

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP, DELTA COUNTY

RECREATION PLAN

2024-2029



BALDWIN TOWNSHIP, DELTA COUNTY
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

draft

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1 INTRODUCTION

5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN

Every 5 years communities throughout Michigan update their recreation plans to ensure qualification for annual Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) funding opportunities.

The 5-year recreation plan must adhere to a format defined by the MDNR and outline priority goals, objectives, and projects with the potential to be completed within the 5-year window and beyond.

This document synthesizes data on natural resources, community demographics, existing recreation assets, operational management, citizen input, and community partnerships to generate an all-inclusive map for recreation in the community. It describes community values, highlights common goals and objectives, and outlines strategies to achieve these goals.

Looking beyond the 5-year window, this document will serve as a road map for future endeavors improving parks for decades to come. The 2024-2029 Recreation Plan will assist township officials in determining priority projects to improve and enhance their existing recreation assets. It will outline strategies for making parks accessible to all and provide park designs that allow future generations to grow and prosper within.

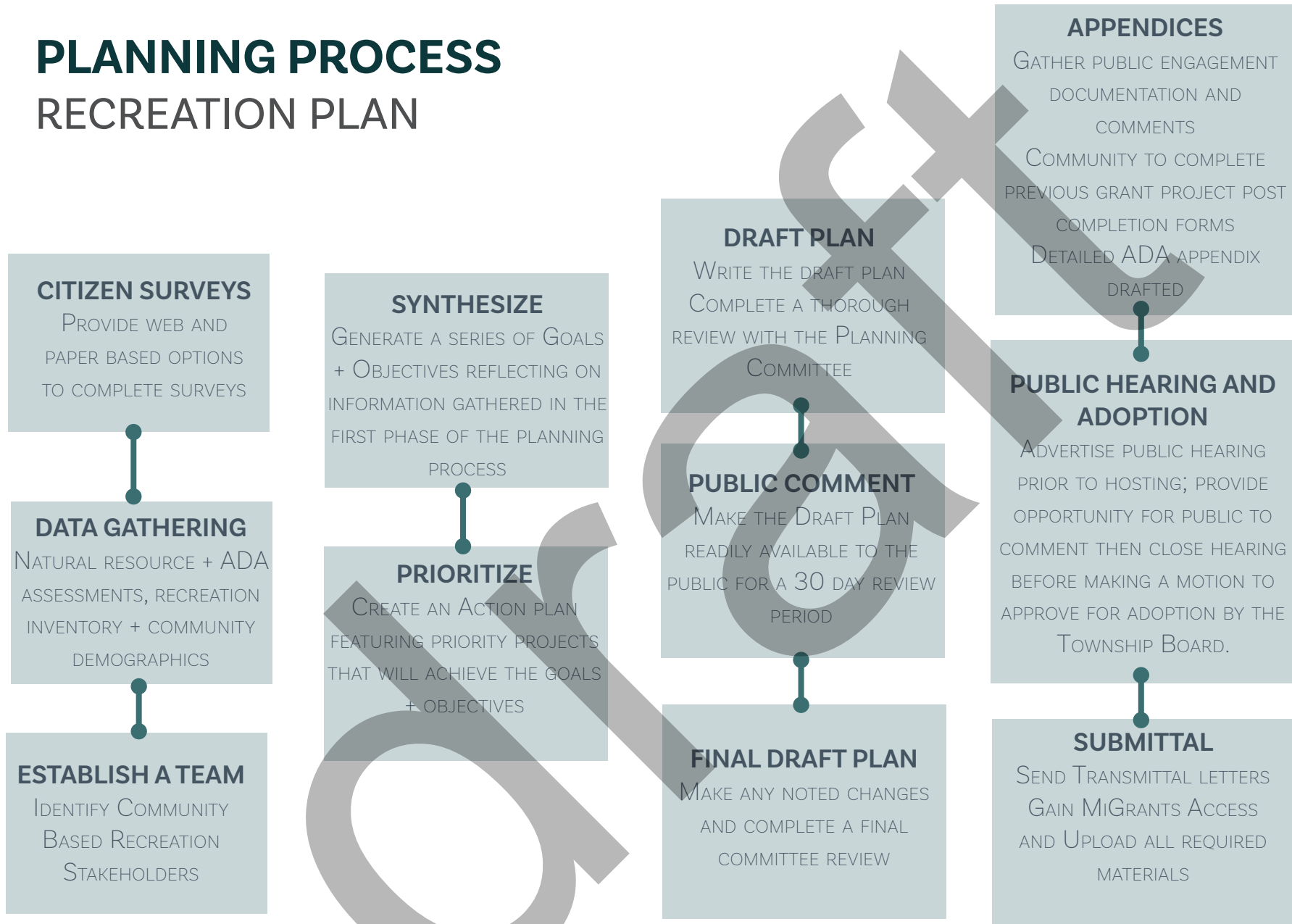
KEY FOCUS AREAS:

- Supporting Healthy, Active Lifestyles
- Providing Access for All
- Improving Outdated Infrastructure

The National Parks and Recreation Association 2022 Agency Performance Review summarizes what many of us, as Michiganders have realized: “Two years into the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, one thing is clear: parks and recreation is essential.” Park visitation increased dramatically during the pandemic, with the promise of access to fresh air and room to run, play, and gather. Park and recreation resources offered within Baldwin Township provided residents with the opportunity to pursue the recreation or leisure activity of their choosing (see Comments + Issues Scoping Section). The parks and trails within the region continue to offer rewarding recreation opportunities while promoting better physical and mental health. The priorities outlined in this plan will provide improved access to recreational amenities while ensuring there are opportunities for current and future generations to participate.

PLANNING PROCESS

RECREATION PLAN



2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Baldwin Township is in the northeastern portion of Delta County. It is comprised of 83.8 square miles of mostly forested and agricultural lands. The community of Perkins is the largest settlement in the township and hosts the lone township park. It is located roughly 10 miles north of Gladstone along M-35.

Hiawatha National Forest covers much of the eastern portion of the township with Escanaba River State Forest found in segments throughout the township. This provides a wealth of access to public lands for all forms of recreation.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population growth is an important factor in influencing land use decisions made within a community. If the population is growing, there is often a greater need

for public services, parks, and facilities. A decreasing population indicates a smaller tax base which may require partnerships with surrounding communities to access certain facilities.

From 1960 to 2020 the population of Baldwin Township grew from 647 residents to 700. This indicates an increase in population of 8%, slightly higher than that within Delta County. Although this overall trend is positive, the more recent population figures show a declining population as well as projected population changes (see chart on bottom right hand corner of the following page).

An additional data point to consider when planning for recreation within a community is the quantity of residents who experience a disability. 17.7% of the population is estimated as having a disability which is a significant portion of the community. The largest portion of this group is characterized by having ambulatory difficulty. The township must incorporate accessibility upgrades into community projects, meeting universal accessibility



	YEAR	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	PERCENT CHANGE 1960-2020
BALDWIN TOWNSHIP:		647	610	769	726	748	759	700	+8%
DELTA COUNTY:		34,298	35,924	38,947	37,780	38,520	37,069	36,903	+7%

standards wherever possible. This topic is explored in greater detail in Appendix C. Maintaining cleared access paths throughout the winter and providing accessible all-season recreation options would be a great asset for the community and its residents of all ages and ability levels.

As illustrated in the graphs below, the age distribution from 2000 to 2022 indicates there is a rapidly aging demographic. The change from 17% of the population at 60 years and older to 55% of the population in 22 years is very dramatic. When planning future park development the community must consider the needs of this group as well as incorporate features to attract young families maintaining a steady population well into the future.

Baldwin Township has a slightly lower median household income than that of Delta County as shown on the chart to the right. This lower income level allows for a higher score on DNR grant applications. The following section of the plan will cover parks and recreation staffing, organization and spending within the township. Due to its small population and lower median income level, Baldwin Township doesn't have significant resources to develop recreation facilities, but the township is eager to continue to support community member's enthusiasm for outdoor recreation and augment the budget with grant funds whenever possible.

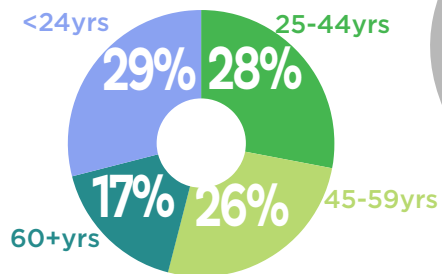
2022 US CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS | 5-YEAR ESTIMATE

	POPULATION	EMPLOYMENT RATE	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
BALDWIN TOWNSHIP	700	32.5%	\$52,267
DELTA COUNTY	36,903	49.1%	\$53,852
MI	10,077,331	56.6%	\$63,498

SOURCE: US CENSUS ACS DATA

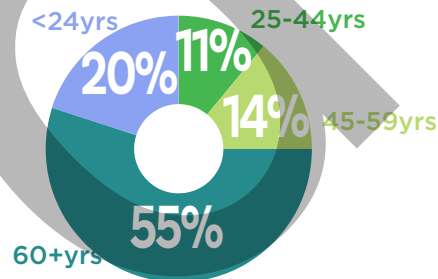
AGE | 2000

Source: US Census ACS Data

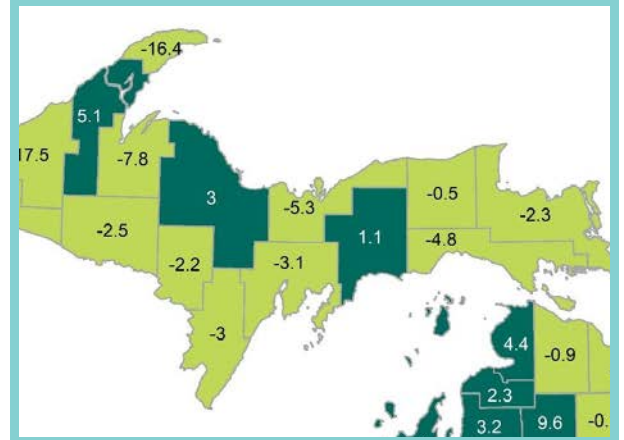


AGE | 2022

Source: US Census ACS Data



PROJECTION OF % POPULATION CHANGE: 2020-2030



SOURCE: STATE OF MICHIGAN; DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT, AND BUDGET; BUREAU OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

3 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

The National Recreation And Park Association [NRPA] assembles annual reports featuring park metrics throughout the nation. The goal of this document is to help local park systems identify the optimal mix of facilities and programming for their community. Key 2023 findings are listed below:



Mission:

To advance parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

3,759 Residents
per playground



10.8 acres
of parkland for
every 1,000
residents

Residents per Park:

2,287



Full-Time Equivalent
Employees (FTEs) per
10,000 Residents:

8.9



Annual Operating
Expenditures
per Capita:

\$94.77



14 miles of
silent sport trails

Key programming activities include themed special events, social recreation events, team sports, fitness enhancements classes, and health + wellness education.

BUDGET AND SPENDING

The recreation budget is the responsibility of the Baldwin Township Board, who maintains fiscal control through approval of expenditures. The Township Board is responsible for the overall management of the township owned recreational facilities. The township hires contract workers to assist with township maintenance as needed.

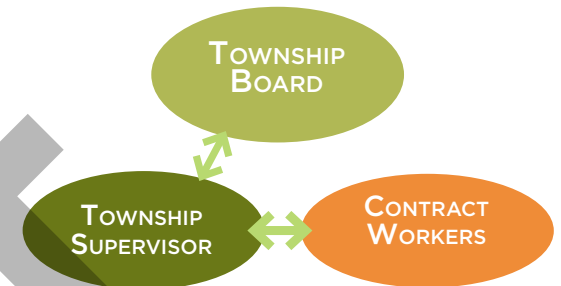
The annual totals presented below include all recreation expenses including wages, programming and capital improvements paid with Township funds. The township's fiscal year runs from April through March of the following year:

2023-2024	\$1,077.16
2022-2023	\$3,974.63
2021-2022	\$3,390.00
2020-2021	\$1,350.00
2019-2020	\$1,500.00

Volunteer Assistance + Community Involvement

Baldwin Township residents can use the school recreation facilities outside of school hours. These include an indoor recreation area, outdoor track, and playground. Weekly volleyball games are also hosted at the school. The Mid Peninsula School was formed in 1977 after consolidating the Baldwin and Rock School Districts. The school is located two miles north of Perkins and hosts K-12 students all in one building.

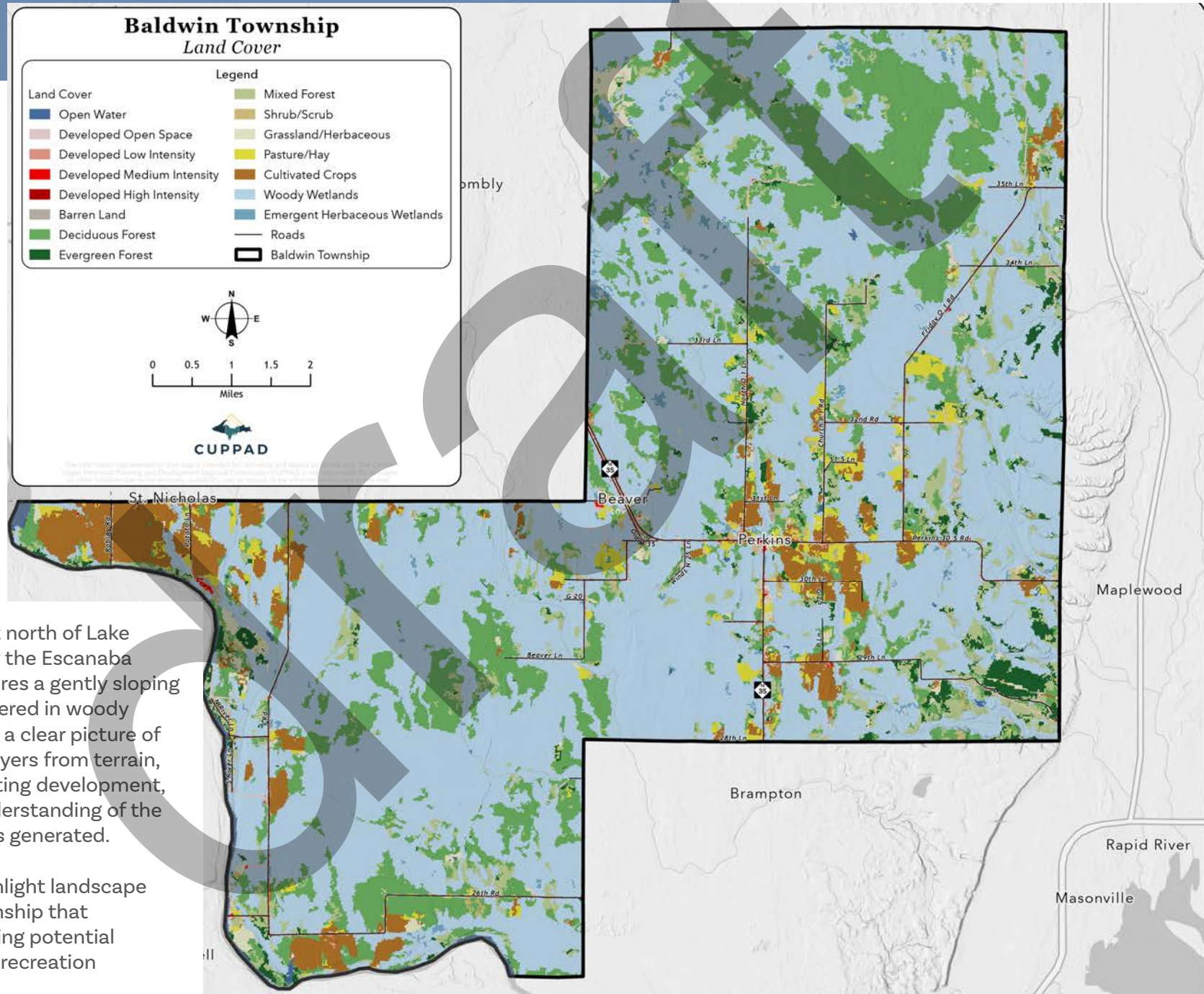
Local residents volunteer to coach baseball as well as help with the ground work for each season.



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4 THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



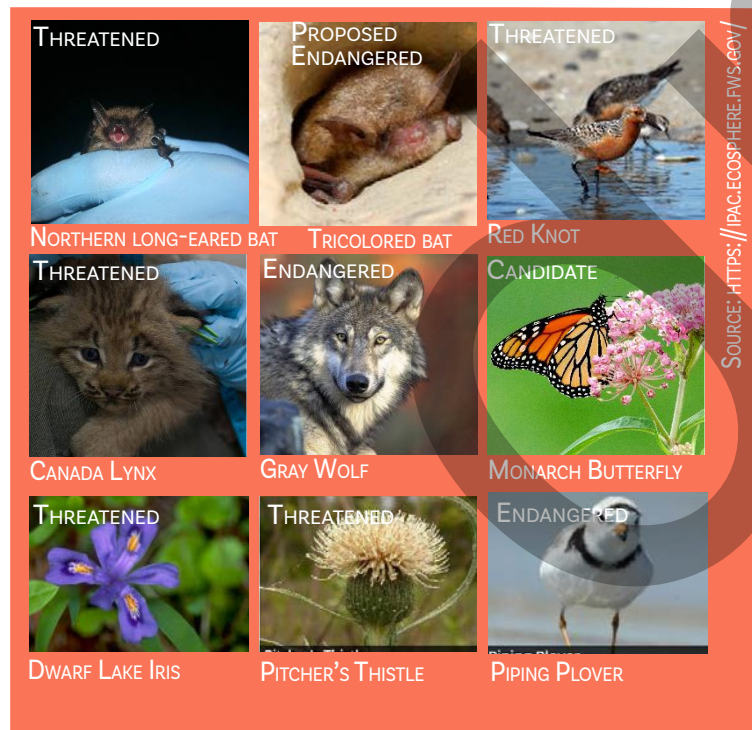
Baldwin Township is just north of Lake Michigan and framed by the Escanaba River to its west. It features a gently sloping landscape generally covered in woody wetlands. By developing a clear picture of the various landscape layers from terrain, to soils, vegetation, existing development, and wildlife a better understanding of the community as a whole is generated.

The following pages highlight landscape features within the township that are unique to it, identifying potential opportunities for future recreation endeavors.

LAND COVER + WILDLIFE

The aqua blue on the land cover map on the previous page highlights the woody wetland areas that cover much of the township. Pockets of forest, pasture and pinks and red.

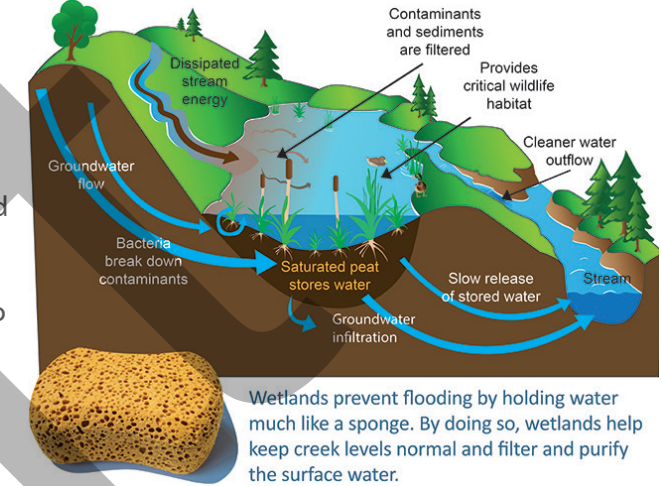
The Information for Planning and Consultation site hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notes the potential existence of several threatened and endangered species within the township. Measures taken to preserve habitat and accommodate these species are critical to maintaining their existence. Water levels can impact nesting sites for Red Knot and Piping Plover. Lynx live in boreal forests that often receive heavy snowfall and are home to snowshoe hare. Their habitat has also been destroyed leading to a decline in their population. White nose syndrome threatens the Northern Long-eared Bat. The biggest culprit threatening the Monarchs seems to be the disappearance of milkweed. It is critical communities consider these threatened and endangered species when planning for development.



GEOLOGY + SOILS

Geology and soils provide the foundation for all forms of life and its related activities. Generating an understanding of these baseline layers is critical to developing a well rounded and feasible vision for future development and preservation measures.

How Wetlands Work



The uppermost materials within the township were deposited by glaciers thousands of years ago. These define most topographical features including lakes, valleys, hills, and streams. The primary geologic base within Delta County includes Trenton Limestone.

The soils map on the following page illustrates the soil suborders that are present within the township. These include Alfisols, Entisols, Histosols, Inceptisols, Mollisols, and Spodosols.

Below is a brief summary of each:

Alfisols: These are forest soils that often stay moist throughout summer months.

Entisols: These are typically sandy soils near rocky outcrops or along water bodies.

Histosols: These support peatland vegetation and make up a large portion of the county's soil surface. These soils are often within wetlands and serve as large carbon sinks. Although tough to develop on they are a crucial resource in the capture of runoff and filtering of pollutants.

Inceptisols: The parent material for these is primarily glacial till and these soils are most commonly found within forested areas.

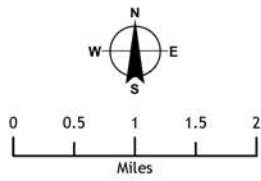
Mollisols are known for a thick dark soil layer high in nutrients. These soils are excellent for cropland.

Spodosols: These soils are acidic and not very fertile but support forests.¹

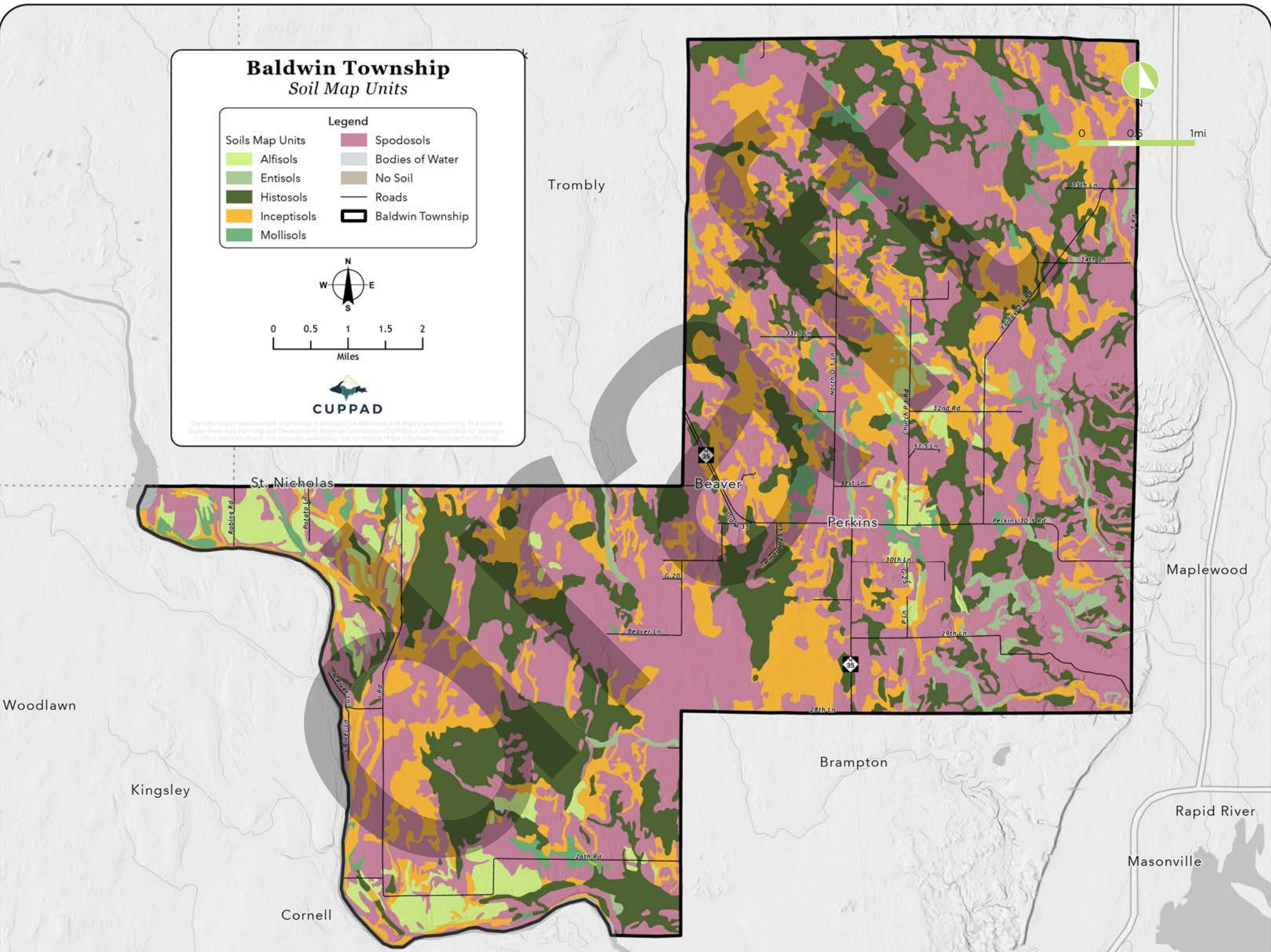
¹ Soil Orders and Suborders in Minnesota. J F Cummins. reviewed in 2021, from <https://extension.umn.edu/soil-management-and-health/soil-orders-and-suborders-minnesota#histosols-1383914>

Baldwin Township Soil Map Units

Legend	
Soils Map Units	
Alfisols	Spodosols
Entisols	Bodies of Water
Histosols	No Soil
Inceptisols	Roads
Mollisols	Baldwin Township

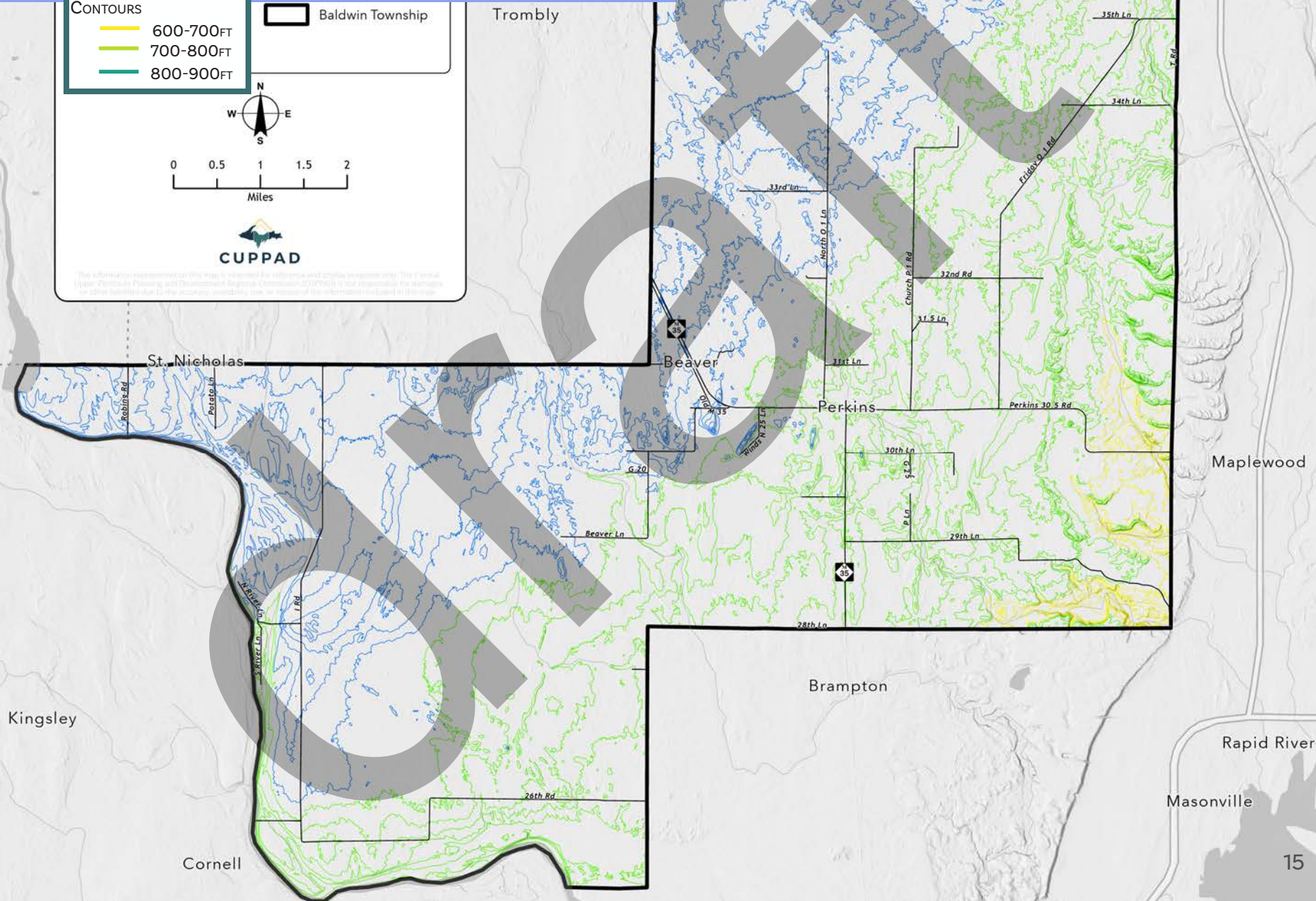
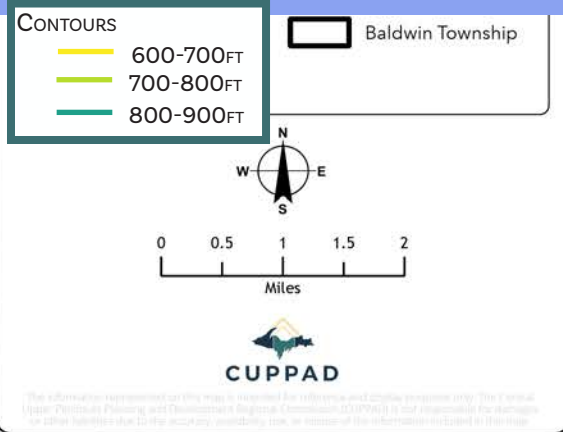


This information is derived from the map is intended for reference and display purposes only. The Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) is not responsible for damages of any kind resulting from the use of the information on this website.



TOPOGRAPHY + HYDROLOGY

The topography within the township gradually slopes upward from the eastern edge to the northwest corner. As evidenced by the many low lying wetland areas, there is little undulation within the terrain and the land is primarily gently sloping or flat.



Michigan
Department of
Natural Resources

Snowmobile Trails Delta County

Updated: 12/6/2022



0 1 2
Miles

- P** Parking lot
- State forest campground
- Snowmobile trail
- State park boundary
- State forest land
- Federal land
- Lakes and rivers

Parking

UP2^[1] Northside of 26.6 Rd and SE of Int with 33rd Rd

UP2^[2] Southside of Days River 24.5 Rd, East of M-35

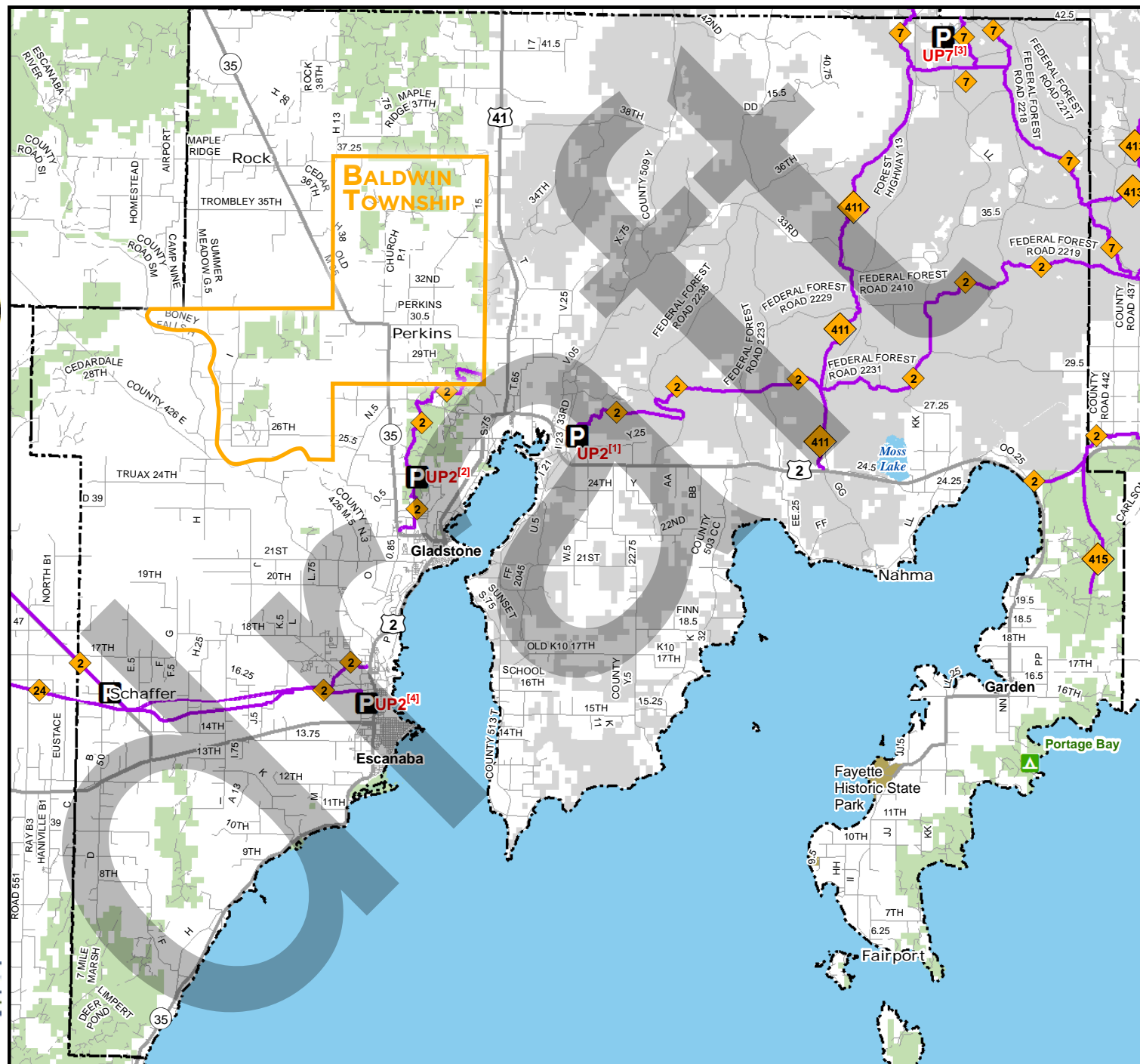
UP7^[3] Eastside of LL Rd and South of Int with 42.5 Rd

UP2^[4] UP2 Delta County Fairgrounds Parking; Northside of 9th Ave



**RIDE
RIGHT**

Michigan.gov/Snowmobiling



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5 RECREATION INVENTORY

STANDARDS FOR RECREATION

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed a scale to help measure an existing recreation system's park facilities and provide a baseline standard for equitable park access within a community.

A typical park and recreation system offers one park for every 2,287 residents served, with 10.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Due to its lower density population Michigan's Upper Peninsula trends toward having a higher acreage of parkland per resident. Here is a chart illustrating the different open space typologies defined by NRPA and the desired minimum amount of park space per community.

Baldwin Township has a smaller population than the NRPA comparison charts illustrate, but the value of providing a variety of park types and associated activities within communities of every size is still relevant. Below is the NRPA park type data with a quick calculation of the acreage Baldwin Township specifically has to offer.

PARK TYPE	SERVICE AREA (RADIUS)	SIZE (ACRES)	ACRES/1,000 POP	PARKS (ACRES)	USES
Mini-Park	<1/4mi	1 or less	0.25 to 0.5	Currently: --	Specialized facility serving a concentrated or limited population
Neighborhood Park	1/4 to 1/2mi	15+	1 to 2	Currently: --	Hosts intense recreation activities: Play, sports fields/courts, picnicking etc.
Community Park	1 to 2mi	25+	8 to 10	Currently: 6.6	Diverse environmental quality; may include sports complexes or more natural forms of outdoor recreation
Regional Park	1 hr drive	200+	5 to 10	Currently: --	Area of natural quality for outdoor recreation; boating, swimming, camping, trail use etc.
School Park				Currently: 44.5	Park associated with an educational institution



PROGRAMMING

Baldwin Township does not currently host any community recreation programming. This was a frequent request in the community survey responses. Requests seemed to focus on more community gathering opportunities. Ideas included cookie decorating, a 4th of July celebration, and community picnics.

As mentioned in the volunteer section, there is a baseball league within the township organized and run by volunteers.

Across the street from the township hall, Perkins Park is an ideal location for community gatherings. With some updates it could serve as the heart of the community, providing a destination for residents of all ages to gather and recreate.

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP PARKS

RECREATION SITES IN BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

- ① Perkins Park
- ② Township Owned Property

PARK TYPE

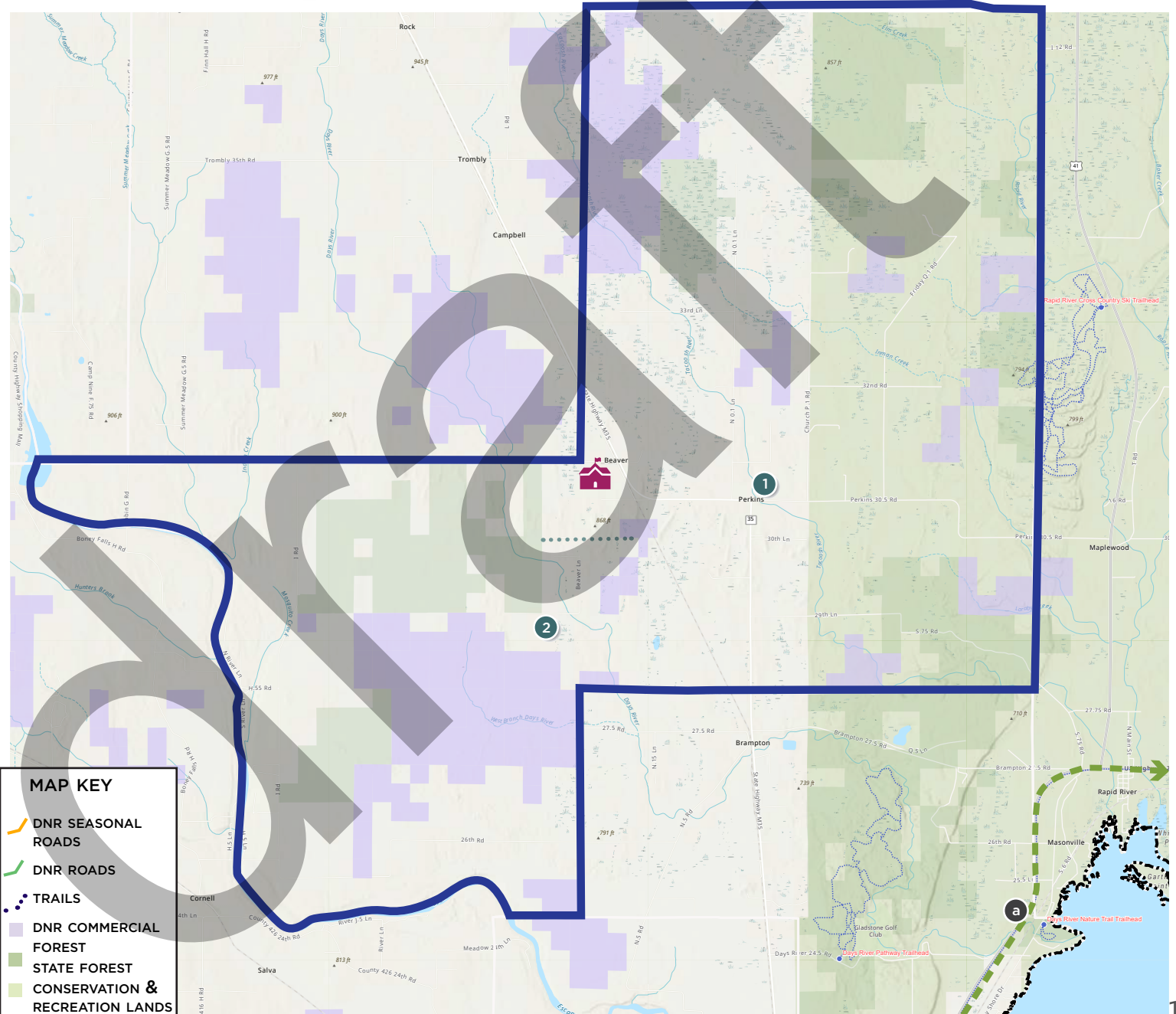
- MINI-PARK
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- COMMUNITY PARK
- REGIONAL PARK
- PRIVATE PARK
- SCHOOL PARK
- REGIONAL TRAIL

REGIONAL TRAILS

- a Iron Belle Trail

MAP KEY

- DNR SEASONAL ROADS
- DNR ROADS
- TRAILS
- DNR COMMERCIAL FOREST
- STATE FOREST
- CONSERVATION & RECREATION LANDS



BALDWIN TOWNSHIP PARKS

ACCESSIBILITY

The facilities were evaluated for accessibility via site visits by CUPPAD in September, 2023. Tools utilized in conducting the assessments included the ADA Checklist found at ADAChecklist.org and the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. Each facility was graded according to the scale featured to the right with more detailed descriptions of the facility's accessibility features and shortfalls in Appendix C. The recommended accessibility improvements were integrated into the action plan and priority project lists for the township.

DNR ACCESSIBILITY GRADING SYSTEM

1. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2. Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3. Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5. The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

PERKINS PARK

A Community Park located across the street from the Baldwin Township Hall on Perkins 30.5 Road.

6.6
ACRES

The park is not easily identified as Creten's Cabinetry owns the majority of the property facing the street. The baseball field and bathroom are accessed via an easement that passes to the east of the Cretens' facility.

Amenities Include: A play structure, a baseball/softball field, picnic tables, a restroom building, mowed walking trail, basketball court, and parking.

Accessibility: 1



80
ACRES

TOWNSHIP ACREAGE

This 80 Acre township owned parcel is currently undeveloped.

Recreational Inventory: Facilities in nearby areas

MID-PENINSULA SCHOOL

This community recreation facility is open for residents to use outside of school hours. It is an 84.5 acre parcel along St. Nicholas 31st Road featuring the following facilities:

Basketball court, concession building, storage garage, playgrounds for older and younger kids, bike rack, picnic table, baseball field, fenced in football stadium and track, soccer field, volleyball court, and parking. The school also has an indoor recreation area with weight lifting equipment and exercise machines.



BONEY FALLS RECREATION AREA + DAM

This recreation site is located along the Escanaba River on a 442 acre parcel owned by UPPCO. The site hosts these recreation amenities:

Picnic area, paved boat launch, parking, 8 campsites, toilets.

Regional Parks + Trails

- **Escanaba River State Forest:** The DNR owns and maintains the many thousand acre Escanaba River State Forest. The Days River Pathway System is within this forest featuring 9 miles of trails, specifically designed and maintained for cross-country skiing. The trails are also used for mountain biking and hiking.
- **Anderson Lake Pathway System and Campground** are also located within the Escanaba River State Forest's management unit.
- **Hiawatha National Forest: Rapid River Pathway System:** This trail network is located along Hwy 41 roughly 7 miles north of Rapid River and features cross-country ski and snowshoe trails. This is one site within the larger Hiawatha National Forest System managed by the US Forest Service.
- The **Felch Rail Trail Grade** (multiuse) route is located just to the south of Baldwin Township and the **Little Lake - Chatham Snowmobile Trail** is located a little to the north of the township.
- The **Iron Belle Trail** follows Hwy 2 just south of the township passing through Rapid River and Gladstone.
- The **UP2 snowmobile/ORV trail** cuts through the Days River Pathway System area just south of the township.
- **Pioneer Trail Park** is owned and managed by Delta County and is just north of the City of Escanaba featuring a campground along the Escanaba River.
- **Rapid River Falls Park** is an 80 acre Delta County managed park just off of Highway 41. It features access to Rapid River Falls with a picnic area.
- A DNR owned boat launch is located at the head of Little Bay de Noc along Hwy 41 featuring pit toilets, a pier, a fish and wildlife viewing area and parking.
- **Commercial Forest Lands (CFR):** Tens of thousands of acres of privately owned forest lands that are open to the public for fishing and hunting.

Forsyth Township Parks

{Marquette County}

- Nordeen Park: Ballfield, shelter and tennis courts
- Gwinn Baseball Fields: Lighted ball fields
- Little Lake Baseball field and Playground
- Red Fox Run golf course
- Forsyth Township Recreation Area: Archery and rifle range and sledding
- Gwinn Tourist Park: Camping, swimming beach, basketball court, playground, cross-country ski trail
- K.I. Sawyer Ski Hill, cross-country ski trail, ballfields, tennis courts, soccer field, picnic area, and playground
- Commercial Forest Reserve (CFR) Lands: Privately owned forest lands open to the public for fishing and hunting
- Little Trout Lake: County park with picnicking, playground, volleyball, beach area and basketball.
- Escanaba River State Forest: Public lands available for a variety of recreation opportunities

Wells Township Parks

{Marquette County}

- Wells Township Park Adjacent to the township hall and behind the Wells Township School. Amenities include: Pavilion, restrooms, a swimming pool, baseball field, sport court and parking.
- Wells Township School Park features a playground and volleyball court.

Gladstone Parks {Delta County}

- West Buckey Playground: Basketball court and playground
- Mary Cretens Playground: Basketball court and playground
- Gladstone Pickleball Courts (near elementary school Minneapoils Ave.)
- 5th St. Playground: Basketball court and playground
- Wintergreen Woods: Basketball court, picnic area and playground
- Delta Ave Pocket Park: Benches and art display
- City Park: Courts + ball fields, picnic area and lake frontage
- Gladstone Bay Campground
- Fishing Pier: With fish cleaning station and restroom
- Sports Park Facility: On N. Bluff Drive; Downhill ski area, restrooms, baseball fields, concessions, disc golf, sports courts and playground
- Van Cleve Park: Picnic area, beach house, play area, pavilions and skate park
- Little Bay De Noc Trail (Segment of Iron Bell Trail)
- East Shore Boardwalk
- Harbor with 60 slips, bike rentals, dock facilities and grills
- The MDNR also owns and manages the Kipling Access Site featuring a boat launch, parking, restrooms and boarding pier

Wells Township Parks {Delta County}

- Hannahville Ice and Turf Complex: Amenities include: An indoor ice rink, locker rooms, turf area with walking trail, and outdoor baseball/softball fields.
- Delta/Schoolcraft Learning Center: A Playground behind a formal school building on 18th Avenue.
- Old Wells Park: Adjacent to the Wells Township Hall; Amenities include parking, a pavilion, dog park, vault toilet, baseball field, tot lot, and pickleball/tennis courts.
- Soo Hill Park: Located on M5 Road featuring parking, a baseball field, an old vault toilet/warming shelter, a tot lot, and soon to be updated tennis/pickleball court.

Brampton Township Parks {Delta County}

- Gladstone Golf Course: Privately owned 18-hole championship golf course and club house
- Tot lot at the Brampton Township Hall

Escanaba Township Parks {Delta County}

- Terrace Bluff Golf Course: A privately owned 18-hole golf course and clubhouse
- No.3 Dam Access Site, Escanaba River: MDNR owned and managed boat launch and parking
- Flat Rock Park: Playground, ball field, dugouts, restrooms, pavilion and concession

Maple Ridge Township Parks {Delta County}

- Rock Community Park is located in the community of Rock just north of Baldwin Township. It hosts a parking area, restroom, pavilion, veteran's memorial, bike rack, and basketball/tennis courts.
- Lions (Days River) Park is also located in Rock and features grills and picnic area, play equipment, parking and water access to the Days River.

Masonville Township Parks {Delta County}

- Township recreation area featuring ballfields, pavilion, pit toilets, picnic tables, grills, volleyball, and a playground
- A single basketball court on North Main Street
- A playground on South Main Street
- Omni Center on North Main Street for indoor events, meetings and recreation
- Tri-Township School is on US 2 just east of Rapid River and hosts tennis courts, sport fields, cross-country ski trails, a gym and an outdoor classroom

ROCK COMMUNITY PARK PHOTOS



6 COMMENTS + ISSUE SCOPING CITIZEN SURVEY

A parks and recreation survey was launched in November of 2023. The survey was shared via multiple methods including mailers to all property owners in the township, an online link advertised on social media platforms, and print outs at the Baldwin Township Hall. 37 completed surveys were received.

The feedback received helped generate recreation values, goals and priority improvements for the community. The pie charts on the right illustrate the age distribution of survey participants and the township in general. Under 25 year olds are a shrinking demographic within the township, and did not complete any surveys. It is assumed some parents and grandparents reflected the recreation desires of younger generations in their responses as well. Nearly all of the responses came from nearby and local year-round residents.

The quotes within this chapter feature written responses received. They highlight specific reactions community members had including:

VALUES

“CURRENTLY THERE AREN’T A LOT OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES SO WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE IMPROVEMENTS.”

-LOCAL RESIDENT

“THEY’RE ALL I HAVE!”

-LOCAL RESIDENT

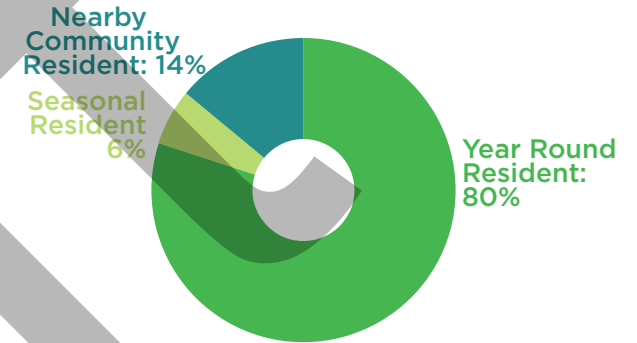
“BALDWIN TOWNSHIP HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO RECREATE AND FOCUS ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

“OPPORTUNITIES TO DO OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES WITH FAMILY WITHOUT HAVING TO DRIVE TOO FAR; SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY ALONG WITH A STRONG KNIT COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE A SAFE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR OUR FUTURE CHILDREN/RESIDENT AND CURRENT CHILDREN AND RESIDENTS.”

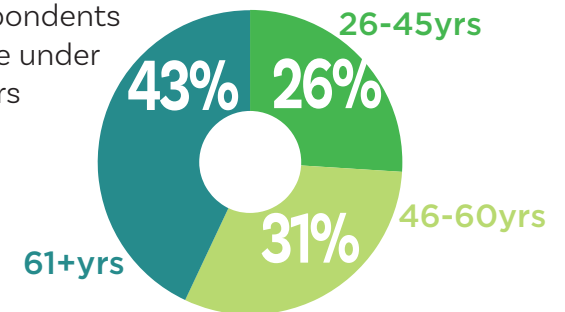
-LOCAL RESIDENT

RESIDENCY



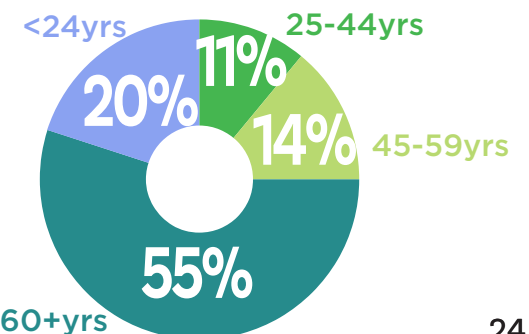
AGE | SURVEY

*0% of survey respondents were under 25yrs



AGE | 2022

Source: US Census ACS Data



RECREATION ACTIVITIES

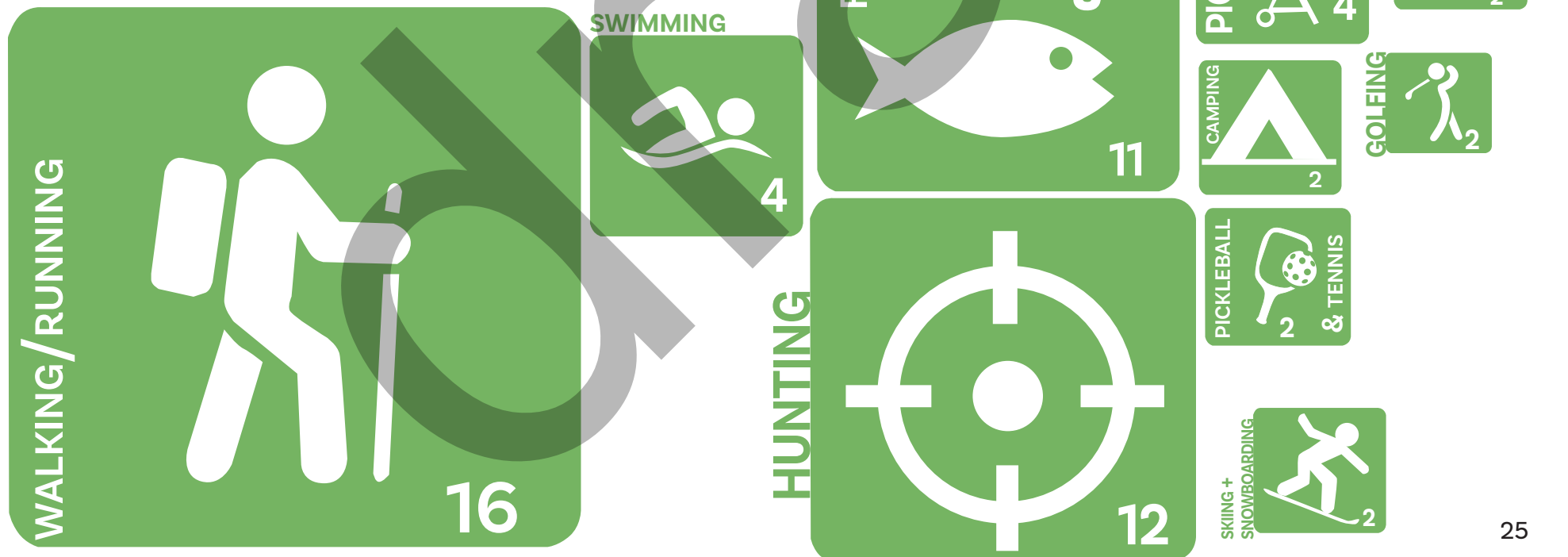
Survey participants were asked to list the recreational activities they participated in within the past two years. Top ranked activities included hiking, fishing, hunting and cross country skiing/snowshoeing. These largely reflect the opportunities available within the township. It is also evident the community is eager to utilize any recreational resources and amenities provided.

The draft of the recreation plan was released for a 30 day public comment period and the township board then hosted a public hearing to record any additional comments from the community.

The following chapter highlights community values received from survey responses and goals the township board generated reflecting these values.

An action plan and future project list was then generated from responses to the survey question:

“What would you like to change regarding recreation in your township?”



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE REGARDING RECREATION WITHIN YOUR

Survey participants added their ideas to the list of potential park and recreation related improvements for Baldwin Township. The images on this page and the following feature the changes requested as well as potential improvements that could be made to the 80 acre forested site currently owned by the township.

“WE HAVE NO SAFE PLACE TO WALK. WE HAD A BEAUTIFUL BALLFIELD. NOW NO ONE CAN GET TO IT, WITHOUT GOING THROUGH A BUSINESS DRIVEWAY. PLAIN BAD PLANNING!!”

-LOCAL RESIDENT

“I WOULD LOVE TO SEE A PAVILION WHERE A GROUP COULD GET TOGETHER RAIN OR SHINE AND GRILL OUT THAT IS RIGHT BY A PLAY AREA FOR CHILDREN.”

-LOCAL RESIDENT

MORE SILENT SPORT TRAILS

- HIKING
- BIKING
- ACCESSIBLE
- X-COUNTRY SKI
- EQUESTRIAN



MORE ACCESSIBLE OPTIONS

“INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION, PLAY FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

BETTER PARK ROAD ACCESS

“EASY ACCESS TO THE PARK AND A SIGN ENCOURAGING ENTRY AND USE.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



SOMETHING FOR KIDS + FAMILIES TO DO

“THERE IS NOTHING HERE FOR THE KIDS OR FAMILIES TO DO FOR RECREATION. SMALL ROAD SIDE PARK WITH A FEW PICNIC TABLES ALONG THE RIVER WOULD BE NICE.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



A PAVILION + PICNIC AREA



A CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL

“THE RURAL AREA NEEDS A X-CTRY SKI TRAIL TO PROVIDE AREA RESIDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXERCISE ALL YEAR LONG.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



RESTROOM UPDATE



PICKLEBALL COURTS



SAFE WALKING + BIKING SPOT



MORE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

“COMMUNITY TOGETHERNESS. PLANNING SIMPLE COMMUNITY GATHERINGS TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE..”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT



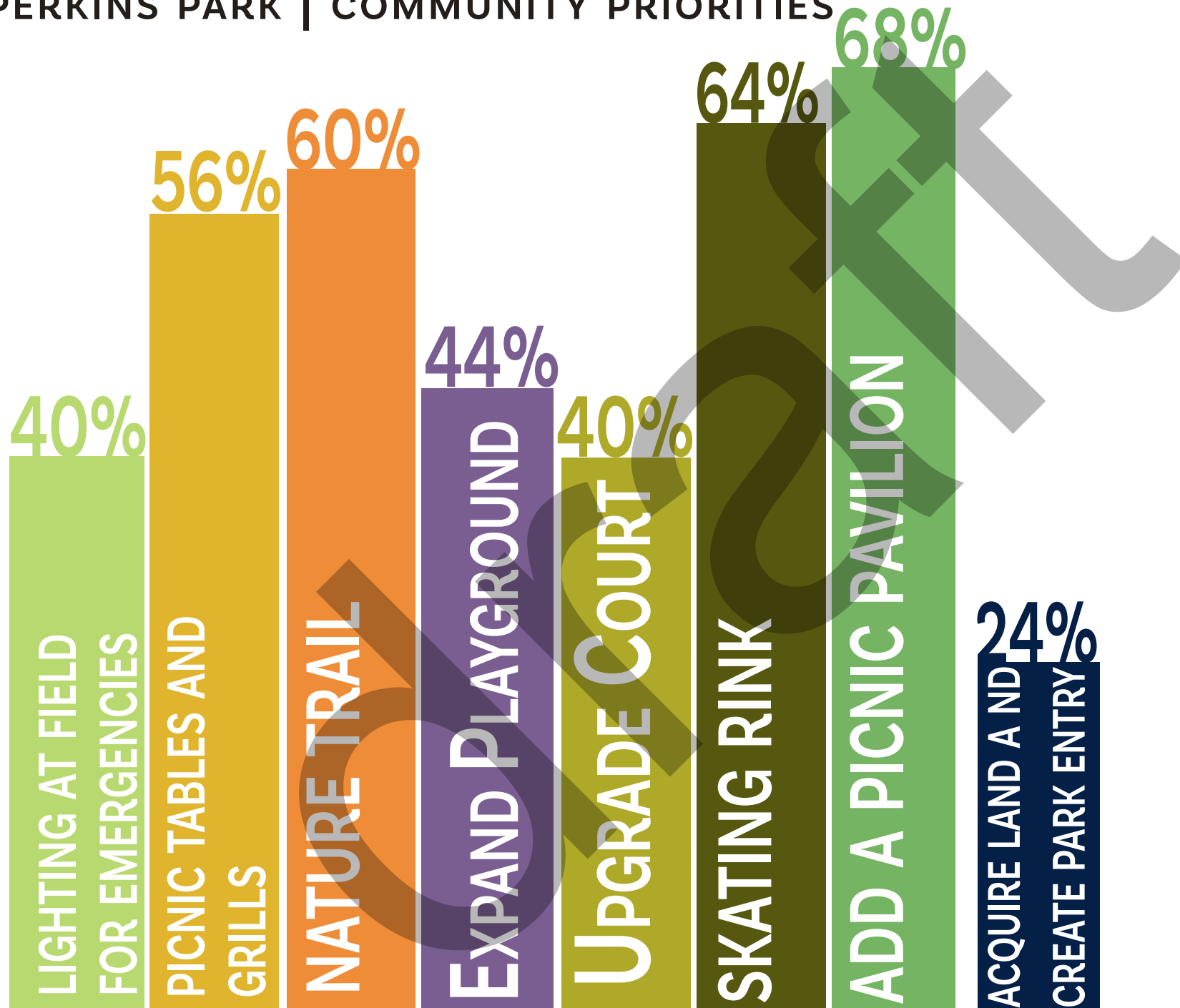
PARK UPDATES



“...HAVING SMALL GATHERINGS LIKE CHRISTMAS COOKIE DECORATING, OR 4TH OF JULY PICNICS ETC...TO HELP BUILD STRONG COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS AS A WHOLE WOULD BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY.”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

PERKINS PARK | COMMUNITY PRIORITIES



PLEASE SELECT ALL THE PARKS AND RECREATION PROJECTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN AT PERKINS PARK.

80 ACRE PARCEL | COMMUNITY PRIORITIES



FEWER MENTIONS:

*DISC GOLF

*SHOOTING RANGE

*SKATING TRAIL

*PICNIC AREA/PAVILION

*BOTANICAL GARDEN

*SELL IT

“MAKE AN ICE RINK! OR, MAYBE A NATURE TRAIL THAT CAN BE FLOODED AND MADE INTO A SKATING TRAIL DURING WINTER MONTHS. LIGHTS AT NIGHT WOULD MAKE IT A SUPER GREAT EXPERIENCE, ESPECIALLY DURING THE HOLIDAYS.” -LOCAL RESIDENT

“BASIC AMENITIES CAMPGROUND, WE HAVE NO LODGING IN THE AREA.”

-LOCAL RESIDENT

LIST ANY RECREATION RELATED IMPROVEMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE AT THE TOWNSHIP'S UNDEVELOPED 80 ACRE WOODED SITE.

7

VALUES, GOALS + OBJECTIVES COMMUNITY GENERATED VALUES

This page summarizes the community's recreation values as expressed in the community surveys and meeting input. The word diagram illustrates the values survey participants listed with the larger the font denoting the more frequent the response.

Waterways⁽⁴⁾ Natural Beauty⁽³⁾ Quiet⁽³⁾
Family+Friend Time⁽⁵⁾
Ease of
Access⁽⁸⁾ Safe+Clean⁽³⁾
Not Enough
Opportunities⁽⁶⁾
Hunting + Fishing⁽⁶⁾

VALUES

- We VALUE having ready access to quiet, clean, beautiful natural places.
- We VALUE the potential to benefit from the recreational assets within the region.
- We VALUE being able to spend time outdoors with family and friends.
- We VALUE having the opportunity to access public lands for hunting and fishing.

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Michigan's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as the backbone for recreation planning within the state. Every five years new surveys are administered, sites studied and goals and objectives created. Below is a summary of the methodology, goal, and objectives in the plan.

PLANNING METHODOLOGY

Survey generated and distributed to gather responses from a wide variety of residents and visitors that accurately reflected the general population of the area.

Recreation Participation:

Factors to consider (Income, accessibility, age and health) that limit opportunities for some to recreate.

Motivators:

Mental health and physical benefits are key reasons participants recreate.

Land Use:

Recreation opportunities in and around more urban areas are needed.

Resources:

Participants are more likely to utilize opportunities accessible to a large audience (paved trails, campsites, and other trail types).

Information Seeking Technology:

Welcome and visitor centers are great resources but technological tools could also help mainstream information.

Barriers:

Safety, access, costs associated with, too many crowds, lack of time, or poorly maintained facilities all prevent community members from recreating.

Physical Activity:

Prioritize physical health for all Michigan residents.

**"THE TOTAL
NET ECONOMIC
VALUE OF OUTDOOR
RECREATION IN MICHIGAN
WAS ESTIMATED AT \$165
BILLION."
-2023-2027
SCORP PLAN**

SCORP GOAL

Ensure that Michigan's outdoor recreation assets are equitably distributed, developed and managed to provide convenient and welcoming access to the outdoors for healthful, outdoor physical activity; and while sustaining our lands, waters and wildlife for current and future generations, drive broad-based economic and quality-of-life benefits to people and communities.

-SCORP 2023-2027

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN THE CURRENT SCORP PLAN: IMPROVE COLLABORATION:

- Create more opportunities for cross-agency collaboration on recreation
- Explore opportunities for regional analysis and connection to regional planning efforts
- Enhance data access and digital tools for measuring recreation use across management entities

IMPROVE AND EXPAND RECREATIONAL ACCESS:

- Utilize SCORP survey and focus group data to better understand recreation demand
- Communicate the full portfolio of grants and funding available to communities to support outdoor recreation
- Encourage long-term investments that address issues of technology, climate change and resiliency

ENHANCE HEALTH BENEFITS

- Model public-private partnerships and collaborations to activate and steward recreational assets
- Improve interagency collaboration to measure and deliver public health benefits from additional investment in infrastructures and programs supporting recreation

ENHANCE PROSPERITY

- Model and use new data to communicate economic value of outdoor recreation
- Support continued engagement with new users and identify gaps and barriers

COMMUNITY PARKS + RECREATION GOALS

GOAL 1 | SUPPORT COMMUNITY GATHERING

The township should enhance its existing properties to allow for residents to gather and recreate.

OBJECTIVES

- COMPLETE PARK IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY/FAMILY GATHERING SPACE COMPLETE WITH PICNIC AMENITIES AND A PAVILION.
- WORK WITH EAGER COMMUNITY GROUPS OR VOLUNTEERS TO DEVELOP SMALL COMMUNITY EVENTS AND GATHERING OPPORTUNITIES.
- PROVIDE ACCESSIBILITY UPDATES THAT ENSURE ACCESS FOR EVERYONE AT THE PARK.
- DETERMINE IF THE CURRENT BASEBALL FIELD COULD SERVE A DIFFERENT PURPOSE SUCH AS DOUBLING AS A SOCCER FIELD OR DISK GOLF COURSE.

GOAL 2 | ENHANCE ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Provide safe places where community members can immerse themselves in the natural beauty the township has to offer.

OBJECTIVES

- IMPROVE ACCESS TO THE PROPERTIES THE TOWNSHIP OWNS, MAKING IT CLEAR TO RESIDENTS AND VISITORS THAT IT IS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE.
- CREATE A NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL LOOP THAT CAN DOUBLE AS A SKI OR SNOWSHOE TRAIL IN WINTER MONTHS.
- PROMOTE MORE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RURAL PORTIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP, PERHAPS UTILIZING THE 80 ACRE WOODED PARCEL THAT IS CURRENTLY UNDEVELOPED.

8 ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY PROJECT LIST

This Action Plan is an expansive list of potential partnerships, acquisitions and projects the township could apply for funding for in the future. By no means does this list of projects need to be completed within a 5 or even 20 year window. It simply reflects community generated and township board approved priority projects. Each project is a step in the right direction to help achieve the goals featured in the previous chapter.

The township will continue to revisit its recreation plan within the future and amend this list as needed.

GOAL #1 | Support Community Gathering

The township should enhance its existing properties to allow for residents to gather and recreate.

PERKINS PARK

- The township should consider acquisition of an adjacent lot to allow for a clear park entrance.
- The township should create an accessible park entrance and parking area with a park sign, clearly noting it is a publicly accessible park site.
- The existing sport court and play area should be provided necessary updates that reflect the desired park improvements as expressed by the community. These may include: A picnic pavilion with tables and grills, updated playground, skating rink, a nature trail and an updated sport court.
- Provide necessary updates to the existing restroom building, play and sport court area, and parking area to allow for ADA access.
- Form a committee of eager community members willing to plan and host an annual or perhaps more frequent community event at the park.
- If baseball and softball are no longer played at the current field, consider applying for a grant to reprogram the site to develop a multi-use field for soccer or other sports, off leash dog area, pump track or a disc golf course.
- Consider adding lights at the park for evening games and events and emergencies.

GOAL #2 | ENHANCE ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Provide safe places where community members can immerse themselves in the natural beauty the township has to offer.

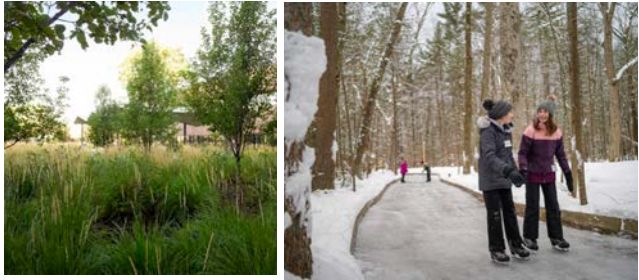
80-ACRE WOODED SITE

- Community input indicated a strong desire for multi-use trails not on roadways. The currently undeveloped 80-acre wooded site the township owns could host a small trail system for cross-country skiers, snowshoers, equestrians and hikers or bikers.
- Complete an analysis of the 80-acre site to determine if it is suitable for nature trails. If so, determine if any boardwalks or bridges are necessary and work with the DNR to see if there is the potential for a larger network utilizing the DNR property on the opposite side of the street as well. If possible, partner with the DNR to develop a trailhead parking area and accessible toilet.
- Encourage community members to form a committee responsible for generating funding for design and development as well as maintaining trails once developed.

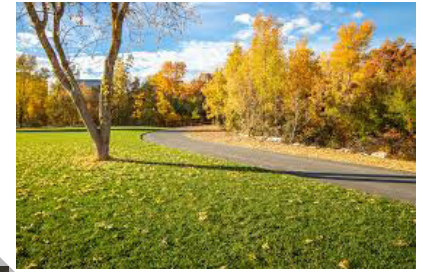


PERKINS PARK

* INITIAL CONCEPT IS TO CREATE A MULTI-USE ACCESSIBLE WALKING LOOP WITH SMALLER MOWED AND UNDULATING PATHS FOR CHILDREN AND BIKERS. THE PATH WILL HAVE VARIOUS ACTIVITY NODES ALONG ITS LENGTH.



LOOP TRAIL (ALL SEASON)



PLAY POD STOPS



MULTI-GENERATIONAL FEATURES + AMENITIES

draft

draft

draft

draft