



BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP

Parks & Recreation Plan



Atkins Preserve.



Spring Lake Park.



Bear River.



Jones Landing Park.

Acknowledgments

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Images of Bear Creek Township's recreational facilities are provided by Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

Thank you to the residents and organizations who offered valuable local input throughout the development of this plan.

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Petoskey State Park.

1.

Community Profile

INTRODUCTION

The Bear Creek Township Parks and Recreation Committee has prepared this Recreation Plan under the guidance of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The purpose of this 5-Year Recreation Plan is to provide Bear Creek Township with guidelines to evaluate and plan the recreation opportunities and needs of its community. This Recreation Plan is required by the MDNR Grants Management Division to be eligible for grants. This is an update of the 2021-2025 Recreation Plan. The Plan has been divided into a series of five sections:

- » Community Profile
- » Administrative Structure
- » Recreation Inventory
- » Planning Process
- » Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

Due to the abundant natural resources available, Northern Michigan continues to be a highly desirable place to live and visit. Residents and visitors alike seek out the numerous recreation opportunities available both on land and water. Federal, state, local, and private groups maximize recreational potential by providing recreational facilities in the region. Bear Creek Township owns and manages both developed and undeveloped recreation areas that are vital to the community's character.

RECENT PLANNING EFFORTS IN BEAR CREEK

The Township has a strong history of planning at all levels. At the time of this plan's creation, the Planning Commission is currently updating the Township's Master Plan to enhance and maintain the township's abundant amenities and quality lifestyle. Bear Creek Township residents were engaged throughout the process providing input for the creation of development policies that will carry the Township through the next five years.

In 2018 the Township and Emmet County completed an Access Management Plan for the Township's transportation network. It is comprised of interstate highways, state highways, county roads, and local roads. An Access Management Plan is a process of providing and managing access to land development

while preserving the regional flow of traffic in terms of safety, capacity, and speed.

The 2021-2025 Recreation Plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation Committee and adopted by the Township Board of Trustees. This plan has guided the Township for both budgeting and park improvement decisions. The Committee seeks to update this plan in accordance with the MDNR's five-year update requirements. The plan compiles relevant community data, public and local leadership input, an inventory of the parks, and parks and recreation best practices to create a guide for decision-making over the next five years.

The 2023 Emmet County Parks and Recreation Master Plan outlines the county's vision and strategic goals for enhancing public spaces, recreational facilities, and community programs. The plan aims to create enjoyable, safe, and innovative spaces that contribute to the physical, mental, and social well-being of residents and visitors while respecting Emmet County's cultural and natural resources.

In 2023, the City of Petoskey adopted their 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Plan. This Plan documented the City's many natural features and facilities, reinforced collaboration strategies with adjacent Townships and Emmet County, and provided a variety of community-informed goals to best meet the needs of the area's recreational spaces.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Bear Creek Township, situated in Emmet County, has a land boundary that is approximately 40.62 square miles, excluding the Little Traverse Bay. This boundary encompasses several major recreational lakes and waterways including Round Lake, the Bear River, and a portion of Walloon Lake. The area blends urban convenience with rural charm. The Township offers abundant year-round recreational opportunities, with scenic waterways such as Little Traverse Bay, Round Lake, Walloon Lake, Spring Lake, and Crooked Lake serving as popular destinations for outdoor activities. The Bear River further enhances the Township's picturesque setting. With its central location and easy access to major highways, including US-131, US-31, and

M-119, Bear Creek Township is a key destination in northern Michigan. The region has a rich history as a destination, dating back to the Native Americans who traveled to the area seasonally for the natural resources. In Bear Creek Township, this history is reflected in the 19th century Victorian architecture of Bay View and the vibrant downtown of nearby Petoskey. This has led to the development of a strong visual arts and music culture, excellent educational and health care systems, and employment opportunities.

Bear Creek Township is a community of contrasts, where rolling farmland, dense forests, and open spaces preserve its rural heritage, while shopping centers, diverse housing options, and proximity to Petoskey provide urban conveniences. As the Township continues to grow, residents strive to maintain a balance between development and the preservation of its rural character. Northern Michigan is also home to the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, who maintain housing, administrative, and retail properties within Bear Creek Township. These factors make Emmet County a vibrant and desirable place to live, work, and play.

POPULATION OVERVIEW

Surrounding the eastern and southern part of the City of Petoskey, Bear Creek Township is the most populous municipality in the county, home to 6,535 residents as of 2022, which equates to a residential density of approximately 165.15 residents per square mile.¹ The table, “Population in Bear Creek Township,” shows how the Township’s population change over time compares throughout the region. Bear Creek Township exhibits the highest population increase rate (5.4%) of all areas in the comparison.²

Seasonal Population

Northwest Lower Michigan is a renowned tourist destination celebrated for its breathtaking natural landscapes, including vast state and national forests, numerous lakes and rivers, and extensive Lake Michigan shoreline. The region is home to picturesque small and mid-sized cities, offering an inviting setting for relaxation and outdoor recreation. Visitors can enjoy a wide range of activities, such as boating, golfing, camping, birdwatching, hiking, biking, and off-roading. The area’s population swells during the summer months as vacationers from across the world flock to the region.

In 2022, Networks Northwest conducted a Seasonal Population study to estimate the number of part-time residents and visitors to the ten counties that make up Northwest Lower Michigan each year. Emmet County, in particular, experiences significant seasonal population shifts as part-time residents come and go. The visitor population in Emmet County peaks during the summer months, reaching 13,504 in June, July, and August.³

The overnight population (including those in hotels, short-term rentals, and campers) also fluctuates with the tourism cycle, rising from 38,367 in May to a peak of 42,011 in July before declining to 34,779 in September. As a result, Emmet County’s total estimated population reaches nearly 90,000 in the summer months, almost double the year-round population.⁴ This seasonal variation highlights the region’s strong appeal as a summer destination. During peak visitation times, it can be expected that the areas recreation amenities will be busier than usual, not only because more residents are out enjoying the facilities, but also because of the large influx of seasonal visitors.

Table 1: Population, Bear Creek Township and Comparison Municipalities, 2010-2022

	Bear Creek Township	City of Petoskey	Resort Township	Emmet County	State of Michigan
2010 Population	6,201	5,670	2,697	32,694	9,883,640
2020 Population	6,542	5,877	2,835	34,112	10,077,331
2022 Population	6,535	5,569	2,647	33,640	10,034,113
% Change 2010-2022	5.4%	-1.8%	-1.9%	2.9%	1.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Households

A household is defined as all individuals who reside in a housing unit. A housing unit can be a house, apartment, or any collection of rooms, or even a single room, if it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Households encompass both related family members and any unrelated individuals living in the same housing unit, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees. These are categorized as family and nonfamily, respectively.⁵

In Bear Creek Township, the average household size remained relatively stable, shifting slightly from 2.29 in 2017 to 2.28 in 2022. This minor decline suggests that family structures and living arrangements in the Township have remained consistent over the five-year period.⁶ In contrast, Petoskey experienced a notable increase in average household size, rising from 1.82 in 2017 to 2.16 in 2022. Emmet County as a whole also saw an increase, with household size growing from 2.24 to 2.32, reflecting a broader regional trend toward larger households.⁷

Population Age

The age distribution in Bear Creek Township and Emmet County has shifted between 2017 and 2022. In 2022, the 25-to-34 age group made up 12% of Bear Creek Township's population, reflecting a stable presence of young professionals and potential young families—an increase of 0.8% since 2017.⁸ This demographic plays a vital role in community vibrancy and economic growth, driving demand for services such as childcare and recreational activities. In contrast, Emmet County had a lower percentage in this age group at 11.2%, representing a 0.8% decline over the same period.⁹

Older adults also form a significant and growing segment of the population. In Bear Creek Township, residents aged 55 to 59 accounted for 10.3% of the population, indicating an increase in older adults within the community. This trend suggests shifting needs for local services, housing, and healthcare. Meanwhile, in Emmet County, 14.2% of residents fell within the 65-to-74 age group, underscoring an even more pronounced aging demographic.¹⁰ This shift highlights the

Table 2: Household Size, Bear Creek Township and Comparison Municipalities, 2017 & 2022

	Bear Creek Township	City of Petoskey	Resort Township	Emmet County	State of Michigan
2017	2.29	1.82	2.77	2.24	2.49
2022	2.28	2.16	2.64	2.32	2.45
Total Households 2022	2,864	2,583	1,069	14,530	4,009,253

Source: American Community Survey, DP02

Figure 1: Median Household Income Comparison, 2017 & 2022



Source: American Community Survey, DP03

growing need for accessible healthcare, senior services, and age-friendly community planning.

This age range underscores the need for recreation options for residents in all age ranges through the employment of universal design principles and programming that encourage all to receive enrichment opportunities.

Household Income

Household income is a key economic indicator that reflects financial stability, consumer spending, and economic growth. Higher incomes attract businesses and investment, while lower incomes can indicate economic challenges.¹¹ Between 2017 and 2022, Bear Creek Township's median household income increased by 29.9%, rising from \$52,500 to \$68,155, suggesting economic growth and potential new opportunities. Petoskey saw an even more dramatic increase of 85.5%, with median income rising from \$37,639 to \$69,784.¹² Resort Township observed the largest increase in median income between 2017 to 2022. This surge may be linked to new job opportunities and an influx of remote workers following the COVID-19 pandemic. The income growth in all communities reflects a broader regional economic uplift.¹³

Poverty

Between 2017 and 2022, Bear Creek Township's poverty rate declined from 12.0% to 7.8%, reflecting improved economic conditions for its residents. Petoskey also saw a decrease, with its poverty rate dropping from 10.1% to 7.9%.¹⁴ Emmet County's poverty rate saw a slight decrease from 10.7% to 8.4%.¹⁵ Overall, the declining poverty rates in Bear Creek Township, Petoskey, and Emmet County suggest a positive economic trend.

Race

The racial composition of local communities, Emmet County, and Michigan is predominantly white, with minorities making up 5.8% of Bear Creek Township's population. American Indian and multiracial individuals represent the largest minority groups in the county.¹⁶ Understanding a community's racial diversity can help inform the development of culturally significant recreational amenities.

Disability

Having knowledge of the disabilities that are present within a population helps to indicate what recreational amenities are needed, as well as ways that access can be improved to allow

Table 3: Race Distribution, Bear Creek Township and Comparison Municipalities, 2022

	Bear Creek Township		City of Petoskey		Resort Township		Emmet County		State of Michigan	
White	6,241	95.4%	5,335	91.1%	2,722	96.2%	30,889	90.7%	7,617,085	75.7%
Black or African American	44	0.7%	59	1.0%	8	0.3%	285	0.8%	1,363,539	13.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	57	0.9%	62	1.1%	38	1.3%	850	2.5%	45,662	0.5%
Asian	7	0.1%	36	0.6%	9	0.3%	100	0.3%	327,551	3.3%
Some Other Race	26	0.4%	0	0.0%	4	0.1%	259	0.8%	157,999	1.6%
Two or More Races	168	2.6%	367	6.3%	48	1.7%	1,672	4.9%	543,305	5.4%

Source: American Community Survey, DP05

more residents to use amenities. Of the nearby municipalities in comparison, Bear Creek Township has the lowest percentage of individuals with disabilities under 18, but the highest percentage among those 65 and older. The City of Petoskey has the highest percentage among adults aged

18 to 64. Both Emmet County and the State exceed the percentage of Township residents. While disability rates are mostly similar across the five communities, the overall numbers highlight the need for accessible, barrier-free recreational facilities and activities.

Table 4: Disability by Age, Bear Creek Township and Comparison Municipalities, 2022

	Bear Creek Township		City of Petoskey		Resort Township		Emmet County		State of Michigan	
Under 18 years	41	4.6%	80	9.4%	26	12.5%	312	7.2%	102,714	6.9%
18 to 64 years	395	19.7%	442	24%	155	20.8%	2,026	19.1%	728,961	22.5%
65 years and older	403	52.2%	220	42.2%	131	48.2%	1,969	54.5%	571,523	70.3%
TOTAL	839	--	742	--	312	--	4,307	--	1,403,198	--

Source: American Community Survey, S1810

Sources

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- 3 Networks Northwest, 2022 Seasonal Population Study, 4-4-2025, www.networksnorthwest.org/userfiles/filemanager/49nwypzbp28vz3voy6gk/
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- 16 American Community Survey, 2022 5 Year Estimates, DP05.



Atkins Preserve.

2. Administrative Structure

Figure 2: Administrative Structure



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Parks and Recreation Committee was established in 2008 to oversee the development of the Recreation Plan and facilitate the engineering and construction of Jones Landing Park. Since its creation, the committee has managed the development of Jones Landing Park and its subsequent upgrades, as well as improvements to Spring Lake Park and other recreational areas in Bear Creek Township. Operating in an advisory role to the Township Board, the committee plays a key role in shaping local recreation initiatives.

The following outlines the administrative structure for recreation planning and decision-making in Bear Creek Township:

- » **Township Board:** Responsible for setting the township’s fiscal budget, approving contracts, and working with township staff to establish policies. The board considers recommendations from the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Committee.
- » **Parks & Recreation Committee:** Works with the public, Township staff, the Township Board and private consultants to plan and implement recreation projects. The committee makes recommendations to the Township Board, with a township appointee actively participating as an ad hoc member to support project development and board coordination.
- » **Public at Large:** Community members provide input during regularly scheduled or specially posted meetings and hearings held by the Township Board, Planning Commission, and Parks and Recreation Committee, ensuring public voices are considered in the recreation planning process.

Table 5: Recreation Budget

Budget Year	Total Budgeted	Actual Expenditure
2023-24	\$168,000	\$153,000
2024-25	\$183,000	\$175,000
2025-26	\$204,000	--

Source: Bear Creek Township

RECREATION BUDGET

Bear Creek Township allocated \$204,000 to its recreation budget for the standard operations of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, a 21.4% increase since the 2023-2024 financial year. In the last two fiscal years, actual expenditures were less than what was budgeted. In addition to the \$204,000 budgeted for the current fiscal year, there is another \$280,000 budgeted for work at Spring Lake Park. While the parks and recreation budget has shown a year-over-year increase, parks and recreation projects funded through the Township’s general fund compete for funding with all Township projects. Therefore, funding is not always guaranteed. With a dedicated revenue source parks and recreation projects could be funded more consistently. As such, the Township may consider discussing a parks and recreation millage to develop a committed revenue source to fund ongoing maintenance and future improvements beyond 2026.

MAINTENANCE

Bear Creek Township contracts with multiple landscape and cleaning companies to care for its park facilities, lawn care, and trash removal. Recognizing the costs associated with maintaining these recreational areas, the Township has allocated additional funds specifically for the upkeep and operations of Jones Landing Park and Spring Lake Park.

VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Volunteers and local organizations play a vital role in supporting parks and recreation in Bear Creek Township. Their ongoing efforts help maintain natural areas, enhance recreational opportunities, and foster community involvement in preserving outdoor spaces.

Volunteers

The Township actively fosters relationships with volunteer and service organizations to support the maintenance and enhancement of park amenities. One partnership is with the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter, which helps maintain sections of the North Country National Scenic Trail that passes through the Click Road and River Road properties. Looking ahead, the Township hopes to expand its volunteer base and is exploring partnerships with the Northern Michigan Master Gardener Association, local garden clubs, youth scout troops, and other community groups focused on beautification and park development projects.

Emmet County Conservation District

The Emmet County Conservation District plays an important role in guiding conservation efforts and addressing soil and water resource concerns across the county. To fulfill its mission, the district actively seeks funding and builds partnerships aimed at advancing soil conservation and improving water quality. It offers a variety of community-focused programs and services, such as spring tree sales, a summer native plant sale, and educational workshops for residents and organizations. The district also provides technical expertise on native and threatened species, invasive species control, and conducts site assessments for landowners interested in conservation practices. The Emmet County Conservation District leads forest and river clean-up events and holds monthly board meetings that are open to the public.

Little Traverse Conservancy

The Little Traverse Conservancy is a land trust dedicated to preserving the natural landscapes and resources of northern Michigan, serving communities in both the Lower and Upper Peninsulas throughout their five-county service area.¹ As of April 2025, the Conservancy has permanently protected more than 330 private properties through conservation easements. It also manages nearly 400 nature preserves, and 38 working forest reserves; many of which are open to the public and offer over 120 miles of trails for hiking, wildlife viewing, and other outdoor activities. In addition to land preservation, the Conservancy partners with local governments to protect natural areas and expand public access to these valuable resources.² With new conservation

projects launched each year, the Little Traverse Conservancy continues to play a vital role in safeguarding the region's natural beauty for current and future generations.

Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy

The Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy (WLAC) is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Walloon Lake and its surrounding watershed so that both people and nature can continue to thrive for generations. The organization's roots trace back to the 1910s, when residents formed the original Walloon Lake Association to monitor water quality and preserve the lake's natural character. In the 1970s, recognizing the importance of protecting the surrounding land as well as the water, residents established the Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy to acquire and manage conservation lands. These two efforts combined in 2019 to form the Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy, uniting lake stewardship and land conservation under one mission.

Today, the Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy manages more than 2,300 acres across 54 preserves and 20 conservation easements, engaging over 1,000 members across two counties and five townships. Its programs include water testing, shoreline surveys, invasive species control, educational initiatives, and public trail access, all designed to safeguard water quality and connect people to the landscape. By maintaining healthy ecosystems, the Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy ensures that Walloon Lake remains both a cherished local resource and a clean tributary to Little Traverse Bay and ultimately Lake Michigan. Through its collaborative and science-based approach, the Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy serves a vital role in protecting the natural, recreational, and economic value of the Walloon Lake watershed.³

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council was founded in 1979 by a coalition of lake associations from Cheboygan, Charlevoix, and Emmet Counties, with support from the University of Michigan Biological Station. The goal of the founding members was to coordinate efforts to protect the region's lakes and ensure long-term water quality. Today, the Watershed Council's service area spans

Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet Counties, underscoring its strong commitment to preserving northern Michigan's diverse and valuable water resources.⁴ The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council works to protect these critical resources through a combination of advocacy, education, scientific research, water quality monitoring, and restoration projects. Acting as a regional voice for water conservation, the Council collaborates with local communities and stakeholders to promote clean, healthy aquatic environments.⁵

Top of Michigan Trails Council

The Top of Michigan Trails Council (TOMTC) was formed in the mid-1990s in response to the growing need for coordinated trail planning in

northern Lower Michigan. The idea emerged from conversations between Horace "Huffy" Huffman and Tom Bailey of the Little Traverse Conservancy, who recognized the importance of uniting various trail user groups across Emmet, Charlevoix, and Cheboygan counties. With rising tourism and a growing population, they saw a clear need to improve coordination among existing trail initiatives. The Top of Michigan Trails Council manages a trail network of over 300 miles, stretching from Charlevoix to Alpena and linking Lake Michigan to Lake Huron. The Top of Michigan Trails Council continues to expand and improve this regional trail system, through ongoing advocacy and collaboration with local communities and partners and has established northern Michigan as a premier destination for trail-based recreation.⁶



Boat wash station by Walloon Lake at Jones Landing.

Sources

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- 4 Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Our History from Inception to Present, 4-17-2025, watershedcouncil.org/about-us/history/
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Top of Michigan Trails Council, History, 4-17-2025, www.trailsCouncil.org/history-trails-council/



Jones Landing.

3.

Recreation Inventory

A thorough understanding of the recreational assets utilized by the community is essential for effective recreation planning. To assess the condition and availability of facilities in Bear Creek Township, an inventory of existing recreational sites was completed in Spring of 2025. This inventory serves to provide a detailed overview of the parks and recreational opportunities currently available to users throughout the Township. While this section accounts for facilities in the Township, including those managed by other groups in Bear Creek Township like the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Little Traverse Conservancy, and others mentioned in this section, only facilities operated by the Township are fully inventoried.

Beyond detailing the type, quantity, and quality of amenities at each park and recreational facility, this assessment documents the condition of amenities and park accessibility, per State of Michigan requirements. The condition of each park's accessibility status was evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5:

- » 1: None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
- » 2: Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
- » 3: Most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
- » 4: The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- » 5: The entire park was developed/renovated using the Principles of Universal Design

PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Universal design is an approach to planning and design that ensures environments, facilities, and services are accessible and usable by all people, regardless of age, ability, or background. In the context of parks and recreation, universal design goes beyond minimum accessibility standards by creating inclusive spaces that welcome and accommodate everyone.¹

Incorporating universal design into recreational planning includes features such as smooth, level pathways, accessible restrooms and parking, adaptive playground equipment, clear signage with visual and tactile cues, and spaces that support social interaction and a sense of belonging. By prioritizing inclusivity from the outset, universal design helps

communities foster equity, enhance participation, and improve the overall user experience for a diverse range of residents and visitors.²

Universal design has seven principles encompassing design for all:³

- » **Principle 1: Equitable Use** - The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
- » **Principle 2: Flexibility in Use** - The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- » **Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use** - Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
- » **Principle 4: Perceptible Information** - The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
- » **Principle 5: Tolerance for Error** - The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
- » **Principle 6: Low Physical Effort** - The design can be used efficiently, comfortably, and with a minimum of fatigue.
- » **Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use** - Appropriate size and space is allotted for approach, reach and manipulation regardless of physical characteristics such as size or mobility.

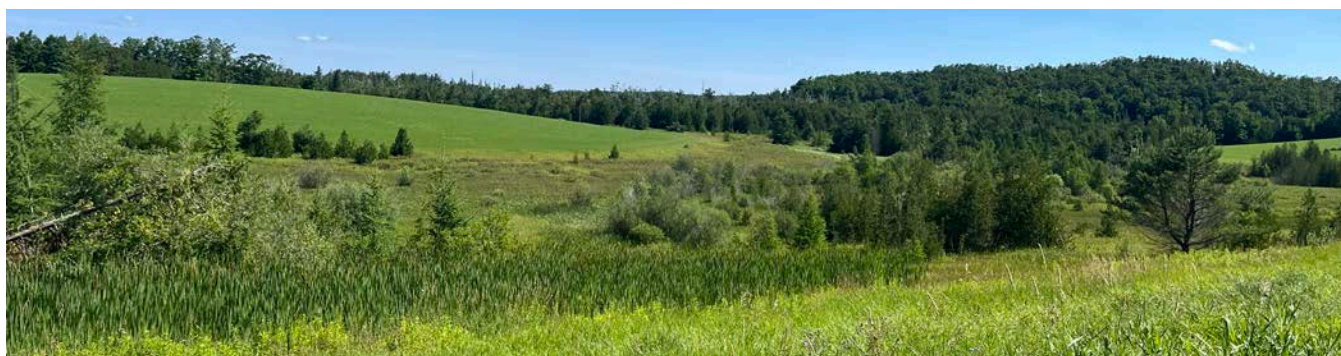


Wildflowers at River Road Property.

Table 6: Recreational Classifications

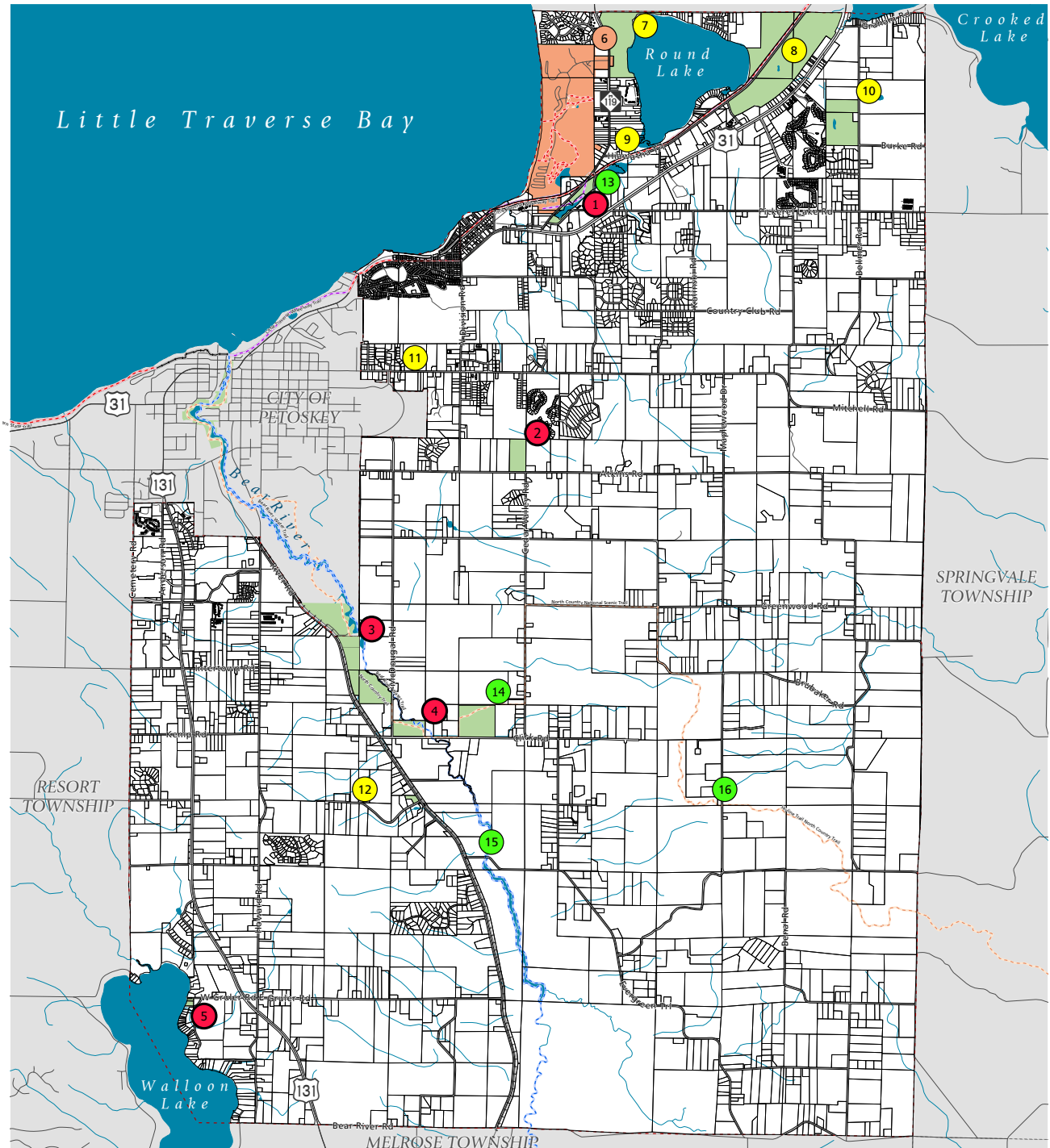
Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park	Used to address unique or isolated recreational needs.	Within a quarter mile of residential area.	Less than 1 acre
Neighborhood Park	Serves as a recreational and social focus for the neighborhood.	Within a half mile of residential area.	Approximately 5 to 10 acres
School Park	A park located at a school site.	At the location of a school site.	Dependent
Community Park	Focus on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Within proximity of multiple neighborhoods.	Less than 50 acres
Natural Resource Area	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	At the location of a natural resource.	Dependent
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single purpose use.	Dependent on the Special Use.	Dependent
Sports Complex	Consolidation of programmed athletic fields and associated facilities strategically located throughout the community.	Community-wide.	Dependent on what is at the complex
Greenway	Tie a park system together to form a continuous park environment.	Dependent on location of park systems.	Dependent
Connector Trail	Multipurpose trails that emphasizes safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community.	Dependent on rights-of-way.	Dependent
Park Trail	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. The focus is on recreational value and harmony with natural environment.	<u>Type I</u>: Separate/single purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. <u>Type II</u>: Multipurpose hard surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters. <u>Type III</u>: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard or soft-surfaced.	Dependent

Source: MDNR



Open area at Atkins Preserve.

Map 1: Recreation Inventory



Recreation Inventory

Sources: Michigan Open Data Portal, Bear Creek Township, Emmet County

1 Miles
Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

 Bear Creek Township

 Recreation Sites

 State Parks

--- Non-Motorized Trails

--- Bicycle Trails

--- Hiking Pathways

--- Water Trails

Township Facilities

1 Spring Lake Park

2 Atkins Preserve

3 River Road Property

4 Click Road Property

5 Jones Landing Park

State Parks

6 Petoskey State Park

Little Traverse Conservancy

7 Round Lake Nature Preserve

8 Fochtman Nature Preserve

9 South Round Lake Nature Preserve

10 Orchis Fen Nature Preserve

11 Martha Curtis Nature Preserve

12 Hankin's Glen Nature Preserve

Other Facilities

13 Little Traverse Wheelway Trail

14 Petoskey Youth Soccer Association

15 Bear River Water Trail

16 North Country National Scenic Trail/Iron Belle State Trail

PARKS OPERATED BY BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP

Atkins Preserve



Undeveloped green space.



Preserve signage.



Parking area.



Signage in green space.

Address	Acreage	Amenities	Classification	Accessibility
Atkins Road	19.5	Roadside parking	Natural Resource Area	1

Atkins Preserve is a 19.5-acre Natural Resource Area located on the north side of Atkins Road at the intersection with Cedar Valley Road. As an undeveloped green space, it has been designated as a preserve due to its sensitive ecological features, restricted access, and deed limitations. Little Traverse Conservancy assisted landowners Dr. John and Marylou Tanton to transfer the land to Bear Creek Township, subject to a conservation easement that preserves the land in perpetuity as a public nature preserve. It encompasses a diverse mix of landscapes, including wetlands, meadow and fallow fields, scrub-shrub areas, cultivated land, and forest edges. Access is limited, with three roadside parking spaces. The site is currently under consideration for parking improvements and a nature trail through different ecosystems present on the property.

Click Road Property



Undeveloped green space.

Address	Acreage	Amenities	Classification	Accessibility
1773 Click Road	18.7	Hiking Trails	Natural Resource Area	1

The Click Road property is an 18.7-acre Natural Resource Area located just east of the intersection of McDougal Road and Click Road, accessible by an unimproved driveway. The site is traversed by the North Country National Scenic Trail, which offers pedestrian access from both roads and was constructed in 2019 by the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter of the North Country Trail Association. Much of the site is characterized by wetland soils identified in the National Wetland Inventory, and the Bear River flows through the northeast corner of the property, adding to the property's ecological and scenic value. Possible future uses being considered include a brush drop off site, kayak/canoe launch, water rest area, and trailhead of the North Country Trail. This property may also be used to connect the Petoskey Youth Soccer Association (PYSA) at 2325 Click Road with the City of Petoskey's River Road Sports Complex via a walking or biking trail.

Jones Landing Park



Beach area.



Playground area.



Pavilion.



Restrooms.

Address	Acreage	Amenities	Classification	Accessibility
1193 West Gruler Road	3.3	Boat launch, Restrooms, Picnic Area, Beach, Pavilion, Pathway, Playground, Boat Trailer Parking, Buoyed Swim Area, and Boat Wash	Community Park	4

Jones Landing Park is a 3.3-acre public access site offering 350 feet of frontage on Walloon Lake, making it one of the few public access points to this scenic lake. Located off West Gruler Road, just west of U.S. 131, the park provides access to both the shoreline and includes a boat launch. Jack Jones, a long time Emmet County Commissioner and Bear Creek Township supporter, assisted the Township in acquiring his family's land to create this park in 2005. With support from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the Little Traverse Conservancy, the park was improved in 2008 through additional funding from the MNRTF and Waterways Boating Access Site grants. The park contains universally accessible amenities, including a covered pavilion, restrooms, picnic tables, and sandy beach access, as well as other amenities, including a playground and boat launch. The sandy beach allows visitors to enjoy the water and the pavilion serves as a shared space for community gatherings.⁴

To safeguard the lake's natural environment, the park incorporates stormwater management practices such as permeable pavers and bio-swales, which help capture and treat runoff effectively. In 2018, the park's play equipment was upgraded, further enhancing the recreational amenities available to the community. These improvements have solidified Jones Landing Park as an asset for both residents and visitors, offering access to the lake's natural beauty and a variety of outdoor activities.⁵ In 2022, the Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy (WLAC) received funding to install a permanent boat washing station at Jones Landing to help mitigate the spread of invasive species.⁶

River Road Property



North Country Scenic Trail.



North Country Scenic Trail.

Address	Acreage	Amenities	Classification	Accessibility
Between River Road and Bear River, South of River Road Sports Complex	57	Hiking Trails, Access to Bear River and River Road Sports Complex	Natural Resource Area	1

The River Road property is a 57-acre Natural Resource Area located on the east side of River Road, positioned between the River Road Sports Complex to the north and Click Road to the south. Although mostly undeveloped, the site includes approximately 495 feet of frontage on McDougal Road, with primary access currently available through the adjacent sports complex.

Pedestrian access is provided by the North Country National Scenic Trailhead at the River Road Sports Complex south parking area. The trail goes both north through the town of Petoskey as well as Southeast through the Township's River Road property as well as the Click Road property. The trail is maintained by the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter and is part of the 4,000-mile North Country National Scenic Trail system. Additional recreational uses for this property will be further evaluated as funding becomes available.

Spring Lake Park



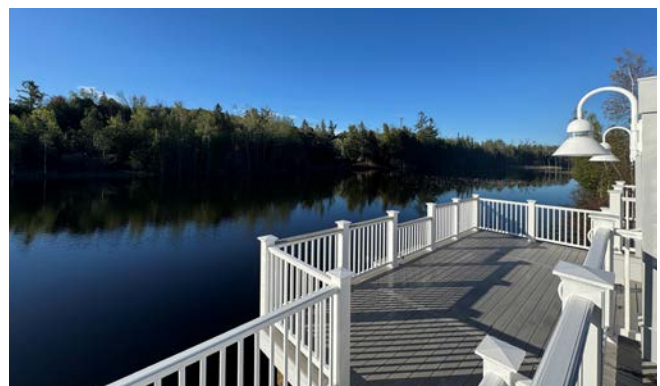
Park entrance sign.



Scenic path.



Lake area.



Lake area with improved railing.

Address	Acreage	Amenities	Classification	Accessibility
1590 Harbor-Petoskey Road	12.3	Fishing Pier, Spring Lake Boardwalk, Picnic Pavilion, Restrooms, Access to North Western State Trail, Bike Repair, Parking	Community Park	4

Spring Lake Park covers 12.3 acres and includes the majority of the shoreline of Spring Lake. Located just past the intersection of US-31 and M-119 in the northern part of Bear Creek Township, the park is a popular spot for fishing, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. The park additionally serves as a major trailhead for the Little Traverse Wheelway and Northwestern State Trail. In 1988, the Township acquired roughly half of the lake frontage along M-119 with support from the Little Traverse Conservancy. A subsequent Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant in 1995, secured jointly by the Township and the Little Traverse Conservancy, enabled the purchase of the remaining frontage along M-119. As a result, the park now encompasses all of Spring Lake's frontage on that corridor.⁷

In the late 1990's, additional grant funding supported the development of amenities such as a parking area, restrooms, and an interpretive trail. The park includes several accessibility features, including designated handicap parking, paved pathways, ramps to the pavilion and fishing dock, and accessible restrooms, ensuring barrier-free enjoyment for all visitors.⁸ As part of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant and Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation grant, additional improvements will be completed in 2025/2026 at the park including increasing the number of parking spaces, restroom renovations, pavilion renovations, deck renovations, increased ADA accessibility, transitioning most of the wood chip trail to concrete, and bicycle maintenance equipment improvements.

OTHER PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES NOT OPERATED BY BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP

Other public recreation facilities within the area that are not owned or operated by Bear Creek Township but remain accessible to Township residents and often attract visitors who support the local economy. The Township aims to collaborate with the owners of these facilities to share costs and expand recreational opportunities throughout the region. While this section highlights key facilities, it does not provide a comprehensive list. For a full inventory of recreational resources, please refer to the City of Petoskey Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Emmet County's Parks and Recreation Plan, and other organizations.

Orchis Fen Nature Preserve

Address	Bellmer Road at the dead end of Burke Road
Acreage	35
Amenities	Varied natural habitats
Classification	Natural Resource Area

Orchis Fen is a 35-acre nature preserve in Emmet County. The Little Traverse Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy partnered to purchase this land for protection, and the preserve is now owned by the Little Traverse Conservancy.⁹ This ecologically significant site is recognized for its rich plant diversity, offering a rare glimpse into the region's pre-settlement landscape. The preserve encompasses three distinct natural habitats: a cedar swamp, a fen, and a hardwood forest. Its terrain is primarily flat, with soils composed largely of poorly drained organic material, which helps sustain the preserve's unique ecological characteristics. The combination of varied habitats and specialized soil conditions supports a wide range of plant species, making Orchis Fen a valuable resource for conservation, education, and ecological research.¹⁰

Round Lake Nature Preserve

Address	3264 Powell Road
Acreage	58
Amenities	Hiking trails, Round Lake Overlook
Classification	Natural Resource Area

Round Lake Nature Preserve and South Round Lake Nature Preserve together offer a diverse and scenic natural area spanning 58 acres, located on

Powell Road about 1.5 miles north of US-31. The combined preserves feature a half mile of shoreline along Round Lake and a mix of forests, swamps, and marshlands. While Round Lake Nature Preserve showcases a variety of landscapes, South Round Lake Nature Preserve, located just to the south, serves as a popular access point for outdoor recreation.¹¹ Visitors can enjoy hiking, kayaking, canoeing, and wildlife viewing, making the area a valuable destination for nature enthusiasts.¹²

Fochtman Nature Preserve

Address	US-31, East of Round Lake
Acreage	243
Amenities	Hiking Trails, Paved North Western Trail section, Round Lake Overlook
Classification	Natural Resource Area

Fochtman Nature Preserve spans 243 acres and includes over a quarter mile of shoreline along Round Lake, making it one of the region's most significant natural areas. The preserve is intersected by more than a mile of the paved North Western State Trail, providing convenient access for visitors and expanding recreational opportunities. The landscape features a mix of wetlands, uplands, and shoreline, serving as a valuable natural buffer in an area experiencing increased development. This variety of habitats supports diverse wildlife and enhances the ecological integrity of the surrounding region.¹³

Martha Curtis Preserve

Address	1867 E. Mitchell Road
Acreage	25
Amenities	Trails, forests, fields
Classification	Natural Resource Area

Located off of East Mitchell Road, south of Bay View Woods, this location spans approximately 25 acres and is comprised of a mixture of forest and field.¹⁴



Signage at Jones Landing.

Hankin's Glen Preserve

Address	Hoag Road, west of River Road
Acreage	13
Amenities	Undeveloped green space
Classification	Natural Resource Area

This space, located on Hoag Road, was donated to the Little Traverse Conservancy in 2013, and spans 13 acres.¹⁵

Bear River Valley Recreation Area

Address	Along Bear River, from Lake Street to Standish Avenue
Acreage	36
Amenities	Kayaking, paved and unpaved hiking trails, boardwalks
Classification	Neighborhood Park

This area spans 36 acres along Bear River from Lake Street to Standish Avenue. It primarily offers whitewater kayaking recreation opportunities, with additional unpaved and paved walking trails, boardwalks, and a footbridge.¹⁶

Petoskey Youth Soccer Association

Address	2325 Click Road
Acreage	--
Amenities	~12 soccer fields of varying sizes
Classification	Sports Complex

This location – operated by the Petoskey Youth Soccer Association – is a youth soccer recreation area with 12 fields of different sizes to accommodate different age groups.¹⁷ There are five fields for games of 11 players per team, three fields for 9-player games, and four fields for 7-player games.



Plaque at Spring Lake Park.

Petoskey State Park

Address	2475 M-119
Acreage	303
Amenities	Swimming, campgrounds, hiking, biking, cross-county skiing trails, playgrounds
Classification	Natural Resource Area

This 303-acre park is operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It offers swimming access, two campgrounds, and various hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing trails.¹⁸

River Road Sports Complex

Address	2267 River Road
Acreage	91
Amenities	Athletic fields (soccer, softball, disc-golf), hiking trails, river access for fishing
Classification	Sports Complex

Located on River Road, this sports complex is 91 acres. It features various athletic-based amenities, including one softball field, two soccer fields, a disc-golf course, and a temporary soccer field. Other amenities include skiing and hiking trails, as well as a river access platform for fishing.¹⁹

Mackinaw State Forest

Address	Northern Michigan
Acreage	717,500
Amenities	Hiking trails, campgrounds, kayaking, fishing areas
Classification	Natural Resource Area

Operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, this 717,500-acre forest is operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and extends across eight northern Michigan counties, including Emmet County.²⁰ The State Forest offers hiking trails, campgrounds, and kayaking and fishing areas, among other amenities.²¹ In south-central Bear Creek Township, there is a portion of the Mackinaw State Forest between River Road and Evergreen Trail. Via the Bear River, visitors enjoy water-based access to this expansive natural landscape.

REGIONAL TRAIL NETWORKS

North Country National Scenic Trail and Iron Belle State Trail

The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) and the Iron Belle State Trail are major outdoor recreation assets that enhance access to natural areas in Emmet County and beyond. The Iron Belle Trail, about 70% complete as of October 2024, spans over 2,000 miles from the western tip of Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Belle Isle in Detroit. This expansive trail system includes separate designated routes for hiking and biking, offering a wide range of recreational opportunities for users of all skill levels.²²

In Emmet County, the NCT is a key feature of this broader network. Designated as one of eleven National Scenic Trails—alongside well-known trails like the Appalachian Trail—the NCT stretches from North Dakota to Vermont and crosses significant portions of both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan. In 2019, the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter of the North Country Trail Association constructed a new segment of the trail that connects Petoskey's River Road Sports Complex to the River Road and Click Road properties.²³ The Iron Belle Trail incorporates major sections of the existing NCT, including segments running through Bear Creek Township. As the longest designated state trail in the United States, the Iron Belle Trail not only promotes outdoor recreation and healthy lifestyles but also highlights Michigan's diverse and scenic landscapes. Together, the NCT and Iron Belle Trail serve as vital recreational corridors that benefit both locals and visitors.²⁴

North Western State Trail

The North Western State Trail (NWST) is a 32-mile recreational corridor that connects Petoskey, Alanson, Pellston, and Mackinaw City, offering a scenic and accessible route for outdoor recreation. Developed along a former rail corridor, the trail provides a non-motorized pathway from Petoskey to Mackinaw City and is popular for activities such as hiking, biking, and horseback riding.²⁵ In Bear Creek Township, the NWST extends northward through the Village of Alanson and continues to Pellston and Mackinaw City. The trail features a variety of surface types, including a 7-mile stretch between Spring Lake Park in Petoskey and Powers Road in Alanson

that was paved with asphalt in 2013. The remaining 23-mile segment from Alanson to Mackinaw City was resurfaced with crushed limestone in 2015, and two bridges were replaced in 2016 to improve safety and accessibility.²⁶

Designed for all non-motorized users—including hikers, cyclists, and equestrians (with horses required to wear manure bags or diapers)—the trail is open year-round. Snowmobiles are also permitted between December 1 and March 31, increasing the trail's seasonal versatility. With its relatively flat terrain and gentle elevation changes, the NWST accommodates users of all ages and abilities. The trail is part of a broader regional network managed by the Top of Michigan Trails Council (TOMTC), which oversees roughly 300 miles of existing and planned trails throughout the northern Lower Peninsula. This interconnected trail system not only enhances recreational access but also supports environmental stewardship and promotes outdoor tourism across the region.²⁷

Little Traverse Wheelway

The Little Traverse Wheelway, commonly known as the "Bike Path," is a scenic 26-mile, asphalt-paved trail stretching from Charlevoix to Harbor Springs. As the most developed trunk line trail in the region, it passes through several urban and natural areas, providing a safe and enjoyable route for cyclists and pedestrians.²⁸ One of the most notable segments extends from Petoskey's Bayfront Park to Petoskey State Park, closely following the original path of the historic Little Traverse Wheelway, which was active in the 1880s and 1890s. At the eastern edge of Bayfront Park, a gate marked "No Teaming or Driving" pays tribute to the trail's original restrictions on horseback riding and horse-drawn carriages. Two identical gates can also be found along other parts of the trail in Petoskey. In late 2008, the Wheelway was further improved with the addition of the 1.4-mile "Resort Bluffs" section—often called "the Miracle Mile"—connecting East Park in Resort Township to Magnus Park in Petoskey and replacing a previous road shoulder segment along US-31 to enhance safety and access.²⁹

The trail provides east-west connectivity along the shores of Little Traverse Bay, with designated trailheads at Charlevoix Township Hall on Waller Road and near the ballfields at Lake and Hoyt Streets in Harbor Springs. Parking and additional

facilities are available at these trailheads and several roadside parks along the route. In 2020, two sections of the trail were closed due to erosion, and long-term restoration plans are currently under development. The Little Traverse Wheelway is managed through a collaborative partnership among local municipalities, townships, and state agencies, including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).³⁰

Skyline Trail

The Skyline Trail, located in the Southeastern part of Bear Creek Township, offers a scenic 1.8-mile out-and-back hike featuring an observation deck with panoramic views of the Bear River Valley and Lake Michigan—particularly striking in late fall. As part of the North Country Trail, the route includes a 0.7-mile descent to the overlook, followed by a steep climb back to the trailhead on Krause Road. The trail crosses 65 acres of protected land acquired with support from the Little Traverse Conservancy and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Open year-round for hiking, mountain biking, and snowshoeing, the Skyline Trail is a versatile destination for outdoor recreation.³¹

Bear River

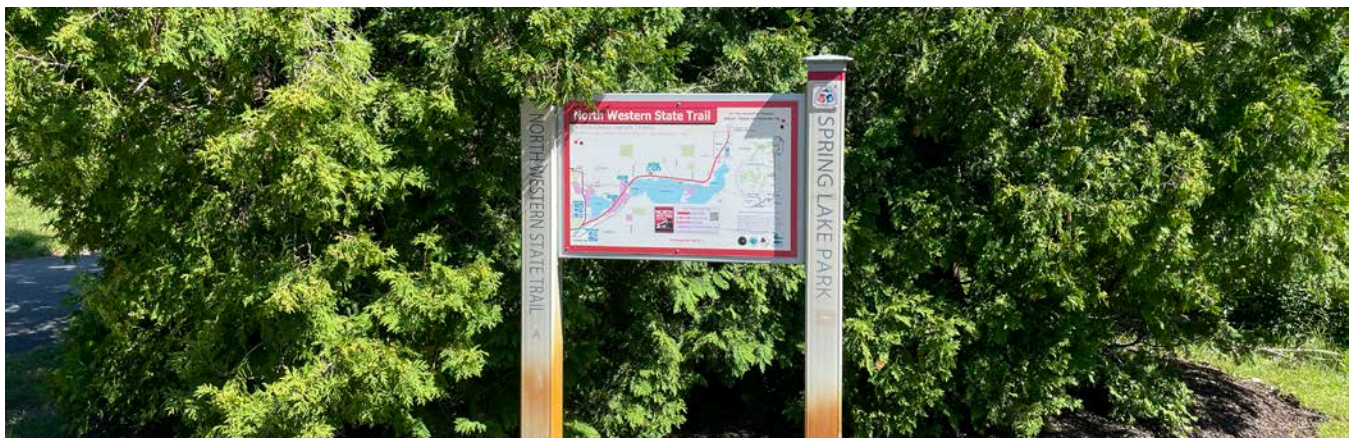
The Bear River is a 14.5-mile waterway that flows from Walloon Lake to Little Traverse Bay, offering a serene paddling experience and serving as a valued natural asset in the region. Originating in the Village of Walloon Lake in Charlevoix County, the river winds through Bear Creek Township, where it features mostly flat water as it gently passes through expansive wetlands and marshes. This largely undeveloped stretch provides a quiet, scenic retreat for outdoor enthusiasts seeking a peaceful alternative to the more active resort areas of Petoskey and Boyne City.³²

Although the Bear River is popular among paddlers, it has not yet been designated as an official water trail. Designating it as such would represent a community-driven effort to elevate its profile as a recreational destination, attract visitors, encourage recreational fishing, and promote healthy lifestyles and clean water.³³ Establishing a Bear River water trail would enhance the region's existing natural and recreational assets and could potentially link to the broader Lake Michigan National Water Trail. As a cherished regional resource, the Bear River should be a central focus in future planning efforts aimed at conservation and outdoor recreation.³⁴

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North Western State Trail sign at Spring Lake Park.



Jones Landing.

4. Planning Process

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Parks and recreation are a priority in Bear Creek Township; therefore, the Township decided to create this Parks and Recreation Plan to establish a recreation inventory and a list of prioritized projects, to continue to improve facilities and create new opportunities within the community. A key component of the parks and recreation planning process is community engagement. The planning process for the Parks and Recreation Plan began at the beginning of 2025 with community engagement being done in conjunction with the Bear Creek Township Master Plan.

Engagement included a survey that was online with paper copies available at the Bear Creek Township Hall, and was available from December 2, 2024, to March 20, 2025, receiving a total of 263 responses. The Township advertised the survey with flyers posted throughout the community, and on the Bear Creek Township website. Additionally, paper copies were enclosed with the 2024 winter tax bill and available for completion in person at Bear Creek Township Hall.

The Parks and Recreation Committee also hosted a public open house to receive input on the draft Parks and Recreation Plan update on January 27, 2026. A public review period was open to community members for 45 days, starting January 8, 2026 and ending February 22, 2026.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

What draws people to Bear Creek Township?

Residents are primarily attracted to the Township's natural and recreational resources. The top reasons for living in or visiting Bear Creek include proximity to trails and recreation (40.7%), natural resources (39.5%), and access to lakes (38.4%). Community character (30.8%) and personal connections (28.9%) were also significant factors.

Key Issues to Address in the Next Five Years

Respondents emphasized farmland preservation (53.6%) as the top priority. Recreation-related issues also ranked highly, with support for more green space and parks (47.9%), non-motorized trails and paths (41.1%), and expanding public waterfront access (25.9%).

Park Usage and Awareness

- » The Little Traverse Wheelway is the most frequently visited recreation area, with 29% visiting once per month or more.
- » The Bear River Recreation Area (28.8% visit monthly or more) and Petoskey State Park (21.5% visit monthly or more) are also popular.
- » Spring Lake Park had 10.1% visit a few times monthly and 4.4% of people visiting a few times per week.
- » Jones Landing experiences slightly more visits with 8.8% visiting a few times monthly and 5.2% visiting weekly.

Personal Recreation Activities

Recreation in Bear Creek is diverse, but the most common activities include walking (87.8%), hiking (70.4%), bicycling (62.5%), swimming (55.3%), and kayaking/canoeing (49.4%). Seasonal activities such as skiing, snowboarding, fishing, and snowmobiling are also well-represented.

Dog park interest

Nearly half (47.4%) support adding a dog park, with another 20% undecided, indicating overall community openness to the idea.

Funding support

A majority (58.5%) of respondents are willing to support a ¼ mill tax levy for park and trail improvements, showing strong backing for investment in recreation.

Quality of facilities and services

- » Parks and recreation facilities: 91.2% rated as good or excellent.
- » Trails: 85.1% rated as good or excellent.

OVERALL TAKEAWAYS

Bear Creek residents strongly value natural resources, recreation, and farmland preservation. There is clear community support for expanding parks, trails, and public waterfront access. Most residents are satisfied with current facilities and willing to fund future improvements. The Township is planning to conduct a park specific survey in the future to get more accurate data.



Bear River.

5.

Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives were developed from public input, Township staff, Township Board, and Parks and Recreation Committee member history and expertise.

A community survey, as well as an open house, was used to facilitate public input, which resulted in the development of the goals and objectives below. The 2026 update of the Parks and Recreation Plan also referenced the 2021-2025 Bear Creek Township Recreation Plan, the Emmet County Recreation Plan, and the City of Petoskey Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Decision Making & Formulation of Goals

It remains important to understand that Bear Creek Township is 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 Little Traverse Bay, Crooked, Round, and Walloon Lakes, and the Bear River, which runs north and south through the center of the Township. Visitors are also recreating on the Little Traverse Wheelway and the overlapping North Country Trail and Iron Belle Trail, all of which have sections of trail in the Township as well as Off Road Vehicle (ORV) designated trails. In the winter months, visitors arrive in Bear Creek Township and the surrounding Emmet County to downhill and cross-country ski at local resorts and snowmobile along miles of trails that connect communities across Northern Michigan.

Recreational needs are not always easy to identify in areas that are tourist-based. However, the Township recognizes the importance of the relationship between recreational opportunities and tourism and the potential opportunities that exist, as well as 'quality of life' for its residents.

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.

The US Department of Health and Human Services has established Leading Health Indicators (LHIs), or high priority health issues, that serve to measure public health. Physical Activity and Obesity continue to be LHI topics in the Healthy People 2030 plan. Increasing the proportion of adults who do enough aerobic and muscle strengthening activities and reducing the proportion of children and adolescents with obesity are priorities. Access to parks, open spaces and recreation areas are shown to improve quality of life.

Recreation for All Ages & Abilities

In order to support a diverse population, park infrastructure should enable, rather than discourage, inclusive and dynamic uses and activities. A collaboration between the AARP, 8 80 Cities nonprofit, and the Trust for Public Land created the guide, "Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages." Noting the disproportionately small number of older adult park users and the declining amount of time children are spending outdoors, the collaboration created the guide to give community leaders tools to improve public spaces.

The information provided is universal and may be applied strategically to any community's parks. The guide discusses good park design stating, "We know that women, older adults and parents with young children rate park safety and comfort as high priorities. Because of that, the presence of women, children and older adults is a significant indicator of good park design." Safety and comfort features may include lighted parking lots and certain park features (such as fields and courts), emergency call stations, seating in shaded areas, and personal care facilities such as baby changing stations.

In addition to safety and comfort concerns, parks may be designed to increase multi-generational activity and interaction. The 8 80 Cities nonprofit believes if everything we do in our cities is great for an eight year old and an 80 year old, then it will be great for all people. Combining activities that attract different user groups or user groups of all ages can enhance connections within the community. An example multi-generational area may include playground equipment for ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12, exercise stations for adults, picnic

tables, barbeque pits, benches, and drinking fountains. Both Jones Landing Park and Spring Lake Park provide multi-generational recreation facilities and thus, regularly have visitors with a diverse range of ages and abilities. Future parks and park improvements will apply these concepts which are further explored in the Goals and Objectives below.

Goal #1: Provide clean, safe, and well-maintained recreational opportunities at Township facilities.

The Township is continually striving to strengthen the maintenance program and improve the condition of all park facilities. Currently, the Township contracts the maintenance of Spring Lake Park, Jones Landing Park, and the Township Hall site including landscape maintenance, mowing and fertilizing, trail upkeep, building and picnic structure repairs, restroom maintenance, and trash removal.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop an operations plan as part of the capital improvement and maintenance plan to adequately address immediate and long-term budgetary needs for recreational facilities and personnel needs for the parks and recreation program.
2. Develop a maintenance program in-house to ensure quality recreational opportunities at Township facilities long term.
3. The Parks and Recreation Committee shall continue to provide oversight to assist staff with management of an operations and maintenance program and to make recommendations to the Township Board for improvements.
4. Seek out additional in-kind or sub-contracted services where and when needed to supplement a maintenance program and staff.
5. Maximize Township parks' potential and minimize Township in-house costs by forming shared maintenance agreements with other public and private operators.
6. Always consider the feasibility of utilizing LEED & Green Building Standards where practical.

LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (LEED)

Green building standards refer to the general measures/benchmarks that incentivize, evaluate, or enforce efforts to minimize the negative effects and/or maximize the positive effects of built structures on the natural environment. **Internationally, LEED is the most widely used green building rating system.** The LEED framework encompasses all aspects of a building's development and lifespan, and is used to award varying degrees of certifications to individual structures based on their alignment with LEED's metrics for sustainable design and operations.

Source: U.S. Green Building Council

Goal #2: Support a regional non-motorized transportation plan.

Currently, the Township's recreational facilities are not directly connected by non-motorized trails. Poor signage and lack of safe at-grade crossings limit a universally accessible system. Township residents have expressed interest in expanding the existing non-motorized transportation system.

Bear Creek Township supports the idea of creating of a non-motorized transportation plan (NMTP) to support a connected network of trails, paths, and sidewalks to existing parks and natural areas in the area as well as consider future improvements to the Township's parks and recreation program. Many of the regional trails have been discussed throughout this plan; however a NMTP would focus on local routes and connections in detail, including to and from regional trails.

OBJECTIVES

1. Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the current non-motorized transportation system.
2. Identify strategic locations in the non-motorized transportation network where gaps prohibit safe and efficient non-motorized travel. Priority should be placed on projects that connect Township parks, schools, and neighborhoods.

3. Continue to work together with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and their ongoing trail improvements to the Bear Creek Township section of the Little Traverse Bay Wheelway.
4. Participate in joint trail planning efforts supported by Emmet County, the City of Petoskey, and adjacent townships.
5. Coordinate with local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) such as the Little Traverse Conservancy and trail advocacy groups including the Top of Michigan Trails Council for trail planning and development.
6. Implement universal design as a design standard for all new facilities and improvements to existing.

Goal #3: Partner with property owners to provide access to Little Traverse Bay along Tannery Creek.

The Township borders the Little Traverse Bay (Lake Michigan) on the northwest corner, but the Township does not have public access to the lake. The Little Traverse Wheelway follows along the shoreline and provides adjacent access, but demand exists to expand access to the lake and develop amenities that would support trail users as well as lake users. There is also a need to improve the ecological conditions of the nearby Tannery Creek which empties into the bay at this location.

Tannery Creek is located within the jurisdiction of the Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan created by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. The Watershed Council performs biological monitoring of the creek which has been impacted by aquatic invasive species and threats such as nonpoint source pollution, eroding riverbanks, and urban development. Efforts to improve water quality in Tannery Creek will help ensure it remains a vital resource for wildlife viewing and cold water fishing.

OBJECTIVES

1. Consider feasibility of acquiring property to develop a park that would provide waterfront access to both Little Traverse Bay and Tannery Creek as well as provide trailhead amenities for Wheelway Trail-users.
2. Identify and reach out to the property owner(s) of parcels located adjacent to Little Traverse Bay



Aerial View of Little Traverse Wheelway and Adjoining Property North of D&W Market.

Source: Emmet County

to discuss intentions for future development and interest in partnerships for future improvements.

3. Support improvement of basic amenities on-site that could include improved parking, restrooms, bike racks, drinking fountains, and waste receptacles. Coordinate future grants with the County and State.
4. Support universal access to the Little Traverse Bay, Tannery Creek, the Wheelway, and restrooms.
5. Work with local non-profits such as the Little Traverse Conservancy, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, and MDNR to increase public education on the importance of improving/protecting water quality.
6. Consider ecological sensitivity of the Tannery Creek and protect water quality and native wildlife species by applying stormwater best-management practices and Low-Impact Development standards when improving the site.

Goal #4: Provide recreation facilities and amenities that encourage recreation access for a wide range of user groups.

In Northern Michigan, there is a strong demand for a variety of recreation amenities. The demand is driven by people both young and old, and of all ability levels. This plan identifies opportunities at each park facility to improve the variety of recreation amenities and the accessibility of each park. These improvements will continue to encourage an active lifestyle for residents and visitors alike. An active lifestyle can be supported

by providing active or passive recreational programming at recreation facilities.

Currently, the Township partners with the City of Petoskey to offer active and passive recreational programming. User groups may also utilize Township facilities for organized games, practices, or events. The Township also has non-profit organizations that conduct activities on Township recreational lands. The Township is interested in supporting user-defined programming needs for all ages and abilities.

OBJECTIVES

1. Work with non-profits, active sports organizations, and other recreation-based groups to promote and encourage their activities wherever possible in order to broaden programming availability and diversity in the Township.
2. Develop site master plans to determine the best possible uses and recreational opportunities at the Atkins Preserve Property, Click Road Property, and River Road Property.
3. Provide accessible recreation facilities wherever possible.
4. Purchase additional property on an as-needed basis that would support existing recreational facilities and create new recreational opportunities.
 - » Acquire additional property to expand parking at Jones Landing.
 - » Acquire property along Little Traverse Bay.

5. Partner with the DNR to lease land for a non-motorized boat launch at Evergreen Road.
6. Support the creation of a Bear River Water Trail and work with neighboring governmental jurisdictions to develop and implement a water trail.

Goal #5: Inform, educate, and encourage residents about parks and recreation opportunities in the Township.

As the Township continues to expand recreational capacity by improving existing sites, building new facilities, and implementing an operating and maintenance plan increasing the level of awareness about the types of facilities and resources available will be highly important.

OBJECTIVES

1. Utilize on-site messaging boards and the Township website to inform Township residents of ongoing recreation projects and programs.
2. Provide adequate signage to identify recreation facilities and promote educational opportunities throughout the parks.
3. Develop a newsletter for parks and recreation information in addition to updates in regular Township mailings throughout the year.
4. Maintain partnerships with surrounding communities that provide services and programs not currently offered in the Township.



Jones Landing Park.

ACTION PROGRAM

RECREATIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE 2026-2030

In addition to current conditions, the Recreation Inventory provides a discussion of site-specific recommendations and future improvements.

Subsequently, input was gathered from the community survey, 30-day Public Comment period, and Township staff to create and prioritize the Goals and Objectives. The following table organizes the specific projects over the next five years by recreation area, estimated year of implementation and proposed funding sources.

Table 7: Action Program

Park Name	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Funding Sources
Atkins Preserve			Expand Gravel Parking Area, Trail Clearing and Development	Install Interpretive Signage		Twp. General Fund, Volunteer Service
Click Road Greenspace		Site Development Conceptual Drawings	Establish Gravel Parking Area		Develop Spur Trail to Access River, Construct Viewing Platform at River, Install Signage	Twp. General Fund, DNR Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant
Jones Landing Park	Replace Existing Signage, Repaint Parking Lot Striping & Replace Parking Pucks	Improve Accessibility of Beach/Lake and Playground	Develop Accessible Kayak and Canoe Launch	Parking Expansion Land Acquisition	Parking Expansion	Twp. General Fund, Local Grants, DNR LWCF Grant, Walloon Lake Association
Spring Lake Park	Restroom, Pavillion, Deck and Trail Improvements Completed	Establish Protections for Water and Expand Monitoring	M-119 Road Crossing Improvement	Designate and Improve Access Locations to Minimize Erosion	Boardwalk and Handrailing Improvements	MNRTF, Petoskey-Harbor Springs Community Foundation, TAP
DNR Evergreen Road Property Lease	Site Development Conceptual Drawings		Install Gravel Parking Area, Trail Development, Signage		Establish Bear River Water Trail	Twp. General Fund, Recreation Passport, MNRTF
Other	Develop Parks Operating & Maintenance Plan	Conduct Study on Short and Long term Parks Budget	Trail and Sidewalk Improvements, Explore and Evaluate Non-Motorized Transportation Connections Throughout the Township		Little Traverse Bay Property Acquisition	Twp. General Fund, MNRTF, Safe Routes to School, TAP

Abbreviations:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF); Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); Michigan Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP); Michigan Rural Task Force/Small Urban Program (RTF)

Appendix

- A. Resolution
- B. Resolution of Adoption Meeting Minutes - Township Board
- C. Meeting Minutes - Parks Board
- D. Public Hearing Meeting Minutes - Township Board
- E. Public Hearing Notice & Affidavit
- F. 45-Day Public Review Notice & Affidavit
- G. Survey Flyer
- H. Survey Results
- I. Open House Notice & Affidavit
- J. Post-Completion Forms
- K. Letters of Transmittal

A. Resolution

August 3, 2026
2026-2030 Parks and Recreation Plan
Resolution #07-26

WHEREAS, Bear Creek Township has undertaken an update of the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan, which describes the physical features, existing parks and recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to maintain and improve recreation facilities during the period 2026 through 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Bear Creek Township Parks and Recreation Committee has worked to update the Parks and Recreation Plan for the benefit of the entire township and believes that the adoption of this Plan will assist in meeting the recreation needs of the township; and

WHEREAS, the Bear Creek Township Parks and Recreation Committee has reviewed the Parks and Recreation Plan and recommends adoption of the Plan by the Township Board of Trustees;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bear Creek Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the 2026-2030 Bear Creek Township Parks and Recreation Plan and directs the Clerk to submit a copy of the Plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED



Garrett Muir, Township Supervisor



Emma Radatovich, Township Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Bear Creek Township Board at a regular meeting held on August 5, 2026, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, PA 1976, as amended.



EMMA RADATOVICH, Township Clerk

B. Resolution of Adoption Meeting Minutes - Township Board

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Bear Creek Township Regular Meeting August 5, 2026

Time: 7:00pm

Roll Call: Golding, Hoffman, Muir, Urman, Radatovich

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting July 1, 2026 and election commission meeting July 7, 2026. Edits for the July 1st minutes were recommended from the Recreation Plan consultant.

Motion by Radatovich to approve the minutes as amended. 2nd by Hoffman.

Passed

Request from the Floor

Karen Dodge expressed thoughts regarding the draft master plan that was presented at the last planning commission meeting. She noted that the land use section has generated lots of discussion and there is a continued emphasis on aligning with the county's plan. She wants to ensure that the community is being accurately reflected, noting that the terms "urban" and "suburban" do not accurately reflect the existing rural character of the township or the vision residents have for its character. She suggested revisiting or eliminating the framework plan, asking if these designations reflect the Bear Creek Township community or reflect a particular planning philosophy. The plan should be proportionate to the township's needs. She asked that the board actively participate, as participation strengthens the process, noting that this is a community document.

Jackie Hall asked that the board consider making packets available on documents on demand.

Karla Buckmaster reviewed the history of the Hiawatha house that the township purchased in order to acquire the land for future sewer expansion. She expressed concerns over who the property manager is and the expenses that have gone into the home. She asked about the bid for removal that the township is preparing.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Hoffman to approve the agenda as presented. 2nd by Radatovich.

Passed

Unfinished Business

Firehall Update

Muir shared that Ironwood is working through the punch list items, such as gutters. The repairs to the siding damage are coming along. Ironwood believes approximately 75% of the punch list is complete. Muir noted that the two firewall doors require auto closers, and currently have kick stop door closers. The kick stops need to be removed and the suggested replacement is a magnetic latch that would release if alarms went off. The quote from EPS to do this is in the amount of \$1976.88. This would be for the clerk's office and kitchen doors.

Motion by Urman to approve the quote from EPS for magnetic latches for the clerk's office and kitchen doors, in the amount of \$1,976.88. 2nd by Radatovich.

Passed

Muir noted that Sunrise was working all day today installing the cameras for the zoom system. They will need to finish up in the coming days. Muir noted that the board asked him to get a new quote to move speakers from the back of the room closer, and add five speakers. That quote came back at \$8,169.25. Muir will be working with Shure directly on Friday regarding the reoccurring issue that seems to be happening with the microphones.

Radatovich suggested waiting before approving any additional speakers to see how Shure addresses the microphone issue. Urman agrees. Hoffman noted it would take time to get new speakers. The board agreed to wait on approving any more speakers for the time being.

Muir shared the payment voucher submitted by Ironwood. There are a couple items on the invoice related to code compliance and then the gutters. Muir noted that he did get some answers back regarding code compliance, and would like to schedule a meeting with the board to discuss that.

Motion by Hoffman to approve payment of the gutters and related overhead only. 2nd by Radatovich.

Passed

Spring Lake Park Update

B. Resolution of Adoption Meeting Minutes - Township Board

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Muir noted that the trash cans and benches arrived, and he hopes to have them to the park this week. He shared the remaining punch list items with the board, noting that some will continue to be completed and some will wait until the parks close in order to close the bathroom.

Website RFP Update

Muir shared four bids from companies for website redesign. They are all functionally similar. Revize and Civic Plus use proprietary software and Garrison and STG use an open source platform. The alternates are not included in these bids and can be added at a later time. Muir's recommendation is STG. They build lots of township websites, including the MTA website. Garrison works directly with DOD as the preferred partner. Hoffman asked about the cost of the domain. Muir noted that is through Common Angle. He noted that it may be wise for he and Radatovich to sit down with the selected vendor for an in depth meeting. The process should take a couple months. Urman noted that the quote allows for a three year agreement.

Motion by Radatovich to approve a 3 year contract with STG for website redesign. 2nd by Golding.

Passed

Hiawatha House Update

Muir noted that the intention of the board is to sell the home so it can hopefully be reused by someone. The renters fell behind again in rent, so he started proceedings with Wurster. He is preparing a draft RFP for the board to review and will have that ready next month. Hoffman noted that we needed the property for future sewer expansion, but he would like to get rid of the home itself.

Sewer Meter Reader Position

Muir shared that Dustin Urman was interviewed for this position. The other applicant was reached out to several times for an interview and did not respond.

(Tom) Urman recused himself from this agenda item.

Muir noted that (Dustin) Urman was well spoken and knows what needs to be done for the job. Hoffman noted it is important to have someone who understands the readers and meters. Radatovich noted that it is also critical to have someone well versed in repair. Muir noted that (Dustin) Urman would answer directly to him and work with Coats. The current meter reader will read meters with him for one quarter.

Motion by Muir to hire Dustin Urman as the new sewer meter reader, at the current rates being paid. 2nd by Radatovich. **Passed**

Assistant Assessor

Muir shared that 32 people applied for this position and six were invited to interview. One candidate did not appear. Ruth Jennings was invited for a second interview and has 10 years of administrative experience in an assessing office and previously held her MCAT certification. Muir is recommending hiring her at \$24.50 an hour with a pay raise to \$25/hr upon receiving her MCAT certification.

Motion by Urman to hire Ruth Jennings as the Assistant Assessor for \$24.50/hr, with an automatic increase to \$25/hr upon receiving her MCAT certification. 2nd by Hoffman.

Passed

Parks and Recreation Plan

Muir noted that the Parks and Recreation Plan has been revised to address comments made at the last meeting. There are still things that will need to be approved administratively, such as approved minutes.

Motion by Radatovich to adopt Resolution 07-26, adopting the 2026-2030 Parks and Recreation Plan. 2nd by Golding.

Roll Call: Hoffman, Urman, Muir, Golding, Radatovich

Yes: Hoffman, Urman, Muir, Golding, Radatovich

Passed

New Business

Capital Improvement Plan

Muir noted that he received a quote from Maner Costerisan to prepare a capital improvement plan for the township. The township has many assets, including fire trucks, and large maintenance items, including parks, buildings, and sewer. This plan would give us a guiding path for the budget. Additionally there is a second level to this project where you can get more detailed. An engineer can come and explicitly inventory your maintenance items and include those in the plan. The quote from Maner Costerisan today in the amount of \$7,750 does not include that second tier of detail. The board can discuss that at a later time. Radatovich agreed this is necessary to protect the investments made with public tax dollars.

Motion by Radatovich to approve the estimate from Maner Costerisan in the amount of \$7,750 to prepare a capital improvement plan for the township. 2nd by Golding.

Passed

Paser Report

Muir shared the PASER Report from the Emmet County Road Commission. Our road ratings are better than the county roads, reflecting the investment we have put in our local roads. Urman would like to see the township focus on the low rated roads (2-3 rating). He noted that only 30% of our roads are rated low, so we are doing well. He noted that in the past, due to the mobilization charge, it has worked well to concentrate on a cluster of roads. Hoffman noted that Cedar Valley needs quite a bit of work.

ARPA

Muir reported that the township has \$54,740 remaining in ARPA funds that have been allocated to the township offices. He shared a quote from Access Locksmithing to add two keypad locks to the office, in the amount of \$1,538.00.

Urman recused himself from this discussion.

Muir noted that the township could also consider upgrading the camera system at the office. The current system has blind spots and poor quality cameras. If we were to update the system, not only would the camera quality be better, but it could also be tied to the new hall system. The board originally discussed using these remaining ARPA funds on the columns at the office, but it is unlikely that the construction could be done by the end of the year, when ARPA funds need to be spent.

Motion by Radatovich to approve the quote from Access Locksmithing for \$1,538, and to use ARPA funds to pay for it. 2nd by Hoffman. **Passed**

Urman returned to the meeting.

Muir shared again the concept of the security camera update. Urman suggested a gate for the new hall. Muir noted that the allocation is for the township office space and cannot be reallocated.

Muir shared that the township also has \$50,000 remaining in ARPA funds that have been allocated to sewer. We have about 330 meters, many of which are mechanical dials. These could stand to be upgraded, as many are in people's basement or behind businesses. The handheld reader holds five readings at a time, and errors can happen either in the reading of the meter, the transposition of the reads or in entering it into the computer. The standard today is an automatic reader with a SIM card that will scan the meter and send it from the device to BS&A. Muir shared two quotes, the first for \$38,650 to replace the meters and get the handheld reader and tablet. That would not include the labor for replacing the meters. The second quote, for \$98,825, is for a radio reader which goes on a car. One thing to note is that the business is switching to the radio reader all together and is anticipating that they will not make and support the handheld reader in the coming years. However, there are third party companies that could be used and ours has lasted for years. Muir suggested we keep these quotes on hand, to use ARPA money first on any large expenses that come up, such as pump replacement, and if something does not arise, then to use ARPA funds on these meter replacements.

Hoffman asked how many need to be upgraded. Muir noted that 57 need to be upgraded. Radatovich noted that it would be nice if we end up doing this to have some of the labor included, because we have \$50,000 in ARPA funds to spend and the quote is for \$38,650. She does not want the remaining ARPA funds to be lost.

Muir will bring this back to the board in October with an estimated labor cost.

Todd Flynn suggested pre-purchasing a pump and leaving it on the shelf until it was needed.

Commissioner's Report – Brian Gutowski: None

Planning and Zoning

Radatovich shared that at the July 29th meeting, the Planning Commission recommended approval of case PPTXT26-01, which is a commercial storage text amendment. The Planning Commission also reviewed chapter 11 of the Master Plan and made suggested edits. The next regular planning commission meeting, which will also include the master plan, has been rescheduled for August 24th at 6:30pm.

Muir shared comments and recommendations regarding the proposed text amendment. He noted that some of the industrial uses are being more protected than the residential. There are 300ft setbacks from highways but 50ft setbacks in rural residential areas. He wants to make sure residents are protected. When you are driving down Cedar Valley Rd, you would not expect to see that, but driving by Fochtman Industrial Park, you would expect to see it. Muir noted that there used to be an I-1 and I-2 zoning district, and wondered if this is the exact situation where that would be a benefit. Industrial should be manufacturing, heavy environmental contamination, true industrial type uses. Muir also noted that there are many B-2 uses that are significantly more

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impactful than warehousing. He gave examples such as a convention/conference center, which could have hundreds of cars going in and out. A commercial and industrial leasing center, which would have heavy duty equipment sitting by the road, is available in business right now. Food and beverage bottling and processing, recycling facilities, transfer stations, and sanitary landfills are all allowed in business. He requests that the planning commission considers the implication of forcing something to go only in industrial, noting that he does not want them to pick and choose items they like and don't like. He suggested the possibility of limiting the height and size that goes in business instead of industrial. He agreed that no one wants mega buildings in commercial where there should be an economically stimulating business. He noted that Bear Creek Township will be more affected by this than any other township. They are putting a lot of heavy use in industrial right now, and if industrial fills up because this is the only place they can go, then the planning commission may have to look at expanding industrial in Bear Creek.

Radatovich agreed that she would like to revisit the idea of I-1 and I-2 zoning. Hoffman remarked that we only have so much commercial, and the demand is a lot.

On the master plan, Urman noted that the building blocks under the housing cornerstone has been condensed to one. He noted that in the future land use graph bar, the color has not yet been changed on high density. The planning commission has been doing a good job on this, but that chapter is really important. Future land use needs to be looked at and board members should be studying that. He noted that it is important to consider what the residents expressed in the survey. He would like to see the future land use map get moved up even tighter to city limits and would like to see defined road lines. He suggested getting a zoning map to overlay over the future land use map so lines can be designated. He noted that the county is trying to overlay our map with theirs, but Bear Creek doesn't totally have to line those lines together, as it is our township we are planning. He believes it is really important to our residents to protect the rural community.

Motion by Hoffman to submit the township minutes from this meeting as our recommended feedback for consideration to the county. 2nd by Radatovich. **Passed**

Fire Department

Welsheimer noted there were 48 calls this last month, 54% of which were non-emergency calls. There were many false alarms with high humidity. There were four fire calls, three of which were grass fires and one was a dumpster fire. The department completed relay pump operations and had a few crashes this past month as well. There was a fire behind D&W this week, started by a grill that caught a dead tree on fire. Some of the neighbors in the area are concerned. The department participated in the Bay View and City of Petoskey 4th of July parades. At the fire board meeting, they discussed budgeting for aging equipment. Additionally, the State of Michigan has released a fire equipment grant, where townships can receive up to \$50,000. He would like to use this grant to purchase the equipment for the new truck. Resort Township will also be applying. Radatovich asked if Bay Township or the Tribe would consider applying as well. Welsheimer noted that Bay Township is split for coverage and he reached out to the tribe and hasn't heard back.

Motion by Muir to apply for the Fire Equipment Grant Program for the full amount. 2nd by Urman. **Passed**

Regarding the truck that was damaged in the accident, Welsheimer noted that the two pieces are currently being repaired at Lake Area Collision.

Parks and Recreation

Muir shared that the creeping vines on the Jones Landing bathhouse have been cut back. There was an issue with the bathroom clogging that has been repaired. There is an issue with the water fountains and shower tower, with granular coming out of the well. The plumber has replaced the filter, but finds grains of sand every time he opens the cannister. The parks committee had their meeting at Jones Landing. There are no updates on Spring Lake Park, Atkins Preserve, or the Click Rd property. The permit has been submitted for Evergreen Trl and we are waiting for review. The next meeting is September 7th at Spring Lake Park, weather permitting. The committee is encouraged to meet at the parks in the summer.

Correspondence

Muir shared the flyer for the regional MTA meeting. He shared a press release from Emmet County DPW, detailing the flood debris voucher program. They are currently extending the vouchers to honor them through October 17th. If you think you would have items that qualify from the flooding event, you can go to the DPW center or county building and pick up vouchers. Muir encouraged those who were impacted to use this program.

Supervisor/Assessor's Report

Muir shared that at the July Board of Review, there were no property exemption cases and 9 petitions. We need to get an alternate in place before December. He will get it posted on the website. There is no update on DTE other than we need to find out when the public forum will take place.

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Clerk's Business

Radatovich reported bills in the amount of \$262,655.16.

Motion by Radatovich to approve the bills in the amount of \$262,655.16. 2nd by Golding.

Passed

Radatovich noted that we are in the process of completing the annual audit. This is our first year with the new firm.

Radatovich shared a report of the August 4, 2026 primary election, noting approximate 35-36% turnout, both at the township and county level. She thanked her team for making the election a success.

Radatovich shared an update on her search for a deputy clerk. She posted the job in March 2026 and Coats agreed to step in in an interim capacity. However, Radatovich has not received any qualified applicants, and Coats has been interim deputy longer than expected. A few weeks ago, Coats expressed that she would like additional compensation in order to continue as deputy clerk following the August 4th election. Upon receiving that request, Radatovich did some research as to what would be fair compensation. She discovered that the average deputy clerk wage on the salary survey we have used with comparable townships is in the \$27/hr range. An election season is approximately 8 weeks long. In taking the difference between the \$27/hr and Coats' current wage, over an 8 week time period, it would be about a \$500 difference. In a meeting with her today, August 5th, Radatovich asked Coats if a \$500 per election stipend going forward would suffice for her to stay on as interim deputy clerk, indicating that it would likely just be for the November 2026 election, if she can find a new deputy to train for the 2028 election cycle. Coats agreed to this wage. Based upon that conversation, Radatovich suggested to the board a \$500 per election stipend for Coats, to ensure that the township has election help for the November election, with the intention of leaving the deputy clerk job posting live and continuing to search for a new hire, to be trained in 2027 (to be ready for the 2028 election cycle). She expressed the need for an additional person in the office to help, noting that the workload is too much.

Motion by Golding to approve a \$500 stipend for Coats for assisting with the November election cycle. 2nd by Radatovich.

Passed

Treasurer's Report

Golding presented the treasurer's report as of 7.31.26.

Building Department Report

Conklin shared the building department report, noting that permits and inspections were down in July. There are a few finals that have been approved for new businesses opening. He is working to get bids together to sell the Tahoe. Urman asked about advertising the bid. Muir noted that the request for bids can be on the website and by word of mouth. Conklin noted that another department in the area may be interested in purchasing the vehicle as well.

Sewer Business

There are two sets of sewer bills for approval. The June sewer bills, in the amount of \$78,176.21, and the July 2026 sewer bills, in the amount of \$91,838.05.

Motion by Muir to approve the sewer bills in the amount of \$78,176.21 and \$91,838.05. 2nd by Radatovich.

Passed

There is one sewer service permit application for approval: 1 REU for 2240 E Mitchell Rd.

Motion by Muir to approve Permit No. 656-528-26, the sewer service permit application for 1 REU for 2240 E Mitchell Rd. 2nd by Radatovich.

Passed

Request from the Floor

Jackie Hall requested the board discuss posting packets online.

Tana Baldwin suggested using the ARPA funds for a wider front door to the office, that would accommodate a wide wheelchair to get through easily. She reminded Muir about the suckers on the trees at Jones Landing and noted she had an elderly neighbor who was approached by DTE with paperwork in hand.

Ryan Flynn noted that the county owns the roads and asked why we are funding to fix county roads.

Karla Buckmaster shared concerns about the approved Recreation Plan.

Other Business

Hoffman noted that he went to the Walloon Lake Watershed Collaborative meeting, where the health department reported on sewer. The Walloon Lake Association is looking for someone to come to our board meetings quarterly.

B. Resolution of Adoption Meeting Minutes - Township Board

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Muir responded to the request for the board to put the packet online. At this time the board is waiting to make a change until the website is complete.

Regarding the Recreation Plan, Muir noted that the Recreation Committee went through the comments, and many changes were addressed. Comments that came in were appreciated and he hopes they continue to come.

Regarding the suggestion to use ARPA funds on sewer pumps, he will look into it and reach out to the sewer authority.

Next Regular Meeting: September 2, 2026

Adjournment: 9:21pm

Emma Radatovich

Emma Radatovich, Township Clerk

Bear Creek Parks and Recreation
Bear Creek Township Offices
5-4-26
6:00 PM

Maureen Doull called the Park and Recreation meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Roll called by Doug Kendziorski

Present at the meeting: Bush, Doull, Villemure, Urman, Slocum, Kendziorski, Goldsmith
Special Guest: Garrett Muir-Bear Creek

Slocum made a motion to approve minutes with correction of Doull name in paragraph 4 from 4/6/26, Villemure 2nd motion, unanimously approved.

Five Year Recreation Plan- Muir spoke about the review of the plan. Corrections were made per the suggestions from previous meetings. The grammar issue was brought up and discussed, and some of the corrections were made, but it is felt by the committee it is fine as is. On page 8, the square milage issue was corrected. The demographic issue was addressed on page 14, with Muir explaining the importance of trying hard to cater to our township residents. The verbiage regarding the park and recreation millage in the future will be changed to be at committee level and will be forwarded to the board level if this is appropriate after further study. The map on page 20 has been cleaned up by Muir and Doull to be much clearer and more concise.

Slocum made motion to recommend approval of the 2026-2030 Park and Recreation Plan to the board and for them to schedule a public hearing at the next regular meeting for adoption. Bush 2nd, passed unanimously.

Spring Lake Park- Muir stated the park renovation is close to completion and should be done by Memorial Day weekend. Once the bathrooms are completed the only thing left will be landscape related. Benches were discussed and will be installed soon.

Kendziorski recommended we have the June 1st meeting at Spring Lake Park. This will get posted for the public.

Jones Landing – Muir spoke about the buoys we will need for the swimming area and their expense. He has two quotes.

Kendziorski made a motion for the township board to approve expenditures not to exceed \$1000 for a buoy system for the swimming area. Goldsmith 2nd, passed unanimously.

Villemure made a motion for the new signage at Jones Landing not to exceed \$6500 for the township board to approve. Goldsmith 2nd, unanimously approved.

Sealcoating for Jones Landing will probably happen in the fall due to the nighttime temperatures being too low this time of year.

Kendziorski has the large stone, plaque and sugar maple which will be installed in the next week.

C. Meeting Minutes - Parks Board

Atkins Preserve – Nothing new regarding this property.

Evergreen Canoe Launch – Muir informed the committee this is still in motion and the wheels of the state move very slowly.

Releaf Michigan – Muir informed the committee that Spring Lake Park will receive 20 new trees from Releaf Michigan on May 16th to plant. We have 9 out of the 20 volunteers we'd like to have for the planting day. Doull will be coordinating the volunteers for this effort. Muir to call Miss Dig prior to the planting day. Holes will be dug so the planting shouldn't be very strenuous.

Doull made a motion to host the next meeting at Spring Lake Park, weather permitting. 2nd by Kendziorski, passed unanimously.

Next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be June 1st at 6:00 p.m. at Spring Lake Park weather permitting.

Kendziorski made motion to adjourn at 7:06, 2nd by Villemure. Unanimously approved.

Doug Kendziorski
Recording Secretary

D. Public Hearing Meeting Minutes - Township Board

1

Bear Creek Township Regular Meeting July 1, 2026

Time: 7:00pm

Roll Call: Golding, Hoffman, Muir, Urman, Radatovich

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting June 3, 2026.

Motion by Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented. 2nd by Golding.

Passed

Public Hearing of Parks and Recreation Plan

Muir shared that the Parks and Recreation Committee held an open house for the Recreation Plan, and the plan has gone through a 45 day review period ~~the 15 day public hearing~~. The 15 day required public notice was posted to the local paper and website for the public hearing tonight. Call for comment was made and there was one written ~~public~~ comment submitted from Karla Buckmaster, which has been shared with board members.

Motion by Muir to open the public hearing for the 2026 Parks and Recreation Plan. 2nd by Radatovich.

Passed

Time: 7:05pm

Karen Dodge noted that some township statistics in the community profile could be clearer, as it can get confusing with the statistics of other entities. She made comment about universal design and the reference to ADA at Jones Landing. She asked for more detail there. Regarding the action program, she noted that she is not in favor of a parks and recreation millage.

Karla Buckmaster made comment of some technical errors within the document. She made note of the section on disability rates and ADA requirements and asked about the accessibility at Jones Landing. She expressed opposition to a parks and recreation millage and noted that the date a source was published should be included in the references. She asked about the section referring to LEED and remarked that some of the survey question responses were limited.

Motion by Golding to close the public hearing for the 2026 Parks and Recreation Plan. 2nd by Hoffman.

Passed

Time: 7:18pm

Request from the Floor

Tana Baldwin asked about the fee for Positive Pay. Muir noted that there will not be a fee.

Buckmaster read from a prepared statement regarding her concern of cronyism within the township. She gave examples and noted that this is a good time for the new supervisor to lead the township away from cronyism.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Hoffman to approve the agenda as presented. 2nd by Radatovich.

Passed

Unfinished Business

Firehall Update

Muir noted that we are waiting for steel to come in to complete the punch list. That should arrive mid-July and we should see action shortly following. He received two quotes for cleaning the new hall, one from Grays for \$100 and the other from Up North Cleaning for \$135. This would be for the hall, bathrooms, and kitchen, twice a month.

Motion by Hoffman to contract with Grays for cleaning of the hall at 1710 Click Rd. 2nd by Radatovich.

Passed

Muir shared that the irrigation and seeding have been complete and there was some stonework added due to the washout. The invoice from David Hoffman is for \$33,800. \$29,000 was the original contract and \$4,800 was for the additional work.

Motion by Radatovich to approve the invoice from David Hoffman for the landscaping at the new hall for \$33,800. 2nd by Golding.

Passed

Muir noted that there was an incident during a fire drill that resulted in damage to the new hall. He contacted L-L Contracting, who will be doing the punch list items for the metal later in the month, and they gave a quote for repair of \$5,000.

Motion by Urman to approve the quote from L-L Contracting for repair of the new hall for \$5,000. 2nd by Golding.

Passed

D. Public Hearing Meeting Minutes - Township Board

2

Muir shared payment voucher #24 from Ironwood, noting that of the invoice, \$9,445 is for the heat loss issue on the fire wall. Ironwood had their architect draw something up and correct the issue, but we are unsure if it is Bear Creek's responsibility to pay for it, if it is a design error. He would like a lawyer to take a look at it to get an opinion if it is Bear Creek's responsibility to pay. His suggestion is to pay the bill less the amount for the heat loss issue, and the overhead and profit associated with it.

Motion by Muir to seek legal counsel regarding the contract with Ironwood and to pay voucher #24 less the heat loss related items, including overhead and profit associated with it. 2nd by Radatovich. **Passed**

Muir noted that GLE has finished moving the electrical box, but the line for internet was damaged in the process. Once that line is repaired, we can move forward with the sign. We are waiting to hear back from the vendor for the speakers regarding a quote and our equipment to have virtual meetings has been ordered, but we are past the projected delivery date.

Spring Lake Park Update

Muir shared two invoices from Bluebird Day Architecture for additional work that was completed- the rebidding and the redesign of the deck. These invoices are for \$1,800 and \$2,000.

Motion by Radatovich to approve the quotes from Bluebird Day Architecture for additional work at Spring Lake Park, in the amounts of \$1,800 and \$2,000. 2nd by Hoffman. **Passed**

Muir shared that a few small items will need to be purchased for the park. The first is new trash cans. He shared two options- a recycled plastic and metal. The parks and recreation committee is recommending the plastic. Additionally, there is a bench that needs to be ordered.

Motion by Radatovich to approve the purchase of four plastic trash cans with lids and one bench for Spring Lake Park. 2nd by Urman. **Passed**

Muir noted that the lighting in the pavilion is currently collecting bugs. The architect has proposed a new light that would prevent bug penetration. We received a quote from Waters Edge Contracting for installation.

Motion by Hoffman to approve new light fixtures for the pavilion at Spring Lake Park in the amount of \$1,062.60. 2nd by Radatovich. **Passed**

Muir shared proposed new signage for the park, the majority of which is covered under the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation grant. The quote from Pro Image Design is for \$4,429.86, of which, the township's portion would be \$827. This is a reimbursement grant.

Motion by Radatovich to approve the quote from Pro Image Design for new signage at Spring Lake Park in the amount of \$4,429.86. 2nd by Golding. **Passed**

Website RFP Update

Muir prepared an RFP for website design and is looking for board approval. He noted that it may be wise for himself and another board member to review the proposals as they come in, as he is anticipating many responses.

Motion by Muir to approve the RFP for Website Redesign, Development, and Support. 2nd by Radatovich. **Passed**

Hiawatha House Update

Muir noted that this property was originally purchased for the upgrade of the sewer station and in anticipation of a larger sewer station being built there in the future. At the time, the board opted to rent out the house. The current renters are functionally caught up on rent. The township will need to decide to renew their lease on a month to month basis or not to renew. He asked if the board would like to continue renting this house or if it would be better to get out of the rental business.

Hoffman would like to see the township put the house out to bid for removal, restore the property and then the township would retain the property. Muir noted that this is a central location between Conway, the Harbor Springs Sewage Disposal Authority, and Bear Creek Township. He agrees that he would like to see the township retain the land and put the house up for bid for removal. Radatovich and Golding agree. Urman agreed and noted that we bought the property anticipating future growth.

Muir suggested we allow the tenant to remain there on a month to month basis. He will put together a bid document for the house and put the tenants on notice. Urman suggested giving the tenants 30 days once the home has sold.

Muir asked if the bid itself should include site restoration. Urman noted that there is a crawl space plus the well will need to be capped. Hoffman noted that not everyone who bids may have the capacity to do that. Muir suggested having site restoration as an alternate on the bid.

Policy 5.9 Employment of Relatives

Muir shared a quote from Mika Meyers of \$750 to review our policy. The current policy matches the MTA recommended policy, which is reviewed by MTA's legal counsel. He feels our current policy is adequate, but noted that the MTA language stating that a township board could adopt a different definition was left in originally and will need to be removed. Hoffman agreed that the board does not need to spend the funds for a review.

Motion by Muir to approve the change to Policy 5.9: to remove the line "(a township board could adopt a different definition)".
2nd by Urman. **Passed**

Sewer Meter Reader Position

Urman recused himself from this agenda item.

Muir shared that our current sewer meter reader is vacating the position. Last month, we received one application and the board decided to put the job posting back out. Harbor Springs Sewage Disposal Authority is not interested in reading meters. Mead and Hunt, which handles the water reading for the City of Petoskey, quoted \$100/hr for four 8 hour days, which is significantly longer than it is currently taking to read meters. We received applications from Dustin Urman and Holly Heath for the position. Muir noted that reading meters is not the difficult part of the job. This person would also have to be able to replace meters. Muir is suggesting interviewing both candidates and noted that the current wage for this position is \$600/quarter. Hoffman noted that it is important that the person who does this job understands how to replace a meter. Muir suggested interviewing both candidates. He will conduct interviews and bring forward a recommendation next month.

New Business

Sheriff's Presentation

Sheriff Matt Leirstein gave a presentation regarding services provided to Bear Creek Township. He noted that Bear Creek Township consistently generates around 25% of the dispatch workload. Having the dedicated township contract ensures that the township has coverage without drawing units from other surrounding areas. He noted that the designated deputy handled a substantial number of calls within the township, including 18% of the investigative load. He shared that motor vehicle accidents are of high frequency in the township, at over 400 incidents per year. The assigned deputy handled 32% of the accidents in the past year, helping clear the road arteries when this happens. He shared that there is an intensifying physical workload, including a 70% surge in domestic violence calls in the past year. Domestic disputes grew by 37% and mental subject calls rose 21%. The severe increase in mental health calls results in the department doing transports, which takes the deputies excess of four hours. This influx is primarily due to Bear River Health. He noted that retaining and prioritizing the Bear Creek deputy is a critical operation necessity. Elimination of this position would weaken public safety across the board, and response times in Bear Creek would increase. Regarding a regular sheriff's office report, he is planning to prepare something on a quarterly basis, potentially to share how many contacts they are making. He noted that a single incident may have several contacts.

Hoffman asked about training. Leirstein noted that they have continuing professional education every year. Each deputy is required to do 24 hours of schooling a year, but their deputies exceed that.

METRO Act

Muir noted that we received a bilateral METRO Act application from Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative Inc for fiber optic. He reviewed it with the township attorney, who is recommending a unilateral application, which would allow for the township to review the agreement every 5 years instead of 15. This is on existing infrastructure within the township.

Motion by Radatovich to approve the METRO Act Permit Application for Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative Inc for a 5 year unilateral application. 2nd by Urman. **Passed**

Hoffman asked about underground infrastructure. Muir clarified that this would be on existing infrastructure.

L-4029

Muir shared this year's L-4029 for board approval, noting that the millage request for the fire hall bond is lower this year than last year.

Motion by Radatovich to approve the 2026 L-4029. 2nd by Hoffman. **Passed**

Assistant Assessor

Muir shared a proposed job posting for an assistant assessor. He shared the minimum vs preferred qualifications and noted that the wage proposed is a range to account for a wide range of potential applicants with different abilities. He is hoping to bring forward a recommended candidate to the August meeting.

Motion by Hoffman to approve the job posting for the assistant assessor. 2nd by Muir. **Passed**

D. Public Hearing Meeting Minutes - Township Board

4

Parks and Recreation Plan

Muir noted that this is the board's opportunity to discuss the proposed Recreation Plan. He noted that the acknowledgements page should include reference to the previous supervisor and recreation committee member who worked on the plan. Page 3 has a spacing error. Page 10 needs to add the word "median" to the title of the graph. The following page has the word poverty in green, which is a subheading, so it is correct. He suggested we clean up the language regarding accessibility at Jones Landing Park. Everything at that park meets accessibility requirements for the time the park was put in, and we have continued to do better. We can either continue to improve the park using the general fund, which will take time, or if we had a parks millage, these improvements could be done right away.

Urman noted that he and Muir met with the contractor there regarding the sidewalk, but it was too wet to dig there to get extra sidewalk. He noted that there has been no discussion regarding a potential parks millage.

Muir agreed that the board has not discussed a parks and recreation millage. It was asked on the planning commission survey, so the parks committee has discussed it.

Muir noted that the map in the plan has been improved and this is a great document to help residents identify what recreational options are available.

Muir reviewed the action items presented in the plan. He noted that the Click Rd greenspace improvements may need to be pushed further back, starting that closer to 2028-29. He noted that this may not be the right spot for brush removal. Hoffman noted that there may not be enough space there. Radatovich agreed we should either take it out or push it back. Without a parks millage, we have to prioritize parks projects. Urman suggested removing it all together.

Muir proposed that before the board even consider a parks millage, a study be done on the current parks expenses. Hoffman agreed we need to evaluate what the parks are costing us. Muir noted that we have been within budget for parks. Urman would like to look at the last five years to see what has been spent. If it is stable, he is not in favor of a millage. He noted that our parks are developed quite well now.

Muir noted that we will also need to consider future maintenance costs. Radatovich would like to see the township develop a property maintenance plan for all township facilities. We have beautiful facilities funded by taxpayer dollars and we need to make sure we are protecting and caring for them. She would like to see a routine maintenance schedule put together so that our facilities do not end up in severe disrepair, like Spring Lake Park did. Additionally, she would like to look at our park expenses to see if there is a better way to accomplish the care of our properties. Urman agrees.

Regarding the development of a non-motorized transportation plan, Muir thinks this may be more within the purview of the planning commission. We don't have any non-motorized paths; the closest to this would be the bike path (but we don't maintain that). Jenn Cram (Beckett and Raeder) suggested partnering with the planning commission. Muir noted that this seems like a heavy lift for our township, as we do not have sidewalks. Radatovich suggested removing it from the action plan. Perhaps we could support another entity who has a plan. Muir will look at this language with Cram.

Muir noted that some of the items in the action plan are there in the event that grant opportunities arise. For example, if funding were to become available for a canoe launch at Jones Landing, that project could potentially get moved up.

Muir would like to see the ancillary pages of the plan included before adoption. Cram can make additional edits based on the findings of this meeting and public hearing.

Positive Pay

Muir explained that someone attempted to forge a check from the township. The attempted fraud was stopped, but there is a fraud prevention system used by banks called Positive Pay, which is being recommended. It would cover all of our accounts and be free of charge.

Commissioner's Report – Brian Gutowski

Brian Gutowski noted that ticket sales for the fair are up. A generator will be ordered for the concert as backup. The fair dates next year will be August 14-22. The DPW is now fully staffed and they will be scheduling township meetings in the fall. Their new compactor is up and running. Traffic on Pleasantview is backed up, so they are working on getting a better way to get traffic in and out. They contracted with Cheboygan County for the next three years. Alpena is getting close to opening a transfer station. Fuel sales were down at the airport because the airport was closed for 20 days due to flooding. They are back open and they are looking to FEMA for \$140,000 for reimbursement for the flooding.

Urman asked the grandstand capacity. Gutowski noted it is 2600.

Planning and Zoning

Radatovich noted that there was no regular Planning Commission meeting in June. We are waiting to receive materials from the consultant to schedule the next Master Plan meeting.

Fire Department

Welsheimer shared that they did a school bus extrication drill. Conway Towing and Statewide Towing provided vehicles and the drill was done at their garage. There were accidents in front of Meijer and near the State Park. There was a fire at Stones Funeral Home caused by someone burning weeds with a blowtorch, which caught the side of the building on fire. The department installed 12 smoke detectors and 2 CO alarms. There was an accident at one of the drills which resulted in damage to the fire station. There were 44 calls this month, six of which were brush fires and six were auto crashes. There have been an uptick of fire alarms from the high humidity. Hoffman noted that our fire department participated in the City of Petoskey's open house. Muir agreed that our department does a great job showing kids what firefighters look like in full gear, so that they are not afraid if there were to be a fire.

Parks and Recreation

Muir noted that there were no significant updates to Jones Landing or to Spring Lake Park (other than what was previously shared). They are moving along on the Atkins Preserve and there is no update regarding the Click Rd property. The next meeting is July 8th at Jones Landing at 6pm. The Jones Landing boat wash is the most used overall.

Muir shared the concept of a surface lease with the DNR for the Evergreen Trail property for a canoe and kayak launch. He is hoping to get funding for this project from the DNR and noted that the plan allows for two full-sized vans with trailers and 9 large parking spaces. The turnaround exceeds the minimum requirement. This is a tentative plan; the township would need to submit a formal application for a surface use lease. The permit fee is based on the hours spent, up to \$250. The township would be responsible for maintenance, we just would not own the land. There is no structure proposed, just a parking lot with a trail and boardwalk on the end. There is no plan for restrooms.

Motion by Urman to submit an application for a surface use lease permit to the DNR for Evergreen Trail for a canoe and kayak launch, approving up to \$250 in permit fees. 2nd by Radatovich. **Passed**

Correspondence

Muir shared an email regarding an upcoming ZBA case within the township. He noted that the county has proposed a zoning text amendment, which has been forwarded to the board for review. He shared that the quarterly Emmet County MTA meeting is July 15th at Jones Landing Park at 6pm.

Supervisor/Assessor's Report

Muir shared that there is no update from DTE regarding a public hearing. He shared that the library has hired a consultant and is navigating that process. The Airport Authority passed a balanced budget and they want to do a runway project. They are currently pursuing a grant for that. The airport manager of 27 years retired and a new one has been hired. July Board of Review is coming up. Regarding two monthly meetings, he suggested waiting until we set the regular schedule for 2027. Regarding roads, Muir noted that fog sealing is down and there is lots of line painting happening within the county. There is no update on the Click Rd bridge.

Regarding TIFs, Muir shared that he has received many calls regarding Intertown Rd. He noted that he has not heard anything from that developer. He asked if the board wants to pursue a TIF policy. Hoffman would like to have more training about TIFs, but is not in favor of them generally and would not like to see a policy right now. Muir noted that there have been several trainings available through the county. He noted that we could also have a work session based on an actual future application, rather than a 101 training. Radatovich noted that she has been to the 101 trainings and would rather see a practical application work session if we had a project come forward. Muir noted that if we received an application, it would be a work session meeting, to understand what is before us. Urman suggested the board could use another consultant.

Clerk's Business

Radatovich reported bills in the amount of \$243,517.18.

Motion by Radatovich to approve the bills in the amount of \$243,517.18. 2nd by Muir.

Passed

Radatovich shared that preparations for the August election are well underway and absentee ballots were mailed last week.

Treasurer's Report

Golding presented the treasurer's report as of 6.30.26. Property tax bills have been sent out.

Building Department Report

Golding presented the Building Department report as of 6.30.26, sharing the number of permits and inspections.

D. Public Hearing Meeting Minutes - Township Board

6

Sewer Business

Muir noted that during the large rainstorm, there was a large influx of clearwater to the sewer authority. The authority would like permission to send letters to perform inspections at people's homes (with their permission), to check for illegal sump pump connections. They would also inspect for lead contamination and copper piping issues at the time. This letter would be on township letterhead and the cost of these inspections would be \$90/inspection, which could be up to \$13,590.

Motion by Hoffman to approve the sending of a letter as well as the cost for inspections, up to \$13,590. 2nd by Urman. **Passed**

Request from the Floor

Nate Hall asked if the wording on the sewer letter is clear. Muir agreed it needs to say explicitly why they are there.

Karla Buckmaster noted that the planning commission should consider traffic when looking at cases, in light of how many accidents are within the township. She agreed that whenever there is something new, there is a maintenance cost associated and offered some low maintenance ideas for the new fire hall property. She asked if the high number of boat washes at Jones Landing could be due to the business nearby. She is concerned about the support of non-motorized trails and noted that there is a multimillion dollar project in the near future for the collapsed Wheelway, and she does not want Bear Creek to get involved in that.

Tana Baldwin noted that this has been much better than it has been for the public in the past. She noted that the 12-16 units per acre in the Master Plan requires sewer, and she does not think we want to extend sewer or have high density in that area.

Other Business: None

Next Regular Meeting: August 5, 2026

Adjournment: 9:47pm

Emma Radatovich

Emma Radatovich, Township Clerk

USA TODAY CO.



PO Box 630491 Cincinnati, OH 45263-0491

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Bear Creek Township
Bear Creek Township
373 N Division RD
Petoskey MI 49770-9356

STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF EMMET, COUNTY OF
CHARLEVOIX

The Petoskey News Review, a newspaper printed and published in
the counties of Emmet and Charlevoix; in the State of Michigan,
and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the
notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspaper in the
issue dated:

06/16/2026

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 06/16/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN ADOPTION

The Bear Creek Township Board has scheduled a public
hearing to review the 2026 Parks and Recreation Plan and
receive comments on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 7:05 p.m.
at the Township Meeting Hall located at 1710 Click Road,
Petoskey.

The draft 2026 Parks and Recreation Plan can be found on
the township website at www.bearcreektownshipmi.gov.
Written comments are welcome and may be submitted to
Beckett & Raeder, Inc. at jcram@bria2.com by June 23,
2026.

Emma Radatovich
Clerk
231-347-2455
06/16/2026; #12403708

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

My commission expires

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Notary Public
State of Wisconsin



Bear Creek Township
373 North Division Road
Petoskey, Michigan 49770
Phone: 231-347-2455 Fax: 231-347-0736
Email: clerk@bearcreektownshipmi.gov

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Emma Radatovich
Clerk
231-347-2455

LOCALiQ

Petoskey News-Review
The Monroe News | Holland Sentinel
Gaylord Herald Times | Daily Telegram

PO Box 630491 Cincinnati, OH 45263-0491

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Bear Creek Township
373 N Division RD
Petoskey MI 49770-9356

STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF EMMET, COUNTY OF
CHARLEVOIX

The Petoskey News Review, a newspaper printed and published in
the counties of Emmet and Charlevoix, in the State of Michigan,
and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the
notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspaper in the
issue dated:

01/13/2026

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 01/13/2026

LEGAL NOTICE BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN PUBLIC REVIEW

The Bear Creek Township Parks & Recreation Committee has
posted the latest draft of the Parks & Recreation Plan five-
year update for public review beginning January 8, 2026. A
copy can be reviewed on the township's website at
www.bearcreektownshipmi.gov or at the township office
located at 373 N. Division Rd. Petoskey, Mon.- Fri. 8 a.m. to
4 p.m.
The Parks & Recreation Committee will also host a public
open house to share the plan and receive comments on
Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Township
Hall located at 373 N. Division Rd. Petoskey.
Any comments may be submitted to Beckett & Raeder, Inc.
at jcrum@bria2.com by February 23, 2026.
Emma Radatovich
Clerk
231-347-2455
01/13/2026

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

My commission expires

Publication Cost:	\$85.20	
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Bear Creek Township
373 North Division Road
Petoskey, Michigan 49770
Phone: 231-347-2455 Fax: 231-347-0736
Email: clerk@bearcreektownshipmi.gov

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Emma Radatovich
Clerk
231-347-2455

Bear Creek Township

COMMUNITY SURVEY



Bear Creek Township is updating its Master Plan and needs your help! Your input will help Township leaders plan for Bear Creek's future. Please use the scan code or link to complete the survey by **February 15, 2025**. Email clerk@bearcreektownshipmi.gov if you would like a paper copy to be mailed or emailed to you.



Survey Link: bit.ly/BearCreekMP

What is a Master Plan?

The Michigan Planning Enabling Act (PA 33 of 2008) enables municipalities to write a Master Plan that broadly guides development to meet current and future needs, and that promotes the health, safety, and general welfare of its residents. The process of creating a Master Plan asks a community to pause from the busy daily operations of running a municipality and look to the future. A Master Plan is a policy document that comprehensively inventories and analyzes the elements that make a township function (i.e. housing, transportation, services), so it is essential to include as many stakeholders into the process as possible. Through community engagement, the Master Plan seeks to understand how residents rate their "quality of life." It identifies Bear Creek Township's vision and defines goals that could help achieve that vision and preserve the Township's unique character. The Master Plan serves many roles: a vision statement, an Action Plan with specific strategies, a tool for making coordinated land-use decisions, an assessment of current programs, services, structures, and infrastructure, and a document to inform its citizenry on how the Township will plan for its future.

Recreation Plan Engagement Summary

Community engagement is a requirement and plays a significant role in the recreation planning process, helping to develop a full understanding of a community, its residents, and their needs. In Bear Creek Township, community engagement for the recreation plan was conducted through a survey in conjunction with the development of its Master Plan.

Some community survey questions used to inform the recreation plan were directly related to recreation in Bear Creek Township, while others were meant to gauge general community sentiment about a variety of things including recreation.

GENERAL COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Question: What brought you to Bear Creek Township?

From the provided list, respondents each selected multiple options shown in “Draws to Bear Creek Township.” The Township’s natural resources and environment are an important draw to the Township with the top three responses all being related to the substantial natural and recreational amenities in the Township.

Draws to Bear Creek Township

Draws to Bear Creek	Percentage of Respondents
Proximity to trails and recreation amenities	40.7%
Proximity to natural resources	39.5%
Access to Lake Michigan, Walloon Lake, or Round Lake	38.4%
Overall community character	30.8%
Personal connection to the community	28.9%
Access to nearby goods and services	23.6%
Proximity to arts and cultural amenities	18.6%

Question: Which five issues from the provided list are most critical for Bear Creek Township government to address in the next five years?

Respondents were asked to select five issues that they believe will be the most critical to address in Bear Creek Township in coming years. Three of these issues were directly related to recreation in Bear Creek Township, including “Add more greenspace and parks,” “non-motorized trails and paths,” and “expand public ownership of the waterfront.” Respondents who selected these issues indicated that parks and recreational spaces should be a high priority in the next five years.

Critical Issues

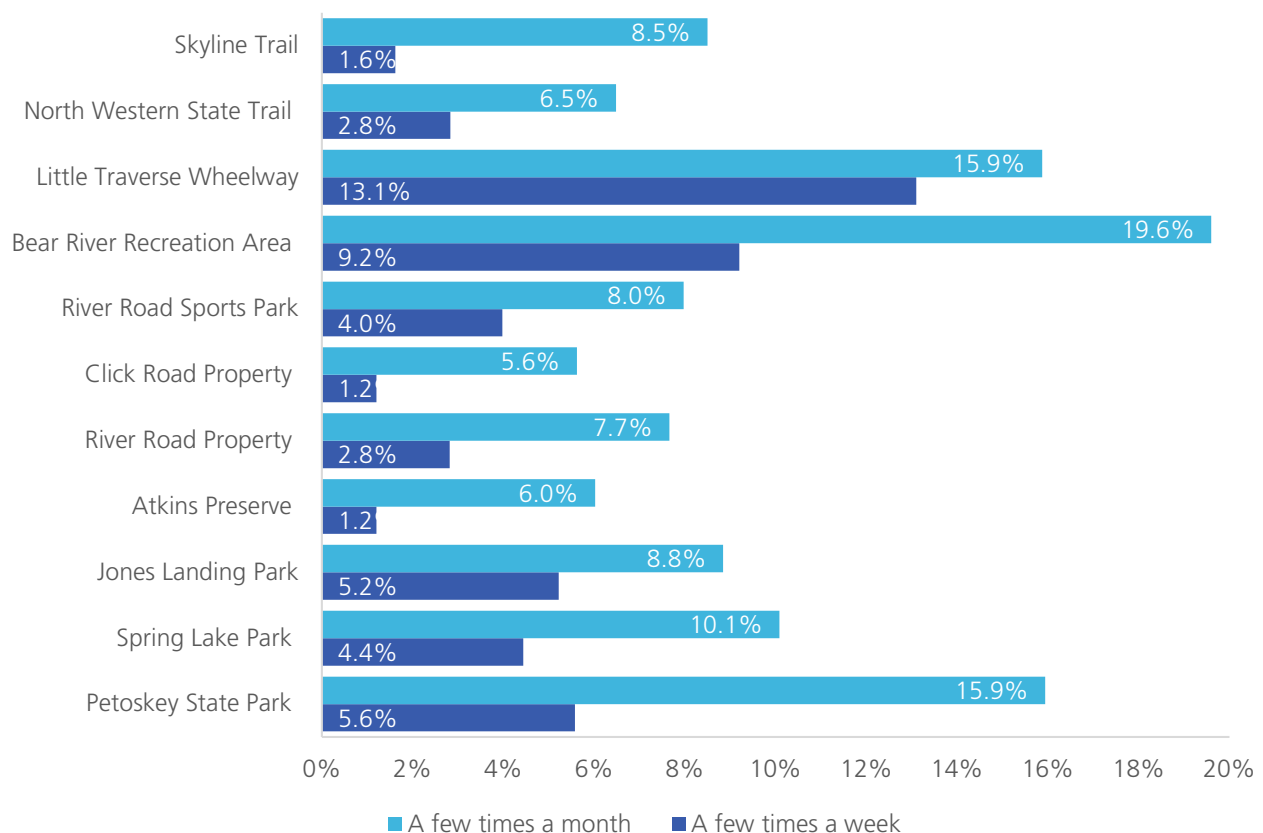
Provided List of Issues	Percentage of Respondents
Add more green space and parks	47.9%
Non-motorized trails and paths	41.1%
Expand public ownership of the waterfront	25.9%

RECREATION BASED QUESTIONS

Question: How often do you visit the park and recreation facilities in the area?

The most visited park in the area was Little Traverse Wheelway, with 29% of respondents indicating that they visit the park a few times a week. Also popular were the Bear Creek Recreation Area and Petoskey State Park, which 28.8% and 21.5% of respondents, respectively, reported visiting at least a few times a month. Other parks were also visited regularly, although by a smaller percentage of respondents. Some respondents indicated that they were not aware of many of the smaller parks, which may suggest that these parks could be promoted to the community more frequently.

Visits to the Area's Parks and Recreation Facilities



H. Survey Results

Question: What type of “personalized” recreation do you participate in?

At least half of the respondents reported engaging in each of the five most frequently reported personal recreation styles. Additionally, it is shown here is a wide variety of interests and preferred types of recreation across the Township. In many cases, these varied interests and types of recreation are not mutually exclusive. They can be improved upon or incorporated into many of the area’s parks and recreational sites.

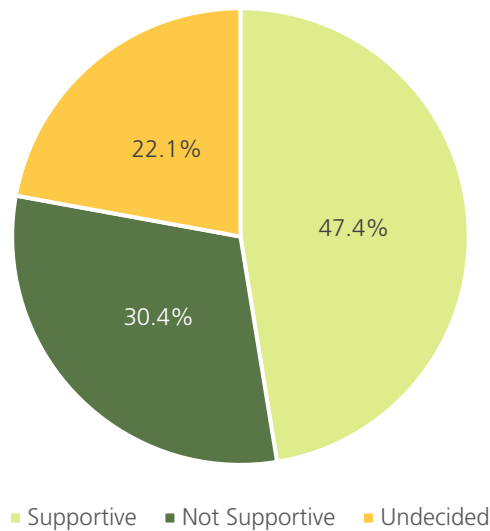
Personal Recreation in the Township

Type of Recreation	Percentage of Respondents
Walking	87.8%
Hiking	70.4%
Bicycling	62.5%
Swimming (Lake)	55.3%
Kayaking / Canoeing	49.4%
Skiing	36.8%
Skiing / Snowboarding	30.8%
Power Boating	30.4%
Fishing / Ice Fishing	29.6%
Hunting	22.9%
Mountain Biking	22.1%
Yoga	21.0%
Paddleboarding	19.4%
Jogging	18.2%
Off-Road Recreation Vehicle	15.4%
Sailing	12.7%
Other (please specify)	11.5%
Snowmobiling	8.7%
Skateboarding	2.0%

Question: Do you think the Township should plan for a Dog Park as part of our recreation program?

47.4% of respondents expressed approval for a dog park in the Township. Although there is a higher proportion of residents who are interested in this dog park, it may be beneficial to seek out and consider the concerns of the rest of the respondents.

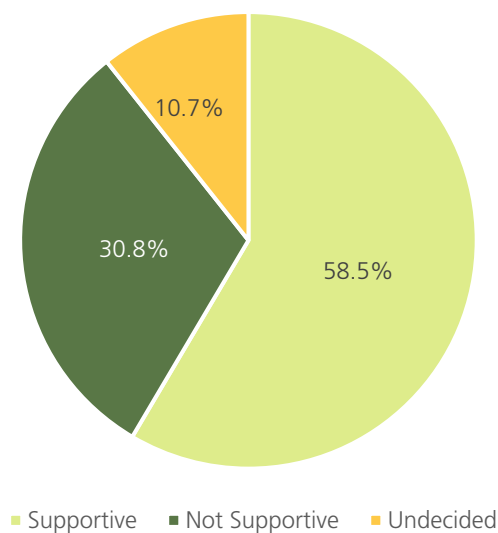
Are Residents Supportive of a Dog Park?



Question: Would you be willing to support a ¼ mil tax levy for the Township's parks and additional year-round trails?

58.5% of respondents approved of the ¼ mil tax levy to go towards to the Township's parks and trails. This information may be useful to consider for future local elections and suggests the general preference of respondents to support a tax levy for this cause.

Are Residents Supportive of a Tax Levy for Township Parks?

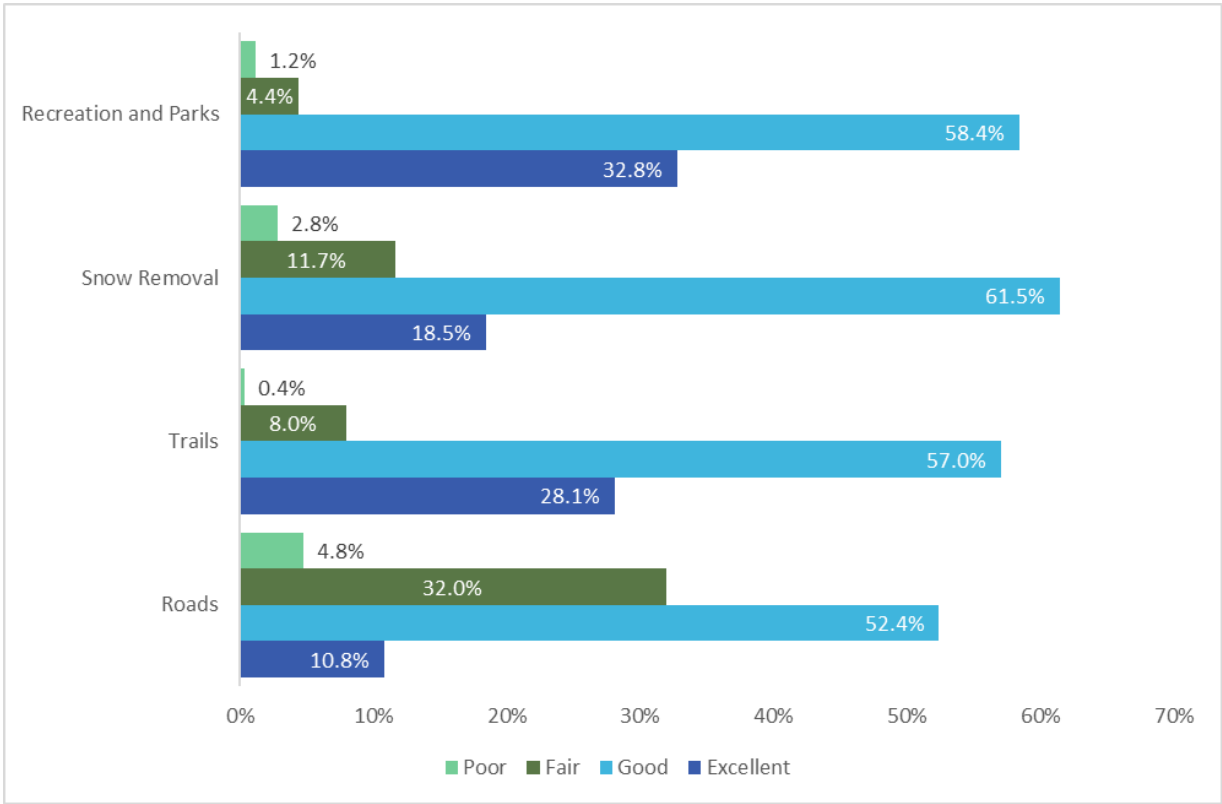


H. Survey Results

Question: How do you rate the quality of the following public facilities and services within Bear Creek Township?

Survey respondents are resoundingly positive on both recreation and parks facilities as well as trails in Bear Creek Township with 91.2% and 85.1% saying they were either good or excellent, respectively. Access to these facilities is needed in order for the public to experience this enjoyment, which requires quality roadways and snow removal in the winter time. Just under 80% of respondents said that snow removal is good or excellent in Bear Creek, while 63.2% said the same about roadways.

Quality of Public Facilities and Services



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The results from the survey shows that respondents are resoundingly supportive of parks and recreation facilities in Bear Creek Township:

- 58.5% would be willing to support a millage to fund recreation and trail maintenance and improvements in the Township.
- Over 90% say that facilities are good or excellent in their current state.
- Just under half of respondents say that they would like a dog park in the Township, with another 20% being undecided, showing that those who are against a dog park are in the minority.



Bear Creek Township
373 North Division Road
Petoskey, Michigan 49770
Phone: 231-347-2455 Fax: 231-347-0736
Email: clerk@bearcreektownshipmi.gov

LEGAL NOTICE
BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN PUBLIC REVIEW

The Bear Creek Township Parks & Recreation Committee has posted the latest draft of the Parks & Recreation Plan five-year update for public review beginning January 8, 2026. A copy can be reviewed on the township's website at www.bearcreektownshipmi.gov or at the township office located at 373 N. Division Rd. Petoskey, Mon.- Fri. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Parks & Recreation Committee will also host a public open house to share the plan and receive comments on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Township Hall located at 373 N. Division Rd. Petoskey.

Any comments may be submitted to Beckett & Raeder, Inc. at jcram@bria2.com by February 23, 2026.

Emma Radatovich
Clerk
231-347-2455

I. Open House Notice, Affidavit

LOCALiQ

Petoskey News-Review
The Monroe News | Holland Sentinel
Gaylord Herald Times | Daily Telegram

PO Box 630491 Cincinnati, OH 45263-0491

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Bear Creek Township
373 N Division RD
Petoskey MI 49770-9356

STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF EMMET, COUNTY OF
CHARLEVOIX

The Petoskey News Review, a newspaper printed and published in
the counties of Emmet and Charlevoix, in the State of Michigan,
and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the
notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspaper in the
issue dated:

01/13/2026

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 01/13/2026

LEGAL NOTICE BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN PUBLIC REVIEW

The Bear Creek Township Parks & Recreation Committee has
posted the latest draft of the Parks & Recreation Plan five-
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Hall located at 373 N. Division Rd. Petoskey.
Any comments may be submitted to Beckett & Raeder, Inc.
at jrcram@bria2.com by February 23, 2026.
Emma Radatovich
Clerk
231-347-2455
01/13/2026

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

My commission expires

Publication Cost:	\$85.20	
Tax Amount:	\$0.00	
Payment Cost:	\$85.20	
Order No:	11988241	# of Copies:
Customer No:	544756	0
PO #:	45 DAY NOTICE	

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!

Please do not use this form for payment remittance.

KONGMENG YANG
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

Hold for
Invoice
1/26/26



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: ☒ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Bear Creek TownshipPROJECT NUMBER: TF-05-063PROJECT TYPE: AcquisitionPROJECT TITLE: Jones Landing ParkPROJECT SCOPE: Purchase land for development of park

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)		
Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Bear Creek Township	Denny Keiser	Township Supervisor
Address	Telephone	
373 North Division Rd.	(231) 347-1311	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Petoskey, MI 49770	supervisor@bearcreektownship.com	
SITE DEVELOPMENT		
Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). ☒ Yes ☐ No		
<u>Township developed the park MNRTF and Waterways funding in 2009</u>		
Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐ Yes ☒ No		
Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No		
Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No		
List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.		
<u>Proposed for 2015 RP funding:</u>		
<u>Considering play area, play piece</u>		
<u>Considering footwash</u>		
<u>Considering traffic bollard at top of launch</u>		

POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

SITE QUALITY	
Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.	☒ Yes ☐ No
Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.	☒ Yes ☐ No
Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.	☐ Yes ☒ No
Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.	☐ Yes ☒ No
Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Vendor as-needed, weekly restroom cleaning, mowing, trash pick-up leaf pick-up, general site and launch maintenance, winterization and spring start-up	☒ Yes ☐ No
GENERAL	
Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.	☐ Yes ☒ No
Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.	☐ Yes ☒ No
What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site? Dusk to Dawn - Sp., Su, F, (Closed for Winter)	

POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

<u>Dennis Keiser</u> Please print	<u>Dennis Keiser</u> Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>3-4-15</u> Date
<u>Sally Boughan</u> Please print	<u>Sally Boughan</u> Witness Signature	<u>3-4-15</u> Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

J. Post-Completion Forms



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

**PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT**

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: ☒ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Bear Creek Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF-08-092

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Jones Landing Park Development

PROJECT SCOPE: UA Restrooms, Pavilion, Site Amenities, Parking, Walks, Landscape, Beach

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)		
Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Bear Creek Township	Denny Keiser	Township Supervisor
Address	Telephone	
373 North Division Rd.	(231) 347-1311	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Petoskey, MI 49770	supervisor@bearcreektownship.com	
SITE DEVELOPMENT		
Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s).		
☐ Yes ☒ No		
Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)		
☐ Yes ☒ No		
Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.		
☐ Yes ☒ No		
Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain.		
☒ Yes ☐ No		
List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.		
Proposed:		
<u>Considering play area, play piece</u>		
<u>Considering footwash</u>		
<u>Considering traffic bollard at top of launch</u>		

POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**SITE QUALITY**

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Vendor as-needed, weekly restroom cleaning, mowing, trash pick-up

leaf pick-up, general site and launch maintenance, winterization and spring start-up

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities?
(i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

☐ Yes ☒ No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Dusk to Dawn - Sp., Su, F, (closed Winter)

J. Post-Completion Forms

POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Dennis Keiser
Please print

Dennis Keiser
Grantee Authorized Signature

3-4-15
Date

Sally Boughan
Please print

Sally Boughan
Witness Signature

3-4-15
Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

**PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT**

*This information required under authority of Part 18, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: ☒ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Bear Creek Township**PROJECT NUMBER:** TF-86-254**PROJECT TYPE:** Acquisition**PROJECT TITLE:** Spring Lake Park**PROJECT SCOPE:** Purchase land for development of park

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)		
Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Bear Creek Township	Denny Keiser	Township Supervisor
Address	Telephone	
373 North Division Rd.	(231) 347-1311	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Petoskey, MI 49770	supervisor@bearcreektownship.com	
SITE DEVELOPMENT		
Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). ☒ Yes ☐ No		
<u>Township developed the park with MDOT TE grant funding</u>		
Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐ Yes ☒ No		
<u></u>		
Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No		
<u></u>		
Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No		
<u></u>		
List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.		
<u>Proposed for 2015 RP funding:</u>		
<u>Additional crushed stone / on-grade boardwalk pathway</u>		
<u>Additional accessible fishing decks</u>		
<u>Additional interpretive panels</u>		
<u>Additional native landscape buffer and restoration area along M-109</u>		

POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

SITE QUALITY	
Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.	☒ Yes ☐ No
Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.	☒ Yes ☐ No
Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.	☐ Yes ☒ No
Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.	☐ Yes ☒ No
Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. <u>Vendor as-needed, weekly restroom cleaning, mowing, trash pick-up</u> <u>leaf pick-up, general site and launch maintenance, winterization and spring start-up</u>	☒ Yes ☐ No
GENERAL	
Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.	☐ Yes ☒ No
Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.	☐ Yes ☒ No
What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site? <u>Dusk to Dawn - Sp., Su, F, (closed Winter)</u>	

POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

<u>Dennis Keiser</u> Please print	<u><i>Dennis Keiser</i></u> Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>3-4-15</u> Date
<u>Sally Boughan</u> Please print	<u><i>Sally Boughan</i></u> Witness Signature	<u>3-4-15</u> Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

J. Post-Completion Forms



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

**PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT**

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: ☐ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☒ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Bear Creek Township - Emmet County

PROJECT NUMBER: CM00-088

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Spring Lake Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Development of wetland boardwalk.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Bear Creek Township	Denny Keiser	Township Supervisor
Address	Telephone	
373 North Division Road	231-347-0592	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Petoskey MI 49770	supervisor@bearcreektownship.com	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s). ☒ Yes ☐ No

Township developed the park with MDOT TE Grant funding

Changes include walking and nonmotorized trails.

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. ☐ Yes ☒ No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No <u>Vendor as needed, weekly restroom cleaning, mowing, trash pick-up, leaf pick-up,</u> <u>general site and facilities maintenance, winterization and spring start-up.</u>
GENERAL
Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No
Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. ☐ Yes ☒ No
What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site? <u>Dawn to dusk through spring, summer, and fall months. Closed winter months.</u>
COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

J. Post-Completion Forms

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Dennis Kesser
Please print

Dennis Kesser
Grantee Authorized Signature

1-18-21
Date

Connie Golding
Please print

Connie Golding
Witness Signature

1-18-21
Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS**
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925



Date: September 11, 2026

From: Jenn Cram, AICP

To: **Emmet County Parks and Recreation Department**
Ryan Bauman, Director
200 Division Street
Petoskey, MI 49770

Project: **Township of Bear Creek Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Enclosed: **Adopted Township of Bear Creek Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Remarks:

Please find enclosed the final adopted draft of the Township of Bear Creek Parks and Recreation Master Plan for your review. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jenn Cram, AICP
Senior Associate
jcramm@bria2.com

Beckett & Raeder, Inc.
535 West William
Suite 101
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

734.663.2622 ph
734.663.6759 fx

www.bria2.com

Petoskey Office
113 Howard Street
Petoskey, MI 49770

231.347.2523 ph
231.347.2524 fx

Traverse City Office
148 East Front Street
Suite 207
Traverse City, MI 49684

231.933.8400 ph
231.944.1709 fx

Grand Rapids Office
5211 Cascade Road SE
Suite 300
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

616.585.1295 ph

K. Letters of Transmittal



Date: September 11, 2026

From: Jenn Cram, AICP

To: **Networks Northwest**
Robert Carson, Community Development Regional Director
600 E. Front Street, Suite 205
Traverse City, MI 49686

Project: Township of Bear Creek Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Enclosed: Adopted Township of Bear Creek Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Remarks:

Please find enclosed the final adopted draft of the Township of Bear Creek Parks and Recreation Master Plan for your review. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jenn Cram, AICP
Senior Associate
jcram@bria2.com

Beckett & Raeder, Inc.
535 West William
Suite 101
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

734.663.2622 ph
734.663.6759 fx

www.bria2.com

Petoskey Office
113 Howard Street
Petoskey, MI 49770

231.347.2523 ph
231.347.2524 fx

Traverse City Office
148 East Front Street
Suite 207
Traverse City, MI 49684

231.933.8400 ph
231.944.1709 fx

Grand Rapids Office
5211 Cascade Road SE
Suite 300
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

616.585.1295 ph

