

2010

# Peninsula Township Recreation Plan & Pelizzari Natural Area Management Plan



*Prepared by:*

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**Northwest Michigan  
Council of Governments**

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# 2010 Peninsula Township Recreation Plan & Pelizzari Natural Area Management Plan

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# 2010 Peninsula Township Recreation Plan

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# Peninsula Township 2010 Recreation Plan

## Introduction

The Peninsula Township Recreation Plan is intended to identify the Township's highest recreation priorities, and to offer an implementation road map for the recreation goals and objectives identified by the community and Township boards and committees. The Plan was developed according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*, and is organized as follows:

### Section 1. Parks and Recreation Plan

**A. Community Description and Planning Considerations** includes information regarding the Township's population, natural features, and adopted plans. The intent of this section is to provide a context for the plan that will assist in establishing goals.

**B. Administrative Structure.** This section summarizes the process through which recreation decisions are made, and discusses budgeting and revenue.

**C. Recreation Inventory** itemizes the Township's existing recreational facilities and identifies individual park needs.

### D. Goals, Objectives, and Action Program

describes proposed recreation goals and improvements, and itemizes specific implementation activities as part of a capital improvement schedule.

**Section 2. Pelizzari Natural Area.** The section details goals and objectives for the recently acquired Pelizzari Natural Area (formerly Center Road Natural Area).

## Related Plans

A number of adopted plans are used to guide Township activities and decision-making. These plans were used in the development of goals, objectives, and action items in this Recreation Plan:

- Old Mission Scenic Heritage Route Plan
- Lighthouse Park Strategic Plan
- Peninsula Township Master Plan

## Planning Process

The recreation plan was developed with guidance from the Peninsula Township Parks Commission, with assistance from the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG). Meetings were held in June-July 2010 to discuss and develop the plan timeline, content, draft goals, public input, and other details.

The Township's recreation needs were assessed through a variety of avenues,

including consideration of demographic trends, review of public input, input from Township officials and staff, review of past Recreation Plans and other adopted Township plans, and consideration of state and federal recreation facility guidelines.

Following development of park goals, the Parks Commission worked with the NWMCOG to create a draft plan, conduct public input meetings and public hearings, and develop goals, objectives, and action programming. Park Commission meetings on the Recreation Plan were held from June 2010 to August 2010.

### **Public Input**

A public input meeting on the Pelizzari Natural Area was held on June 2, 2010. Public input is summarized in the Management Plan (Section 2 of the Recreation Plan) and was used in the development of the goals, objectives, and activities for the Management Plan and landscape plan. A meeting was held July 28, 2010 to review draft goals and landscape plan concepts.

A public input meeting on the Recreation Plan was advertised and held on July 14, 2010; no public comment was offered at this meeting. Additional comment was solicited through questionnaires. A summary of questionnaires received is included in the appendix.

### **Recreation Plan Comment Period**

The Recreation Plan was released for public review on August 19. Comments were received through September 22; comments received are on file with the Township.

### **Public Hearing & Adoption**

The Parks Commission voted unanimously in support of a resolution to adopt the plan at a public hearing held on September 22, 2010. The Township Board acted on the plan at a public hearing on October 12, 2010. A Legal notice and approval documentation is included in the Appendix.

### **Recreation Planning Standards**

Recreation planning standards used by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment and by the National Recreation and Park Association make recommendations for the number, type, and design of *active* recreation facilities based on population (comparable standards have not been developed for open space or passive recreation facilities). These standards were considered along with public input and other identified needs in the recreation planning process.

# Community Description & Planning Considerations

Peninsula Township is the northernmost township in Grand Traverse County, and comprises nearly all of the Old Mission Peninsula, a narrow strip of land extending about 18 miles into Grand Traverse Bay. The Peninsula is renowned for its rich agricultural heritage and tremendous natural beauty, with a wide variety of recreation opportunities for both residents and visitors. These recreation assets—the Township’s water access, trail networks, scenic views, historic resources, natural areas, and other facilities—are integral to the Township’s high quality of life, and contribute directly to its popularity as a desirable place to live and visit.

## Population

With its 42 miles of coastline, forests, rolling hills, orchards, vineyards, beaches, and wineries, Peninsula Township is well-known as a thriving agricultural community, vacation destination, seasonal residential community and as a high-quality year-round place to live. Driven in large part by these qualities, the Township’s population has seen dramatic increases over the last several decades. Between 1990 and 2000 alone, population increased by 21%.

The U.S. Census bureau shows that Peninsula Township’s population differs in several respects from county-wide trends, and is markedly different from State demographics. The population is

significantly older than the State or County, with 19.8% of its population over the age of 65 in 2000. Statewide, the percentage of those over age 65 is 12.3%; county-wide, the figure is 13.1%. And the median age of the Township’s population is 47 years, while the median age of the County is 38 years—which is itself considerably higher than the statewide median age of 35.5 years.



## Community Description

Peninsula residents are generally wealthier than the surrounding area, as well. At \$82,426, income is well above the median household income of both the state and the county. And at 1.1%, the percentage of families below the poverty level was far below the County level of 3.8% and state level of 7.4%.

When planning for recreation facilities, the community's growth trends, age, and income levels are important factors to consider. With a growing population, the Township's parks experience increased usage; higher usage and visitation levels mean more frequent maintenance and upkeep, parking concerns, and in some cases, needs for park expansion. And, as the population ages, needs move from active recreation facilities like ball fields and playgrounds, toward more passive recreation types like walking and boating. Barrier-free access to recreation is particularly important for an aging population, and provision of barrier-free recreation and additional passive recreation opportunities will become an increasingly high recreation priority in the Township. Activities and amenities should also be within the financial means of the majority of residents.

### **Tourism and Seasonal Residents**

A special consideration in Peninsula Township is the fact that population increases substantially over the summer months, with many households and families residing in the Township only during the summer months. According to the Township Master Plan, an additional 735 residents live in the Township on a seasonal basis. Beyond seasonal residents, summer tourism brings additional visitors to the Township—including both day-trippers and those on extended visits who come to enjoy the Peninsula's recreation facilities, water access, and natural areas.

As noted in the Recreation Inventory, the Peninsula includes a variety of recreation facilities that continue to experience increases in usage from both residents and visitors. Water access, historic facilities, and trail networks are

particular draws, and are popular destinations for visitors to the Peninsula.

### **Physical Features**

Peninsula Township and the surrounding area are primarily rural in nature. Traverse City, the region's population, employment, commercial, and service center, borders the Township, with City boundaries extending a short distance into the Old Mission Peninsula. The Old Mission Peninsula ranges from 1-3 miles wide and extends about 18 miles into Grand Traverse Bay, dividing it into its two arms—East and West Bay. Topography consists of rolling hills, valleys, and wetlands, with very steep slopes located primarily along the shoreline. The combination of the Peninsula's rolling hills, a microclimate arising from the tempering presence of the two bays, and the wide presence of Emmet-Leelanau sandy loams and loamy sands, result in ideal circumstances for fruit production, primarily cherries and grapes.

In terms of land use, the Township is made up of about 17,755 acres of residential, commercial, undeveloped land, agricultural land, and public facilities. Residential uses are located at a fairly high density in the southern portion of the Peninsula, with over half the Township's population residing south of Wilson Road (see Map 2). The northern two-thirds of the Peninsula are made up of significant areas of orchard, vineyard, forest, and open land, with residential, agricultural, and commercial uses scattered throughout the Peninsula. Parks, designated open space, public facilities, and institutional uses (including the Old Mission Elementary school, township hall and offices, cemeteries, and a variety of non-Township recreational facilities) are found throughout the Township (see Map 3, Parks and Public Lands).

### **Transportation**

The Township road network consists of some county-maintained roads, along with some private roads and one Michigan State

Highway—M-37, a designated Michigan Scenic Heritage Route.

Personal automobile is the primary means of transportation in the Township; but because of its scenic qualities, the Township's road network doubles as a popular route for bicyclists.

The Township is also served by the Bay Area Transportation Alliance (BATA) with dial-a-ride (reservation) service.

## Planning and Zoning

### 2005 Master Land Use Plan

A Master Land Use Plan was adopted by the Township in 2005, with a vision to “preserve and protect the unique and scenic character of Old Mission Peninsula.” The plan is currently undergoing updates; however, both the current and proposed plans include language relative to parks and recreation. Goals and Actions in the current draft Master Plan are as follows:

**Goal: Provide a variety of parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs to serve all groups.**

- Continue to maintain and improve Peninsula Township's parks and natural areas.
- Explore appropriate locations to expand existing parks, water access points, and recreation facilities.
- Develop an overall future trails plan along roadways to link Peninsula Township's trail systems together as well as connect to regional trails systems and incorporate the plan into the Recreation Plan.
- Encourage expansion and/or public launch sites and associated parking to serve expanding needs.

These goals serve as the foundation for Recreation Plan goals and actions.

### Old Mission Scenic Heritage Route Management Plan

The Old Mission Scenic Heritage Route was

nominated and designated in recognition of the M-37 corridor's natural beauty, historic resources, agricultural heritage, and rural character. The mission of the Heritage Route is to identify, preserve, enhance, and promote the scenic, agricultural, and rural characteristics of the M-37 Corridor in Peninsula Township.

The Old Mission Scenic Heritage Route Plan was developed in 2006 by the M-37 Scenic Heritage Route Nominating Team and endorsed by the Michigan Department of Transportation and Peninsula Township in 2007. The Plan is a guide for future corridor improvements, and enables the community to maintain more control of the Heritage Route without having ownership of the roadway. The goals of the plan are as follows:

- Preserve and enhance the scenic, agricultural, and rural qualities of the route.
- Encourage development that will not detract from scenic and agricultural qualities, which includes the preservation of the unique and prime agricultural land for present and future generations.
- Encourage community involvement in monitoring the route.
- Encourage interpretive programs that describe the natural, historic and cultural



View of vineyards, forest, and West Grand Traverse Bay from M-37 Scenic Heritage Route

## Community Description

features located along the corridor.

- Promote the preservation and maintenance of the unique and rural qualities of the countryside along M-37 (Center Road).

The Parks Commission has representation on the Scenic Heritage Route Committee, and activities and goals are coordinated between the two groups.

### **Agricultural Preservation**

Preservation of the Township's scenic views and rural landscape is essential to the recreational opportunities provided by the Township—a recreation destination for residents throughout the Grand Traverse region, and for tourists from throughout the state and beyond. One of the most popular recreational activities is to drive along M-37 for scenic views of rolling hills, open space, orchards, vineyards, and Lake Michigan.

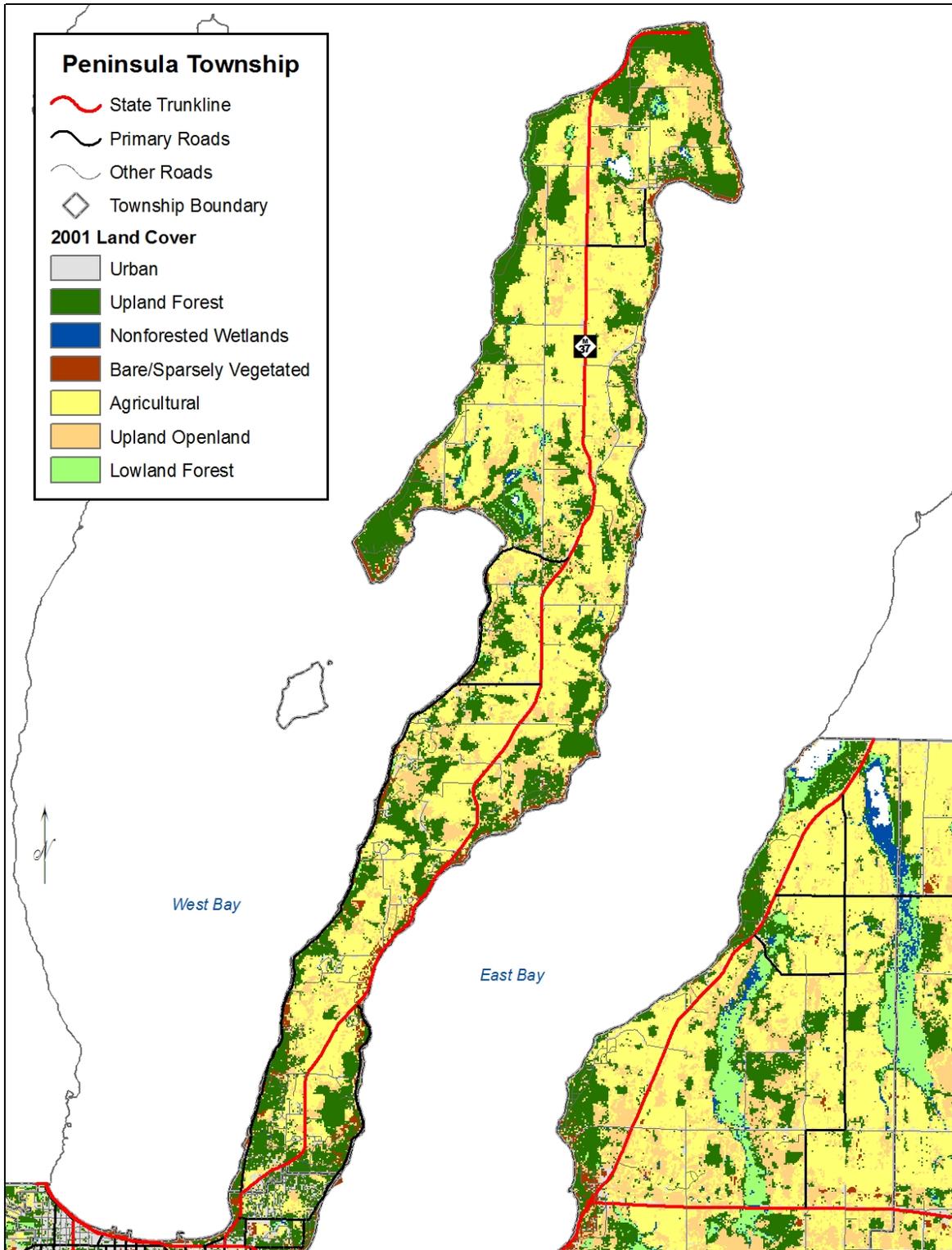
In recognition of the need to preserve this landscape, Peninsula Township has identified about 9,000 acres of farmland and scenic views to be preserved or protected in the Township. In 1994, Peninsula Township voters approved a millage to fund the purchase of development rights for agricultural land in Peninsula Township. In 2002, voters increased the millage to 2 mills and extended the program for another 20 years.

The State of Michigan has also contributed to the preservation of important farmland in the Township. The State has purchased the development rights on the Chateau Grand Traverse property and in the Bowers Harbor area to supplement the Township purchase of development rights (PDR) program, and the Michigan Department of Transportation has developed a scenic turnout with a view over this area. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund contributed \$1,000,000 in funding, which, together with \$250,000 provided locally, has resulted in the purchase of conservation easements to permanently protect the

agricultural and scenic values in the area around the M-37 scenic turnout.

These funding efforts, on the part of both residents and the State of Michigan, show a firm commitment to protect the Township's agricultural economy as well as its unique landscape—which will continue to be an important recreation resource for residents and visitors alike.

Map 2: Transportation & Land Use



# Administrative Structure

## Organizational Structure

**Township Board:** The 7-member Peninsula Township Board is elected to adopt township budgets, approve contracts, adopt policies, and oversee staff. The parks and other Township facilities are overseen by the Township Board.

**Parks Commission:** Peninsula Township has an elected Park Commission that oversees the development and operations of parks, in addition to facilitating recreation programs. The Parks Commission makes recreation programming recommendations and decisions, as well as budget recommendations to the Township Board.

**Planning Commission:** The Peninsula Township Planning Commission is appointed by the Township Board to develop and adopt Township Master Plans, develop and administer the Township Zoning Ordinance, and to make recommendations to the Township Board on a variety of land use issues. The Planning Commission is authorized to ado

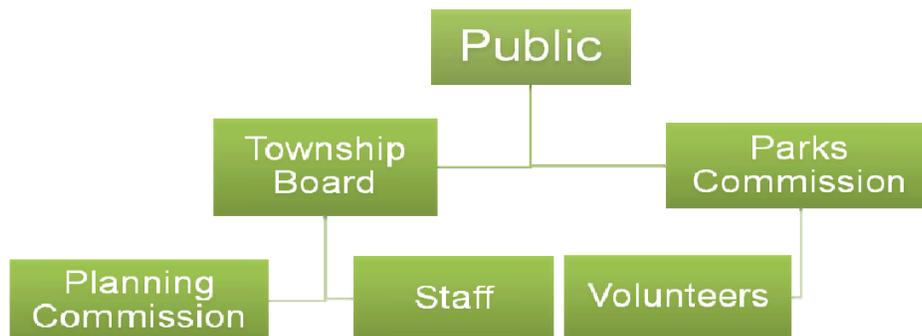
**Staff:** Parks are maintained by Township Buildings and Grounds staff. One full-time year round

staff member oversees seasonal and contractual staff.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers play an important role in the development and upkeep of the parks. Volunteers provide assistance to Lighthouse Park through the Lighthouse Keeper Program, and have also taken responsibility for the long-term maintenance and other needs of the Dougherty Historic Home. Volunteers have been instrumental in the planning and ongoing improvements of the Pelizzari Natural Area.

## Recreation Funding and Budgeting

Peninsula Township park maintenance, improvements, and activities are funded through a number of sources and budgets. The General Fund is the primary source of funding for parks, with \$88,500 budgeted for 2009-2010 fiscal year, to cover maintenance, utility costs, some improvements, and general upkeep. General fund dollars are allocated for recreation through the budget process by the Township Board, following consideration of Parks Commission budget recommendations.



Some parks produce revenue in order to cover maintenance and upkeep costs. Fees charged for special events, tours, and the Lighthouse Keeper program provide a source of revenue to cover some maintenance costs at the Lighthouse. A gift shop opened at the Lighthouse in 2009 and is expected to become a growing source of revenue for Lighthouse maintenance and activities. Also, pavilion rental at Bowers Harbor Park produces some revenue that is available for repairs and maintenance at the park.

The purchase of the Pelizzari Natural Area was funded by a millage passed in November 2008. The millage provided for some funding to cover costs for basic improvements to allow safe public access to the park. Funding for additional improvements is expected to come from grants and other fundraising activities.

Further, some fundraising is conducted by volunteers for improvements and upkeep on some sites. The Dougherty House is entirely funded by private fundraising efforts.

### **Administration Needs**

While buildings and grounds staff devote considerable time to maintenance and upkeep of Township parks, there are no staff dedicated solely to parks activities and programming. As visitation and usage of the parks and their programming expand, maintenance and other administrative needs increase as well. The Parks Commission has identified the need for additional staff that can meet some administrative needs, as well as buildings and grounds personnel dedicated solely to the parks.

# Recreation Inventory

Peninsula Township offers a number of both passive and active recreation opportunities (see Map 3). The following data provides an inventory of existing recreational facilities within Peninsula Township, as well as needs or issues that may need to be addressed at the facility. The inventory also includes information on state-funded improvements or expansions to the facility in the past.

Data was gathered from the 2006 Peninsula Township Recreation Plan, Township staff and officials, and site visits. Park locations are shown on Map 3.

Accessibility information included is based upon criteria provided in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plans (Appendix D). Accessibility considerations include the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities, in respect to both the facilities themselves, and the access routes to them.

## **Archie Roadside Park**

Archie Roadside Park is a small park located on M-37, near Gray and Bluff Roads. The park includes a picnic area, portable toilet, and stairway access to East Bay. It's used by a variety of people, including bicyclists, who use the parking lot as a staging area for tours of Old Mission Peninsula. Public input indicates a need for picnic tables at the park, as well as some general improvements to the water access stairway and the park's overall appearance.

Within the Township limits, Archie Park is the only public access to East Bay south of Old Mission, with the exception of the DNR launch site at the East Shore Rd and M-37 intersection.

Some of the park's facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Facilities include:

- Pedestrian water access
- Vault toilet
- Parking area
- Water pump
- Beach stairs
- Swingsets
- Grills

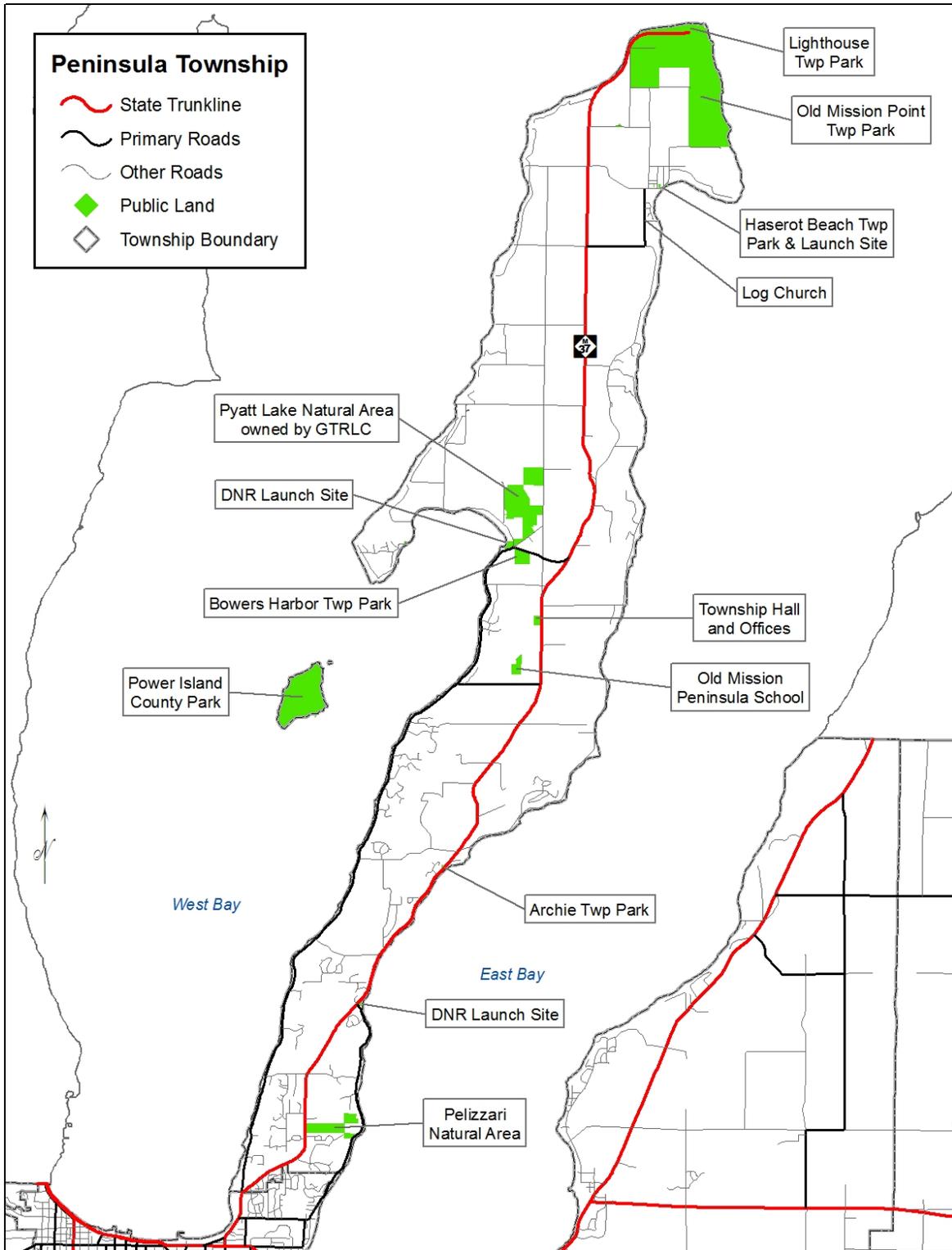
## **Haserot Park**

The only Township-managed improved public beach access on the Old Mission Peninsula is located at Haserot Park on Old Mission Harbor, which includes a swimming area, boat launch, playground equipment, parking, picnic areas, and a vault toilet. The park is popular for swimming, boating, kayaking, and diving; and usage of the park for these activities continues to increase. As the only public access to East Bay except for the Lighthouse Park at the end of the Peninsula, which is not good for



*Haserot Park*

Map 3: Peninsula Township Parks and Public Land



swimming, Haserot Beach attracts both residents and visitors for swimming during the summer. The deep harbor is also often used by scuba divers as an important archaeological dive site, and is popular as a day anchorage for boaters.

The variety of activities available at the park creates some issues, as boat traffic associated with the boat launch and day anchorages severely limits the area available for swimming, diving, and kayaking. Parking is also a serious concern due to the heavy usage by boaters, swimmers, and other park visitors. In public input received for development of the Recreation Plan, parking, high visitation levels, and usage conflict at Haserot Beach were cited as persistent issues that should be addressed.

Because of the demonstrated need for additional access areas and parking, the Township has explored the possibility of acquiring additional property to expand the park. Some nearby property may be available for purchase for use as an addition to Haserot Park and would accommodate the large numbers of visitors to the park during the summer months.

*Previous Grants: In 1989, Peninsula Township acquired two parcels for addition to the Haserot Beach Park, with funding provided in part by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The properties are currently used as an area for playground equipment adjacent to the beach and boat landing.*

Some of the park's facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Park facilities include:

- Playground equipment
- Boat launch and dock
- ADA compliant vault toilet
- Swimming area
- Parking area
- Basketball court
- Storage building
- Well



*Picnic pavilion and walking trail, Bowers Harbor Park*

## **Bowers Harbor Park**

Bowers Harbor Park provides the majority of the Township's active recreation facilities, and includes a variety of programmed recreation activities organized by the Township. A children's summer recreation program including volleyball, softball, kickball, arts, and other activities is available June through August. A tennis program is also available at Bowers Harbor Park.

The park's paved walking trails are important as a universally accessible recreation opportunity, and in order to enhance that opportunity, the Township has explored the possibility of acquiring additional property adjacent to Bowers Harbor Park. Expansion of the park would allow for expanded walking/jogging trails and open space.

*Previous Grants: In 1979, Peninsula Township received funding from Land and Water Conservation to purchase a 12.5 acre parcel adjacent to the existing Bowers Harbor Park. The additional acreage is used for baseball and soccer fields, along with additional parking facilities and irrigation well. A second grant from the Land and Water Conservation fund, in combination with local funding, contributed to improved irrigation, bike racks, signage, trail*

*improvements, relocated power line, additional bleachers, picnic tables, pavilions, landscaping, outhouses, soccer fields, improved access, and resurfacing and landscaping of tennis courts.*

Most of the park's facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Park facilities include:

- Tennis courts (2)
- Volleyball court
- Softball/baseball fields
- Soccer fields
- Playground equipment
- Picnic pavilions (3) with electrical outlets, grills, tables
- Accessible toilets (3)
- Parking area
- Paved walking path
- Well
- Irrigation
- Storage building
- Basketball court

### **Lighthouse Park**

Lighthouse Park includes a wide variety of recreation facilities, including historic buildings, picnic areas, and trails, and is linked through

trails with Old Mission Point Park and the Murray Rd and Ridgeway Rd trailheads, totaling 700 acres. Beach access is available in several locations throughout the park (see Map 4).

Because of its location at the end of the Peninsula and M-37, and as the site of the historic Lighthouse, this park is heavily used and continues to receive increasing numbers of users. The park includes historic buildings and barrier-free trails, which make it attractive as a year-round facility for hiking and skiing. The majority of trails prohibit motorized vehicles; however, motorized vehicle access is permitted on the east-west two-track that bisects the northern portion of the park (see Map 4, Trail Map). Hunting is permitted in some areas of the park, per DNR regulations.

Usage at the park has increased substantially since the Mission Point Lighthouse was opened to the public for tours in 2008. A gift shop was opened and regular programming began in 2009. The Lighthouse Park is now available by reservation, for a fee, for special events and weddings. The Lighthouse building includes a museum and gift shop, which is open May through October. Volunteers assist with maintenance, tours and other needs at the



*Mission Point Lighthouse, Lighthouse Park*



*Hessler Log Home, Lighthouse Park*



*Ridgeway Rd Trailhead*

Lighthouse through a Lighthouse Keeper Program.

With increased usage of the beach area, erosion is occurring along the roadway, and action is needed to reduce the automobile access to the beach area. Higher visitation levels also create a greater interest and need for restoration activities in the Lighthouse and accessory buildings. Renovation of the Lighthouse building to historically accurate conditions has been identified as a priority, as has renovation and reuse of the garage and former concession stand building.

A strategic plan for the Mission Point Lighthouse was adopted by the Parks Commission in 2008, and is used as a working document by the Parks Commission to guide activities relative to the Lighthouse buildings and programs. However, because of the park's size and importance to both residents and tourism, the Township may benefit from a management plan that addresses the Lighthouse and Old Mission park system as a whole.

Most of the park's facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Facilities include:

- Cross-country ski trails
- Handicapped beach access
- Historic lighthouse, kerosene

- building, storage garage and well
- Handicapped toilet
- Swimming area
- Parking lot (2)
- Picnic areas
- Vault toilets (3)
- Swimming
- Visitor Center

### **Hessler Log Cabin**

The Hessler Log Cabin is located on the Lighthouse Park Grounds. The cabin was built by Old Mission settlers in the 1850s, and was moved to its current location in 1992. The home has been restored as an historical resource and includes a display of furnishings that are historically accurate to the mid-nineteenth century. The Log Cabin is managed by the Old Mission Historical Society. Maintenance and upkeep are funded through donations, which are controlled through the Township Parks Commission budgeting process.

All of the cabin's facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Facilities include:

- Historic display
- Log Cabin days programming

### **Old Mission Point Park**

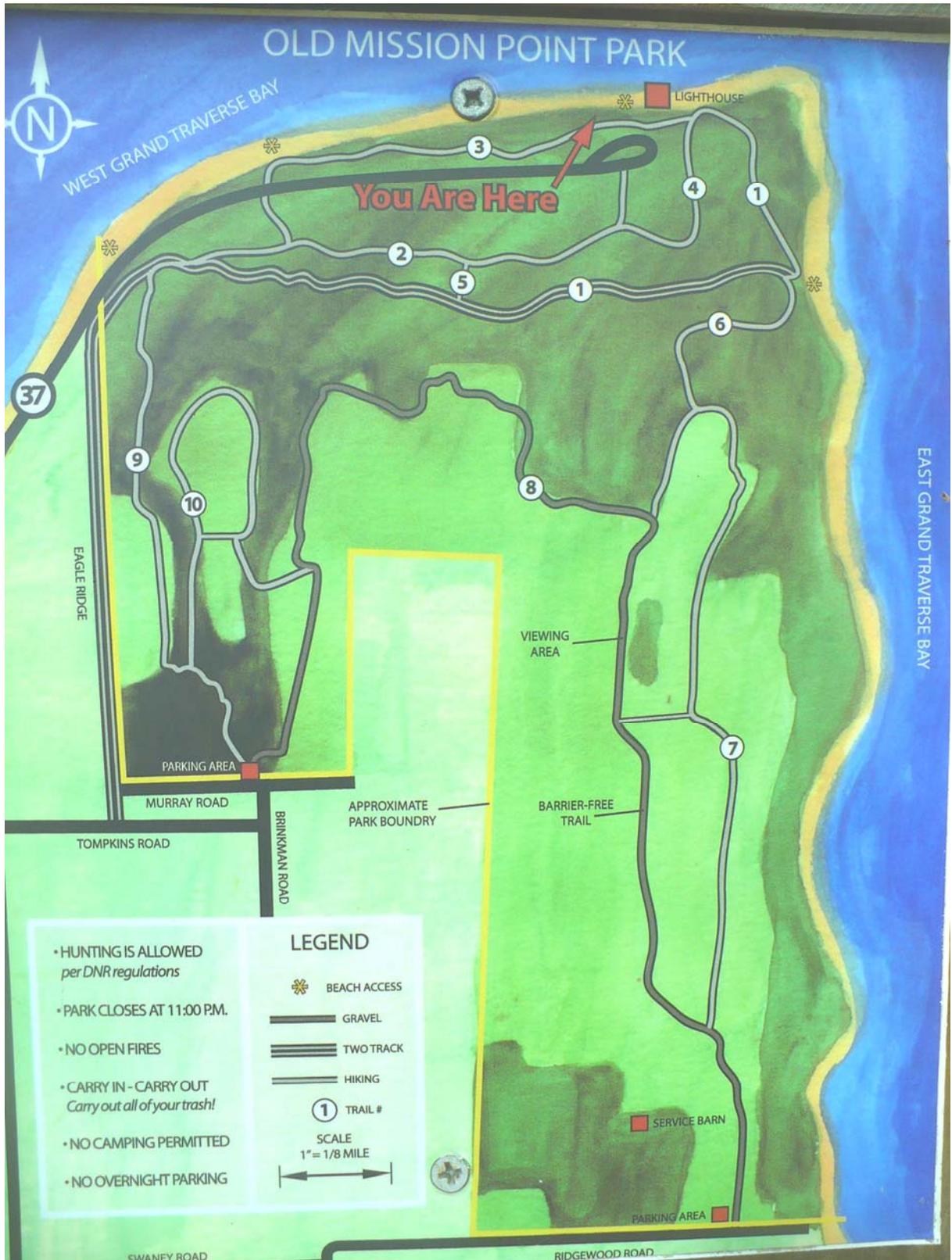
Old Mission Point Park is connected to the Lighthouse Park through hiking and skiing trails; however, a separate gravel parking area, picnic area, and accessible vault toilet is available at two trailheads, located on Murray Rd and Ridgeway Rd (see Map 4). Barrier-free trails link the parking areas to Lighthouse Park.

### **Murray Rd Trailhead**

The Murray Rd Trailhead is a part of Old Mission Point Park, and provides access to the 12 miles of hiking trails that link Old Mission Point Park and Lighthouse Park (see Map 3). Trails are for passive use only. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Some of the facilities meet accessibility

Map 4. Old Mission Point Park Trail Map



guidelines. Facilities/activities available at the trailhead include:

- Parking
- Hiking trails
- Barrier free trails
- Hunting

### **Ridgeway Rd Trailhead**

The Ridgeway Rd Trailhead is a part of Old Mission Point Park, and provides access to the 12 miles of hiking trails that link Old Mission Point Park and Lighthouse Park. Trails are for passive use only. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

A barn located near the Ridgeway Rd trailhead is currently leased by the Township for storage of parks-related maintenance equipment. The lease is due to expire in the near term, and additional storage facilities will be needed.

Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Facilities available at the trailhead include:

- Parking
- Hiking trails
- Barrier free trails
- Hunting
- ADA vault toilet

### **Dougherty Historic Home**

The Dougherty Historic Home is located on 15 acres in Old Mission, and is the site of the original settlement and mission established by Reverend Peter Dougherty. The Peter Dougherty Society, a nonprofit group, collaborated with a variety of partners to raise funding to buy the home and grounds. With the funding raised through these efforts, the home was purchased and placed under Township ownership in 2006. The Peter Dougherty Society subsequently began efforts to restore the building, and is now working to develop an interpretive center. The Township has



established an endowment fund for long-term needs and programming at the home; however, the Dougherty Historic Home is maintained and funded by a private volunteer group which conducts its own fundraising and programming. Some restoration is needed to make the home appropriate for public use.

### **Log Church**

The Log Church is located across from the Dougherty Home, and is the site of the Old Mission settlement's first church. The property is owned and maintained by Peninsula Township; donations are accepted for the purposes of maintenance and restoration.

### **Pelizzari Natural Area**

The Pelizzari Natural Area was purchased in 2009, following approval of a millage in 2008. The park consists of 62 acres of woodlands, meadows, wetlands, and shoreline in the southern end of Peninsula Township. Improvements including trail-building, clean-up and master planning began in 2009 shortly after the property was purchased. With improvements still ongoing, the Natural Area now offers about 2.5 miles of trails and offers abundant opportunities for hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, and birdwatching, while preserving and maintaining important wildlife habitat, wetlands, and sensitive shoreline areas.

A Master Plan for the Natural Area was adopted by the Township in 2009. Section 2 of the

Recreation Plan includes a Management Plan for the park, which was based on the adopted Natural Area Master Plan.

None of the park's facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Accessible trails are high priority for future improvements at the park, and are a goal identified in the Management Plan. Facilities include:

- 2.5 miles of trails
- Parking area

### **Other Township Recreation Facilities**

Recreation opportunities in the Township include facilities or parks outside of Township ownership. The State of Michigan, Grand Traverse County, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and the City of Traverse City all maintain land and facilities accessible to the public for hiking, swimming, picnicking, boating, camping, and other activities. State, local, and Conservancy-owned recreation areas located within Peninsula Township are as follows:

#### **State of Michigan**

##### ***M-37 Scenic Heritage Route***

M-37 has been designated by the State of Michigan as the Old Mission Scenic Heritage Route. The Heritage Route offers driving tours, scenic views, and historical site identification/interpretation for visitors.

Scenic Heritage Route creates some opportunities in terms of program and activity coordination with the Township's recreation goals. Goals for the Scenic Heritage Route are identified in Section 1.A of the Recreation Plan (Community Description & Planning Considerations).

##### ***DNRE Boat Access***

Two boat launches, owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE), are available in Peninsula Township. The first is located on East Bay along Center Road, just north of East Shore Road. The boat launch site includes vehicle parking and an outhouse, and is heavily used in the summer months. A second boat launch is available at

Bowers Harbor on Peninsula Drive. Vehicle parking is available.

### **Grand Traverse County**

#### ***Power Island***

Power Island is a 202-acre property located in the west arm of Grand Traverse Bay, about two miles from the Bowers Harbor Boat Launch. The island includes forest and beach areas and is used primarily for its beaches and picnic areas. A primitive campground is located on Bassett Island, which is connected to Power Island via an isthmus. Features include:

- Swimming
- Picnic area
- Restrooms
- Campsites

### **Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy**

#### ***Pyatt Natural Area***

The Conservancy-owned Pyatt Lake Natural Area offers hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, and bird watching opportunities in a unique habitat consisting of wooded dune and swale with a variety of animal and plant species. The 140-acre Natural Area is located off Neahtawanta Rd in the northwest corner of the Township. Activities at the Natural Area include:

- Hiking, snowshoeing, skiing
- Hunting
- Birdwatching

### **Nearby Recreation Opportunities**

Many recreation facilities are available outside the Township boundaries within Grand Traverse County, including facilities or parks operated by the City of Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, and the State of Michigan, including beaches, playgrounds, downhill skiing facilities, campgrounds, natural areas, and a County-owned civic center that includes a public pool and hockey rink. Private recreation opportunities are abundant as well, including golf courses, marinas, and skating rinks.

# Goals, Objectives, & Action Program

## Recreation Plan Goal and Objectives

*(Goal and Objectives from the draft 2010 Peninsula Township Master Plan)*

### Provide a variety of parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs to serve all groups.

- Continue to maintain and improve Peninsula Township's parks and natural areas.
- Explore appropriate locations to expand existing parks, water access points, and recreation facilities.
- Develop an overall future trails plan along roadways to link Peninsula Township's trail systems together as well as connect to regional trails systems and incorporate the plan into the Recreation Plan.
- Encourage expansion and/or public launch sites and associated parking to serve expanding needs.

## Recreation Plan Action Program

Goal/Action	Timeframe
<b>Archie Park</b>	
Landscaping and picnic area improvements	2011
Beach access improvements, including signage and stairway repair	2011
<b>Bowers Harbor Park</b>	
Addition to Bowers Harbor Park*	As opportunity presents
Replace deteriorating fence to the west with plantings	2011
Pave parking lot	2014
Update mileage markers on walking path	2011
Landscaping	2014
<b>Haserot Beach</b>	
Parking lot paving	2014
Parking lot landscaping	2014
Picnic area improvements	2014

Goals, Objectives, and Action Program

Goal/Action	Timeframe
<b>Lighthouse Park</b>	
Install a foundation under former concession stand and renovate the building for storage purposes**	2014
Landscaping	2011
Renovate kitchen, bathrooms, etc to historically accurate conditions**	2015+
Renovate existing garage for use as a gift shop**	2015
Renovate historic fuel storage building**	2015
Construct keepers quarters on property	2015
<b>Log Church</b>	
Landscaping	2011
Update displays	2012
Restore to original condition	2011
<b>Old Mission Point Park</b>	
Forestry management plan (to include Murray Rd and Ridgeway Trailheads)	2012
<b>Murray Rd Trailhead</b>	
Forestry management plan	2012
Vault toilet/trashcan	2012
<b>Ridgeway Trailhead</b>	
Forestry management plan	2012
<b>Pelizzari Natural Area</b>	
See Section 2, Pelizzari Natural Area Plan, for goals and action items	
<b>General Park Activities</b>	
Hire a park secretary	
Hire a Buildings & Grounds staffperson exclusive to parks	
Future or potential land acquisition	
Parks Commission building for storage, office space, equipment repair, etc.	

\*Possible funding sources include Natural Resources Trust Fund, millage proposals

\*\*Possible funding sources include Coastal Zone Management program, State Historic Preservation Office, other grant opportunities



# Peninsula Township Recreation Plan Section 2



## Pelizzari Natural Area Management Plan



## Section 2: Pelizzari Natural Area Management Plan

### Introduction

The Pelizzari Natural Area encompasses approximately 62 acres of woodlands, meadows, wetlands, and shoreline in the southern end of Peninsula Township. This unique property offers abundant opportunities for the public to enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, and birdwatching, while preserving and maintaining important wildlife habitat, wetlands, and sensitive shoreline areas.

The Pelizzari Natural Area (formerly known as the “Center Road Natural Area”) was purchased by Peninsula Township in 2009, following the approval of a millage by voters in November 2008 that allowed the Township to acquire the property for use as a natural area/park. Site improvement activities began on the park in early 2009, and a master plan was approved by the Township Parks Board, Planning Commission and Township Board in December 2009. Based on public input and site characteristics, a management statement and accompanying goals were developed as follows (see page 22 for complete list of goals and objectives):

Center Road Natural Area will be managed as a low-impact quiet/natural area for the purposes of allowing for passive recreation activities while protecting, conserving, and restoring the natural, scenic, outdoor recreation, and wildlife values of the site, and while minimizing potential impacts to adjacent landowners and neighbors.

Emphasis will be placed on the preservation of the unique natural features of the site, as well as accommodating passive day-use quiet recreation activities such as hiking, skiing, and wildlife observation. The site will provide envi-

ronmental education and interpretation. Structures will be minimal, primarily designed to support access, parking, and visitor information. Management activities and use will be designed to comply with provisions of the due care plan approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in order to ensure safe public use.

Goals from the Master Plan are as follows:

- Restore, protect, and creatively manage the Center Road Natural Area forestland, meadows, shoreline, and wildlife habitat.
- Provide appropriate public access and recreation opportunities while minimizing potential impacts to the site and to adjacent properties and neighborhoods.
- Promote environmental education and volunteerism.

### Management Plan Purpose & Goals

This management plan is intended to provide guidance for future activities and improvements at the park in a manner consistent with the adopted Center Road Natural Area Master Plan (2009) and management statement. Management objectives are based on the goals of the Master Plan and on focused public input and analysis.

Once the management plan has been approved by the Peninsula Township Parks Board, phased implementation of recommendations will begin, per timelines recommended for goals and objectives (see page 39).

This plan should be reviewed often to ensure that goals are attained and that the park is being managed in accordance with the management statement.

# Pelizzari Natural Area Management Goals

*from the Center Road Natural Area Master Plan, adopted December 2009*

**1. Restore, protect, and creatively manage the Center Road Natural Area forestland, meadows, shoreline, and wildlife habitat.**

- A. Control and remove invasive plant species to the degree practicable.
- B. Maintain and protect existing wildlife habitat.
- C. Continue MDEQ due care plan compliance activities.
- D. Reforestation and/or managed prairie in former orchard areas.
- E. Manage the site to protect water quality.

**2. Provide appropriate public access and recreation opportunities while minimizing potential impacts to the site and to adjacent property owners and neighborhoods.**

- A. Encourage resource-based, day use passive recreation activities suited to the natural character of the park, including hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, and wildlife observation.
- B. Work to incorporate barrier-free features into the Center Road Natural area through accessible trail loops, appropriate vehicle parking design and designations, and accessible restroom facilities and other structures, using ADA and Michigan Barrier-Free Design Standards.
- C. Assess opportunities for additional pedestrian access while minimizing potential impacts on adjacent landowners and neighbors.
- D. Ensure park activities are consistent with the provisions of the MDEQ due care plan.
- E. Take corrective action to *limit vehicle access to the established parking area*.
- F. Ensure that location, size, and scale of improvements for public use and access are suited to the natural features and character of the park.
- G. Ensure that materials for infrastructure such as signs, interpretive displays, fencing, and restrooms, are harmonious with the natural character of the park.
- H. Consider appropriate landscaping/screening for parking lot and structures to preserve the natural character of the site and meet the goals of the M-37 Scenic Heritage Route.
- I. Formally designate and sign trails as the primary public access route throughout the site.
- J. Continue to work with adjacent landowners to meet park goals and MDEQ due care plan provisions.
- K. Due to the potential for trail usage conflicts, mountain biking will be precluded unless appropriate trails are established.
- L. Where boundaries are not fenced, define boundaries with markings or signs to the degree that it is practical.
- M. Monitor public use and impacts and take corrective action as necessary to ensure minimal impacts to the park's natural features and to neighboring landowners and residents.

**3. Promote environmental education and volunteerism.**

- A. Create public interest and understanding of natural area goals through interpretive signs, exhibits, programs, and information distribution.
- B. Work with volunteers and interested groups to implement park goals and MDEQ due care plan provisions on activities such as erosion control, removal of invasive plant species, park clean up, patrols, educational activities, and trail maintenance.



## Management Issues, Goals, and Objectives

The Pelizzari Natural Area is a low-impact quiet/natural area located in the southern end of Peninsula Township, just north of the City of Traverse City. The 62-acre park includes a mixture of former agricultural land, woodlands, overgrown field vegetation, and shoreline, with topography that ranges from nearly flat, gently rolling hills to steep slopes. Woodland areas include pine plantation, hemlock, and both mature and newly established hardwoods. Soils are primarily sands and loamy sands, including Alpena East Lake gravelly loamy sands, Emmet sandy loam, East Lake-Mancelona loamy sands, and Lake beach and Eastport sands. The former orchard areas consist primarily of Leelanau-Kalkaska loamy sands. The Natural Area is located on M-37 (Center Road), a state-designated Scenic Heritage Route. To the south the property is bordered by the Homestead Court subdivision. Adjacent properties to the north, east, and west of the park are largely undeveloped forest and open land, with a number of single family homes.

While management planning and activities will generally occur on a park-wide basis, the variation in topography, land cover, and neighboring land uses does create some issues and opportunities that are specific to certain areas of the park. For the purposes of management planning, the Natural Area has been divided into five management areas, based on land cover and location, as follows:

- A. Old Orchard
- B. Middle Woods
- C. Lower Meadow
- D. Hemlock Forest
- E. Upper Field

The site characteristics and other planning considerations, as well as public input and recom-

mended activities/improvements, are identified in detail in corresponding sections of the Management Plan.

### Current Use and Management

The Natural Area has been managed and used for passive recreation since it opened for public use in the summer/fall of 2009. Hiking, dog walking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing are popular activities, and are expected to increase as awareness of the Natural Area grows over time.

Because the park was only recently acquired by the Township, management activities at the park include some ongoing improvements to trails, fencing, and signage. Other activities include maintenance of trails, brush cleanup, etc., as well as informal monitoring of the park to ensure safe and appropriate usage.

The Pelizzari Natural Area is managed with oversight from the Peninsula Township Parks Commission, park staff, and the Township Board. Many of the activities and improvements at the park, including the purchase, planning, trail building, and fencing, have been conducted in large measure by a partnership between Township officials and staff, volunteer groups, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC).

### Maintenance

Despite the low-impact, passive character of the park, ongoing maintenance and cleanup will be necessary, particularly in the spring, with litter and brush pickup needed at regular intervals. Ongoing maintenance will also include spring and fall fencing modifications. It may be helpful

to establish a formal schedule for park maintenance for Township parks staff. Installing garbage cans at park entrances and other locations throughout the park could also help in keeping the park clean.

### MDNRE Reporting

In response to residual agricultural chemicals on former orchard areas, a due care plan was developed in coordination with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (formerly the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality). To avoid any potential for exposure to the chemicals, the due care plan limited uses at the park to passive recreation activities; and in the interest of ensuring the safest possible public use, additional efforts were made to mitigate the potential for exposure to soils in some areas of the park. Soils in the Upper Field/North Wing (Management Area E) were “encapsulated” with about four inches of topsoil, and hedgerows/fencing were installed between some areas of the site and adjacent residences. The due care plan requires ongoing monitoring and compliance reporting to ensure that mitigation measures remain in place and effective. The GTRLC took leadership in the implementation and initial compliance requirements of the due care plan; compliance reporting has recently transitioned to volunteers.

**Goal: Ensure that park usage and management complies with MDNRE due care plan.**

- Monitor usage and impacts in Upper Field.
- Work with volunteers to continue compliance reporting as required.

### Park Usage and Monitoring

Throughout the park acquisition and improvement processes, concerns were identified relative to the potential for trespassing, inappropriate park usage, and DNRE due care plan compliance issues. To determine the extent to which these issues needed to be addressed, and to ensure minimal impacts to the park's natural features and neighboring landowners, informal efforts to monitor park usage and activities have

been ongoing. A number of issues have been identified as areas of concern and may benefit from focused reporting and enforcement efforts:

- **Dogs.** Dog waste has been a concern at the park; dog waste bag dispensers have been installed at the Old Orchard parking lot.
- **Staying on trails.** Hiking off the designated trails could exacerbate any potential for soil erosion. Problematic areas within the interior of the park could be addressed through the installation of cable fencing, strategic new plantings or additional minimalistic signage.
- **Bikes.** Bikes, due to concerns over soil erosion and usage conflicts, and per the MDNRE due care plan and adopted park master plan, are not permitted on the park property. Some bike usage of the park has been noted and should be addressed.
- **Hours.** In respect for neighboring properties, it may be necessary to enforce standard hours of operation.
- **Parking.** Parking has been observed along East Shore Rd, creating serious safety concerns. The Township has taken action to address immediate concern and will continue efforts to prevent parking in this area.

**Goal: Ensure park usage is in keeping with the quiet, natural, undisturbed character of the park.**

- Continue to work with volunteers and neighboring residents to monitor usage and identify any usage issues or concerns.
- Maintain signage informing users of park rules.
- Work with Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police to prevent parking, and take immediate corrective action for parking issues as they arise.
- Consider enforcement options for issues or complaints arising from violation of park rules relative to hours, dog issues, and bike use.

### Park Improvements

In keeping with the goals of the adopted Master Plan for the park, and per the public comment received in the recreation planning processes, park improvements at the Pelizzari Natural Area will be limited to those necessary for the maintenance and usage of the site as a natural area.

A number of signs have been installed to inform users of park rules and provide direction. It may be appropriate to review the location, design and content of these signs to ensure that they're meeting their intent effectively. An identifying road sign is also needed for the parking lot area.

There has also been discussion on the possibility of interpretive signs to call attention to various features and enhance the park experience. Per the goals of the CRNA Master Plan, it will be important to ensure that any such interpretive signs are in keeping with the rustic, low-impact character of the park.

Other park facilities that may be necessary include outhouses and trash receptacles. Options for water sources have been discussed as well, as a means to provide irrigation to any plantings installed for landscaping purposes. The use of any such water source will be limited strictly to irrigation purposes.

**Goal: Provide adequate signage and direction while preserving the natural character of the park.**

- Provide entrance signage that meets the guidelines of the M-37 Scenic Heritage Route.
- Identify private property boundaries

**Goal: Ensure that the location, size, and scale of improvements are suited to the natural character of the park, and that they are sited in a manner that minimizes the potential for negative impacts to the park and neighboring properties.**

- Design improvements, including restrooms and signage, to blend with environment and

site structures in least sensitive areas to minimize impacts.

- Trash receptacles should be designed or sited in order to prevent issues with attracting wildlife.
- Consider options for low-impact water source to aid in irrigation of any plantings.

### Plantings/Reforestation

The Old Orchard, Lower Meadow, and the Upper Field were historically used for agriculture. Since the purchase of the park, the orchards have been cleared and these areas now consist of open grassland with some naturally occurring reforestation in the Lower Meadow and Upper Field. Natural resource inventories are currently underway. A number of options for vegetation/reforestation have been discussed by the community throughout park planning and improvements, with possibilities including natural, minimally-managed reforestation, gardens (in the Old Orchard), control of invasive species, and the use of native species as part of a managed open space approach. All options, per Master Plan goals, place a high priority on the use of native species and control of invasive species to the extent practicable. Options are discussed in more detail in corresponding sections of the Management Plan.

**Goal: Manage the natural area as a combination of forest and meadow areas.**

- Use completed natural resource inventories, in coordination with local agencies and volunteers, to identify and remove undesirable plant species.
- Work with local agencies and volunteers to manage desired vegetation and maintain habitat.
- Install plantings as recommended by the Old Orchard landscape plan and manage in coordination with volunteers and local agencies.

### Boundary Delineation—Fencing, Signage, and Screening

Per the MDNRE due care plan, and in order to address privacy concerns from adjacent resi-

## Section 2: Pelizzari Natural Area Management Plan

dences, fencing has been installed in several areas of the park (see map). Unfenced or unmarked boundary areas should be regularly assessed to determine where fencing, signage, or other markings are needed.

### Neighboring Property Owners

Throughout the park purchase, planning, and improvements, the Township, GTRLC, and volunteers worked extensively with neighboring property owners to identify and address concerns. Input from neighbors has been an important factor in park activities, and as the Management Plan goals are implemented, careful consideration of the potential impact to neighbors will continue to be a high priority.

**Goal: Continue to work with neighboring property owners to identify and address park issues.**

- Provide regular updates through newsletters and other mailings as needed on park issues, improvements, and activities.

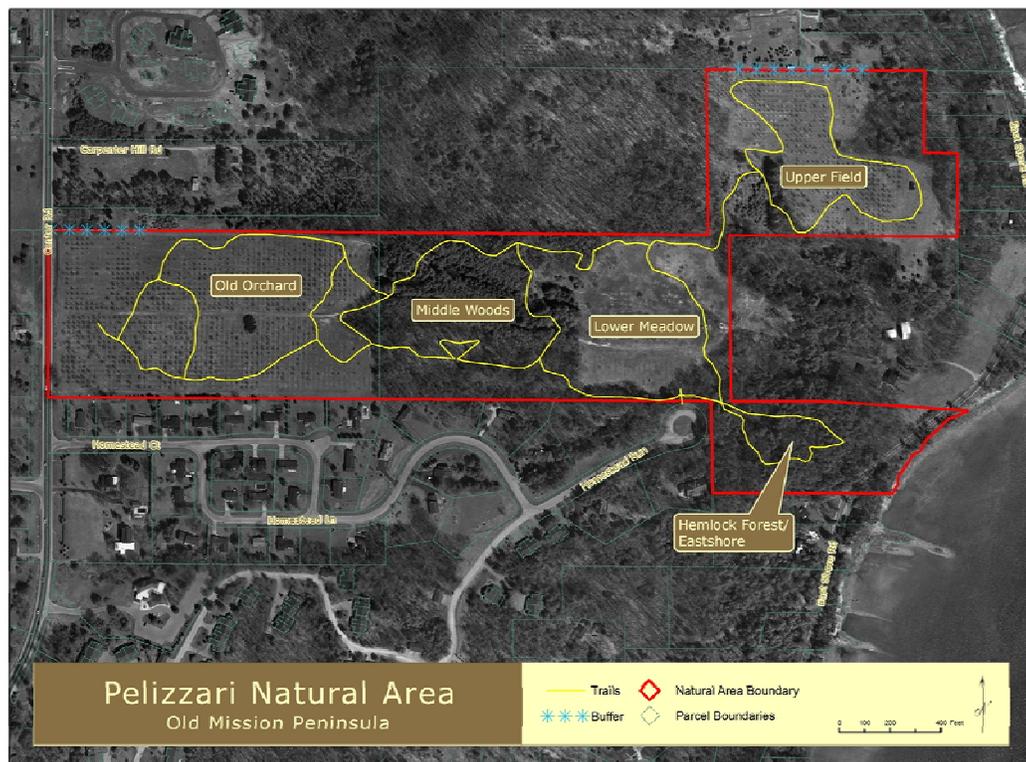
- Obtain input in any trail redesigns or design and development of park facilities.

### Grant Identification

Per discussions and verbal commitments made throughout the park purchase, planning, and improvement process, it is anticipated that any major park improvements will be funded primarily through grants. A number of appropriate funding opportunities exist, including local foundations, private donors, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, National Heritage Route, and Michigan Department Natural Resources and Environment. To implement Management Plan goals and proposed improvement schedules, it will be important to work with appropriate agencies in identifying and pursuing grant opportunities.

**Goal: Work to finance improvements or activities through grants and donations.**

- Identify and pursue grant opportunities to planned park improvements or activities



included in the adopted Management Plan and Capital Improvement Schedule.

- Coordinate with other agencies and initiatives, including the M-37 Scenic Heritage Route Committee, to seek additional grant opportunities.

### Future Property Acquisitions

An interest has been expressed in expanding the park through the purchase or conservation of adjacent undeveloped property. Specifics haven't been identified, but the Township may want to consider exploring acquisition opportunities in conjunction with grant investigations, including Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grants.

#### **Goal: Explore opportunities to enhance or enlarge the Natural Area.**

- Review adjacent properties for purchase in conjunction with available grant opportunities.
- Include potential property acquisitions in the Peninsula Township Recreation Plan.

### Resource Conservation

Goals established in the creation of the park emphasize the protection, conservation, and restoration of natural and scenic features, wildlife habitat and water quality. Flora and fauna surveys are being conducted by volunteers to provide an overall assessment of the park's natural resources. These surveys will help with refinement of management goals for the park and will identify features that warrant special consideration. Public access and improvements to sensitive areas and areas providing wildlife habitat should be planned and implemented in consideration of the potential impacts on these areas.

#### **Goal: Manage the Natural Area so as to preserve, protect, and restore the site's natural resources.**

- Use flora and fauna inventories to identify areas for special consideration for management activities.

- Assess impact on natural features prior to implementation of any park improvements or management activities.
- Remove non-native invasive species to the extent practicable.
- Conduct management activities to maintain and enhance wildlife habitat.
- Preserve shoreline area in an undeveloped state.

### Trails

Approximately 2.5 miles of trails were constructed in the summer and fall of 2009. The trails were designed to maximize privacy for neighboring landowners, minimize trespass, preserve wildlife corridors, take advantage of viewshed opportunities, minimize erosion, and provide a variety of routes and lengths for hikers at all levels of ability. As noted, directional and informational signage has been posted along the trails.

The park has been popular for cross-country skiing; however, because of steep slopes or sharp turns, some trails may be more appropriate than others for skiing. It may be helpful to work with volunteers to develop a ski loop to direct skiers to the most appropriate trails.

#### **Goal: Maintain and monitor trails to ensure safe and appropriate usage.**

- Provide ongoing maintenance and clean up of trails.
- Work with volunteers to develop a cross-country ski course to accommodate skiers of all abilities.
- Consider trail adjustments as necessary to accommodate natural travel patterns and prevent trespass.

### Education and Group Activities

The park presents a tremendous opportunity for nature or wildlife education to citizens, scouts, or other groups. Guided hikes, interpretive signage, kiosks, and the like can provide guidance to those interested in more information on the park's natural features. Educational facilities or

activities should be in keeping with the park's low-impact character; and to ensure that activities minimize any potential disturbances to neighbors, it may be helpful to develop some basic guidance or ground rules for large groups that use the park as part of an educational program.

**Goal: Promote environmental education and volunteerism.**

- Create public interest in management goals and activities through interpretive signage and information distribution.
- Work cooperatively with local groups to promote environmental education and activities that are consistent with park goals.
- Work with volunteer groups to implement management objectives and to promote understanding of natural resource values and management activities.



## Management Area A: Old Orchard Field

The “Old Orchard” field is the most visible portion of the property, with 600’ of frontage along M-37, a designated Michigan Scenic Heritage Route. The Homestead Court subdivision is located immediately to the south.

The Old Orchard consists of 19.5 acres of gently rolling meadow land, bordered on its northern and eastern edges by both pine and hardwood forest. Soils are primarily Leelanau Kalkaska loamy sands with slopes ranging from 0-12%.

The Old Orchard serves as the only formal access to the Natural Area.

### Existing Facilities/Improvements

The Old Orchard has been a focus of activity for improvements and access since the park was purchased. Volunteers conducted extensive clean up and constructed trails leading east to the Middle Woods; and some plantings have been installed along the northern property line. A gravel parking lot is located in the center of the site frontage, with cable fencing surrounding the lot to prevent motor vehicle access to the interior of the park. Directional signs and rules are posted at the parking lot entrance. A dog waste bag dispenser is located at the entrance for park users.

### Planning Considerations

- Because of its extensive frontage along the M-37 Scenic Heritage Route, planning and improvements in this area should be done

in coordination with the Scenic Heritage Route Committee. The Scenic Heritage Route frontage also creates some opportunities in terms of potential grant funding or programs designed to enhance the overall appearance of the southern portion of M-37. Goals for the Scenic Heritage Route are as follows:

- ◇ Preserve and enhance the scenic, agricultural, and rural qualities of the route.
- ◇ Encourage development practices that will not detract from scenic and agricultural qualities, which includes the preservation of the unique and prime agricultural land for present and future generations.
- ◇ Encourage community involvement in monitoring the route.
- ◇ Encourage interpretive programs that describe the natural, historic, and cultural features located along the corridor.
- ◇ Promote the preservation and maintenance of the unique and rural qualities of the countryside along M-37.

- In the interest of maintaining the natural character of the park while meeting the goals of the Scenic Heritage Route, landscaping and screening along M-37 were identified as an important goal in the Center Road Area Master Plan. Landscaping possibilities for this section of the park may in-

clude shade trees along the trails, gardens on the crest of the hill, and reforestation or revegetation with native species along the boundaries moving toward the center of the Old Orchard.

- As the only motor vehicle entrance to the park, the Old Orchard serves as the “staging area” for most park users. As such the Old Orchard Area would be an appropriate place to locate picnic tables, restrooms, and garbage cans.
- Accessibility is a key consideration for this section of the park. Discussion has been held regarding the possibility of universally accessible paved trails, leading to focal points such as a garden, shaded areas, or picnic areas. However, it should be noted that paved trails will likely result in some bicycle usage in this area, which has been precluded as a park activity.
- Regularly high usage of the park may necessitate the expansion of the parking lot at some point. Access is regulated by the Michigan Department of Transportation; as such any expansion must meet MDOT requirements as well as the general vision of the park and landscaping plan. As park use increases, it may be helpful to monitor the use of the parking lot to determine if parking lot expansion is necessary.
- Public comment received on this area stressed the need to address the lack of screening along the Homestead Court boundary, through adjustment of the current trail and/or through screening consisting of faster-growing species of vegetation. Priority was also placed on accessibility, with points of interest being developed such as a naturalistic garden as a focal point or destination. Any structures should be minimalistic, with screening and buffering. Landscaping should allow for a combination of meadow areas and reforestation to allow for

mixed sun and shade.

### Goals & Objectives

#### **Goal: Provide screening along Homestead Court boundary and northern property line.**

- Use faster-growing species or install plantings of a size to provide immediate cover.
- Include a mixture of deciduous and evergreen vegetation to provide year-round cover.
- Consider adjusting trails along the southern boundary to direct traffic away from Homestead Court residences and accommodate the timeframe for maturation of any plantings used for screening.

#### **Goal: Conduct landscaping activities that provide focal points and a mixture of open space and forested areas, per the recommendations of the adopted Old Orchard landscape plan.**

- Work with local agencies and volunteers to implement landscape plan recommendations.
- Work with local agencies and volunteers to maintain plantings and remove undesirable vegetation as needed to meet the objectives of the landscape plan.
- Allow some natural reforestation to occur along park boundaries while maintaining significant areas of meadow.

#### **Goal: Coordinate activities with goals of the M-37 Scenic Heritage route.**

- Pursue continuation of M-37 maple tree plantings in coordination with the M-37 Scenic Heritage Route.
- Explore grant opportunities available through the Scenic Heritage Route program for enhancements or improvements along M-37 frontage.

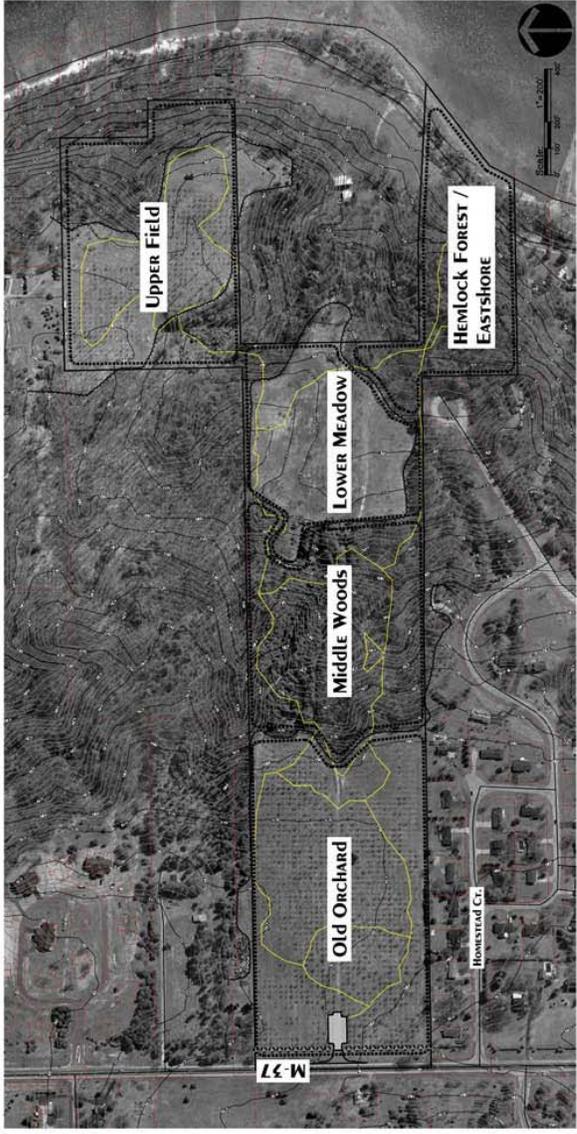
#### **Goal: Provide universally accessible trails.**

- Use hard-packed permeable surfaces that meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

- Consider monitoring and enforcement options to address bike usage of hard-packed trails.

**Goal: Provide limited park furnishings as necessary, while the maintaining natural character and appearance of the park.**

- Provide minimalistic park facilities, including outhouse, garbage cans, and benches. Outhouse should be ADA compliant and consistent with type used in other Township parks. Picnic tables or picnic areas are not recommended for the Natural Area at this time, due to the potential for litter and other nuisance. However, if a demonstrated need arises in the future, picnic areas may be considered for areas that will not impact neighboring properties, as identified in the landscape plan
- Provide screening of all park facilities to ensure they blend with the natural environment.
- Provide for routine monitoring/maintenance to ensure appropriate usage of park facilities and improvements.
- Consider irrigation options for any plantings included as part of landscaping and screening implementation.
- Install identification signage at access along M-37. Signage design should meet M-37 Scenic Heritage Route guidelines.



**LANDSCAPE GOALS BY PARK AREA:**

- Old Orchard**
- Provide screening along Homestead Court boundary
  - Provide landscaping that creates focal points and a mixture of open space and forested areas
  - Coordinate activities with goals of the M-37 Scenic Heritage route
  - Provide limited park furnishings as necessary, while maintaining the natural character and appearance of the park
- Middle Woods**
- Maintain open areas in two-track for skiing and scenic aspects
- LOWER MEADOW**
- Maintain trails and monitor trail usage
  - Maintain meadow areas

- Hemlock Forest and Shoreline**
- Provide pedestrian access to the Hemlock Forest from East Shore Road
  - Address parking concerns along East Shore Road
  - Address trespassing concerns
- Upper Field**
- Maintain trails and encapsulated areas per MICHNE due care plan requirements
  - Maintain open areas with mixture of tree cover and meadow

**NOTES:**

- Property line and trail data from Northwest Michigan Council of Governments
- Topographic data interpolated from the USGS

**SHEET INDEX:**

- SHEET 1 - PARK AREAS AND GOALS
- SHEET 2 - OLD ORCHARD LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN
- SHEET 3 - UPPER FIELD MASTER PLAN
- SHEET 4 - OLD ORCHARD LANDSCAPE DETAILS
- SHEET 5 - PARKING AREA LANDSCAPE PLAN

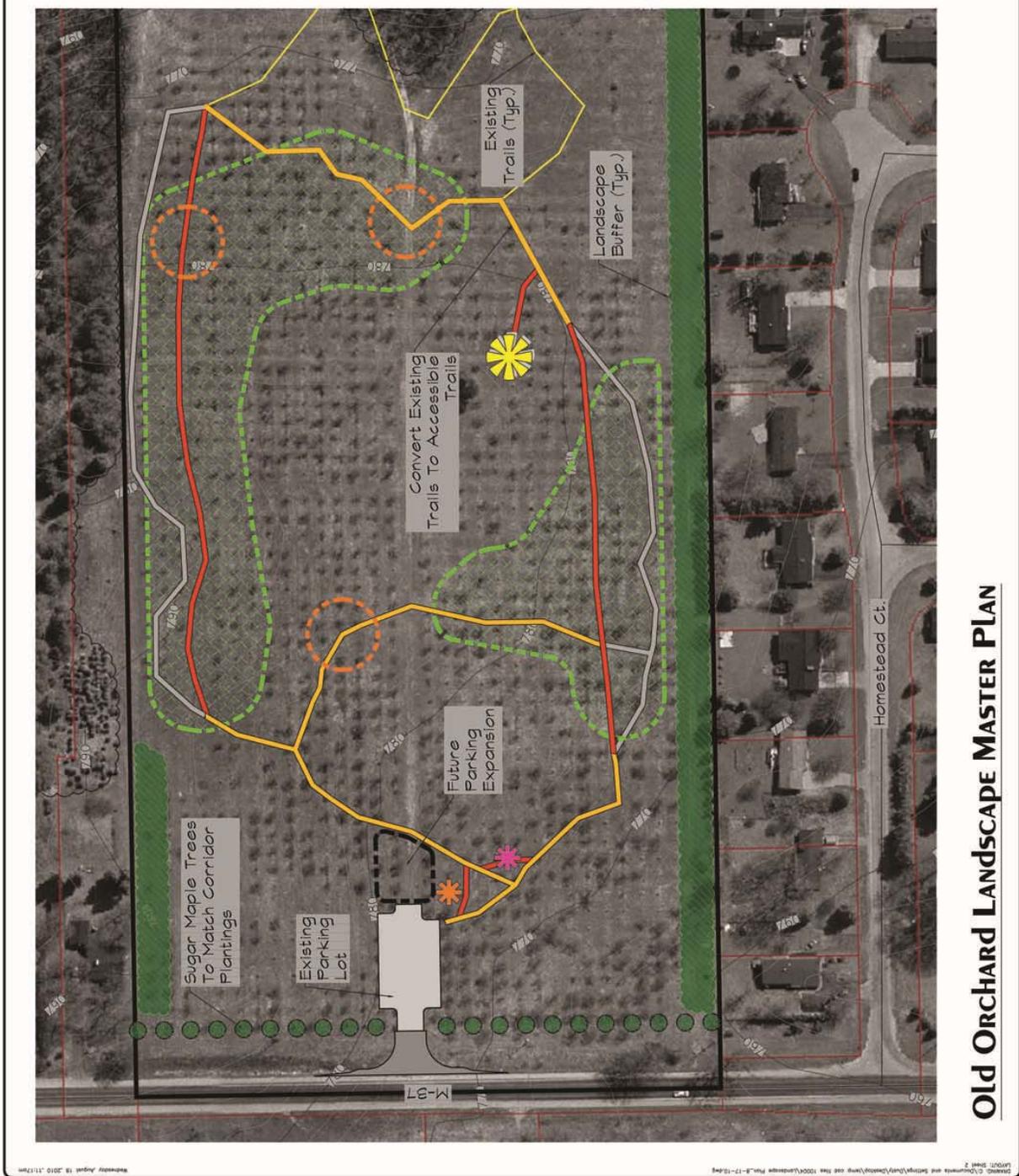
**R. CLARK ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
 Landscape Architects & Land Planners  
 5335 W. South Airport Rd., Traverse City, MI 49684  
 (231) 941-8000 FAX (231) 947-3748  
 rc@clarkrassociates.com

**LEGEND**

- Existing Trails (Yellow line)
- Existing Trails Converted To Accessible Trails (Orange line)
- New Accessible Trails (Red line)
- Existing Trails To Abandon Due To Proximity To Adjacent Homes (Grey line)
- Natural Garden / Seating Area (Yellow starburst)
- Restrooms (Orange starburst)
- Picnic Area (Pink starburst)
- Shaded Seating / Rest Areas (Orange dashed circle)
- Landscape Buffers (Green dashed line)
- Emerging Forest Areas (Green grid pattern)
- Sugar Maples Along Road To Match Corridor Plantings (Green circles)

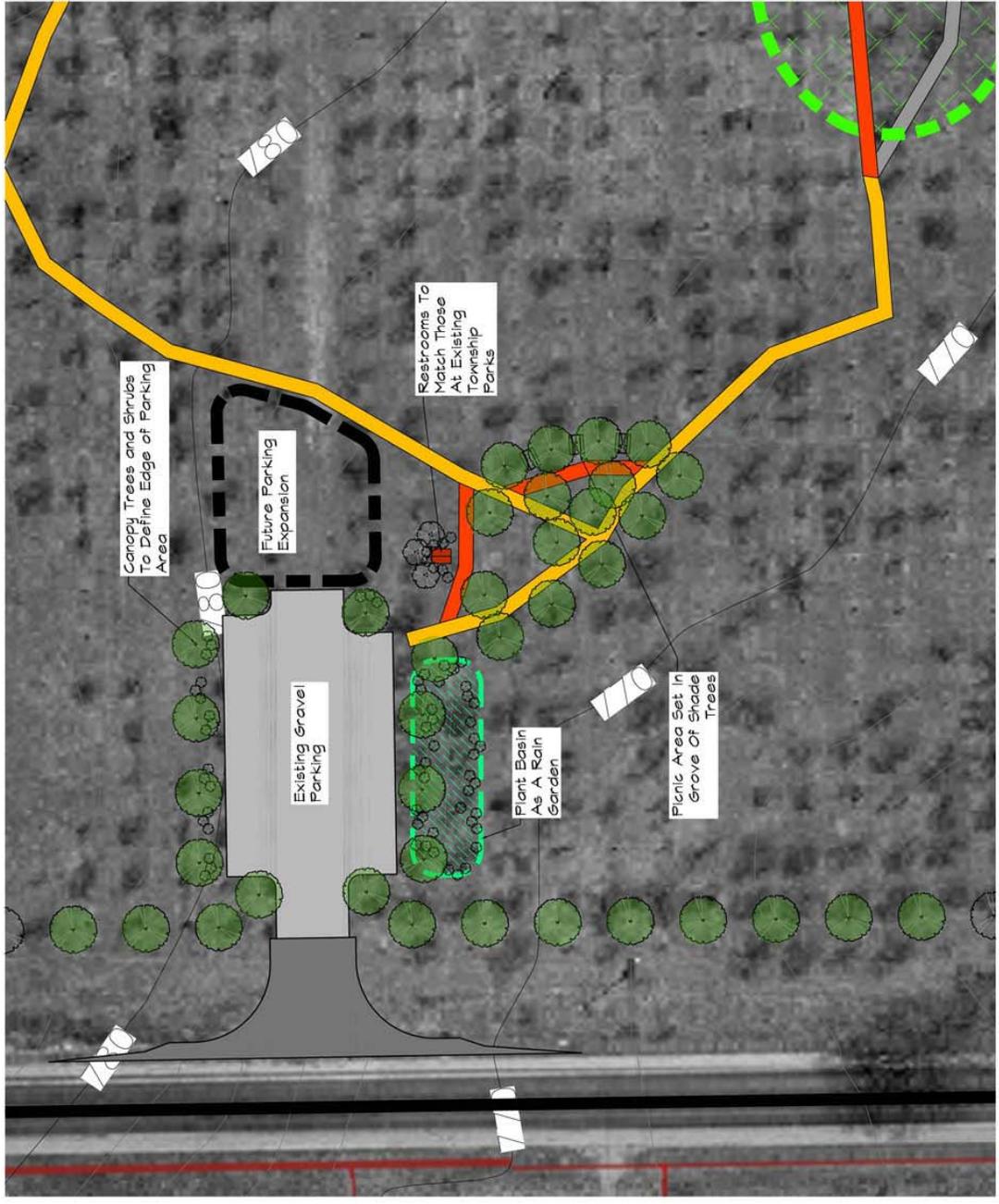
**NOTES:**  
 -Proposed landscape materials are primarily native species that should need little irrigation once established. When planted, landscape materials will need a season of their first two years to old establishment.  
 -Proposed accessible trails will need to be located and built to meet barrier-free standards.

Scale: 1"=50'  
 0' 25' 50' 100'



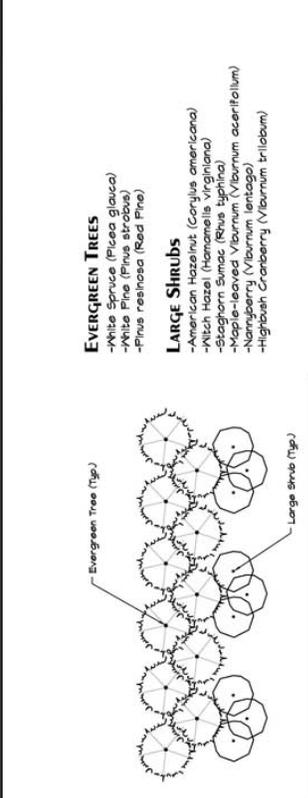
**OLD ORCHARD LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN**

**LEGEND**  
 Existing Trails (Yellow line)  
 Existing Trails Converted To Accessible Trails (Orange line)  
 New Accessible Trails (Red line)  
 Existing Trails To Abandon Due To Proximity To Adjacent Homes (Grey line)  
 Canopy Trees and Shrubs To Define Edge of Parking Area (Green circles)  
 Future Parking Expansion (Black dashed line)  
 Existing Gravel Parking (Grey area)  
 Restrooms To Match Those At Existing Township Parks (Red building icon)  
 Plant Basin As A Rain Garden (Green hatched area)  
 Picnic Area Set In Grove Of Shade Trees (Green hatched area)

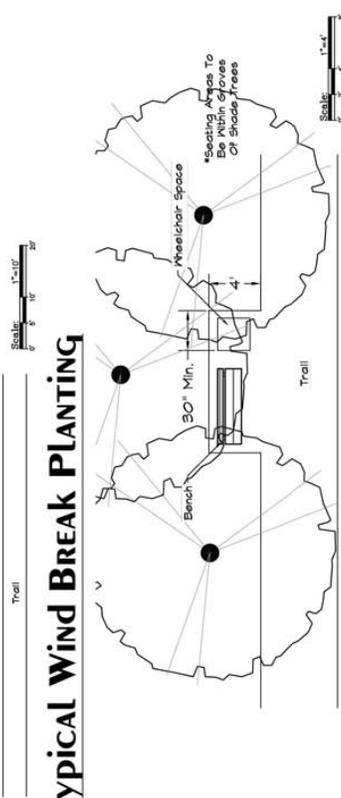


**PARKING AREA LANDSCAPE PLAN**

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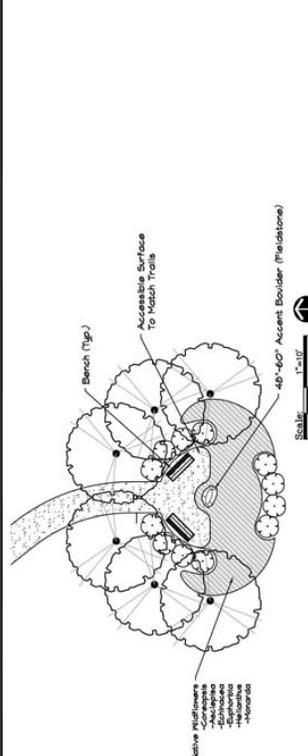


- EVERGREEN TREES**
- White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)
  - White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
  - Pinus resinosa (Red Pine)
- LARGE SHRUBS**
- American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
  - Aitch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
  - Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
  - Nannyberry (*Viburnum acerifolium*)
  - Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)



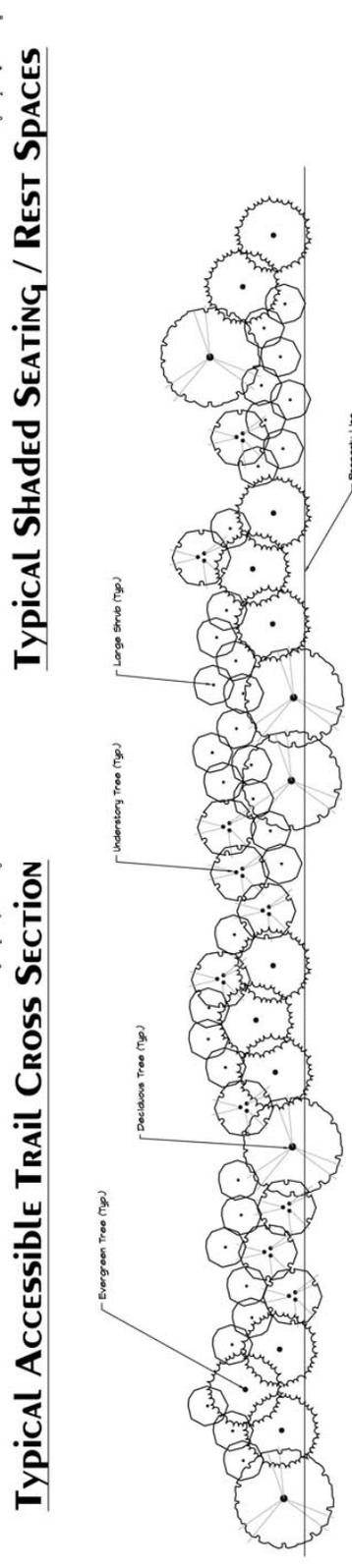
**TYPICAL WIND BREAK PLANTING**

**TYPICAL SHADED SEATING / REST SPACES**



- NATURAL GARDEN SEATING AREA AT VISTA POINT**
- Native Plantings:
- American Hazelnut
  - Aitch Hazel
  - Staghorn Sumac
  - Nannyberry
  - Highbush Cranberry
- Accessible Trail Surface
- Pavements (Asphalt, Concrete, etc.)
  - Pavers
  - Packed Crushed Stone
  - Compacted Gravel Fines
  - Hard Packed Soils
- 6' Min. Cross Slope
- 2% Max. Cross Slope
- \*Max Running Slope = 5%
- Scale: 1" = 10'

**TYPICAL ACCESSIBLE TRAIL CROSS SECTION**



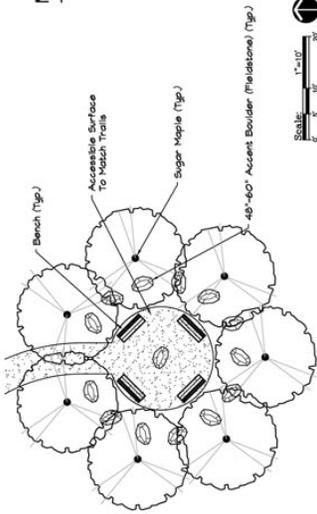
- LANDSCAPE BUFFER TYPICAL PLANTING**
- EVERGREEN TREES**
- White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)
  - White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
  - Pinus resinosa (Red Pine)
- DECIDUOUS TREES**
- Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
  - Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
  - American Beech (*Fagus grandiflora*)
  - Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
  - White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
  - Bosswood (*Tilia americana*)
- UNDERSTORY TREES**
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)
  - Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)
- LARGE SHRUBS**
- American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
  - Aitch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
  - Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
  - Hops-leaved Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)
  - Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
  - Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)

## RECOMMENDED LANDSCAPE PHASING

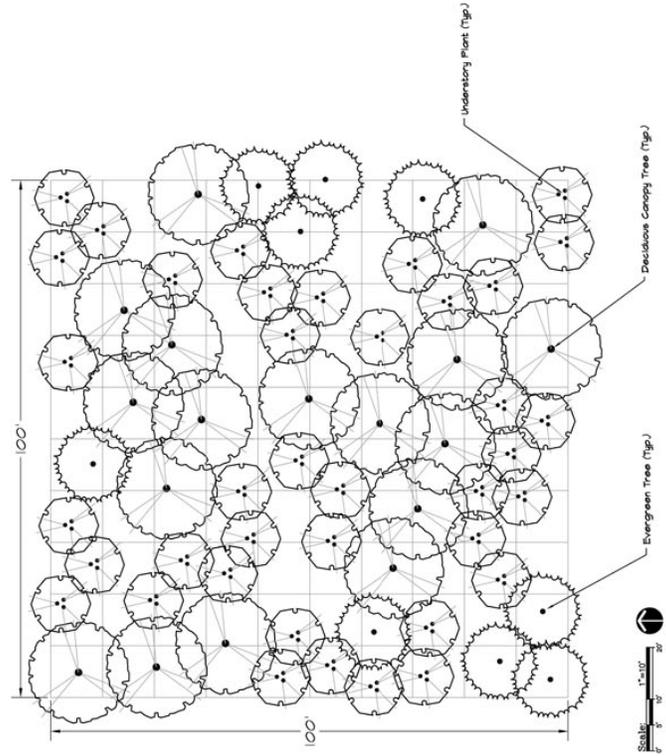
- 1) Establish landscape buffers along property lines to provide privacy for adjacent property owners.
- 2) Create accessible trail loop in the Old Orchard area of the property and move existing trail away from property lines.
- 3) Plant emerging forest areas in Old Orchard area of the property.
- 4) Plant trees and rain garden near parking lot.
- 5) Plant windbreaks in Upper Field area of property.
- 6) Plant emerging forest areas in the Upper Field area of the property.
- 7) Provide seating areas in Old Orchard area of the property.

**NOTES**

- Alternate design for natural seating area at vista point eliminates native perennials and shrubs. This greatly reduces maintenance and is needed to maintain the landscape



## SEATING AREA AT VISTA POINT - ALTERNATE DESIGN



- Deciduous Canopy Trees**
- Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
  - American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)
  - Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
  - White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
- EVERGREEN TREES**
- White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
  - White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)
- UNDERSTORY PLANTS**
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)
  - Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)
  - American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
  - Nitch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
  - Maple-leaved Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)
  - Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)

### EMERGING FOREST PLANTING NOTES AND ASSUMPTIONS

-The emerging forest areas have been planned to be planted with a variety of deciduous canopy trees, evergreen trees, and understory plants in a variety of sizes. The intent of these plantings is to provide a natural looking, random pattern of different tree sizes and species that will allow for natural succession processes that would normally take place on the cleared orchard site.

-It is assumed that gaps or open areas, within the proposed plantings will fill in with species from the existing seed / seedling base and that any unwanted species (ex. autumn olive, tree of heaven, etc.) will be removed in order to allow desirable volunteer plants and the planted trees to thrive.

-Decades into the future, the planted canopy tree species will shade out the understory plantings and create a forest similar to the maple beech hardwood forests that exist around the region.

-It is assumed that irrigation may be necessary to ensure the survival of the planted trees through the first few growing seasons. Following establishment, the selected species should be able to survive drought periods without irrigation.

## SAMPLE 10,000 S.F. EMERGING FOREST PLANTING



## Management Area B: Middle Woods

The Middle Woods/Pine Plantation consists of about 13 acres of hilly terrain largely covered with beech/maple forest and pine plantation. This area includes a two-track that runs between the Old Orchard and Lower Meadow. Soils consist of Kalkaska sand with 25-45% slopes.

### Existing Facilities/Improvements

Hiking trails have been established along the northern and southern boundary. Trails were designed by a contracted professional and were constructed by volunteers and a youth group in the summer and fall of 2009. Directional signage was designed and posted by volunteers. Fencing was installed by volunteers along the northern boundary in 2009, in order to address concerns over the potential for trespassing along the northern boundary of the park.

### Planning Considerations

Questions have been raised regarding future use and management of the two-track, which was historically used to access orchard areas. In its current state, the two-track is not a sustainable trail, as heavy foot traffic could increase the potential for erosion. Winter usage doesn't present the same potential concerns, and the two-track may be considered as part of a ski loop. Public input stressed the value of the two-track for its scenic qualities and accessibility for skiing; residents expressed the desire to retain the scenic aspects while taking measures to prevent erosion.

### Goals & Objectives

#### **Goal: Maintain open areas in two-track for skiing and scenic aspects**

- Work with local agencies to prevent erosion through plantings or other management activities.
- Incorporate two-track in a cross-country ski loop and post signage accordingly.



## Management Area C: Lower Meadow

The Lower Meadow is largely former orchard land bordered on three sides by hardwoods, with private property located immediately to the east. Areas bordering the hardwoods have begun to naturally reforest with both native and non-native plant species. Soils consist of Kalkaska sands, Emmet Sandy loam with slopes ranging from 25% to 45%. The former orchard areas primarily consist of Richter loams with 2-6% slopes.

### Existing Facilities/Improvements

Since the park was purchased, trails were designed and constructed along the edges of the meadow. Fencing was installed along the property line and signage was put in place along the trails.

### Planning Considerations

- An informal access to the park is located along the southern edge of this section of the park, along the Homestead Court cul-de-sac. The access is primarily used by residents in the subdivision; to avoid additional traffic in the subdivision, there is no intent to publicize this access as an entrance to the park.
- Without management of the existing open space, it's likely that the Lower Meadow area will quickly reforest with both native and invasive species. Public comment showed a desire to maintain the meadow and open view from the hillsides.

### Goals & Objectives

**Goal: Maintain trails and monitor trail usage.**

- Maintain and monitor informal access.
- Consider adjustment of trail to allow a loop course through the meadow in order to accommodate natural travel patterns.

**Goal: Maintain meadow areas.**

- Use completed natural resources inventory to identify desired plant species. Work with local agencies and volunteers to maintain meadow areas and control undesirable plant species.



## Management Area D: Hemlock Forest & Shoreline

Management Area D includes some of the park's most notable natural features, with about 7 acres of hemlock forest and 450' of East Bay shoreline. The Hemlock Forest borders East Shore Rd, a residential road that is heavily used for recreation and is a popular route for bicyclists.

Soils consist of Emmet Sandy loams (25%-45% slopes), Alpena-East Lake gravelly loamy sands (0-2% slopes), and, along the shoreline, Lake beach and Eastport sand with 0-6% slopes.

### Existing Facilities/Improvements

Cable fencing has been installed by volunteers along the northern property boundary. Volunteers have also designed and posted directional and informational signs in portions of this area.

### Planning Considerations

- The East Bay shoreline, per commitments in the adopted Master Plan, is intended to be maintained as natural habitat for water quality, animal habitat, and erosion control. Public access facilities are available to the north and south of the park, and will not be developed along the Natural Area shoreline.
- East Shore Road access has been frequently discussed, both prior to the property purchase and throughout park planning and improvement processes. There is a strong interest on the part of Township residents and park users to create a pedestrian access to this portion of the park. Further, there is a strong concern that the lack of formal pedestrian access in this area will contribute to trespass issues and the development and usage of social trails on nearby properties. As such, consideration has been given to the possibility of a low-impact, pedestrian-only access or stairway from East Shore Rd. A stairway would also provide access from the park to the East Bay shoreline. However, residents have often expressed the concern that pedestrian access will create the need for motorized access or a parking lot at this location, which would increase traffic and alter the character of the road. Commitments have been made, through the master plan process, that a parking lot will **not** be developed along East Shore Rd; however, in any decisions on pedestrian access, consideration should be given to the potential for issues arising relative to parking along the road. Public input in the management planning process stressed the desire for pedestrian access, as well as the need to address safety concerns relative to parking. Peninsula Township is working with the Michigan State Police and the Grand Traverse County Road Commission to address the parking issues.
- Per the goals of the adopted master plan, pedestrian access should be visually unobtrusive, with minimal impacts to the steep slopes and sensitive features located in this area, as heavy foot traffic through the hemlock forest could create the potential for damaging this sensitive ecosystem.
- Concerns have been raised regarding the potential impacts to neighboring property

owners in terms of access to this area, and in terms of trespass along the property boundaries and through other properties on a route through the park. Neighboring property owners should be a part of any potential pedestrian access from East Shore Rd. Further, it may be helpful to continue to monitor existing fencing/border markings to determine if and where issues exist and if so, how to most effectively address them.

- Given the unique natural features and view along the shoreline, interpretive signage may enhance the park experience in this area.

### Goals & Objectives

#### **Goal: Provide pedestrian access to the Hemlock Forest from East Shore Rd**

- Initiate a discussion process with neighbors, volunteers, and others regarding East Shore Rd pedestrian access to identify and address potential safety concerns, design, and other issues and opportunities.
- Obtain input from neighboring property owners throughout design activities for pedestrian access.
- Work with engineer to develop plans for a boardwalk and stairway from East Shore Rd to the trails in the Hemlock Forest. Plans should address the sensitive ecological features in this area. Access design should be visually unobtrusive and located in a manner that creates the least potential for trespass on neighboring properties.
- Address bicycle parking issues in design considerations. Vehicle parking will not be provided on East Shore Rd.
- Pursue grant funding for engineering plans and construction.

#### **Goal: Address parking concerns along East Shore Road.**

- Vehicle parking is not permitted along the shoulder of East Shore Rd. Continue to work with the Michigan State Police and Grand Traverse County Road Commission

to determine both immediate and long term course of action to deter parking on East Shore Rd. Consider enforcement options including routine policing or monitoring of this area.

- Consider potential parking obstacles such as boulders or other prevention mechanisms in design activities for pedestrian access.

#### **Goal: Address trespassing concerns.**

- Identify social trails leading to neighboring properties and remove or revegetate as necessary.
- Regularly seek neighbor input relative to trespassing issues and concerns to identify and address any issues.



## Management Area E: Upper Field

The Upper Field, which includes 14 acres in the northeast corner of the park, consists primarily of gently rolling open fields, formerly an orchard, with hardwood forest areas on the hillsides in the southwest corner and along the east, west, and south. Forested areas consist of Kalkaska sand and loamy sands with 6-45% slopes.

### Existing Facilities/Improvements

As the “remediated” portion of the site, the Upper Field has been the focus of many Township, GTRLC, and volunteer activities. After the property was purchased, the orchard was removed, and the field was encapsulated with four inches of topsoil. Gravel trails, per requirements of the MDNRE, were installed around the perimeter of the field. Signage has been posted instructing park users to remain on the trails.

### Planning Considerations

- Activities and improvements in the Upper Field must comply with the requirements of the MDNRE due care plan. Due care plan compliance reporting, which was initially conducted by the GTRLC, has now transitioned to volunteers.
- Both natural reforestation and managed open space have been discussed as possibilities for the Upper Field. As noted for the Lower Meadow, it’s likely that, without a managed open space approach, the area will quickly reforest with both native and non-native plant species.
- Public input stressed the need for screening in the northwest corner and for plantings

that will serve as windbreaks and trail guides, resulting in a mix of meadow and trees.

### Goals & Objectives

#### Goal: Maintain trails and encapsulated areas per MDNRE due care plan requirements

- Manage vegetation to prevent growth within trailway.
- Work with volunteers to submit compliance reporting as necessary.
- Maintain signage and use strategic plantings to prevent foot traffic on encapsulated areas.

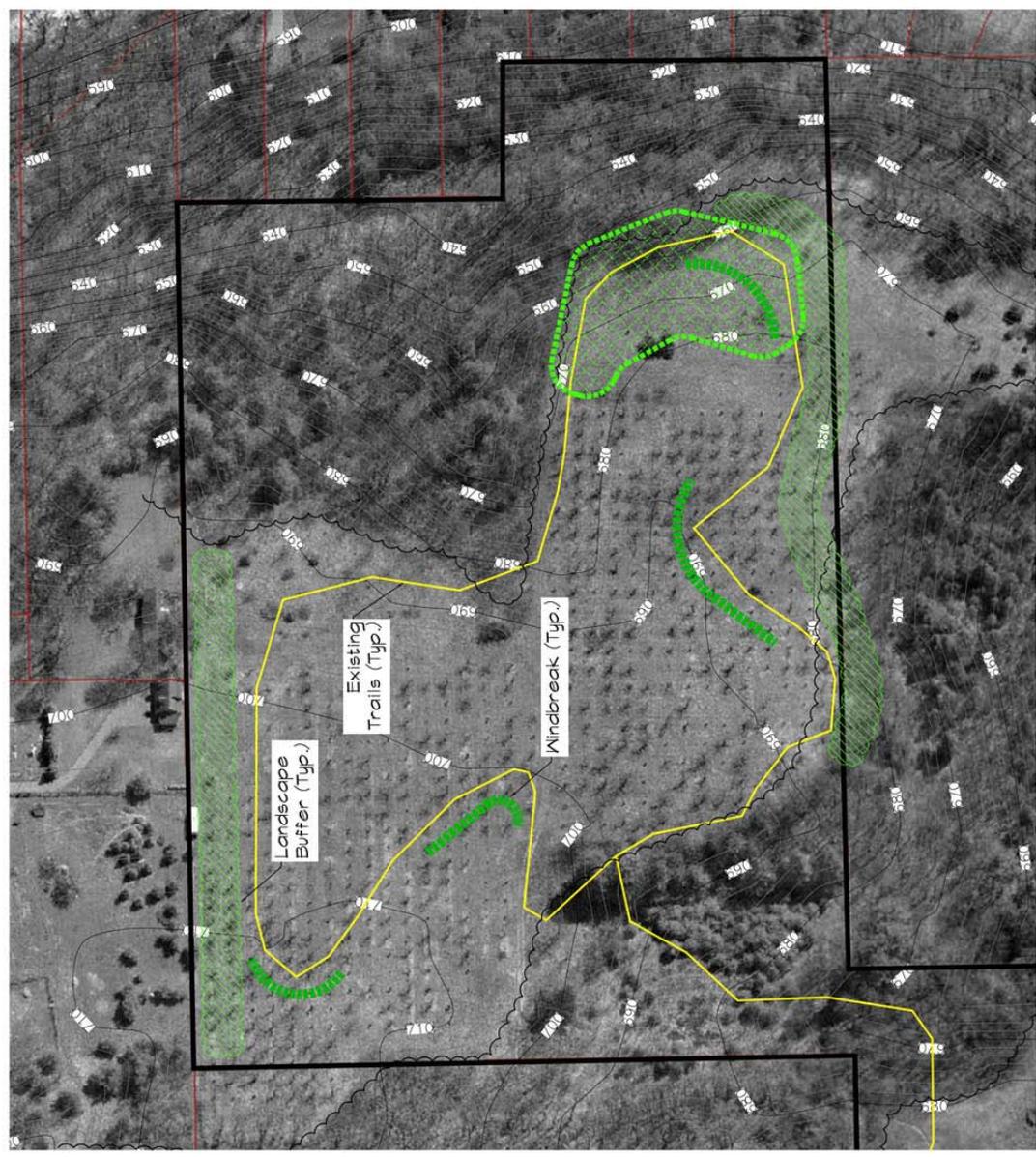
#### Goal: Maintain open areas with mixture of tree cover and meadow.

- Provide vegetative screening along northwest property line, in a manner consistent with screening for Homestead Court boundary. Screening should consist of a mixture of faster-growing or mature deciduous and evergreen trees to ensure immediate and year-round cover.
- Provide appropriate plantings in strategic areas to provide windbreak for trails.
- Work with local agencies and volunteers to maintain plantings and remove undesirable plant species.

**LEGEND**

- Existing Trails (Yellow line)
- Landscape Buffers (Green hatched area)
- Windbreaks (Green dashed line)
- Emerging Forest Areas (Green grid pattern)

Scale: 1" = 50'  
 0 25 50 100



**UPPER FIELD LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN**

**Pelizzari Natural Area Action Program**

Goal/Activity	Timeframe/Start Date
<b>Park-wide</b>	
Ensure that park usage and management complies with MDNRE due care plan	Ongoing
Ensure park usage is in keeping with the quiet, natural, undisturbed character of the park.	Ongoing
Provide adequate signage and direction while preserving the natural character of the park.	2010
Ensure that the location, size, and scale of improvements are suited to the natural character of the park	Ongoing
Manage the natural area as a combination of forest and meadow areas.	Ongoing
Continue to work with neighboring property owners to identify and address park issues.	Ongoing
Work to finance improvements or activities through grants and donations.	2010
Explore opportunities to enhance or enlarge the Natural Area.	Ongoing
Manage the Natural Area so as to preserve, protect, and restore the site's natural resources.	Ongoing
Maintain and monitor trails to ensure safe and appropriate usage.	Ongoing
Promote environmental education and volunteerism.	Ongoing
<b>Old Orchard</b>	
Provide screening along Homestead Court boundary and northern property line.	2010
Conduct landscaping activities that provide focal points and a mixture of open space and forested areas, per the recommendations of the landscape plan.	2011
Coordinate activities with goals of the M-37 Scenic Heritage Route.	Ongoing
Provide universally accessible trails.	2011
Provide limited park furnishings as necessary, while maintaining the natural character and appearance of the park.	2011
<b>Middle Woods</b>	
Maintain open areas in two-track for skiing and scenic aspects.	Ongoing
<b>Lower Meadow</b>	
Maintain trails and monitor trail usage.	Ongoing
Maintain meadow areas.	Ongoing
<b>Hemlock Forest</b>	
Provide pedestrian access to the Hemlock Forest from East Shore Rd.	2010
Address parking concerns along East Shore Rd.	Ongoing
Address trespassing concerns.	Ongoing
<b>Upper Field</b>	
Maintain trails and encapsulated areas per MDNRE due care plan requirements.	Ongoing
Maintain open areas with a mixture of tree cover and meadow.	Ongoing

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# Peninsula Township Recreation Plan

## Appendices

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Appendix A: Legal Notices

Appendix B: Recreation Plan Questionnaire

Appendix C: Pelizzari Natural Area Public Input Meeting Summary

Appendix D: Approval Documentation

## Appendix A: Legal Notices

**Traverse City Record-Eagle  
Publish Date—May 26, 2010**

**Peninsula Township Notice to the Public**

The Peninsula Township Parks Board will hold a meeting on Wednesday, June 2 at 7 p.m. in the Peninsula Township Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss management goals for the Pelizzari Natural Area (formerly Center Road Natural Area), and gather public input on future activities and improvements at the park. Input gathered at the meeting will be used in the development of a management plan for the park and a landscape plan for the western section of the park. The meeting is open to all members of the public under Michigan's open meetings act. If you have questions, or are planning to attend and have a disability requiring special assistance, please notify the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments at 231-929-5034.

**Traverse City Record-Eagle  
Publish Date—August 11, 2010**

**Peninsula Township Notice to the Public**

A five-year plan for recreation in Peninsula Township, including a landscape plan and management plan for the Pelizzari Natural Area, is being prepared by the Peninsula Township Parks Commission. The plan will be used to guide the future development of general recreational facilities in the Township, and to guide activities and improvements at the Pelizzari Natural Area. A special meeting of the Peninsula Township Parks Commission has been scheduled for **7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18, 2010, at the Peninsula Township Hall**, in order to review and officially release the draft plan for a 30-day public review and comment period. The draft plan is available for review at the Township offices, located at 13235 Center Rd, or online at [www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com). This meeting is open to all members of the public under Michigan's open meetings act. If you are planning to attend and have a disability requiring any special assistance at the meeting, please notify the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments at 231-929-5034.

**Traverse City Record-Eagle  
Publish Date – August 19**

**Peninsula Township Notice to the Public  
Recreation Plan and Pelizzari Natural Area  
Management Plan Public Review**

The draft Peninsula Township Recreation Plan/Pelizzari Natural Area Management Plan is available for public review beginning August 20, 2010. A copy of the plan will be available at the Peninsula Township office, located at 13235 Center Rd, or online at [www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com). Draft plans will also be available for review at the Peninsula Township library and the Grand Traverse County Planning Department. Please direct all comments to the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments at the contact information below by September 22, 2010. All comments will be compiled and presented to the Township Parks Commission for consideration. Public comment will also be heard by the Parks Commission at a public hearing on Wednesday, September 22 at 7 p.m. at the Township hall. To request a hard copy of the draft plan, please contact Sarah Lucas at NWMCOG at 231-929-5034 or via email at [sarahlucas@nwm.cog.mi.us](mailto:sarahlucas@nwm.cog.mi.us).

**Traverse City Record-Eagle  
Publish Date – September 8 and 15  
Peninsula Township Notice to the Public  
Recreation Plan Public Hearing**

The Peninsula Township Parks Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed Peninsula Township Recreation Plan/Pelizzari Natural Area Management Plan, followed by a regular meeting, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at the Peninsula Township Hall. Following the public hearing the Parks Commission will consider the plan for adoption. A hard copy of the plan is available for review at the Township office or online at [www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com). Please contact Sarah Lucas at NWMCOG at 231-929-5034 or via email at [sarahlucas@nwm.cog.mi.us](mailto:sarahlucas@nwm.cog.mi.us) with any questions.

**Publish Date – September 23  
Peninsula Township Notice to the Public  
Recreation Plan Public Hearing**

The Peninsula Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed Peninsula Township Recreation Plan/Pelizzari Natural Area Management Plan, followed by a regular meeting, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at the Peninsula Township Hall. Following the public hearing the Township Board will consider a resolution of support for adoption of the plan. A hard copy of the plan is available for review at the Township office or online at [www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com). Please contact Sarah Lucas at NWMCOG at 231-929-5034 or via email at [sarahlucas@nwm.cog.mi.us](mailto:sarahlucas@nwm.cog.mi.us) with any questions.

# Appendix B: Recreation Plan Questionnaire

## Peninsula Township Recreation Questionnaire Results

The Peninsula Township Parks Commission would like your input on the Township's parks and recreation programs, as it works to update the 5-year Township Recreation Plan. Your input will be used to identify goals, objectives, and priorities for the Recreation Plan. **21 total responses. Not all respondents answered all questions.**

How often do you use the following parks?	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Archie Roadside Park	13	8		
Bowers Harbor	2	7	9	3
Haserot Park	3	4	5	9
Lighthouse Park	1	4	13	3
Old Mission Point Park	1	7	7	6
Pelizzari (Center Road) Natural Area	8	6	4	3

How satisfied are you with the following parks?	Not at all	Not very	No Opinion	Some-what	Extremely
Archie Roadside Park	1	2	10	4	2
Bowers Harbor		1	1	4	12
Haserot Park	1	1		4	12
Lighthouse Park	1		2	5	10
Old Mission Point Park			1	7	10
Pelizzari (Center Road) Natural Area	1		4	5	9

How important are the following types of recreation facilities to you?	Not at all	Not very	No Opinion	Some-what	Extremely
Athletic fields/tennis courts	4	5	2	8	2
Beaches	1			6	14
Hiking/skiing trails	1	2		3	15
Historic resources	2	1	1	8	9
Water access/boat launches	1	2	4	6	8
Other [Restrooms – 1 write in]			2	1	2

Peninsula Township Questionnaire Results, cont

What do you feel should be the Township's top recreational priority?	Please rank in order of importance
Maintenance/minor facility upgrades	Ranking 1: 12 Ranking 2: 6 Ranking 3: 1
Major facility upgrades	Ranking 1: 2 Ranking 2: 5 Ranking 3: 6 Ranking 4: 2
Property acquisition for new or expanded parks, trails, or conservation	Ranking 1: 6 Ranking 2: 5 Ranking 3: 6
Other - please specify 1 write in - public events at historic properties - priority ranking 3 1 write in - buy Old Mooring Place land - top of list 1 write in - children's summer rec program; Promotion of park use and accommodation to public for tennis lessons, et 1 write in - In a timely fashion, secure grants for needs at Pelizzari Natural Area. If this fits with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> point of Major Facility Upgrades, that's fine, but trying to be pointed about where.	

Peninsula Township Questionnaire Results, cont

What changes or improvements should be considered for the following parks?	
Archie Roadside Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove poison ivy by stairs</li> <li>It always looks old and uncared for. How about an educational kiosk of some kind?</li> <li>Keep it as it is</li> <li>A visual park for many. Improve landscaping, picnic areas. Thin woods so it is not so dark. Boulders look great. Blue outhouse is ugly.</li> <li>Picnic Tables. Beach access improvement</li> </ul>
Bowers Harbor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seems fine to me the way it is. Like the walking trail</li> <li>Maintain the play structure; fix fencing, replace walking path on SW corner</li> <li>Encourage more use because it is our largest general park and located mid-township. Also, connect use to county park on ..island via boat launch at shore</li> <li>Oil parking area (2)</li> <li>Trash containers would be nice</li> <li>Define property lines. Empty weedy area should be wildflowers or rye or something. Facilities to wash your hands in summer season</li> <li>Seems great right now.</li> </ul>
Haserot Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nice job!</li> <li>The boat dock is still a joke. We have new sections hooked to old sections, why? The new posts that were put in are not uniform in height</li> <li>Purchase additional property at Old Mooring Place</li> <li>Increase parking, enforce no parking signs</li> <li>Boat launch is a perennial problem. Do your best. Need more land. Irrigate picnic area. There are no outreach programs for the public.</li> <li>Less grass and more parking</li> </ul>
Lighthouse Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Really need a new potty to replace the one near the log cabin</li> <li>Continue Lighthouse Keeper program. Focus on OM history</li> <li>Improve scale of distances on signs. Improve locations of links between two parks</li> <li>Should be policed better. Night parties and bonfires should be stopped</li> <li>Two track from Center Rd to East Bay should be closed to vehicle traffic</li> <li>Improved access for the beach areas to help with concerns of overload at Haserot. Perhaps even a boat launch area? Determine if the publicizing of the Lighthouse for tourism best serves the overall interests of what could otherwise be more of a township resident beach area.</li> </ul>
Old Mission Point Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trash can for dog waste</li> <li>Seems rustic but we like it that way</li> <li>Keep as is – encourage use for hikers</li> <li>Improve scale of distances on signs. Improve locations of links between two parks</li> <li>Paths mowed more often</li> <li>Commit to overall conservation plan – create and maintain meadows, views</li> <li>Keeping trails in good shape, perhaps through coordinated volunteers efforts.</li> </ul>
Pelizzari (Center Road) Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bathroom</li> <li>Trash can for dog waste</li> <li>Trees near paths to screen sun (in open areas)</li> <li>Tree planting by Center Rd; screening for neighbors</li> <li>Looking forward to hiking there this fall</li> <li>Where is all the volunteer help lately? I think some may have lost interest</li> <li>Excellent to date</li> <li>Cut growth more often</li> <li>Plant attractive landscaping plants so it looks better from Center Rd</li> <li>Seek grants for tree buffers/screenings, ADA compliant trails in the Center Road Area, and non-motorized access from East Shore Road.</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't spend all your efforts on the Lighthouse</li> <li>Please – no more paved parking areas. Already too much asphalt at Lighthouse Park</li> <li>Improve log cabin replica in OM – add \$ drop. Open Dougherty to community for outdoor events</li> <li>Each have their own "mission" and uniqueness the way they are</li> <li>Log church needs floors refinished. Landscaping needed. Lighting improvements needed inside. Lighting should turn off when no one is in building. Put wooden screen door on building.</li> </ul>

Peninsula Township Recreation Questionnaire

**Peninsula Township Questionnaire Results, cont**

**General Comments**

- Change hours to “dawn to dusk.” In summer, walking/jogging before heat is desirable, a swim before work is great! 8 a.m. works for winter, not other seasons
- Park Board is doing a great job! Thanks for asking for public input.
- The Park Board is doing a terrible job of overseeing the parks. It seems that all the interest is at the Lighthouse and Pelizzari Natural Area. Our parks really look bad. It is either poor leadership or the park supervisor isn't able to do the job. Maybe we need a new board and park supervisor. I have lived out here all my life, and our parks look terrible! We don't need more park land, we need to maintain those that we have.
- Dougherty and Log Church historical facilities should be open to public at least several times a year as historical events.
- Good kid stuff at Pelizzari and Bowers Harbor
- Overall, good job
- Since we live on the water – do not use the parks much. As a citizen we feel parks are vital to a good community and very important
- Haserot is the only public swimming beach on the north end of the peninsula. It's used heavily by local people and tourists. From mid-May until Sept the beach is loaded. Parking is a serious problem. Cars line both sides of Swaney, up Bay St and Traverse. Signs on Swaney, in front of the children's play area, \_\_\_ by the county or not, does nothing to stop parking. There are some grass areas that could be used to help. Are we as a community willing to continue to look the other way on this long term problem until some young child darts out from between parked cars and is injured or worse? 10 years ago or so the Township did not see the great long term priority in swimming areas and let \_\_\_ get away. Today the need is in their face, at 5 to 10 times the cost it should have been. To let this Old Mooring Place get away again is a crime. There must be other ways to fund this project, we may never get this chance again. Over 500' of the best swimming beach in all of East Bay. Acreage for parking and play areas for children. It's time the “good ole boys” truly looked at our needs. Money is acquired by the Township and grants and funds are found for many objectives. This issue needs to be attended to now!
- The large boulders seem to have stopped the driving down to the beach. The trash from parties has not stopped.
- Not sure if this survey was intended to be random or to a select group. Not sure your results will be statistically valid. Thanks for all your efforts – know it is worthwhile when you see progress and when you accomplish your goals
- What is the percentage of non-Peninsula Township residents using facilities and paid for by township taxes? Do township residents use nontownship facilities (other taxing bodies) to the same extent?
- Old Mooring Place should have been attended to when Nevingers were selling!
- Two track (Lighthouse Park) makes hiking undesirable because of ruts in trail and I believe it increases fire danger to the area because of the unauthorized fires at end of trail near East Bay
- The first priority should be on meeting the needs of residents. It's fine that others benefit from township resources, but since the township is maintaining the parks, the focus should be on meeting residents' needs.
- It seems that fulltime township staff should be attending to the day-to-day needs of the parks, with board attention focused on organizing & promoting citizen involvement, advocating for volunteer participation in managing & expanding parks, planning, grant application and other big picture items. As of now, it seems that the park board is consumed with detailed tasks that better suits township staff, which detracts from bigger priorities. With all that said, thanks to those on the board for donating their time.
- Regarding this survey, it would be nice to get it out to a larger sampling. How I received it from the township seemed to indicate it was going to a small number of people.

## Appendix C: Pelizzari Natural Area Public Input

### PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD REGULAR MEETING JUNE 2, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT: Barrett; Crampton; Stoye; Ostlund and Kelley.** Also Present: Grant Blackmer, Sonja Richards and Stefanie Staley.

**ABSENT:** None.

#### **MINUTES OF MAY 5 and 25, 2010 MEETINGS**

**MOTION: Kelley/Ostlund** to approve the minutes as submitted.

**PASSED UNAN**

#### **REPORTS**

##### **Buildings & Grounds Maintenance**

Water has been satisfactorily tested and turned on. At Haserot, the outhouse is in, dredging is done and temporary dock is in. Hopefully new dock will be installed in about a week.

##### **Mowing at Dougherty House**

**Blackmer** said that Dougherty Society has contracted out for the mowing.

##### **Fence Repair at Mission Church**

**Blackmer** will repair the fence.

##### **Replacing Pole in West Parking Lot at Haserot Beach**

**Blackmer** will replace the demarcation pole. He will obtain quote on fence and cables. **Blackmer** worked on bat issue at Log Church. **Stoye** will contact John DeVol about closing Log Church.

##### **Heritage Route Committee**

**Crampton** said that per MDOT, existing driveway/Center Road access at Pelizzari Natural Area (PNA) is accepted until the end of 2011. Handicap accessibility planning for PNA will be worked on. Official ceremony for the PNA has been postponed.

##### **Financial**

**Grants Update and Project List**

**Kelley** reported last year’s financial information received from the Township. She gave Lighthouse’s revenues and expenses per her written report. Invoices were reviewed.

**MOTION: Stoye/Kelley** to approve invoices totaling \$4,549.70.

**PASSED UNAN**

**Pelizzari Natural Area (PNA)**

**Management Plan Public Input**

**Stoye** opened the public information hearing at 7:26 p.m.

*Sara Lucas, Regional Planner, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, PO Box 506*, said that the Management Plan will guide future use of the park, assist in budgeting and grant applications. She provided history on purchase and improvements. Ms. Lucas reviewed the Management Statement and Goals. Management issues, priorities, current activities and facilities are items for discussion. Park-wide planning considerations include park usage, boundary delineation, trails and ski loop, signage and grant identification. Management areas include the Old Orchard, Middle Woods, Lower Woods, Upper Field and Hemlock Forest/Shoreline/East Shore. Ms. Lucas addressed issues specific to each of these areas.

**Old Orchard**

*Chris Hall, Scout Troop #34, 512 McKinley E.*, said they want to help improve trails and/or garden.

*Patti O’Donnell, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, PO Box 506*, provided Heritage Route’s goals. They work in cooperation with Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Northwest Michigan Council of Governments can solicit funding. They want to protect and preserve the countryside.

*Russ Clark, Landscape Architect, Russ Clark & Associates*, said that they want to know from the residents what is important to the character of the property (e.g., amount of open space, buffering, meadow, reforestation opportunities, vegetation, species, location of restrooms and picnic tables, etc.). Ms. Lucas said that they want to provide landscape and management plans to the Township at the end of summer 2010.

*Sue Peters, 6943 East Shore Rd.*, expressed support for handicap accessibility in the Old Orchard.

*Mary VanValin, 6261 Summit Ct.*, seconded Ms. Peters’ comment above. She would like a community garden and reforestation for areas of shade in the Old Orchard.

*Matt Cowall, 117 Homestead Ct.*, requested additional screening of adjacent residential units (i.e., Homestead Ct. sites). Mr. Clark suggested a natural, native approach/pattern (e.g., deciduous evergreen trees). Mr. Cowall suggested adjusting southern trail because natural screening

will take 10 to 20 years to mature.

*Patricia Thomas, 139 Homestead Ct.*, said that many people and dogs come up to her fence. Mr. Clark said that the trail will be diverted away from her house. She does not want a light installed. Ms. Thomas suggested surveying residents.

*Dave Murphy, 6943 East Shore Rd.*, said that he wants screening to be priority. The area will likely have more spring and fall use and less summer. He agrees with need for accessibility. Mr. Murphy thinks a restroom will be necessary. Serocki's property needs to be buffered also.

*Ellen Kohler, 7297 East Shore Rd.*, said that accessibility of tricycles and strollers but not mountain bikes is an idea that would need consideration. She wants naturalistic gardens and minimalistic structures (e.g., not pavilions, etc.). Buffering for residents is priority. There is not a need for a lot of formal landscaping in the front.

*Dan Leonard, 10598 Peninsula Dr.*, suggested planting maple trees along M-37 corridor and suggested cross-country ski trail.

*Rob Manigold, 2876 Old Mission Rd.*, said that moving the trails is not a problem. The buffering cannot be done currently, because of lack of irrigation but the Township wants to provide buffering for the residents. They are working on Consumers Energy grant for bigger trees, etc.

**Kelley** said that there is \$8,600 remaining from the bond. The Township will provide an additional \$10,000 if needed. Grants are being looked into. Water supply for new plantings was discussed. Historical Society offered to put in 20 to 30 maple trees along Center Rd. **Stoye** suggested restroom facility similar to Bowers Harbor Park.

*Marybeth Milliken, 7580 East Shore Rd.*, asked about the location of the restroom. **Stoye** suggested in the back by the parking lot.

Mr. Murphy said that he wants the best hard-packed permeable surface for the handicap access.

### **Middle Woods**

Two-track safety/accessibility was discussed. Ms. Pelizzari suggested solving erosion problem rather than shutting down the trails. All want to retain scenic aspects of area. Possibility of use for skiing was discussed.

### **Lower Meadow**

Ms. VanValin and others suggested leaving access as-is/less public. Mr. Murphy said that he has received positive resident feedback regarding access. Retaining meadow character was suggested. Ms. Pelizzari said that they have not experienced any trespassing.

### **Hemlock Forest/Shoreline/East Shore**

Ms. Pelizzari discouraged parking, because it is too dangerous. Ms. VanValin agreed. Mr. Manigold said that they are working with the State Police on getting permanent “No Parking” signs. Ms. Peters suggested bike parking and pedestrian access. Ms. Kohler said that East Shore access (i.e., narrow pathway) up to the park is priority. If not, trespass will take place.

*Jim Woodburn, 540 Bay East Dr.*, said that East Shore Rd., access is very important. He suggested using boulders to prevent parking. Mr. Manigold said that they will not encourage beach usage. They are looking at having a bike stand and boardwalk for pedestrian access, but no parking. **Kelley** said that Rotary grant was received for planning. Mr. Murphy said that parking cannot take place.

### **Upper Field**

Ms. Peters referred to long-term sustainability for trail. Mr. Murphy wants strategic plantings to help with windbreak and screening for the Ericksons’ property. Mr. Hall suggested benches. Ms. Kohler suggested staking ski trails. Mr. Murphy introduced land acquisition idea for park expansion.

**Stoye** closed the public information hearing at 9:00 p.m.

## Appendix D: Approval Documentation

**PENINSULA TOWNSHIP  
2010 Recreation Plan  
Resolution of Adoption  
PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, PENINSULA TOWNSHIP has for many years been active in the development of a parks system; and

WHEREAS, the Peninsula Township Parks Commission has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities over the next 5 years, and

WHEREAS, the Township recognizes its responsibility to assure adequate recreational opportunities for its residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, a public comment and input was received through meetings, questionnaires, and public hearings held throughout 2010; and

WHEREAS, PENINSULA TOWNSHIP has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMISSION hereby adopts the PENINSULA TOWNSHIP Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Peninsula Township.

*Yeas: Fred Stoye, Paula Kelley, Jerry Ostlund, Bruce Summers*

*Nays: none*

*Absent: Renee Crampton*

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Peninsula Township Parks Commission on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2010.

*Renee Crampton*  
Secretary  
Peninsula Township Parks Commission

**PENINSULA TOWNSHIP**  
**2010 Recreation Plan**  
**Resolution of Adoption**  
**PENINSULA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
Resolution #1 2010-10-12

WHEREAS, PENINSULA TOWNSHIP has for many years been active in the development of a parks system; and

WHEREAS, the Peninsula Township Parks Commission has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities over the next 5 years, and

WHEREAS, the Township recognizes its responsibility to assure adequate recreational opportunities for its residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, a public comment and input was received through meetings, questionnaires, and public hearings held throughout 2010; and

WHEREAS, PENINSULA TOWNSHIP has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the PENINSULA TOWNSHIP BOARD hereby supports the adoption of the Peninsula Township Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Peninsula Township.

*Yeas:* Wilson, Weatherholt, Hoffman, Byron, Horton, Rosi & Manigold

*Nays:* None

*Absent:* None

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Peninsula Township Board on the 12 day of October, 2010.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica A. Hoffman  
Peninsula Township Clerk