



Lake Township
RECREATION PLAN

2017-2021

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

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COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PLAN



PREPARED FOR:

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c/o Parks & Recreation Committee
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Introduction

This document, the Lake Township Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plan, represents the Township’s vision pursuant to future recreational planning and development efforts. The plan has been divided into a series of six sections.

Section 1 – Community Description

This section describes the Township’s character and provides information on geographic location, adjacent communities, land use, demographics and how they relate to the goals and objectives stated in this plan.

Section 2 – Administrative Structure

This section provides information on the administration of recreational programs within the Township.

Section 3 – Recreation Inventory

This section provides detail on the Township’s existing recreational facilities and helps to identify and evaluate open space areas for their potential for acquisition to provide natural resource protection and public access. This inventory also includes an assessment regarding accessibility to the Township’s facilities for people with disabilities.

Section 4 – Description of the Planning Process

Describes how public input was gathered and used in developing the Goals and Objectives as well as ranking recreational projects.

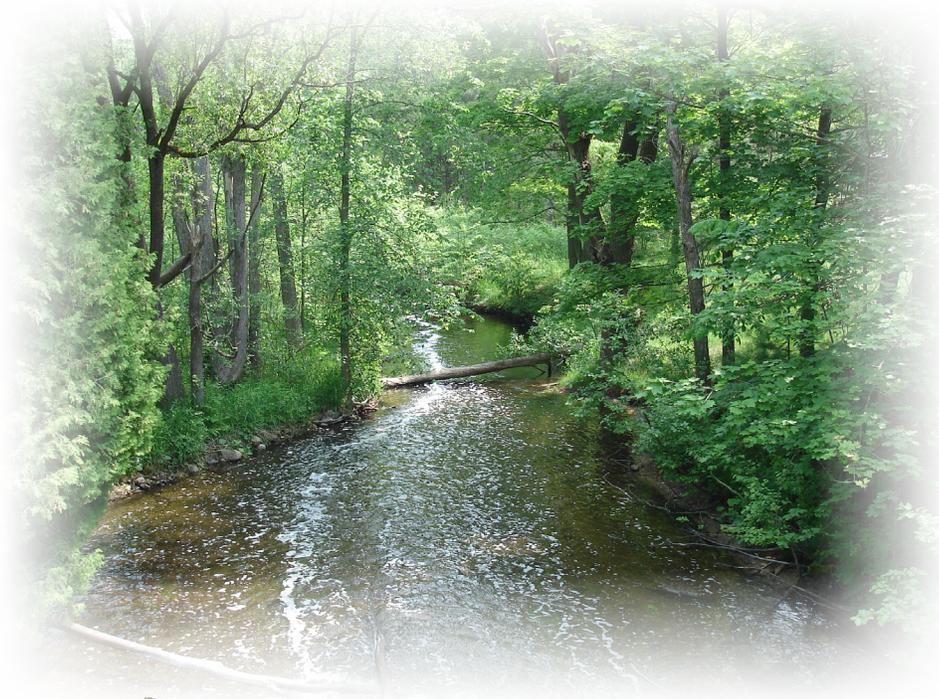
Section 5 – Goals and Objectives

Using the findings of the Public Input Process, a series of proposed recreational goal and objectives were developed. These goals and objectives incorporated the demographics and natural features and were used in developing the Action Program.

Section 6 – Action Program

This section contains a description of recreational improvements, how they will be funded, and how they relate to the Goals and Objectives.

The Plan has been prepared with a focused period of approximately five years. However, it is envisioned that the document will be evaluated on an annual basis to ensure consistency with the needs and desires of local residents.



Community Description

INTRODUCTION

LOCATIONAL CONTEXT

DEMOGRAPHICS

LOCATIONAL MAP

Community Description

INTRODUCTION

Lake Township, in the southwest quadrant of Missaukee County, was formed in April 1883. The Township covers 36 square miles, including all or part of four lakes (Missaukee, Sapphire, Crooked and Round) and part of Clam River. Lake Township is roughly 20% agricultural, 1% industrial, 5% commercial and 20% recreational, with the remainder as residential.

Lake Township offers many forms of recreation, including two golf courses, three parks, one playground, 2,200 acres of state land, three boat launches/public access points, four lakes and one river. The Township also offers miles of trails used for snowmobiling, cross country skiing and hiking. Water activities are also popular, including fishing, boating, water skiing, swimming, and others. The state land is often used for hunting.

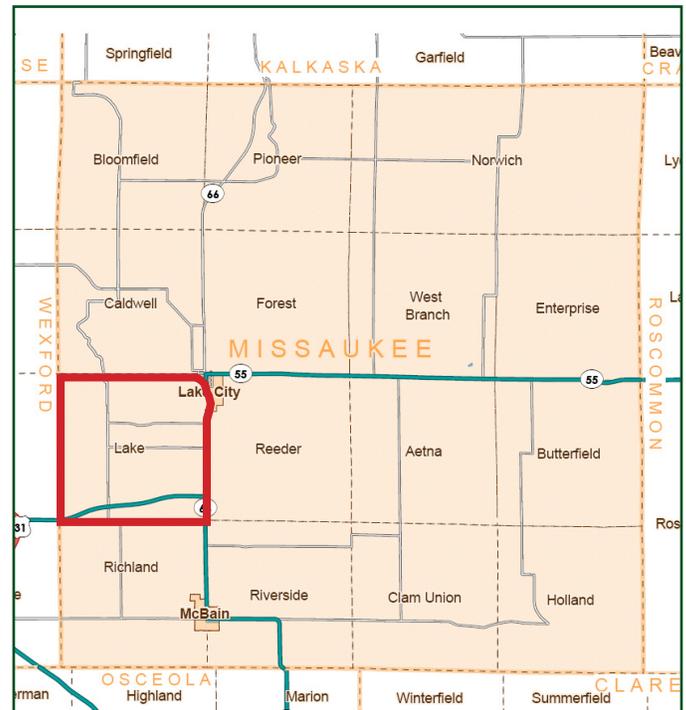
Tourism is important to Lake Township. During all seasons, tourists use the lakes and rivers, trails, golf courses and state land for various recreational activities. Many residents are seasonal, travelling south for the winter months.

LOCATIONAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Lake Township is located in Missaukee County, Michigan. Important surrounding cities include Cadillac (Wexford County) to the west, Lake City to the east, and McBain to the southeast.

Missaukee County is located in the north central portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan between the Manistee River to the northwest and the Muskegon to the east. It was largely unpopulated except by Native American hunting camps. No record of permanent Indian habitation exists in the county other than several circle mounds in Aetna Township – the purpose of which is not known. The county was first surveyed in 1840 but had no year-round residents until after the Civil War. Old growth forests covered much of the county at that time, with extensive swampland in the south and east and hilly highlands in the central and northern townships. In the late 1860's, settlers began moving into the county brought by government land grants, the continuing need for homestead sites for the European immigrants and the northward sweep of timber cutting across Michigan.

The first areas of settlement were on the east side of Lake Missaukee, in present day Lake City, and in the south-central part of the country near Vogel Center and Falmouth. Dutch farm families settled in the fertile southern part of the county. There they cleared the land and established dairy farms, many of which are still worked by the descendants of the original families.



Community Description

Logging camps spread throughout the county's forests. Valuable white pine trees were logged off first, then the old oak, maple, beech and other hardwoods. Lumber was cut into boards, broom handles, shingles and bowls. Wood scraps were distilled to fuel a thriving chemical industry. The largest lumber mill in Missaukee County – The Mitchell Brothers Lumber Co. – was in **Jennings (northwest side of the township)**. For 30 years, Mitchell Brothers was the largest employer in the county, and Jennings was a bustling company town. Experts predicted the supply of standing trees in Michigan was inexhaustible, and the local timber industry boomed. (SEE APPENDIX B - JENNINGS HISTORICAL MAP)

The end of the timber industry was already in sight by the turn of the century. Lumber camps had clear-cut much of the county. Mills closed or moved on to follow the remaining standing timber. In the 1920's, after most local logging had already closed, Mitchell Brothers finally moved their operation to Cadillac. Hundreds of employees' houses were also moved, and the town of Jennings virtually disappeared overnight. Other logging towns around the county actually did disappear.

However, wood-based firms have remained a part of the local economy. Several sawmills operate in the county. One manufacturer produces wolmanized utility poles. Another burns wood scrap to generate electricity. With the crash of the local lumber industry in the early 20th century, Missaukee County settled into an agricultural economy. Where the land was good, farmers thrived, but many just eked out a living. Much of Missaukee County's soil is sandy and poor, not well suited for pasturing livestock.

The growth of the auto industry downstate had an unexpected side effect on Missaukee's economy. Assembly line workers and their **families began to head northward for vacation and recreation time in Missaukee's still wild lands, lakes and rivers**. Tourism eventually became a strong element of the local economy, especially in the decades following World War II. Many vacationers bought summer cottages here and later winterized them into retirement homes.

Forestry, dairy farming, tourism and...Christmas trees. In the 1960's and 1970's, Missaukee County's sandy soil was found to be a perfect medium for growing many varieties of Christmas trees. Another leg of the local economy was born. Missaukee is now in the heart of Michigan's Christmas tree-growing region, producing millions of trees every year.

Light industry has a role in Missaukee County's economy, with two industrial parks located near McBain and one north of Lake City. Much of area's industry is still based on wood and lumber while several manufacturers supply the auto industry. Still others specialize in pre-fab home construction, archery supplies and electrical generation. (Source: Lake City, Michigan Website - Lake City Chamber of Commerce)

Community Description

MOTORIZED & NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION

The Township is traversed by M-55 and bordered by M-66 to the west. The majority of roads in the Township are rural two-lane primary and secondary roads.

In 2014, the township began an initiative to investigate the feasibility of developing a non-motorized trail from the City of Lake City Limits and intersection of M-66 / M-55 at Jennings Road to the hamlet of Jennings on LaChance Road ([SEE APPENDIX B - PRELIMINARY NON-MOTORIZED BIKE/PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY MAP AND RECOMMENDATIONS](#)).

A committee of interested citizens and township representatives conducted the study with the help of a consulting planning, engineering firm. The scope of work included the following tasks and was completed in September of 2014;

- 1) Work with existing topographic, infrastructure mapping, existing available aerial imagery and local planning documents as available to develop preliminary pathway conceptual alignments
- 2) Collect and assess new pertinent field data based on desired pathway route, including Missaukee County Road Commission (MCRC) and MDOT road ROW information, MCRC and MDOT road plans and future improvement schedules
- 3) Utilize data collected to develop a preliminary pathway development conceptual plan for use in stakeholder, agency and public input
- 4) Refine conceptual pathway plans based on input gathered to develop preliminary cost projections, phasing and funding recommendations, and DRAFT grant application scenarios

DEMOGRAPHICS

One of the most important components of a community is understanding the demographics and the social make-up in order to measure the impact for the recreational needs of a community. Township demographic data has been compared to Missaukee County and the City of Lake City to provide a broader picture of the social characteristics. Information from the 2010 United States Census Bureau offers an interesting picture of the Township and of the community as a whole. It should be noted, that the Census data does not reflect the actual number of persons residing or visiting the Township during the summer months (read more about how this affects recreation facilities in Section 5).

The following section on demographics provides baseline data that was used to facilitate development of the Goals and Objectives identified in Section 5.

Community Description

POPULATION SIZE AND PROJECTIONS

Like other communities in northern Michigan, Lake Township is growing. The population increased 24.6% from 1990 to 2000, and another 13.5% from 2000 to 2010. Missaukee County’s population is projected to be 17,600 in 2015 and 18,600 in 2020, for an increase of 3,751 residents. This continuing growth will increase the demand for both resident and tourist related recreational facilities in the Township.

TABLE 1.1 POPULATION CHANGE

JURISDICTION	1990	2000	2010	% CHANGE 2000-2010
Missaukee County	12,147	14,478	14,849	2.56%
Lake Township	1,980	2,468	2,800	13.45%
City of Lake City	858	923	836	(9.43%)

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

AGE

Lake Township and its surrounding area have healthy age distributions, containing substantial number of people in all age groups. This mix provides diversity and sustainability to the Township, as well as creates a need to have recreational amenities that can serve everyone. Please see Section 5 and the “Influence of Changing Demographics” section for more specific age cohort related comparisons that directly relate to the goals and objectives.

TABLE 1.2 AGE DISTRIBUTION

AGE	MISSAUKEE COUNTY	%	LAKE TOWNSHIP	%	CITY OF LAKE CITY	%
0-4	897	6.0	160	5.7	57	6.8
5-19	3,024	20.4	536	19.1	153	18.3
20-34	2,207	14.9	377	13.4	159	19.0
35-44	1,699	11.4	311	11.1	76	9.1
45-54	2,354	15.9	426	15.2	102	12.2
55-64	2,087	14.1	442	15.8	128	15.3
65-74	1,477	9.9	313	11.3	85	10.2

Community Description

75+	1,104	7.4	235	8.4	76	9.1
TOTALS	14,849	100	2,800	100	836	100

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

TABLE 1.3 MEDIAN AGE

YEAR	MISSAUKEE COUNTY	LAKE TOWNSHIP	CITY OF LAKE CITY
2010	42.8	51.0	40.5

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Community Description

GENDER

The gender distribution in the Township, County, and City are relatively even between males and females. There are slightly more males than females in both Misaukee County overall and Lake City, while in Lake Township, there are marginally more females than males.

TABLE 1.4 GENDER

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Missaukee County	7,557	7,292	14,849
Lake Township	1,394	1,406	2,800
City of Lake City	428	408	836

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

RACE

The racial composition in the Township, County, and City is majority white. Minorities represent an average of 3.5% of the population.

TABLE 1.5 RACIAL COMPOSITION

RACE	MISSAUKEE COUNTY	%	LAKE TOWNSHIP	%	CITY OF LAKE CITY	%
White	14,419	97.1	2,718	97.1	796	95.2
Black	43	0.3	7	0.3	10	1.2
Native American	84	0.6	10	0.3	14	1.7
Asian	46	0.3	5	0.2	6	0.7
Native Pacific Island	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	78	0.5	10	0.4	0	0.0
Two or more	178	1.2	50	1.7	10	1.2
TOTALS	14,849	100	2,800	100	836	100

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Community Description

DISABLED PERSONS

Just over 300 persons or nearly 20% of the Township population between 18 and 64 years of age were classified as disabled in 2010. More than 30% of those age 65 and over had a disability. If park and recreation facilities are not barrier free, many of these residents will be limited in participating in recreational activities.

TABLE 1.6 DISABILITY STATUS

POPULATION	MISSAUKEE COUNTY	%	LAKE TOWNSHIP	%	CITY OF LAKE CITY	%
5-17 years	3,604	4.5	13	2.5	33	18.9
18-64 Years	8,698	14.7	307	18.7	102	19.4
65-Over	2,524	37.8	221	33.9	50	35.0

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

All communities have a median household income slightly lower than the State. Lake Township residents have the highest median income of the three communities, about 94% of the median State figure.

TABLE 1.7 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
Michigan	\$ 48,471
Missaukee County	\$ 40,406
Lake Township	\$ 45,489
City of Lake City	\$ 33,889

*Population 25 years and older



Administrative Structure

INTRODUCTION

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

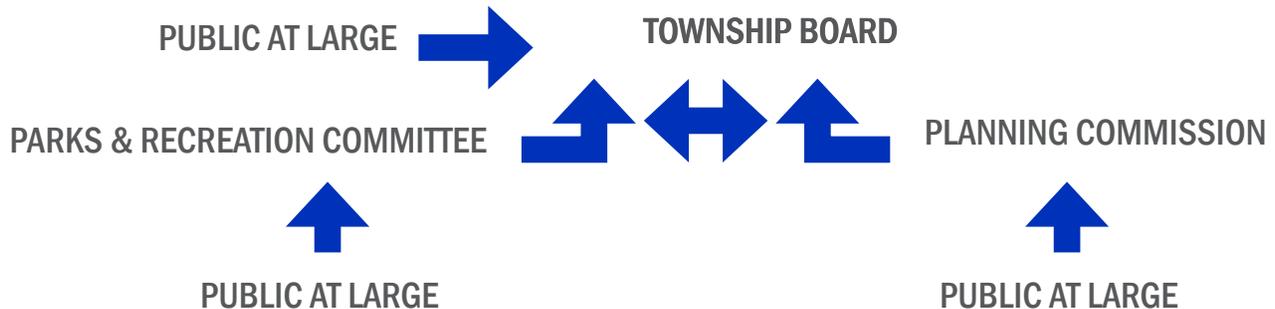
Administrative Structure

INTRODUCTION

The Lake Township Board is an administrative governmental unit in Lake Township, Missaukee County, Michigan. The Board consists of a supervisor, treasurer, clerk, and two trustees. These positions are four-year, elected terms of office. The Board employs one Ordinance Enforcement Officer as well. The Township Board also has committees of two board members each: Parks and Cemeteries, Building and Grounds, Personnel, New Construction, Sewer, Fire and Roads. Members of committees are assigned by the Board as a whole.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The planning and administration of recreational programs and facilities rests with the Lake Township Board and the Parks Committee.



LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD AND PARKS COMMITTEE

The parks committee consists of two board members appointed by the board at large. This committee meets approximately four times a year, as necessary. The Parks Committee is responsible for all issues concerning the township recreation sites, has been the principle body conducting the non-motorized trails feasibility study and makes recommendations to the township board. All expenditures must be approved by the township board. The Parks Committee sets its goals, taking into account input of the board and township residents.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Lake Township Board works with various agencies and governmental units within Missaukee County to provide recreation for its residents. Lake Township contracts annually with the Missaukee Mountain Board to provide winter services at the ski and sledding hill north of Lake City. Lake Township has members sitting on the Lake Missaukee Fire Authority, Missaukee Drain Commission and the Missaukee County Parks Commission. Lake Township also works closely with the Missaukee County Planning Department and Missaukee County Board of Commissioners.

Administrative Structure

TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

The financial resources of the Lake Township Board are a critical part of any recreational plan. While state and federal funding may be sought for special projects, the major burden of maintenance and development must be borne by Lake Township. At this time, Lake Township pays 100% of the monies for the recreation development in the Township. The local 4-H club received a Beautification Grant in 2000, which they used to beautify the Clam River Park in Lake Township. In the future, Lake Township anticipates applying for more grants from the government to improve the recreation facilities in the Township.

The possibility of special fundraising campaigns for certain individual recreation projects must be explored on an individual project basis. Several community service groups have expressed interest in developing certain types of recreation projects. Various community groups should also be encouraged to create recreational programs to utilize existing and proposed lands and facilities.

FUNDING

The township is currently developing capitol improvement costs estimates for the projects included. Minor recreational improvements and maintenance procurements of materials and labor had been allocated by the board on a needs and requests basis.

MAINTENANCE / IN-KIND SERVICES

The township does not currently contracts to provide maintenance services for the boat launches. As part of the capitol improvements budgeting in follow-up to this plan, the township will assess fiscal year allocations for the projected operation and maintenance costs and consider them during the annual budgeting process.

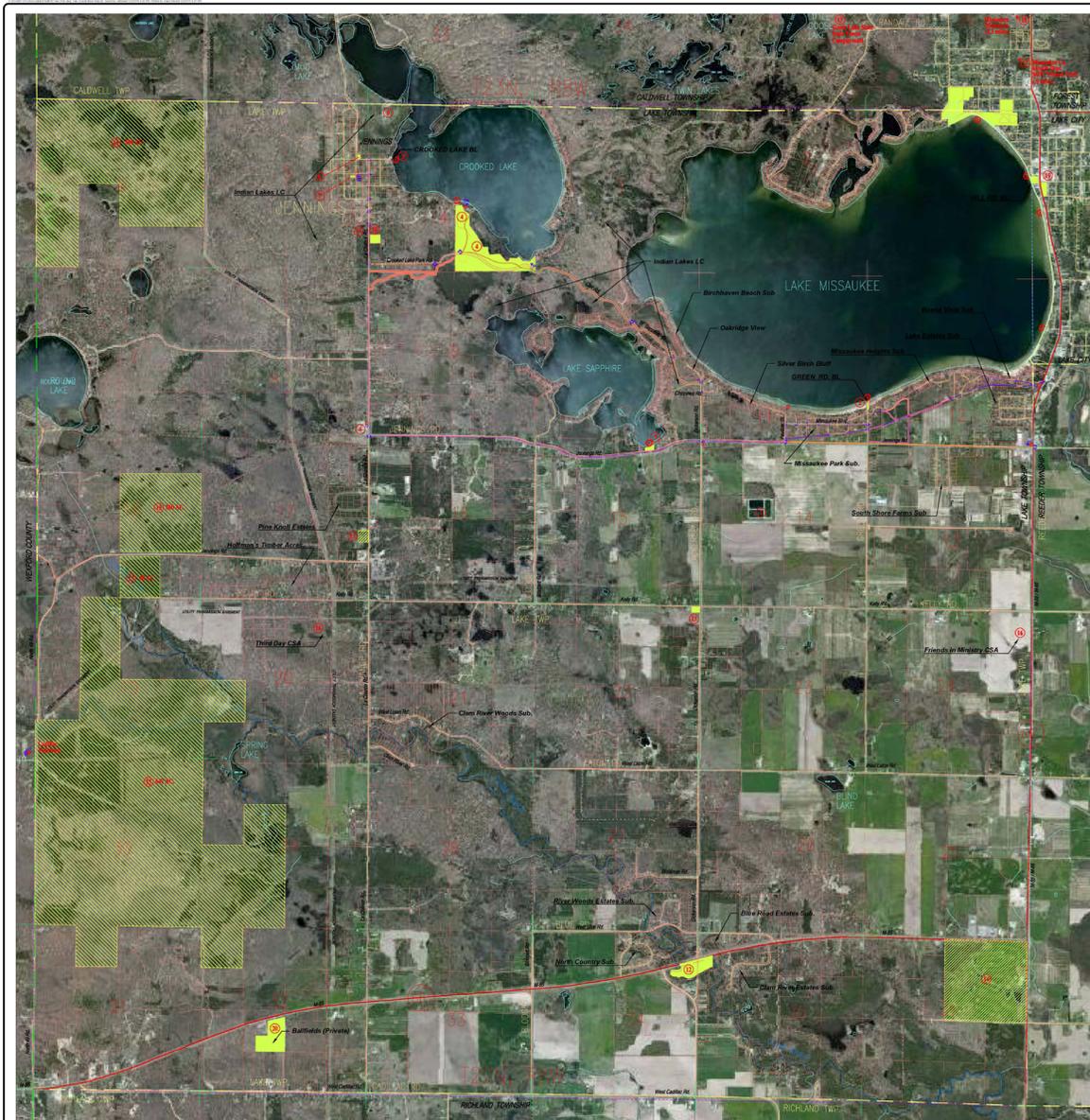


Recreation Inventory

INTRODUCTION

INVENTORY CRITERIA

RECREATION FACILITIES



PUBLIC/QUASI PUBLIC RESOURCES

- ① LAKE TOWNSHIP HALL
- ② GREEN RD. BOAT LAUNCH
- ③ SAPPYRINE LAKE BOAT LAUNCH
- ④ CROOKED LAKE PARK / CAMPGROUND / BI
- ⑤ CROOKED LAKE BOAT LAUNCH
- ⑥ BELLA ROSE (INDOOR POOL) PRIVATE
- ⑦ WINNINGS HILLSIDE PARK
- ⑧ WINNINGS MISSION (Old school house historic site)
- ⑨ BAYBOLL LUMBER CO. MILL SITE (Indian Lakes LLC)
- ⑩ OAKWOOD CEMETERY (historic site)
- ⑪ OLD WINNINGS CEMETERY (historic site)
- ⑫ SLAM RIVER ACCESS SITE
- ⑬ LAKE TOWNSHIP SHREVE (Shreve Water Treatment Plant)
- ⑭ MISSISSAUGEE GOLF COURSE
- ⑮ STATE OF MICHIGAN LANDS
- ⑯ COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURAL (CSA) SITE
- ⑰ MISSISSAUGEE MOUNTAIN WINTER PARK
- ⑱ MISSISSAUGEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. / AND FITNESS TRAIL
- ⑲ CITY OF LAKE CITY BEACHES AND PARKS (SEE CITY MAPS)
- ⑳ TOWNERS SPORTS CLUB RECREATION (BALLFIELDS)
- ㉑ WINNINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH

PROPOSED TRAIL SEGMENTS LEGEND

- ① Segment 1 - Crooked Lake BL to Jennings Road
- ② Segment 2 - Jennings Road to Pavilion Street
- ③ Segment 3a - Pavilion St. to M-33 / M-66 (via Railroad Road ROW)
- ④ Segment 3b - Pavilion St. to M-33 / M-66 (via Jennings Road ROW - N. and S. sides)
- ⑤ Segment 4 - Crooked Lake Park (From La Chance Rd. via Crooked Lake Park Rd.)
- ⑥ Segment 5 - Dickerson Road Pathway (End of two track at Campground to Dickerson & Jennings)

MAP SYMBOL LEGEND

- ① MAJOR TRAIL HEAD
- ② MINOR TRAIL HEAD
- ③ POTABLE WATER SOURCE
- ④ PUBLIC TOILET
- ⑤ PUBLIC PARKING
- ⑥ MAJOR INFORMATION KIOSK
- ⑦ WAITING/DROP LOCATION
- ⑧ WAITING/DROP ROUTE SIGN
- ⑨ PUBLIC ROAD END
- ⑩ MINOR DRIVE/ROAD CROSSING
- ⑪ MAJOR ROAD CROSSING
- ⑫ MAJOR AT-GRADE CROSSWALK
- ⑬ PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH

Preliminary Recreation Inventory Map 5-Year Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Plan Lake Township, Missaukee County, MI		Date: 11/11/14 Scale: 1:62,500 Author: [Name] Checked By: [Name]	Date: 11/11/14 Scale: 1:62,500 Author: [Name] Checked By: [Name]	Date: [Blank] Scale: [Blank] Author: [Blank] Checked By: [Blank]	Gosling Czubak 10000 Lakeshore Blvd. N. Minneapolis, MN 55428 Phone: 763.429.1100 Fax: 763.429.1101 Website: www.goslingczubak.com
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Recreation Inventory

INTRODUCTION

Section 3 includes a detailed inventory of Lake Township recreation facilities. The inventory also includes brief descriptions of other public recreation facilities owned by surrounding counties, townships and cities. Lastly, the Recreation Inventory includes descriptions of recreation facilities that are privately owned and property, or easements that are under consideration by both public and private entities.

An update of the recreation inventory was completed with assistance from Township staff, Parks and Recreation Committee Members, 2001 Lake Recreation Plan, and on-site inventory completed on November 20th, 2014.

INVENTORY CRITERIA

The recreation facilities have been inventoried for park type, size, and service area. The facilities have also been evaluated for accessibility using the accessibility assessment criteria set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Bear Creek Township shares a common goal with the State to develop universally accessible recreation facilities and has completed an accessibility assessment on all of the Township parks. The assessment is ranked on a system of 1-5 and is based on the following definitions:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has developed definitions for park types and defines sixteen types of parks. The following ten park types have been included as they are the most applicable to the Township and surrounding Missaukee County.

MINI PARK (MP) - used to address unique or isolated recreational needs. Typically the park is less than 1 acre in size and is located within ¼ mile of a residential setting.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (NP) - serves as a recreational and social focus for the neighborhood. It is usually 5 to 10 acres in size and less than ½ mile from a residential setting.

CONNECTOR TRAILS (CT) - multipurpose trail that provides safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. It is usually a single purpose hard-surfaced trail for pedestrians or bicyclists / in-line skaters and is typically located within railroad right-of-ways.

Recreation Inventory

"If bread is the first necessity of life, recreation is a close second.."
-Edward Bellamy

SCHOOL PARK (SP) - park combined with a school site. The location is dependent upon the school property and size can vary depending on the function of the park.

NATURAL RESOURCE AREA (NRA) - land set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. There are no size requirements and location is variable.

SPECIAL USE (SU) - usually a single purpose recreation facility. The size and location will vary depending on the use.

COMMUNITY PARK (CP) - serves a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. The focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. It usually serves 2 or more neighborhoods and is within ½ mile to 3 mile distance of the neighborhood. The size is usually between 30 and 50 acres.

ON-STREET BIKEWAYS (BW) – paved segments of roadway that serve as a way to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic. This can be a bike route with designated portions of the roadway for preferential use of bicyclists or bike lane with shared portions of the roadway providing separation between vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.

GREENWAYS (G) - tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment. There is no size requirement and location is dependent on availability.

SPORTS COMPLEX (SC) - consolidation of programmed athletic fields and associated facilities strategically located throughout the community. There is usually a minimum of 25 acres.

Clam River Park

SIZE: 12.1 Acres

LOCATION: Intersection of S. Dickerson Road and M-55 in Sections 34 and 35

BACKGROUND: The property was last improved under a Missaukee County 4-H teen club in 2001. The property has not been the subject of further site improvements in the recent past but is currently being evaluated under the township’s recreation planning process.

FUNDING / GRANTS: None.

FACILITY EVALUATION: The parcel is a quality riparian edge on the Clam River in close proximity to the M-55 corridor. It provided informal gravel parking on the road end (S. Dickerson Road) which terminates in a closed former road bridge. A gated rustic pathway allows access to a river edge clearing approximately 100 yards from the improvements. On the opposite side of the road end there are several picnic tables and an information panel for visitors. The site has opportunities for multi-seasonal use (see winter images on the following pages



CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS: During the recreation planning process the township discussed adding a restroom or portable toilet to the site and possibly creating several primitive camping sites. Consideration of a fee tube to collect camping fees was also discussed. Improve river bank erosion.

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT: 5, The river access site has no barrier-free improvements available. The informal trail could be made into an accessible pathway with surfacing. Consideration for a kayak/canoe launch or landing is also possible.





Lake Township Hall Site

SIZE: 1.3 Acres

LOCATION: The township hall site is located on W. Kelly Road off the corner of S. Dickerson Road in the north central part of the township.

BACKGROUND: Lake Township in Missaukee County, Michigan was organized in 1883. The Lake Township hall is located at the corner of Dickerson Road and Kelly Road. The original township hall was a two-story building built in 1884 in the Village of Jennings. The second story of the original township hall was moved to the present site in 1924. In the early 1900's Jennings had approximately 2000 inhabitants and was engaged in the lumbering business. Several houses were moved from Jennings to Cadillac after the lumber mills closed. Today Jennings is small residential community with a few evolving home based businesses.

FUNDING / GRANTS: None to date

FACILITY EVALUATION: A nice facility sign is located on Kelly Road, however approach from the north along Dickerson has no signage. The property has had a recent upgrade with the addition of a small rectangular picnic pavilion on the south side of the parking lot. The Hall meeting room is available for rent to citizens for family functions. A large open field area boarded on the south by a mature row of spruce trees provides a potential for recreational amenities at the hall such as ballfields, volleyball, play equipment or other elements to compliment the picnic pavilion.

CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS: The township would like may consider the purchase of adjacent property for potential park expansion for recreation (basketball, ball diamond), a fire hall and recycling center.

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT: 1, The facility is designed to meet all current barrier-free and ADA requirements.



Jennings Community Playground

SIZE: .25 Acres

LOCATION: The playground site is located on the corner of Elm Street and Crapo Street in the center of the historic village grid.

BACKGROUND: Little is documented regarding the history of the playground, but a local church group appears to have supported some improvements and upkeep over the years. The historic logging and mill center of Jennings has a rich and interesting past. The old town hall (in private ownership) is still largely in its former aesthetic and location in the center of the old town street grid. To the north of town remnants of a major mill with rail spurs can still be seen (also on private land held by the Indian Lakes Association).

FUNDING / GRANTS: None to date

FACILITY EVALUATION: The aging playground which had a variety of scattered non-compliant play pieces was recently upgraded. Equipment and new improvements included; fence has been installed around the playground, 10 x 10 sand digger box was installed; 8 x 16 pavilion was built; a full size concrete basketball court was placed. and a tube slide was installed.

A large swing two-back swing set, marry-go-round and high slide should also be evaluated to check standards. Play surfacing is minimal.

CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS: None planned at this time.

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT: 5, The facility is not designed to meet current barrier-free and ADA requirements.



Historic Jennings Images



Green Road Boat Launch

SIZE: .5 Acres

LOCATION: Green Road end off of Jennings Road.

BACKGROUND: The site is township operated property under a use agreement and has an easement which widens the road end in order to accommodate a boat launch loop.

FUNDING / GRANTS: None

FACILITY EVALUATION: The site was improved in 2016 to include a launch loop and 7 car-trailer parking spaces, 7 car only parking area with one reserved barrier free parking space. A storm water green buffer has been installed. A new plank boat launch ramp and skid pier, and heated restroom were also installed in 2016.

CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS: None at this time.

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT: 1, new BF parking and plumbed restroom





Crooked Lake Boat Launch

SIZE: Limited to Road ROW

LOCATION: Poplar Street within the community of Jennings

BACKGROUND: The site is a Lake Township operated road end small boat launch site providing access to this 264 acre lake shallow lake (8' at it's deepest point).



FUNDING / GRANTS: Consider MDNR Waterways grant to develop a Boating Access Site (BAS).

FACILITY EVALUATION: The site is immediately adjacent to a lakeside residential home and has a widened informal gravel loop width for launching and parking. A skid pier has been placed historically. The township currently leases the north side of the launch from Indian Lakes West (ILW) to provide width for car-trailer parking. The site is very tight and the township would like to consider purchasing property from the ILW to develop permanent improvements.

CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS: The township placed a portable toilet at the site in 2016. There is a potential for the township to purchase the property for future recreational site and swimming beach.

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT: 4, limited.

Sapphire Lake Access Site

SIZE: .9 Acres

LOCATION: Jennings Road approximately 1500 ft west of Dickerson Road.

BACKGROUND: The site is an Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Boating Access Site) BAS Site providing access to this 264 acre lake shallow lake (8' at it's deepest point).

FUNDING / GRANTS: None

FACILITY EVALUATION: The site drives are located on a compound curve along M-55, the clear-vision for exiting vehicles is very poor and traveling speeds along Jennings Road in this area are in excess of 55-60 mph. The site has relatively small turning radii and is tight for parking and maneuvering. While the site has limited land based resources it affords a nice view of Sapphire Lake and some people amenities.

CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS: none

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT: 4, limited.



Missaukee Lake Park (County)

SIZE: +33 Acres

LOCATION: North Side of Lake Missaukee,
East edge of City of Lake City Limits

BACKGROUND:

- 1000+ ft of sandy swimming beach
- Wooden boardwalk along beach
- 3 pavilions for group events
- 3 mini pavillions for day use
- 3 picnic areas with grills
- Softball/baseball fields
- 96 campsites with full hookup
- 21 campsites with electricity
- 4 rustic cabins available
- Modern restrooms w/showers
- Game room
- Lagoon with paved boat ramp
- 80 boat slip rentals
- Sanitation station
- Shops, laundry, and restaurants within walking distance
- Vehicle permits are required



FUNDING / GRANTS: (see county plan)

FACILITY EVALUATION: (see county plan)

CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS: (see county plan)

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT: (see county plan)

Crooked Lake Campground (County)

SIZE: 60 ACRES+

LOCATION: Access off of LaChance Rd. (south of Jennings).

BACKGROUND:

- 600+ ft swimming beach
- Covered pavilion for events
- Picnic area
- 35 campsites with electricity
- 17 rustic campsites
- 1 Rustic cabin
- Sanitation station with well water
- 2 hand pump water wells in Park
- Paved boat launch ramp
- Modern restrooms w/showers
- First come, first served basis
- marked hiking trails

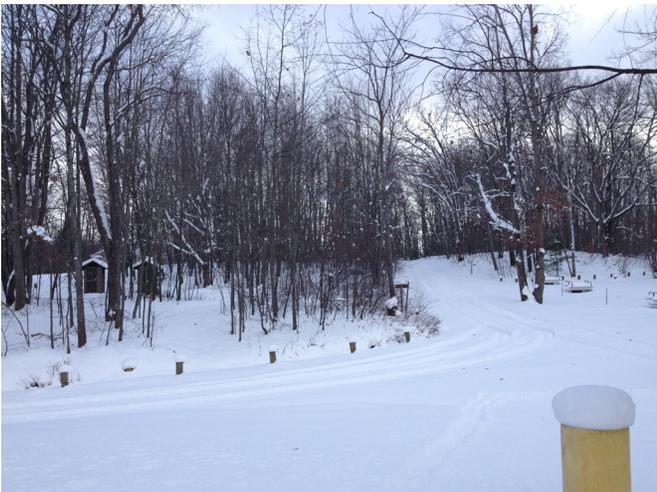
FUNDING / GRANTS: (see county plan)

FACILITY EVALUATION: (see county plan)

CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS: (see county plan)

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT: (see county plan)





Snowmobile Trials (County-wide)

SIZE: 55 MILES

LOCATION: Trails throughout Missaukee county and interconnecting with other trail systems in Wexford, Roscommon and Kalkaska Counties adding hundreds of seamless miles of quality snowmobile trails.

BACKGROUND:

- The Missaukee Trail Blazers (MTB) are a non-profit organization dedicated to the recreational riding of snowmobiles.
- Based in Lake City Michigan, have taken on responsibility for the care, maintenance and grooming of over 55 miles of trails throughout Missaukee County between Houghton Lake and Cadillac.

FUNDING / GRANTS: Club Fund Raisers 2008 - 2011, There are currently no MDNR grants pending; Some reports of signage theft problems

FACILITY EVALUATION: MTB has 2 high end groomer rigs

CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS: (see county plan)

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT: (see county plan)



Recreation Inventory

OTHER PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES IN LAKE TOWNSHIP

Other public recreation facilities include those facilities not owned or operated by Lake Township; however, these facilities are available to Township residents. Only the recreation facilities in Missaukee County and the City of Lake City started on the list below are were assessed in detail for this plan – for additional recreational opportunities please refer to the City of Lake City or Missaukee County’s Recreation Plan for a complete list of all available facilities and amenities.

COUNTY FACILITIES

Missaukee County Park*

Located on the north shore of beautiful 2000 acre Lake Missaukee. There are over 1400 feet of white sand beach with excellent swimming, 170 total campsites, modern restrooms and shower facilities, playground equipment, bath house, three large pavilions, three picnic areas, three ball fields and two horseshoe pits. The 33+ acre park also offers a lagoon with small boat ramp and 68 slip rentals. A manager is on the grounds during the summer months, with daily and overnight fee schedules. Boat slip and pavilion reservations are available beginning the first working day after New Year’s Day. Contact Missaukee County Parks at (231) 839-4945.

Crooked Lake Park*

Located on Crooked Lake near the town of Jennings. H37 primitive sites and 15 sites with electricity. picnic area, covered pavilion, vault type toilets, a boat launch ramp and a hiking trail. 1000 feet of sandy swimming beach and over 60 acres of hard woods, white birch, poplar, and pine pulate the rolling hills accessed by foot paths. Two hand pumps are available for drinking water and there is a sanitary sewer disposal site. Dailey and overnight fees are charged. Contact Missaukee County Parks at (231) 839-4945.

Ben Jeffs Park*

Located at the Muskegon River, 16 miles east of Lake City. Pit toilets, well and pavilion. 60 acres with hardwoods. Contact Missaukee County Parks at (231) 839-4945.

CITY AND STATE OF MICHIGAN FACILITIES

Maple Grove Campground

Located four blocks from Lake Missaukee at the east end of Union Street. It is a semi-wooded area with 33

Recreation Inventory

campsites, electricity, water, sewer, modern restrooms and showers, baseball field and a sanitary service disposal site. A community building with kitchen facilities is available for receptions, parties, or family reunions. A fee is charged. Contact the City of Lake City at (231) 839-4429 for park reservations.

Missaukee Mountain

Located 3.5 miles north on M-66. Missaukee Mountain is open on the weekends and all of Christmas break, depending on snow conditions. It offers a bunny mound, beginner runs, intermediate slopes, expert challenge and moguls galore with 3 tow ropes. The mountain also has more than five miles of cross-country trails. Snow boarding is welcome. downhill and cross country ski equipment is available for rent on site. a sledding hill is also available (BYO sleds or tubes). lodge with common area and public restrooms, and lite concessions. contact Missaukee Mountain during open hours at (231) 839-7575, or call the Chamber office during the week at (231) 839-4969 for more information.

Goose Lake & Long Lake State Forest Campgrounds

located northwest of Lake City off Goose Lake Rd. Rustic camping for campers, motor homes, or tents, is available with pit toilets, boat ramps, and picnic tables, but no electricity. Fee charged, no reservations.

Hopkins Creek Trail Camp

located west on M-42, north on Lucas Road 5.5 miles and offers rustic camping with pit toilets on Hopkins Creek. No reservations taken.

Reedsburg Dam State Park Campground

located east 19 miles, on M-55 to north County Line Rd., 3 miles north. Rustic camping for tents is available with pit toilet and picnic tables at dam site. Fee charged. No reservations taken.



Public Input

REGULAR RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PARKS & RECREATION MEETINGS

PUBLIC HEARING

OTHER PUBLIC INPUT

Planning and Public Input

REGULAR RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Throughout the update planning process for the Lake Township Parks and Recreation Committee held monthly meetings; these meetings have been open to the public for comment and feedback. In recreation committee has been meeting a variably scheduled meeting in 2015 and 2016. The last four meetings held were 02/05, 05/13, 06/10, and 07/29 of 2016.

PARKS AND RECREATION PUBLIC WORKSHOP

On February 3, 2015 a formal public meeting was held at the township hall to introduce the public to the draft plan and solicit public comment through a series of exercises and presentations on the recreational sites in the area.

OTHER PUBLIC INPUT

A public recreation survey instrument was developed in 2015. It was issued through various local venues, Library, township hall, Missaukee County and Lake City Chamber of Commerce as well as hand delivered in neighborhoods. 82 were returned by November 21, 2015.

The committee tallied the survey data in order to gain a better current understanding of the recreational activities and preferences in the greater Lake Township Area. The major recreation trends and observations are provided in the Appendix B.

DRAFT PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The plan was noticed for availability for the minimum one-month public comment beginning August 12, 2016. A copy of the Notice of Availability of the DRAFT plan for Public Comment Can be found in Appendix C.

PUBLIC HEARING

An advertised public hearing will be held on **September 14, 2016** by the Township Board to formalize a resolution for adoption of the updated Recreation Plan. The public hearing was advertised in a local newspaper more than seven days prior to meeting (see Appendix C). The Recreation Plan was unanimously adopted by the Township Board.



Goals and Objectives

INTRODUCTION

DECISION MAKING & FORMULATION OF GOALS

ENCOURAGING ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

INFLUENCE OF CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goals and Objectives

INTRODUCTION

The following goals and objectives were developed as a result of several factors, including public input, Township staff and Parks and Recreation Committee member involvement and expertise lent by the recreation planning consultant.

Past and current recreation planning efforts were also used to help facilitate the public input, which resulted in the development of the goals and objectives below and submission of grant funding through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Plans included [the 2014 DRAFT Non-motorized Trails Plan](#), [the Missaukee County Recreation Plan](#), and [City of Lake City Parks and Recreation Master Plan](#).

Other efforts continue to bring together ongoing regional trail planning and protection of open space. A proposed routing plan for a non-motorized trail linkage on the south side of Lake Missaukee from the Missaukee Conservation District (MCD) conservation center to Missaukee Mountain.

DECISION MAKING & FORMULATION OF GOALS

It remains important to understand that Lake Township is a largely agricultural community, it is also located in a region that sees a large influx of seasonal visitors, both in the summer and winter months, which has an impact on recreational needs. Visitors are traveling north to recreate on the inland lakes, Missaukee, Crooked, and Sapphire Lakes. Visitors are also recreating on the numerous nearby trail systems and state land which have sections in and nearby the township. In the winter months, visitors arrive in Lake Township and surrounding Missaukee County to enjoy many winter activities including ice-fishing, downhill and cross-country skiing as well as snowmobiling along miles of trails that connect communities across north central lower Michigan.

The exact amount of recreational need is not always easy to identify in areas that are tourist-based. However, the township recognizes the importance of the relationship between its tourism and recreation and the potential opportunities that exist, including the potential for positive economic impact on 'quality of life' of its residents.

Goals and Objectives

A vast majority of recreational facilities in Michigan and the United States are under-managed, outdated or do not provide for the recreational needs indicated by the cross-section of the demographic population.

ENCOURAGING ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

As the population grows and changes demographically, recreational needs change as well. It is important to monitor the changes so that recreational facilities are developed for the current and projected populations. Currently, a vast majority of recreational facilities in Michigan and the United States fall short in connecting with the population. Facilities are either under-managed, outdated, or in most cases, do not provide for the recreational needs indicated by the cross-section of the demographic population.

According to 2014 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, less than half of all adults (48%) in the United States achieve the recommended amount of activity each week. This statistic may be related to the lack of connectivity between the general population and recreational facilities available. The U.S. Surgeon General recommends a minimum of 30 minutes of moderately intense physical activity at least five days per week.

Approximately 69% of Americans are overweight; 35% are obese. In 2013, less than a third (29%) of young people in grades 9-12 participated in at least 60 minutes per day of physical activity, and one third of those aged 6-17 are already overweight or obese. Although these statistics do not specifically represent Lake Township, they do illustrate how critical it is to provide recreation opportunities for all age groups and to encourage active lifestyles.

INFLUENCE OF CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

Interestingly, the number of individuals in Lake Township under the age of ten increased by 16.4%, while the cohort of those ages 35 to 44 decreased by 19.6% from 2000 to 2010. The under ten age group, along with the 15 to 24-year-olds, represents the teenage/young adult cohort. Teenagers and young adults are the next generation and it is important that recreational opportunities are available; it is important to monitor activity trends when evaluating recreational needs as recreational fads change quickly under this age cohort.

Overall, the 5-24 year old cohort tends to lean more towards organized recreation and recreational programs, such as little league and soccer clubs. National trends also indicate that youth are taking a greater role in responsibility when it comes to planning and decision making. Lastly, and most importantly, this cohort depends on recreation to develop skills and experiences that will be used their entire lives.

Goals and Objectives

The age cohort between 25 and 44 is commonly referred to as the “family formation” stage of life. This age group is comprised of adults who are in the workforce and usually beginning a family. This age cohort makes up 36.4% of the population. These individuals enjoy passive recreation, such as walking on trails, and more active recreation opportunities such as playing tennis or softball. In addition, this group enjoys family-oriented recreational amenities such as improved parks, designated hiking trails, and community gathering areas.

The 45 to 64 age cohort consists of the mid-career workforce and early retirees. This age group had the second highest percent of increase (29.2%) from the previous decade. This age cohort is considered the “baby boomers” born between 1946 and 1964. Nationwide, this is the single-largest population group; and, this trend is echoed in Lake Township. This age group benefits from the same recreation opportunities that are enjoyed by the 25 to 44 cohort, in addition to, more individualized activities dedicated to health and exercise. Trends indicate this cohort will make the move and retire specifically in communities with extensive trail networks, walkways, and programs dedicated to health, exercise and education.

The 60 to 74 age cohort are the retirees, who enjoy more passive recreation, including walking, traveling, and boating. To facilitate recreation for this age group and for people older than 75, facilities need to be universally accessible.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

With limited parks and recreational land in the township, the recreation planning process was initiated to help lay framework for and begin to address desired improvements to non-motorized transportation resources. Principally safe access along the Jennings and LaChance main corridors and improved connections to the various recreational resources and housing concentrations in the Township.

Other specific goals and objectives directed at detailed improvements to a few existing facilities and sites. The more general goals were found to be important to the Township because they provided added “vision” to the planning process and seemed to overlay the more specific goals that outlined “brick and mortar” type projects.

Mid-career and early retirees comprise the single-largest population group; this age group benefits from recreation opportunities dedicated to health and exercise.

Goal #1 Jennings Road Bike Route

The township completed a bike path study in 2014 which included a major goal of evaluating non-motorized routes connecting the east side of the township and south end of the City of Lake City on M-55/M-66 to the west to LaChance Road and north to the Community of Jennings.

The project included consideration of developing widened shared use lanes along the major east-west connector - Jennings Road approximately 5.2 miles (3.5 miles along Jennings Rd. and 1.65 along LaChance Rd.)

While initial conversations with the Missaukee County Road Commission (MCRC) staff were encouraging the township has not pursued further discussion. As a major objective of this plan the township wished to further the objectives of adding a bike path or widened lanes, lowering vehicle speed and improving bicycle and pedestrian safety along Jennings and LaChance Roads.

SUBGOALS:

1. **Work with the road commission to widened shoulders along Jennings and LaChance.**
2. **Work to further evaluate off road options for non-motorized links.**
3. **Enhance safety with signage, intersection improvements.**

OBJECTIVES:

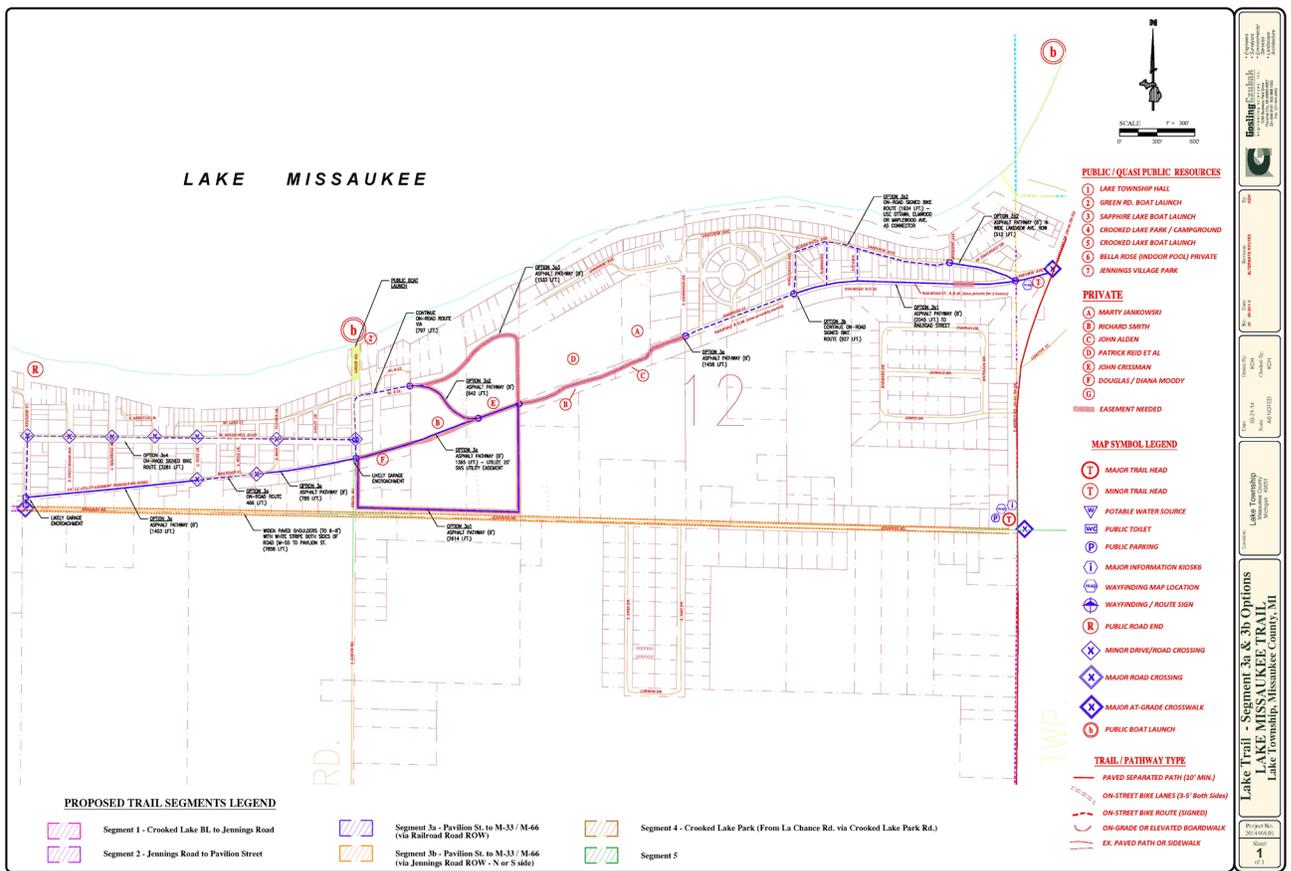
1. Meet with MCRC layout options to consider.
2. Build partnerships with City and County for common goals for non-motorized links.
3. Consider pilot project with local funding match.
4. Evaluate opportunities to work with MDOT.



Goal #1: Jennings Road Bike Route (continued)

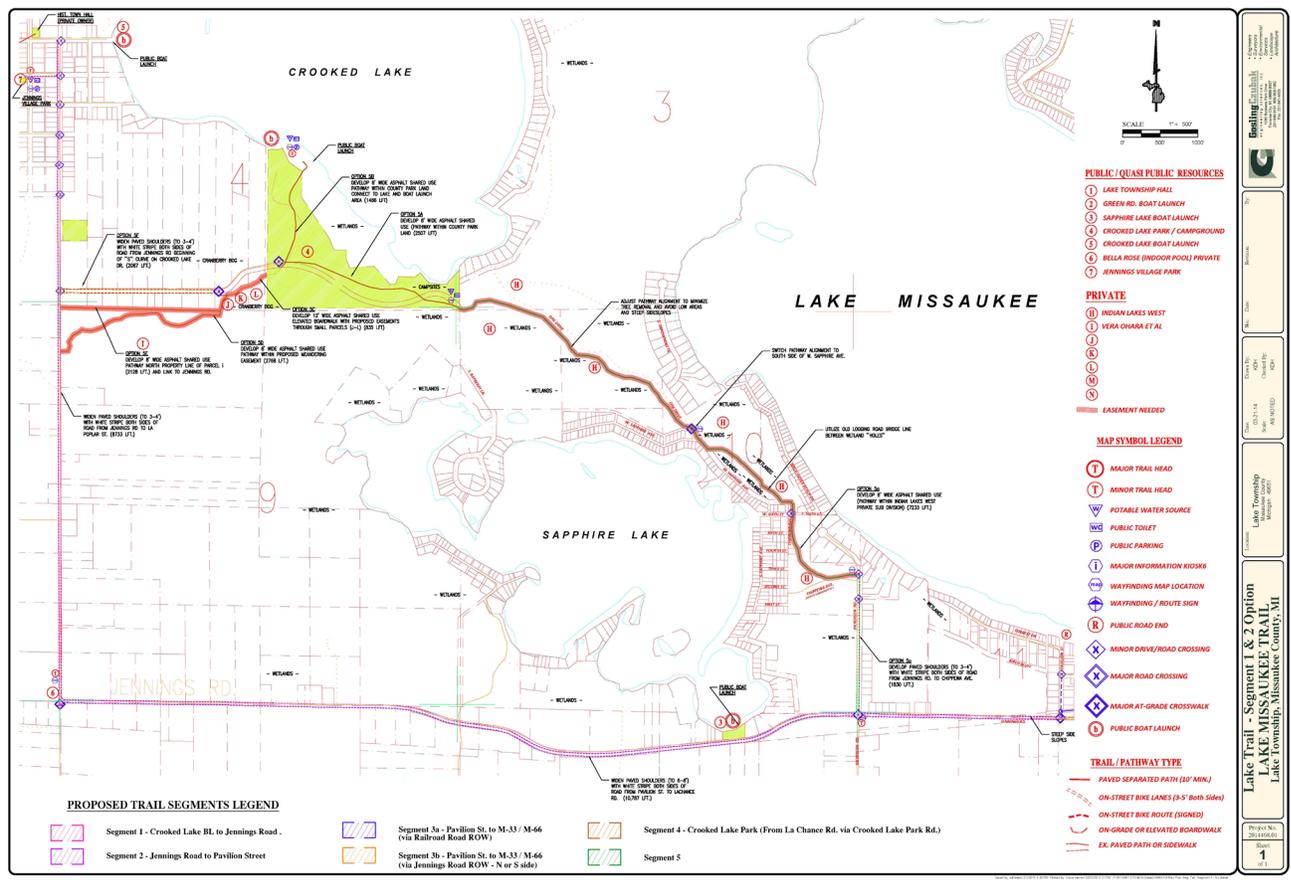
SPECIFIC PROJECTS:

- Refine recommendations to improve / widen paved shoulders with white stripe along LaChance from Jennings to Jennings Road.
- Refine recommendations to improve / widen paved shoulders with white stripe along Jennings Road from LaChance Road to M-55/M-66 Intersection
- Work with MDOT and the city to consider non-motorized / multi-modal improvements for the planned MDOT Roadway project from the M-55/ M-66 intersection to the south city limits.
- Refine plans to provide a trail connection from Crooked Lake Park through easements in Indian Lakes Association to Jennings Road.



Goal #1: Jennings Road Bike Route (continued)

SPECIFIC PROJECTS:



Goal #2: Crooked Lake Access Improvements (Jennings)

The township is seeking to improve the boat launch and add a public swimming area on Crooked Lake in the community of Jennings. The launch is currently supported by lease of adjacent land for car-trailer parking. The road end ROW itself is narrow and requires the township work with the neighboring land owner Indian Lakes West to make the boat launch function. Currently, residents also use the road end for accessing the lake for swimming in direct conflict with boat launching and retrieving.

SUB GOALS:

1. Purchase property to permanently expand parking for the launch.
2. Seek possible purchase of property to develop a swimming beach.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Explore the opportunity for development of a swimming beach area.
2. Develop a site plan and concepts to support the multiple uses residents of Jennings desire.



Goal #3: Clam River Park

Improve this south township natural site to increase recreational opportunities and public awareness of the availability of public access on the river access. An opportunity exists for the community leaders to evolve this “near-by” nature site in the southern end of township.

Residents of nearby subdivisions, motorists traveling along M-55 seeking a rest or picnic site, and/or tourists to Missaukee County - Lake Township area seasonal access to natural areas such as the riparian environment along the Clam River, may all benefit if the following actions are pursued;

SUBGOALS:

1. **Develop sustainable / maintainable site improvements.**
2. **Consider enhancement of recreational amenities that enhance the natural character of the site.**
3. **Create improvements that encourage multi-seasonal use from this site in the Clam River Corridor.**

OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop a source of potable water (I.e. pitcher pump).
2. Evaluate and develop a pit toilet.
4. Continue to work together with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to consider potential campsite layouts.
5. Work with Missaukee County District (MCD) to repair river bank erosion and access stairs for fishing.
6. Organize parking as a functional roadside park and for possible rustic camp sites.
7. Consider low impact development (LID) and sustainable site design criteria.



The Clam River Park Site is an underutilized community asset

Goal #4: River Woods / North Country Pedestrian Bridge

The township has had citizenry input that identified a potential and desire to develop a non-motorized connection and bridge over the Clam River to connect two existing single family subdivisions. River Woods and North Country subdivisions could be connected for pedestrian and bicycle traffic via a clear span bridge structure.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Survey local residents to gauge level of support and interest.
2. Consider type, size, location with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).
3. Fund and conduct type, size, location study.
4. Develop conceptual plan, DRAFT permit and funding strategy.
5. Seek partners to advocate for the project implementation.

Goal #5: Lake Township Hall Site

The township hall site has limited recreational opportunity and available land mass. The township developed a small open-air picnic shelter but no outdoor amenities support use for citizenry beyond the limited capacity and function of the shelter.

Committee members have discussed the potential to evolve some additional recreational and leisure-time amenities to work in concert to the hall and picnic shelter. Acquisition adjacent agricultural land in the future could provide opportunity to expand the current hall acreage.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Create recreational opportunities such as a ballfield, play area and multi-purpose recreational park.
2. Develop a concept plan to determine space needed and possibilities of adjacent parcels to the hall.





Action Program

RECREATIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE 2017 - 21

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Action Program

RECREATIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE 2015-2020

The Goals and Objectives were prioritized by the Parks and Recreation Committee based on input gathered from the Public Workshop, 30-day Public Comment, and Township staff. The potential projects were prioritized on a scale of 1 to 5, “1” given highest priority and “5” given medium to low priority. The following table organizes the specific projects over the next five years by date, estimated cost and funding sources. The table also provides a schedule for ongoing general maintenance including the recreational facility name, estimated annual cost, and funding source. A project-specific description is provided below Capital Improvements Schedule Table.

TABLE 6.1 RECREATIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE

YEAR	PROJECT NAME / DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	EST. COST	FUNDING SOURCES*		
				TOWNSHIP	MDNR	OTHER
2016-18	Jennings Road Bike Route	1	Undetermined	X		x
2016-18	Crooked Lake Access Improvements	2	undetermined	X	X	Waterways BAS
2017-19	Clam River Park	2	undetermined	X	X	Rec Pass
2016-19	Riverwoods / N. Country Pedestrian Bridge	3	undetermined	X		X
2018-21	Lake Township Hall Site	4	undetermined	X	X	Rec Pass/ others

Appendix A

Appendix A

Mapping

Map Figure 1 - Recreation Resource Inventory Map (with Aerial Image)

Map Figure 2 – Recreation Resource Inventory Map

Lake Township Recreation Sites

Map Figure 3 - Township Hall Site (Google Earth Aerial)

Map Figure 4 - Clam River Access Site (Google Earth Map)

Railroad History in Lake Twp. (Compiled by K.D. Heinert - GCES)

Appendix B

Appendix B

Non-Motorized Trail Planning

Network Northwest Regional Trail Plan (Excerpts)

Lake Missaukee Trail - Proposed Concept Plans (Gosling Czubak)

Recreation Documents

City of Lake City Recreation Plan (Excerpts)

Missaukee County Recreation Plan (Excerpts)

- Community Description
- Recreation Inventory - Section D
- Action Program - Section E

Lake Township Recreation Survey Instrument and Summary



Appendix C

Appendix C

Public Meeting / Hearing Notice

Adopting Resolution

Parks and Recreation Plan Adoption meeting minutes

Township Board Plan Adoption meeting minutes

Certification Checklist

Letters of Transmittal



Appendix D



Appendix D

Regional / State / National Supporting References
Northwest Michigan Seasonal Population Analysis
National Sports Participation Trends