (what role might TCAPS play in the provision of recreational opportunities)*
- *Explore potential for “less competitive” programs that emphasize “learning” and participation vs. competition*
- *Evaluate potential for creation of additional indoor swimming facilities and interest in utilization of any new facility (test the market)*
- *Opportunity to lower some program costs via more effective planning/coordination*
- *Opportunity to attract more adults as volunteers or program leaders (individuals with strong management/promotional skills)*
- *Improve overall level of coaching/teaching through coordinated teaching system for coaches/managers*
- *Recommendations for new facilities – kayak park, indoor water park, indoor soccer facility, indoor baseball training facility – may be opportunities for private investors to explore (is there sufficient market demand)*

**Threats:**

- *There will always be conflicts within families and between youth and adults over program choices and times; especially in a community in which there are wide choices of programs and geographical barriers to participation – collaborative planning will not solve all conflicts*
- *Development of new programs will challenge both the available facilities and the available supply of coaches/teachers; development of a new program should be based on sound “business planning”*
- *Development of new programs and facilities will further segment the market and community resources; new plans must be well-researched and developed including an evaluation of the impact on existing supply*
- *Many local governments include plans for acquisition and eventual development of additional non-motorized trails; how can this effort be coordinated to insure well-coordinated efforts and minimize risks reported in survey (bike paths located along busy roads)*

# Appendix D

-December 17, 2012 Public Input Workshop Priority Chart-

## Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation December 17, 2012 Public Input Workshop

Votes	Topic	Category
24	Indoor technical climbing facility—rock climbing.	Facilities
19	Power Island Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation to island—pontoon ferry boat?</li> <li>• More defined trails.</li> <li>• Better dock.</li> <li>• Historical info/better markers.</li> <li>• Better marketing</li> <li>• Continued free access,</li> <li>• Keep island natural/wild</li> <li>• Would lower camping fees generate more use?</li> <li>• Bassett Island—reduce fees, improve vaults or empty more often.</li> <li>• Improve restroom facilities.</li> <li>• Tobacco free.</li> </ul>	Facilities
15	New Community Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multigenerational—hub and spokes for programming</li> <li>• Turn Oak Park School into a community recreation center</li> <li>• Senior facility to enhance baby boomer seniors               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Health and exercise facilities—tennis, pickle ball, swimming</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Convert existing Civic Center building to an indoor auditorium and future outdoor auditorium (min capacity 3,000)</li> </ul>	Facilities
15	Stronger social media and online presence.	Information/Marketing
14	Extend/complete Boardman Trail.	Facilities
12	New Pool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More aquatic facilities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need competition pool</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Facilities

	<p>(cold) and leisure pool (hot) to support more aquatic programming and opportunities. Location: Civic Center grounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Build a natatorium in a centrally located part of Traverse City. This would allow for large swim meets (creating large revenue for local businesses), learn to swim programs for TCAPS and surrounding schools as well as other aquatic programs such as senior swim, master swim, and water polo.</li> </ul>	
11	Youth stewardship program	Organization/Administration
10	Programs for youth.	Programs
10	General support for trails, more trails, and trail connections.	Facilities
9	Millage for Parks	Funding/Revenues
8	<p>Improve Civic Center Grounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kids Cove—replace wood chips with rubber matting</li> <li>● Kids Cove—make repairs to structures</li> <li>● Civic Center—finish putting the chain link fence around the park and kids cove</li> <li>● Entire fencing has been moved to a place near the kids' baseball diamond—it is not safe.</li> <li>● Maintain fencing.</li> <li>● Wooden fence to bridge need repair.</li> <li>● Need to fill divots from tree and stump removal</li> <li>● Need more trees</li> <li>● Large turf athletic field complex</li> </ul>	Facilities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Multiuse (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)</li> <li>○ Tournaments will be major community revenue source</li> <li>○ Location—Keystone or nearby or possibly Civic Center</li> <li>● More significant natural barriers on the north side of Civic Center to act as a “fence” for safety.</li> <li>● Utilize TCAP mailing system to broadcast swimming programs—it’s free!</li> <li>● Civic Center Stage (outdoor performance space)—improved and used for family programming.</li> </ul>	
8	Boardman white water kayaking	Facilities
7	North County Trail Connections	Facilities
6	Maple Bay Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Design/_____ Maple Bay as festival site pulling revenues from many sources.</li> <li>● Development of Maple Bay—don’t think much about it at this time</li> </ul>	Facilities
6	Recreation Authority.	Organization/ Administration
5	Existing Pool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continuation of existing programs—more promotion through schools, support swim teams.</li> <li>● Concerned about effect of YMCA.</li> <li>● Lap Pool for consistent temperature and more availability.</li> <li>● Family pool activities in a warm play pool (as opposed to a lap pool).</li> </ul>	Facilities
5	General support for indoor facilities	Facilities
5	Cable park at Twin Lakes for wakeboarding/kite boarding.	Facilities
5	Tabaco Free Grounds	Facilities

5	Support Hickory Hills	Programs
3	Keep natural areas “natural.”	Facilities
3	General support for outdoor complex.	Facilities
3	<p>Bay Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West End Beach, west end of West Bay should have a mooring field set up with rentals by the night/week for boaters wishing to leave their boats in the water.</li> <li>• Grand Traverse Bay beaches to develop man-made reefs for surfing and stand-up paddle boarding. (east and west arm)</li> </ul>	Facilities
3	Outdoor sports—fishing, archery, etc.	Programs
3	Private Swim Lessons	Programs
3	Facilitate programs for special needs.	Programs
3	Health focused programs	Programs
3	Maple Bay a working farm—a working organic farm for school groups to be engaged.	Programs
3	Facilitate programs for special needs.	Programs
3	User Fees	Funding/ Revenue
3	More business and nonprofit partnerships related to marketing.	Information/ Marketing
3	<p>Parkland Acquisition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More public access to inland lakes including boat launches and beach amenities.</li> <li>• Acquire key properties adjacent to existing parks and natural areas.</li> <li>• Develop old girl guide (Girl Scout) property on NE Long Lake for varied of activities including beach, trails, sports facilities, building for use by partners.</li> </ul>	Park Acquisition/ Development
3	<p>More, larger dog parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More and larger spaces for dog parks in locations that include access to water and</li> </ul>	Park Acquisition/ Development

	<p>woods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large, over two acres, off leash dog parks outside of City limits.</li> <li>• Off leash socializing dog park at the Civic Center. People already walk dogs here, provides community space to meet with neighbors.</li> </ul>	
2	Expand cross country ski trails eastward between Supply Road and M-186 and M-113.	Facilities
2	<p>Forks of the Boardman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reopen Forks campground</li> <li>• Improve dirt road to Scheck’s &amp; the Forks (Brownbridge Road)</li> </ul>	Facilities
2	<p>Existing Ice Arena</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Howe Arena open skate time divide into figure skating only and hockey only. The surface gets too destroyed by hockey skates for figure skaters to glide on.</li> <li>• Add outdoor ice rink on a ball field at the Civic Center.</li> </ul>	Facilities
2	Full-time attendant at Skate Park.	Programs
2	Create volunteer coordinator position.	Organization/ Administration
2	<p>Funding and Revenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with Conservation District and build Nature Education overnight camping area at Sabin Pond—100 person camping. Use farmhouse for headquarters.</li> </ul>	Funding/ Revenues
1	Sledding Hill	Facilities
1	Include play spaces for young children in all parks	Facilities
1	<p>a. Purchase Lear factory property (8-acres) on Airport Road (listed for @ \$1.7 million)</p> <p>b. Move ice arena to Lear property and</p>	Facilities

	<p>remodel factory to be a sports complex.</p> <p>c. Finance through private and public financing—Revolving Loan Fund could be part of financing. Promote use of self directing IRAs.</p> <p>d. Seek guidance from Grand Action Committee in Grand Rapids—built VanAndel and Devos Hall.</p>	
1	Do Buffalo Ridge Trail	Facilities
1	Trail connections between Lake Ann/Long Lake into Traverse City.	Facilities
1	Biking course at Commons and Hickory Hills.	Facilities
1	<p>Medalie Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medalie Park redefined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bulldoze down Logan’s Landing</li> <li>○ Tunnel under South Airport</li> <li>○ Connect with Boardman Lake Trail</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Facilities
1	Aquatics program—creation of an aquatics program— one website, one phone number for all aquatic activities in GT County area.	Programs
1	Expand Skate Park activities.	Organization/ Administration
1	Inventory of Facilities	Organization/ Administration

# Appendix E

- 2012-2015 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan-



## Strategic Plan

October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2015

### INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Recreation Commission and Management Team for the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department are pleased to present this strategic plan for 2012 to 2015. The primary objective and theme of our long range planning work is to grow community awareness and use of our programs and facilities by diversifying our program menu and increasing our geographic coverage. We will accomplish this by pursuing establishment of a Joint Parks and Recreation Authority, increasing community awareness of recreational opportunities throughout the County, and strengthening our working relationships with the County Board of Commissioners and other key partners.

This plan was created during three planning sessions involving the Parks and Recreation Commission, Department Director, and staff following the completion of an organizational capacity assessment. Our hope is that we've developed a focused set of strategies that integrate and build on our strengths and position the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department for long-term sustainability

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

### COMMUNITY NEED

The Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Commission has led, or co-led, the following needs assessments and asset inventories that were received and considered by the commission at the time they were completed. The reports of these assessments and inventories are included in the appendices and were considered when formulating this strategic plan.

1. Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment Survey
2. TCAPS Recreational Assessment/Planning SWOT Analysis
3. Recreation Provider Survey (asset inventory)

*Please see appendixes for more detailed reports.*

## OUR STRATEGIC VISION FOR 2015

### *Our culture will seek to*

- Quickly adapt to changing economic conditions and citizen desires
- Encourage strong stewardship of natural areas and resources
- Be innovative and open-minded in our approach to developing new ventures and programming
- Promote partnerships and new ventures, sharing the risk of introducing new programs and initiatives
- Reciprocate when potential partners approach us with new opportunities
- Effectively manage risk by considering the economic impact of all decisions.
- Identify revenue generating opportunities
- Solicit and consider all relevant public input
- Support and leverage the assets of each unique role in the organization

### *Our programs and services will:*

- Maximize the assets of our natural areas
- Utilize creative delivery approaches
- Meet community needs with mechanisms to solicit community input
- Demonstrate value based on the number of participants
- Appeal to a variety of user groups

### *We will strengthen our financial sustainability by:*

- Educating staff and Parks and Recreation Commission about the costs of delivering programs and services
- Developing well-defined sources of revenue, including a possible dedicated general fund allocation and/or millage campaign, grants, and gifts
- Creating business plans for significant initiatives
- Further investigating a Joint Parks and Recreation Authority as a means of reducing cost and better meeting the community's needs
- Creating a well-defined Capital Improvement and DNR plan

### *Our operations will:*

- Increase volunteer recruitment and management
- Streamline governance and management process, avoiding "too many chiefs"
- Share resources and management with other partners when possible
- Maximize collaborations when applicable

## STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Develop more robust recreational programming
2. Strengthen financial sustainability
3. Increase coordination of programs and services
4. Establish Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation as a recognized leader in the County
5. Improve Parks and Recreation opportunities within Grand Traverse County
6. Increase community awareness of and appreciation for the recreational opportunities in Grand Traverse County

**STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GRID**

<i>Strategic Goal 1: Develop more robust recreational programming</i>					
Strategies	Timing	Lead	Measures of Success	Status	
a. Plan for and conduct ongoing needs assessments to anticipate new needs.		Director	More users		
b. Consider collaborating with other organizations in addressing unmet needs (i.e. Commission on Aging for Seniors' programs).		Director	More diverse users		
c. Develop a program plan for adults including potential partnerships as appropriate.		Director	Agreement by the Director and Commissioners on priority areas for development and timing of development.		
d. Develop a program plan for youths including potential partnerships as appropriate.		Director			
e. Assess the feasibility of delivering a day camp program.		Director			
f. Develop a special event program plan.		Director			
g. Develop support system to expand programming through effective recruitment, placement and management of interns and/or volunteers.		Director			
			Development of internship program, Dev. Of Vol. Program		

**Strategic Goal 2: Strengthen financial sustainability**

Strategies	Timing	Lead	Measures of Success	Status
a. Evaluate value and effectiveness of current partnerships.		Director	Sufficient funding is in place to support the Department and its growth of programs and sites.	
b. Assess the feasibility of conducting a millage campaign to support development of a Joint Recreation Authority.		Director and Commissioners		
c. Assess the feasibility of establishing a dedicated allocation from the County General Fund.		Director and Commissioners		
d. Establish a Business Development Team with a written charter and including key stakeholders to identify and evaluate new opportunities, programs and services that both meet a community need and generate revenue as appropriate.		Director and Commissioners		
e. Utilize an opportunity evaluation screening matrix and a business development process in developing new programs and services. (See <i>appendices 5 &amp; 6</i> )		Director and Commissioners		
f. Develop business plans for Power Island and Twin Lakes	Summer/ Fall 2012	Director		

**Strategic Goal 3: Increase coordination of programs and services**

Strategies	Timing	Lead	Measures of Success	Status
a. Establish a Joint Parks and Recreation Authority as a means of creating economies of scale and helping the community more easily find and engage in parks and recreation activities.		Director and Commissioners	Joint Parks Authority is established	
b. Further develop relationships with other key providers of recreational programs and services (businesses, non recreational authority members, etc.)		Director		

*Strategic Goal 4: Establish Parks & Recreation as a leader in the County.*

Strategies	Timing	Lead	Measure of Success	Status
a. Conduct annual meeting with County Board of Commissioners; share strategic plan.	Fall 2012	Director and Commissioners	County Commissioners support recommendations from the Parks & Recreation Board of Commissioners.  Parks & Rec is included in any important discussions about natural resources, parks or recreation.	
b. Develop a role description for the Parks & Rec Commissioners	Fall 2012	Director and Commissioners		
c. Provide leadership to the Parks and Recreation Network on behalf of the County Parks and Recreation Department.		Director		
d. Strengthen orientation of every new Parks & Recreation Commissioner.		Director and Commissioners		
e. Regular attendance by Parks & Recreation Commissioners at County Commission Meetings.		Commissioners		
f. Obtain commitment by future Parks & Recreation Commissioners that they will remain on Board.		Commissioners		

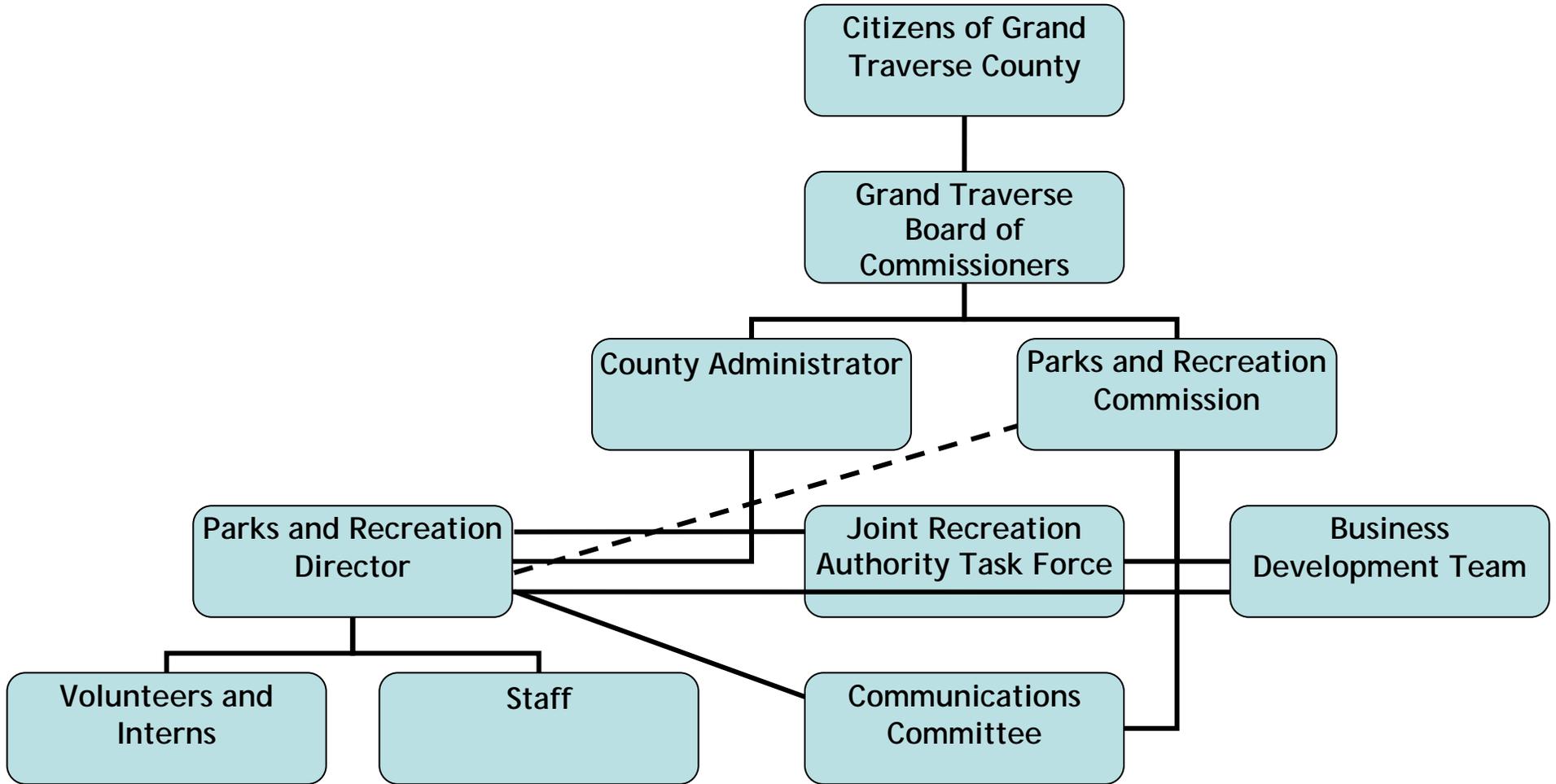
**Strategic Goal 5: Improve Parks and Recreation opportunities within Grand Traverse County**

Strategies	Timing	Lead	Measures of Success	Status
a. Partner with TART, governmental units and County Road Commission to increase the network of trails both within the parks and connecting to other trails (and to design, build and maintain them.)		Director and Commissioners	More users More diverse users	
b. Assess the need for and feasibility of developing an additional recreation center.		Director and Commissioners		
c. Assess the need for and feasibility of creating an additional inland lake beach access.		Director and Commissioners		
d. Consider acquiring additional properties in order to provide improved geographic coverage.		Director and Commissioners		

**Strategic Goal 6: Increase community awareness of and appreciation for the recreational opportunities in Grand Traverse County**

Strategies	Timing	Lead	Measures of Success	Status
a. Establish a Communications Committee with a written charter.		Director and Commissioners	More users	
b. Identify a chair and membership for the Communications Committee.			More diverse users	
c. Conduct a communications campaign to increase community awareness of the value of Grand Traverse County's parks and recreational programs.		Director	Increased knowledge and awareness by the public as indicated by its support for millage requests.	
d. Increase communication with all constituents as to the value of Grand Traverse parks and recreational programming.		Director		
e. Establish single source website		Director		

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE STRATEGIC PLAN



# APPENDICES

## **Appendix 1: Executive Summary of Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment Survey**

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

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

County and local governments provide “passive” recreation space/facilities but offer limited programming to county residents.

There are a growing number of private recreation bodies (little league, sports clubs, recreation clubs) that rent/lease space from local government to provide recreational opportunities at public facilities; there are also private bodies that own/operate their own recreational facilities.

The county, city, villages, townships and school district do not have a recreation services delivery model similar to that found in down-state communities. Well-coordinated partnerships between the local government units and the school district do not exist in Grand Traverse County.

Some of the private sector recreation bodies are losing key leaders (with a long-term view of the history of the organization) to retirement/turnover; there is concern for the long-term future of these organizations.

Local governments have completed and produced an inventory of facilities/parks available in the county; this does not include an inventory of program offerings and the target age group being served.

Grand Traverse county is experiencing growth in the number of baby boomer households (empty nesters), DINKs (double income/no kids), and young professionals with young children whose recreation needs may not be adequately met through the current arrangement.

The facility inventory represents the initial step in collaborative recreational planning among governmental entities in the county; non-governmental recreational bodies have not yet been invited to participate in the planning process with a focus on growth.

### **Major Demographic Trends**

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

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

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

## Appendix 1: Executive Summary of Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment Survey (cont.)

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

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

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

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

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

### Overview of Community Survey Findings

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

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

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

*Other major findings include the following:*

68.7% of respondents rated program for adults as good-excellent; 68.9% rated programs for youth as good/excellent.

Adult respondents were most likely to participate in team sports of basketball, soccer, and softball/baseball.

Children at all grade levels most likely to participate in riding a bicycle, swimming, and downhill skiing  
Athletic Collaboration/NorthSky

High participation rates at all levels for sailing/boating and canoeing/Kayaking (reflective of unique physical resources of GT County)

Baseball/softball and soccer have higher participation levels at grades K-2 and 3-5

High participation rates were reported for “running” for middle school (Grades 6-8) and for high school youth.

Tennis and basketball have good participation rates at high school, middle school and grades 3-5

Ice skating has good participation rates at all grade levels.

## Appendix 1: Executive Summary of Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment Survey (cont.)

Adult respondents report enjoying wide-range of outdoor activities ranging from passive (time at beach) to cycling, hiking, running, walking, and downhill skiing

Popular adult activities that demand “indoor” facilities include swimming and gym work-out

The unique geographic and topographic features of Grand Traverse County contribute to reported high levels of sailing/boating, canoeing/kayaking, and downhill skiing.

“Most popular” recreational activities among all youth (based upon parents’ perceptions) were time at the beach, swimming, cycling, downhill skiing, walking, soccer, baseball/softball, and sailing/boating. The “most popular” team sports are soccer, baseball/softball, and basketball.

Adults are most likely to learn about activities through word-of-mouth, email, newsletter, and newspaper advertising. Youth are most likely to learn from school publications, word-of-mouth, newsletter, and email. Facebook is more likely to be a source for adults. Newspaper and radio are more important sources for adults vs. youth.

Program pricing and location/convenience are the most important barriers to increased utilization of various recreation programs; program organization and ineffective communication are also important barriers.

Respondents recommended that program costs be reduced for youth programs, increase the number of youth program offerings, improve communications about program offerings, better coordination of scheduling for youth programs, and locate programs closer to respondents’ homes.

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

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

APPENDIX 2: TCAPS Recreational Study: Final Results (August 2011) (cont.)

TCAPS Recreational Needs Assessment  
Results (June 20, 2011)  
Woods Consulting – NorthSky Nonprofit Network

578 Respondents

**#1. Importance of recreational opportunities:**

79.0% Very Important  
16.3% Important  
4.5% Somewhat important

**#2. How well are you and your family being served by the recreational opportunities now available:**

	Adults	Youth/children
Excellent	13.4%	16.8%
Good	54.6%	52.3%
Fair	27.4%	26.7%

**#3-#5: Charts of recreational activities – will sort separately**

**#6-#7 How do you learn about recreational programs available for youth and adults:**

	Adult programs	Youth Programs
School publications:	33.6%	70.0%
Word-of-mouth	71.5%	63.3%
Newsletter	39.0	47.4%
E-mail messages from program	45.2%	47.2%
Direct mail from program	14.1%	17.9%
Newspaper ad	38.6%	29.8%
Radio Advertisement	23.1%	14.9%
Telephone call	14.9%	14.9%
Facebook message	17.3%	12.1%
Text message	3.7%	3.0%
Posters at various locations	26.9%	23.2%

**APPENDIX 2: TCAPS Recreational Study: Final Results (August 2011) (cont.)**

**#8: Barriers to participation in recreation programs**

	Somewhat	Significant
Cost/price	48.1%	24.2%
Location/convenience	53.4%	20.8%
Lack of consistent transportation	22.2%	8.7%
Poorly organized program	35.8%	15.2%
Don't know who to contact	38.6%	9.2%
Other barrier (individual responses) ("lack of time" mentioned frequently as "other barrier")	12.6%	35.1%

**#9: List programs with barriers (open ended responses)**

**#10. How to improve the organization and delivery of recreational programs**

**(grouped respondents' #1 and #2 "priorities to get total percentage)**

More programs for youth	58.3%
More programs for adults	35.4%
Closer to my home	40.7%
Improve communications	51.5%
About program	
Reduce cost for youth	60.7%
Reduce cost for adults	34.3%
Better coordination of schedules	38.7%

176 additional recommendations

**#11: What new programs would you likely participate in if available: 181 Open ended responses – will sort later**

**#12: How important is the availability of quality recreational activities to your decision to live in Grand Traverse County (compare to #1)**

		#1
Very Important	32.7%	71.0%
Important	30.2%	16.3%
Somewhat Important	28.2%	4.5%

## APPENDIX 2: TCAPS Recreational Study: Final Results (August 2011) (cont.)

### Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

#### Age:

30-44	55.4%
45-59	36.5%
18-29	4.2%
66-74	3.0%

#### Gender:

71.0% Female

#### Age of children in household:

No children	11.5%
<6	26.2%
6-12	52.4%
13-18	41.7%
18+	10.8%

#### Household configuration:

72.6%	2 adults with children
10.5%	2 adults with no children
10.1%	1 adult with children
4.5%	2 adults with children 18-plus

#### Household Income:

27.9%	\$50,000-\$74,999
22.2%	\$75,000-\$99,999
20.5%	\$100,000-\$149,999
13.2%	\$25,000-\$49,999

#### Miscellaneous:

95.4% attend TCAPS schools  
6.1% have children in private/parochial schools

99.3% are residents of Grand Traverse County  
167 left email address (for more information and to continue participation)

## APPENDIX 3: TCAPS SWOT ANALYSIS

### *Strengths*

- Variety of recreational programs - active and passive - available to members of the GT community (challenge for many families is how best to “balance” among the many choices).
- Physical/topographic characteristics that allow for the variety of programs: abundance of lakes for sailing/boating/canoeing/kayaking; terrain suitable for downhill skiing
- TART trail system - core resource for trail development and cycling at various levels
- Strong 4-season sports opportunities for all ages of residents
- Strength of tourism economy that provides additional revenues to community-based programs (local programs able to host tournaments/events that attract out-of-town visitors and provide additional revenue; these events add to the range of options available to area residents)
- Local governments committed to providing increased volume of recreational trails for residents’ use as evidenced in recreational plans; local governments also committed to acquisition of additional land for long-range recreational purposes

### *Weaknesses*

- Geographical boundaries/limitations that restrict ease of travel from west-to-east and limit access to some facilities and programs, especially during high-traffic times
- High traffic volumes along some area roads limit bicycle use (perceived safety issues for riders)
- Limited choices for indoor swimming programming (very popular activity among area youth and adults)
- Lack of single, reliable source of information regarding scheduling of area recreational activities - difficult to locate information about activities
- Variety and abundance of programs may have “stretched” the quality of volunteers, leaders, and coaches too thin
- Perceived lack of “learning” (non-competitive) sports programs for developing athletes
- Cost of programs - especially for youth - perceived as barrier to participation (some are “high cost” programs that require significant equipment - hockey, lacrosse)
- Timing of youth program offerings conflict with parents work obligations, dinner hour, and other “family” activities - is there a “best time” for youth programming that minimized conflicts?

### *Opportunities*

- Recreation program directors report a strong interest in collaborative planning - opportunity exists to identify “low hanging fruit” and implement changes and improvements that result in short-term benefits while the group learns to “trust” one another (work toward long-term improvements)
- Opportunity to create a reliable source of information for scheduling of activities and coordination between and among programs that attract the same audience
- Grand Traverse County, Traverse City, Acme Township, Blair Township, Green Lake Township, East Bay Township, and other units of government include development of new facilities in their recreation plans; how well to these plans reflect the needs and interests of recreation program providers
- Evaluate potential for TCAPS facilities to be sites for “passive” or non-competitive recreation activities after school or during summer months and/or for limited youth sports programming (what role might TCAPS play in the provision of recreational opportunities)

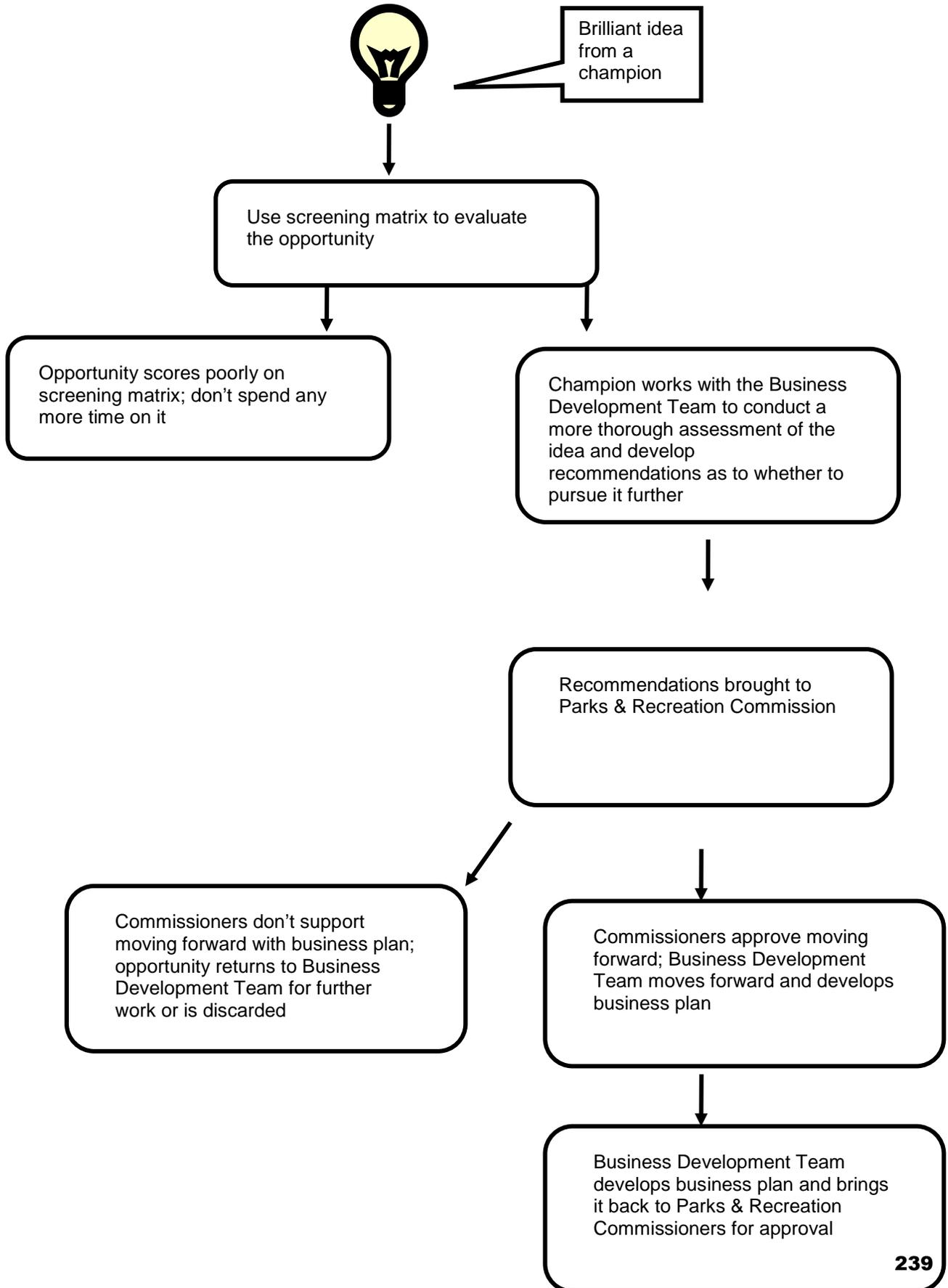
### APPENDIX 3: TCAPS SWOT ANALYSIS (cont.)

- Explore potential for “less competitive” programs that emphasize “learning” and participation vs. competition
- Evaluate potential for creation of additional indoor swimming facilities and interest in utilization of any new facility (test the market)
- Opportunity to lower some program costs via more effective planning/coordination
- Opportunity to attract more adults as volunteers or program leaders (individuals with strong management/promotional skills)
- Improve overall level of coaching/teaching through coordinated teaching system for coaches/managers
- Recommendations for new facilities - kayak park, indoor water park, indoor soccer facility, indoor baseball training facility - may be opportunities for private investors to explore (is there sufficient market demand)
- NorthSky can provide leadership training and fund development support to Boards and volunteers responsible for managing existing and new recreation programs

#### *Threats*

- There will always be conflicts within families and between youth and adults over program choices and times; especially in a community in which there are wide choices of programs and geographical barriers to participation - collaborative planning will not solve all conflicts
- Development of new programs will challenge both the available facilities and the available supply of coaches/teachers; development of a new program should be based on sound “business planning”
- Development of new programs and facilities will further segment the market and community resources; new plans must be well-researched and developed including an evaluation of the impact on existing supply
- Many local governments include plans for acquisition and eventual development of additional non-motorized trails; how can this effort be coordinated to insure well coordinated efforts and minimize risks reported in survey (bike paths located along busy roads)

### OPPORTUNITY EVALUATION PROCESS



**APPENDIX 5:**

**Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department  
Strategy Screening Matrix**

To be used in evaluating new strategies, programs or new revenue opportunities

Criterion	Rating 1-5 1 is weaker, 5 is stronger	Weight	Score
Fit with mission		2	
Meets community needs		2	
Knowledge/ capability to implement		1	
Time commitment of executive director and board		1	
Development is warranted		1	
Level of user interest		1	
Improves a current system or process		1	

**Instructions:**

- 1) Review and customize the criterion listed in the left column.
- 2) Apply stronger weights to criterion that are more important than others.
- 3) Score how well your new opportunity, program or strategy fits the criterion on a scale of 1 to 5 where 5 is a stronger fit and 1 is a weaker fit.
- 4) Decide- how strong of a score does it need to be for our organization to pursue it? Any opportunities that meet this threshold are worthy of investigating further and conducting thorough due diligence.

# Appendix F

- 12/13/12 Parks and Recreation Network Recreation Plan Input-

## **12/13 Parks and Recreation Network Input for GT County Recreation Plan**

- Trail management plans for existing Trails
- Larger Dog Park in a centralized location
  - Suggested locations: Keystone, Meyer Property
- Future connection for trail development
- Establishing regional communication for trails connecting townships
- Medalie Park development
  - Suggestion: Acquiring the east side of Logan's Landing
- White Water Park on the Boardman River
- Development of Indoor Playing Fields/More Outdoor Playing Fields
- Rock Wall
- VASA Trailhead improvements
- More aquatic facilities
  - Suggestions: Partnership with NMC or TCAPS
- Civic Center – More access to park
- Regional Solution to Hickory Hills
- Improve safety and security in parks
- Promote regional hiking and backpacking
- More pickleball courts throughout the County - Kingsley, Interlochen, Acme, Long Lake, Fife Lake - take advantage of existing tennis courts and add pickleball lines. Build courts specifically designed for pickleball - with lights for evening play.
- Exercise "trails" - the Senior Center Network is developing a 10 for 10 concept - where there will be 10 different exercise stations that take just 10 minutes to complete. They will be positioned throughout the senior center network locations - but could also be housed at the airport, downtown, on TART trails, hospital, mall, schools, etc.
- Community kayaking - lessons and beginner to get people more familiar with the sport.
- Improvements to the State's oldest shuffleboard courts right here in Traverse City. Promote the sport as a family friendly activity for locals and visitors to the area. Additional courts to outlying areas - Kingsley, Long Lake and Interlochen.
- I would strongly prefer that the Maple Bay county parkland be maintained close to its current state as a natural area to be experienced without many signs of human intervention. In other words, please do not make wider more groomed paths, add works of art, increase signage, etc.
- 1. Keep the park as natural as possible. No trash containers, picnic tables or bathrooms. If bathrooms are an option, please consider composting toilets.
- 
- 2. Expand trails with appropriate signage indicating where they lead. This hopefully would include trails on the east side of 31 using the "tunnel" to access trails that could lead down to the Ptobego Creek area.
- 
- 3. Coordinate any planned improvements with Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, TART Trails and any other potential user groups.
-

- 4. A larger sign indicating that Maple Bay is a "public park" to make it more inviting. The current sign is easily missed by local and visiting motorists driving by on US31 .
- 
- 5. Maple Bay is not handicapped accessible. I'm not sure how this could be done with the current, steep drop from the parking area. Perhaps a new/different trail access point?
- 
- 6. Need to educate/market the general public about what is available in the Grand Traverse area.
- Regarding the county land adjoining Maple Bay Farm, I hope the land will be left as it is. It provides a beautiful walk through the woods and a long stretch of beach with native plants and plenty of sand. It is one of the more natural and wild places in our neighborhood sought out by locals who enjoy some solitude without traveling a long distance. Such places are important as a respite from traffic, crowds, and noise. Please keep this as a natural and undeveloped area, without the addition of more parking, tree cutting, grooming, or paved areas. It is a valuable natural attribute, cherished and used frequently by many nearby residents.

# Appendix G

- Electronically Submitted Public Recreation Plan Input Memo-

# Memo

To: Jason Jones  
From: Erith Welch  
Re: Public Input Workshop  
Date: February 21, 2013

## Electronically Submitted Public Input

After putting the draft plan online on Tuesday, January 22, the following comments were made either electronically or after the public had an opportunity to review a hard copy of the plan. The vote counts from the Goals and Objective section of the Plan have been adjusted to reflect the following public comments.

Date	Topic	Category
01/28/13	Tobacco Free Parks	Policies
01/28/13	Addition to Parks and Recreation Network Organizations -Grand Traverse Bay Underwater Preserve	General
01/30/13	Recreation Inventory -Simplify Grading Scale -Edit Condition/Use to Condition	General
02/14/13	New Pool/Community Center -Support for the idea of new indoor aquatic facility to offer year round programs and activities for the community -Suggests and supports the location of the “Southwest section of the county, away from the congestion near the bay”.	Facilities and Programs
2/17/13	Disc Golf Facilities -Build a disc golf course at Twin Lakes Park	Facilities
2/18/13	Indoor Rock Climbing Facility -On behalf of G.T. Rocks, an informal local rock climbing group, the idea for an indoor rock climbing facility to strength local and regional rock climbing camaraderie is	Facilities

	strongly supported.	
2/18/13	Disc Golf Facilities - Build a disc golf course at Twin Lakes Park	Facilities
2/19/13	Disc Golf Facilities - Build a disc golf course at Twin Lakes Park	Facilities
2/19/13	Programs for youth  Support for all Master Plan Goals and Objectives	Programs and General
2/19/13	Tobacco Free Parks -Goal for all County Parks and Playgrounds to be tobacco-free.	Policies
2/21/13	New Community Recreation Center -Strong support for new community recreate center that offers more indoor recreational opportunities for youth and families.	Facilities
2/21/13	Youth Programming	Programs
2/21/13	Indoor Rock Climbing Facility -Strong support for promoting and educating the community on the lifelong benefits rock climbing provides	Facilities and Programs

# Appendix H

- Notice for Availability of the Master Plan-

January 22, 2013

Grand Traverse County Citizens, and County Park Users,

In an effort to fulfill our mission “to enhance community and quality of life through people, parks, and programs”, the Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Department invites and welcomes public comment on the **Draft 2013-2018 Grand Traverse County Community Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Plan.**

The plan is available to view online at our website at [www.grandtraverse.org/parks](http://www.grandtraverse.org/parks). Hard copies are available to view at the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Office, located at 1213 W. Civic Center Dr., Traverse City, MI 49686, and at the Grand Traverse County Clerk’s Office, located on the first floor of the Government Center at 400 Boardman Ave., Traverse City, MI 49684. Due to the length (225 + pages), and the significant number of images, if you would like our department to print a hard copy, please let us know.

If you would like to provide public comment, or would like to request a hard copy to be printed, please contact either Jason Jones at [jjones@grandtraverse.org](mailto:jjones@grandtraverse.org), or 231-922-4511, or Erith Welch at [ewelch@grandtraverse.org](mailto:ewelch@grandtraverse.org), or 231-922-4816.

The plan will be open for public comment until Noon on Thursday, February 21. A public hearing will be held on the same day, at 6:00 p.m. at our regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in the Commission Chambers (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) of the Government Center at 400 Boardman Ave., Traverse City, MI 49684.

The Plan will assist in “determining [our] recreation and open space needs and in integrating those needs into the larger framework of comprehensive planning.” The plan once adopted will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, making our department eligible for Department of Natural Resource grant funding.

This letter has been sent to several organizations and individuals; we hope to rely on each of you to pass it on to all interested individuals within your network(s) (e.g. several individual schools will receive this letter, please pass this on to your teachers).

Thank you for your continued interest in recreation in our community, I look forward to your comments.

Sincerely



Jason Jones, CPRP, AFO, CYSA  
Director of Parks & Recreation

# Appendix I

-Letter 12/17/12 Public Hearing Affidavit-

-Letter 2/21/13 Public Hearing Affidavit-

1454  
A. J. Co. Parks & Recreation

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

**LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to participate in the February 21, 2013 meeting for public comment on the final draft of the 2013-2018 Grand Traverse County Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan.

Where: Grand Traverse County Governmental Center  
Commission Chambers, 2nd Floor  
400 Boardman Ave  
Traverse City, MI 49684

When: Thursday, February 21, 2013. 6:00 p.m.

Contacts :Website: [www.grandtraverse.org/parks](http://www.grandtraverse.org/parks)  
Email: [jjones@grandtraverse.org](mailto:jjones@grandtraverse.org)  
[ewelch@grandtraverse.org](mailto:ewelch@grandtraverse.org)  
[mzielins@grandtraverse.org](mailto:mzielins@grandtraverse.org)  
Phone: (231)922-4818  
Jason Jones, Parks and Recreation Director

Suggestions or comments on the final draft of the 2013-2018 Grand Traverse County Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan are also welcome via the email addresses listed above.

February 4, 5, 2013-2T

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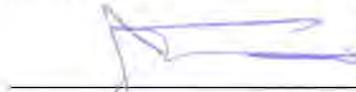
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
County of Grand Traverse

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

02/04/2013

02/05/2013

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



Subscribed and sworn to before  
this 5th of February, 2013 .

*Dennis H. Thayer*  
Dennis Thayer  
Notary Public, State of MI  
County of Grand Traverse  
10/08/2016  
Acting in County of Grand Traverse

701 G.T. Co Parks-Rec

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to participate in the December 17, 2012 meeting for public input of the 2013-2016 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan.

Where: Grand Traverse County Civic Center  
Civic Center Meeting Room  
1213 W. Civic Center Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686

When: Monday, December 17, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Contacts: Website: [www.grandtraverse.org/parks](http://www.grandtraverse.org/parks)  
Email: [parks@grandtraverse.org](mailto:parks@grandtraverse.org)  
Phone: (231) 922-4813  
Jason Jones, Parks and Recreation Director

Suggestions or comments for development of the Master Plan are also welcome via the email address listed above.

December 4, 5, 2012-21 319807

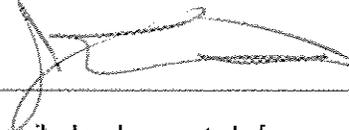
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
County of Grand Traverse

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

12/04/2012

12/05/2012

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



Subscribed and sworn to before  
this 5th of December, 2012.

*Dennis Thayer*  
Dennis Thayer  
Notary Public, State of MI  
County of Grand Traverse  
10/08/2016  
Acting in County of Grand Traverse

# Appendix J

-Draft Minutes for February 21, 2013 Public Hearing -



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

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 21, 2013  
6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

**A. Call To Order**

Christine Maxbauer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Roll Call**

**Commissioners Present:** Christine Maxbauer, President, Rodetta Harrand, Vice President, W. Peter Doren, Secretary, Carl Brown, Bob Carstens, Bill Dorrier, David Grams, Alisa Kroupa, Kevin McElyea, Scott Robertson.

**Others Present:** Chuck Korn, Garfield Township Supervisor, Nancy Bordine, local rock climbers group, Matt Church, Deanna Cannon, Andy Marek, Traverse City residents, Jason Jones, Director, Erith Welch, Office Coordinator, Marilyn Zielinski, Secretary of the Parks and Recreation Department.

**C. First Public Comment**

**Chuck Korn, Garfield Township Supervisor**

Chuck Korn thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission for their hard work and for facilitating an atmosphere of cooperation with other parks and schools. The facilities and programs are used to the benefit of all.

**D. Public Hearing – 2013-2018 Grand Traverse County Parks & Recreation Plan**

**1. Public Comment was opened at 6:05 p.m.**

Nancy Bordine, Traverse City, represents a group of rock climbers that are excited to see a rock climbing wall is being considered in the Parks and Recreation Plan. Their group is more than willing to share their expertise and guidance to develop a public rock climbing wall.

There being no other comment the public comment was closed at 6:07 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Resolution 01-2013 COMMUNITY RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PLAN For *Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission, Grand Traverse County.***

**Motion by Carstens, second by Dorrier to adopt the Resolution 01-2012 for the 2013-2018 Community Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Plan for Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation, Grand Traverse County.**

**Motion Carried with 10 yeas and 0 nays.**

**E. Additions to Agenda**

There were no additions to the Agenda

Item #2. Potential land acquisition (request for closed session), under New Business, was removed from the Agenda due to a lack of response from the parties involved.

**Motion by McElyea, second by Kroupa to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion Carried.**

**F. Special Orders of Business/Presentations**

There were no Special Orders of Business/Presentations

**G. Action on Consent Calendar**

**Receive and File**

1. 2013 Budget Report as of February 12, 2013
2. Parks Commission meeting per diem

**Referrals: None**

There were no referrals

**Approvals:**

1. Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of November 15, 2012 (amended)
2. Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of January 17, 2013

**H. Items Removed From Consent Calendar**

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar

**Motion by McElyea, second by Harrand to approve the Consent Calendar as presented including the approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission amended minutes of November 15, 2012, and the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of January 17, 2013. Motion Carried.**

**I. Director's Report**

**1. 2012-15 Strategic Plan Update**

**a. Goal 2d - Business Development Team – New Community Center**

The purpose of this team is to discuss a new Community Center at the Civic Center. Jones reviewed the list of the proposed items which would be considered in the development of a community center and the possibility of moving the Commission on Aging Offices to the center. Preliminary sketches are being prepared based on the input of the Business Development Team. Jones is working with Rotary Charities on the potential for a planning grant.

**b. Goal 6e - Establish a Single Source Website**

The Parks and Recreation Network hub website, [www.gtrec.org](http://www.gtrec.org), should go live March 15, 2013. The website will centralize public access to all parks and recreation activities in the Grand Traverse Region.

**c. Goal 3a – Establish a Joint Parks & Recreation Authority as a means**

Jones met with the County Administrator, the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners, Mayor of Traverse City, the City Manager of Traverse City and two representatives of the LIAA. They discussed a research and feasibility study by LIAA to look at all the Parks and Recreation Departments in Grand Traverse County. Also, all park and recreation opportunities that are run by the City of Traverse City and Grand Traverse County to determine where the local units of government may work together more effectively to offer parks and recreation services. Jones will keep the Parks and Recreation Commission informed of their progress in future meetings.

**d. Goal 2f – Develop business plans for Power Island and Twin Lakes**

As stated in the agenda packet, the team worked on refining the design of the process and agreed to focus on Power Island first. The next meeting will kick off the assessment of current business model stage.

**2. Parks & Recreation Network Update (verbal)**

**3. DNR Document Update**

The Plan will be transmitted to the NWMCOG and the Grand Traverse County Planning Department on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and presented to the Board of Commission on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Pending their approval, the final copy will be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources on February 28, 2013.

**4. Proposed DNR Trust Fund Grant Application**

Within the Master Plan, there is a project ready for consideration for improvements to Maple Bay Park. The Parks and Recreation Department will work with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy for a grant request to the Department of Natural Resource Trust Fund to develop 3 different pavilions, grills, and other passive recreation facilities. There will be more information next meeting.

**5. 2012 End of Year Budget Update**

Jones prepared an end of year budget report. A memo from Dean Bott, Finance Director is also included in the agenda packet. Jones pointed out the areas of revenue shortfalls and expenditures. Civic Center brought in more revenue due to new events scheduled. Easling Pool had reduced expenditures. Overall the 2012 budget showed good improvement over the previous years.

**J. Old Business**

**1. Security Cameras in the Sector Building**

Working with our current contractor for the Security Cameras at the Civic Center and Jones has not received a quote yet.

**K. New Business**

**1. Field Trips to Parks**

Motion by Kroupa, second by Brown, to have the Parks and Recreation Commission visit our parks for which the Parks and Recreation Commission must make decisions. This would not be a violation of the Open Meetings Act as long as any questions or discussions were directed to the professionals at each facility and not discussed between the Commissioners until the next public meeting. Motion Carried. The Parks and Recreation Department staff will arrange a schedule.

**L. Second Public Comment**

There was no public comment

**M. Notices and Commissioner Comments**

There were no notices or Commissioner comments.

**N. Adjournment**

Motion by McElyea, second by Robertson to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.