

2018

# Peninsula Township Recreation Plan



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### **Peninsula Township Park Commission**

Anne Griffiths – Chair  
Mike Skurski – Vice Chair & Treasurer  
John Snow – Secretary  
Gary Cornell – Member  
Don Atkinson – Member  
Maura Sanders – TB Representative

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Brad Bickle – Treasurer  
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Margaret Achorn – Trustee  
Maura Sanders – Trustee  
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# 2018 Peninsula Township Recreation Plan

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Description of the Planning Process, Timeline, and Public Input Process.....	5
Community Description.....	6
Administrative Structure.....	10
Recreation Inventory.....	12
Goals and Objectives and Action Program.....	22

## Appendices

A. Pelizzari Natural Area Management Plan (as previously adopted)

B. Bowers Harbor Park Expansion Plan (as previously adopted)

C. Summary of Public Comment

D. Approval Documentation

- Official resolution of the Peninsula Township Board dated: \_\_\_\_\_
- Official resolution of the Peninsula Township Park Commission dated: 1/8/2018
- Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning dated: \_\_\_\_\_
- Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning dated: \_\_\_\_\_

E. Mission Point Lighthouse Visitor Numbers

F. Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports



# Peninsula Township 2018 Recreation Plan

## Introduction

The Peninsula Township Recreation Plan identifies the Township's highest recreation priorities, and provides a road map for the implementation of the recreation goals and objectives identified by the Park Commission, 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:

- 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**, summarizes the process used to make recreation decisions, and discusses budgeting and revenue.
- C. Recreation Inventory** itemizes the Township's existing recreation facilities and identifies the needs of each park individually.
- D. Goals, Objectives, and Action Program**, describe proposed recreation goals and improvements, and itemize specific implementation activities as part of a capital improvement schedule.
- E. Description of the Planning and Public Input Process**, details recommended planning standards, public comment period methodology, the public hearing and adoption process, and accessibility assessments standards.
- F. Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports**

## 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:

- Pelizzari Natural Area Management Plan
- Bowers Harbor Park Expansion Plan
- Old Mission Scenic Heritage Route Plan
- Mission Point Lighthouse Park Strategic Plan
- Peninsula Township Master Plan



## Description of the Planning and Public Input Process

Recreation Planning Standards used by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and by the National Recreation and Park Association make recommendations for the number, type, and design of active recreation facilities. These standards were considered along with public input and other identified needs in the recreation planning process.

Park Commission meetings were held from the summer of 2017 into the winter of 2018 to discuss and develop the plan timeline, content, and goals and encourage leadership participation and public input.

The Township's recreation needs were assessed through a variety of avenues, including consideration of demographic trends, review of public input, input from Township Boards, 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 Park Commission worked to create a draft plan, conduct further public input meetings and public hearings, and develop goals, objectives, and action programming.

### Recreation Plan Comment Period

The Recreation Plan was released for public review on November 1, 2017 at a regular Peninsula Township Park Commission meeting. Comments were received at the regular meeting on December 6, 2017, and again welcomed on December 20, 2017, in accordance with the Michigan DNR's required 30-day review period. Comments received are on file with the Township.

the goals, objectives, and activities for the Management Plan and Landscape Plan. A summary of public comment received is included in Appendix C.

### Public Hearing and Adoption

The Park Commission voted in support of a resolution to adopt the plan at a public hearing held on January 8, 2018. The Township Board acted on the plan at a public hearing on February 13, 2018. Legal notices, meeting agendas and minutes are included in Appendix D.

### Accessibility Assessments

Accessibility assessments included in this document are based on Appendix D of the Michigan DNR's "Barrier Free Accessibility Requirements for Parks" guidelines.

The accessibility standards are as follows:

1. Every amenity within the park is accessible.
2. Most amenities in the park are accessible.
3. Some amenities within the park are accessible.
4. Most amenities within the park are not accessible.
5. No amenity within the park is accessible.

Public input was used in the development of

# Community Description

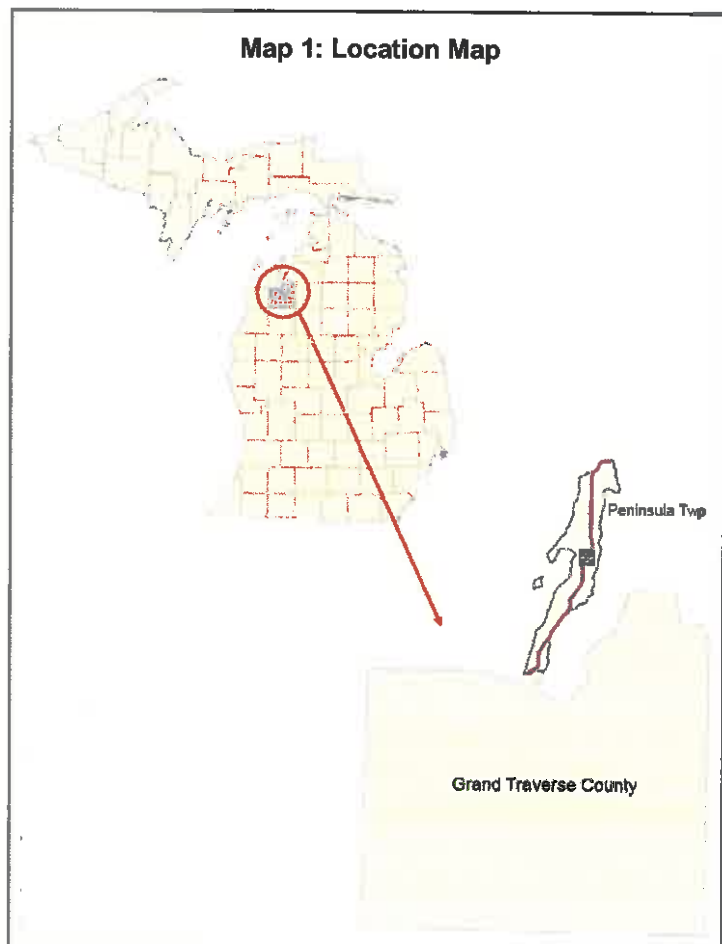
Peninsula Township is the northernmost township in Grand Traverse County, and comprises nearly all of the Old Mission Peninsula, a narrow strip of land extending about 18 miles into Grand Traverse Bay. The Peninsula is renowned for its rich agricultural heritage and natural beauty, with a wide variety of recreational 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—contribute to the Township’s high quality of life, and 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, and 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. As of 2016 (the latest information available), the Townships estimated population was 5,831. ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)).

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.

Statistics suggest professionals and entrepreneurs who work in the Traverse City area, and those who are able to telecommute, are moving to Peninsula Township.



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 visitation levels mean more frequent maintenance and upkeep, parking concerns, and in some cases, needs for park expansion. As both middle-age with children and retirement-age populations increase, recreation needs for all must address both active recreation facilities like ball fields, playgrounds, and beach facilities, as well as passive recreation facilities like walking and boating facilities. Barrier-free access to recreation is particularly important for an aging population, in addition to expanding access to more park opportunities for anyone needing barrier-free amenities. This is a high recreation priority for 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. 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. For example, Mission Point Lighthouse Park welcomed approximately 46,000 visitors in 2017, and the Township is featured in many tourism advertisements.

### **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 1-4 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 throughout the Township. 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, page 9). The northern two-thirds of the Peninsula are made up of significant areas of orchard, vineyard, forest, and open land, with residential and agricultural, and commercial centered at Mapleton. There are only 28.5 acres of commercially-zoned land for 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, page 16, 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. However, because of its scenic qualities, the

Township's road network doubles as a popular route for bicyclists, runners, and walkers.

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



## 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. In 2017, the Mission Point Lighthouse Park guestbook recorded visitors from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, in addition to visitors from U.S. Territories and numerous foreign countries. One of the most popular recreational activities is to drive along M-37, a Michigan Scenic Heritage Route, for scenic views of rolling hills, open space, orchards, vineyards, and Lake Michigan. Bluff Road, located along the shore of East Grand Traverse Bay, and Peninsula Drive, located along the shore of West Grand Traverse Bay, are popular routes for bikers and runners because of their more intimate views of the water.

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

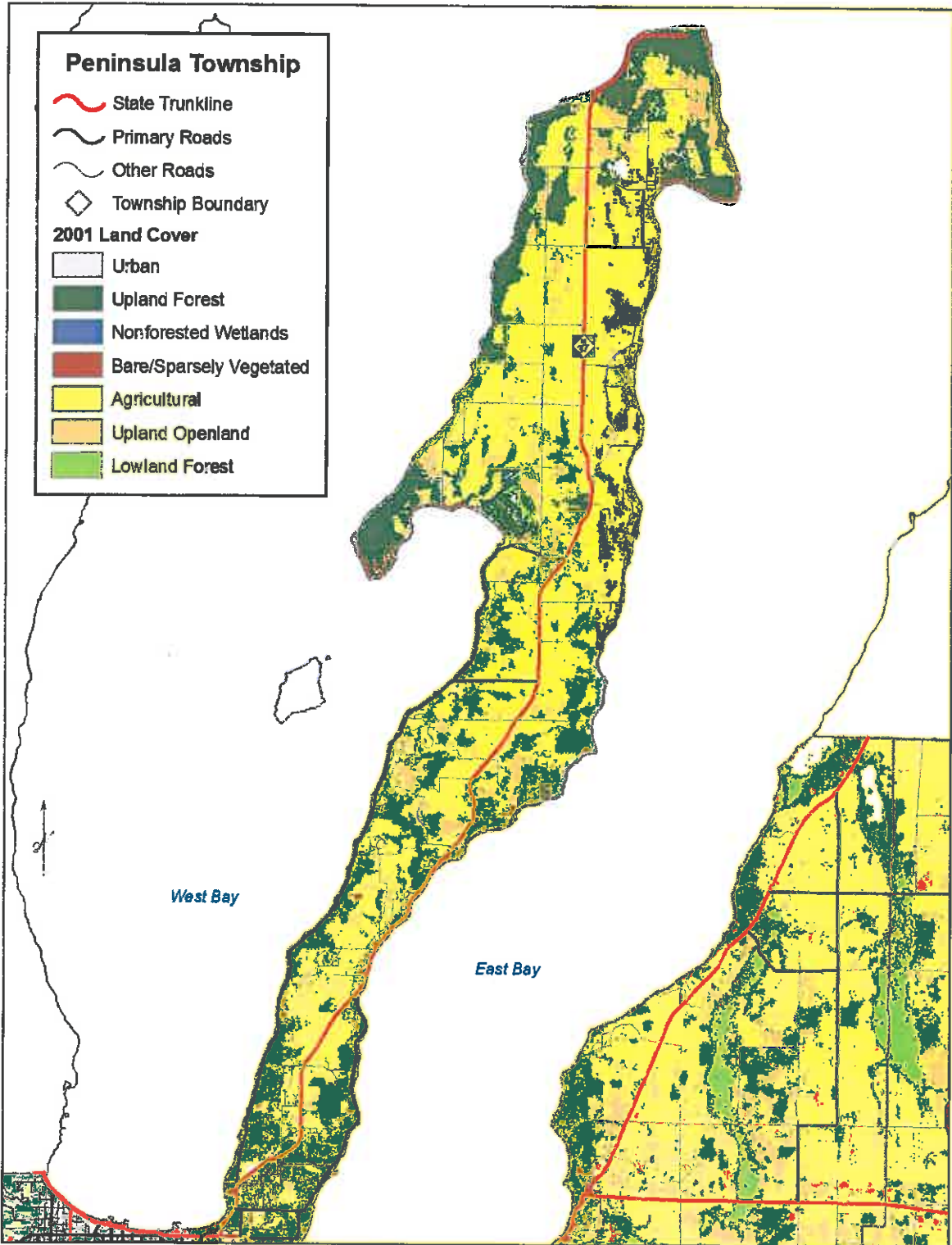
millage to fund the purchase of development rights for agricultural land in Peninsula Township. In 2002, voters increased the millage to 2 mills and extended the program for another 20 years.

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. The Michigan Department of Transportation has developed a scenic turnout with a view over West Grand Traverse Bay. 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

## Role of Commissions and Boards

**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 in general by the Township Board. The Township Board administers the monies of the Park Budget through its Treasurer and Clerk.

**Park 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. The Park Commission has an independently managed budget approved once per fiscal year by the Township Board.

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

**Staff:** Parks are maintained by joint Parks/Township Buildings and Grounds staff. One full-time year round staff member performs maintenance duties and oversees seasonal and contractual staff as needed.

## 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 approximately \$150,000.00 budgeted for the 2018

fiscal year, to cover maintenance, utility costs, some improvements, and general upkeep. General fund dollars are allocated yearly for recreation usage through the budget process by the Township Board, following consideration of Park Commission budget recommendations.

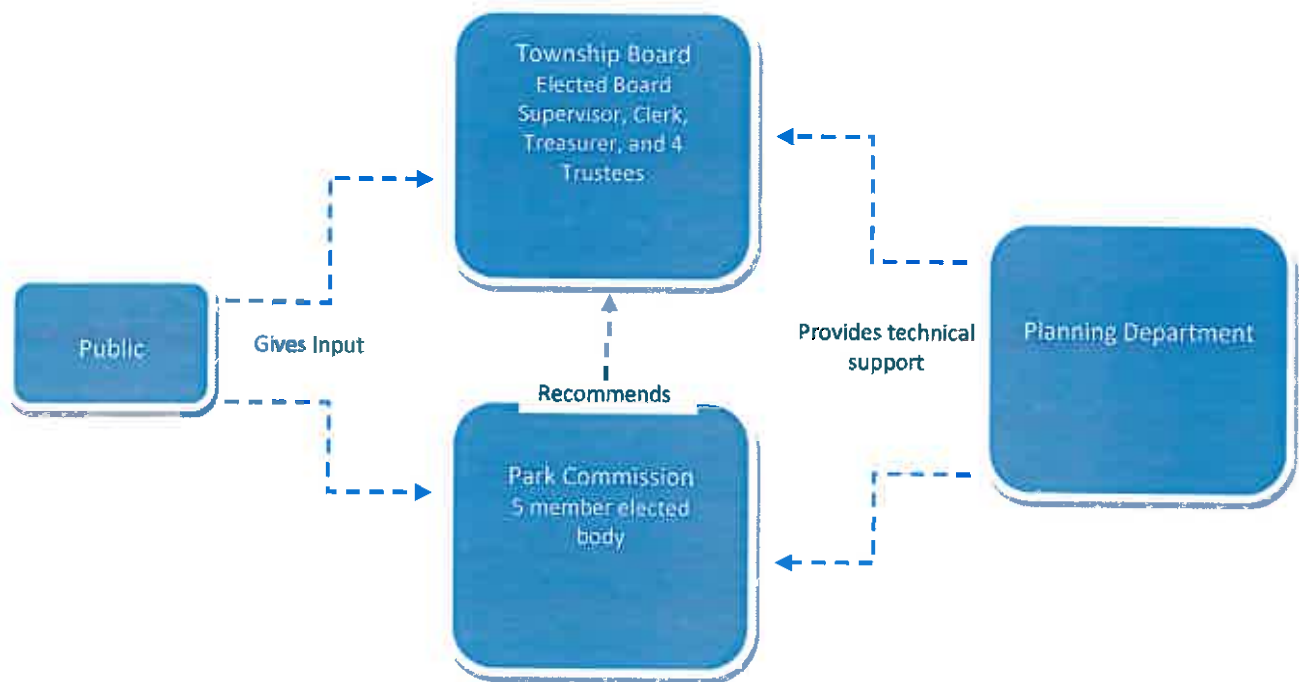
Some parks produce revenue in order to cover maintenance and upkeep costs. Fees charged for special events, tours, and the Lighthouse Keeper program provides a source of revenue to cover some maintenance costs at the Lighthouse. A gift shop was opened at the Lighthouse in 2009 and is a growing source of revenue for Lighthouse maintenance and activities. Pavilion rental at Bowers Harbor Park produces some small revenue that is available for repairs and maintenance at the park. Donations on site by the public also provide revenue. 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 Historic Home Site is entirely funded by private fundraising efforts. Grants have been sought and obtained to upkeep the Historic Log Church. Mission Point Lighthouse Friends 501© 3 organization works to support otherwise unfunded Lighthouse needs. The Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society also provides volunteer labor and funds for the upkeep of the Hessler Log Cabin and the Replica Log Church of the Dougherty Indian mission. Both the Dougherty Historic Home Site and the Mission Point Lighthouse have received significant grants through the State Historic Preservation Office.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers play an important role in the development and upkeep of the parks. Volunteers provide assistance to Mission Point 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 Site. Volunteers have been instrumental in the planning and ongoing improvements and upkeep of the Pelizzari Natural Area, Bowers Harbor Park, Mission Point Lighthouse, and other trail systems.

**Relationship with school districts, other public agencies, or private organizations:**

The Park Commission has expressed interest in maintaining healthy relationships with these organizations.





# Recreation Inventory

Peninsula Township offers a number of both passive and active recreation opportunities (see Map 3, page 16). 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 a facility in the past.

Data was gathered from the 2010 Peninsula Township Recreation Plan, Township staff and officials, and site visits. Park locations are shown on Map 3, page 16.

Accessibility information included is based on criteria provided in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plans. Accessibility considerations include the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities, in respect to both the facilities themselves, and to the access routes within a park. (See Accessibility Assessments page 5)

## **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 is utilized by a variety of people. Bicyclists use the parking lot as a staging area for tours of Old Mission Peninsula. Kayakers use the parking area and carry their water gear across M-37 to the shore access. Public input indicates a need for picnic tables at the park, as well as some general improvements to the water access stairway in addition to improving 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 Road and M-37 intersection. Therefore, keeping this beach open to the public is important.

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

- Pedestrian water access, stairs to beach, and safety signage and equipment (Rescue ring / rope)
- Accessible vault toilet
- Parking area
- Water pump
- Swing sets
- Grills
- Bike Parking

The overall accessibility assessment for Archie Roadside Park is 3. The beach is accessible by stairs but there is no ADA access.

## **Bowers Harbor Park**

Bowers Harbor Park is a 70.9 acre community park. The park was recently expanded as a result of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, which added nearly 59-acres to the original 22-acre park. In 2017, the Park Commission recommended adoption of the Bowers Harbor Park expansion plan, which is included herein by reference as Exhibit "A."

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

Bowers Harbor Park is host to the majority of the Township's active recreation facilities, and includes a variety of programmed recreation activities organized by the community and the Township.

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

A future development plan for the Bowers Harbor Park was developed and adopted in 2017 and is incorporated into this Peninsula Township Recreation Plan as Exhibit "B".

During the course of public comment in the development of this 2018 plan, ongoing concerns included water runoff moving off-site to the north as well as completion of a fence or vegetative buffer along the west property line.

The overall accessibility assessment for Bower's Harbor Park is 2. The south side of the park, formerly referred to as the expansion area, has poor access.

### **Dougherty Historic Home Site**

The Dougherty Historic Home Site 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.

The overall accessibility assessment for the Dougherty Historic Home is 1.

### **Haserot Beach Park**

The only Township-managed improved public beach access on the Old Mission Peninsula is located at Haserot Beach Park on Old Mission Harbor. It includes a swimming area, boating motorized launch site, 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, (too shallow for swimming), Haserot Beach attracts both residents and visitors for swimming and boat launch 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.

The boat launch at Haserot Beach is operational and used frequently but needs upgrading, with safety modifications. Swim buoys and rope have been placed to protect and separate swimmers from motor boats.

Because of the demonstrated need for additional access areas and parking, the Township has explored the possibility of acquiring additional property for use for soft launching, picnicking, parking and toilets in cooperation with the DNR site at Robert & Colleen Kelley Park. This nearby property would help 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
- Motorized Boat launch and dock
- ADA compliant vault toilet
- Swimming area
- Mitt Mutt Station
- Waste Containers
- Parking area
- Basketball court
- Storage building
- Well

Public comment received during the development of this plan indicated the need to improve the single boat launch and dock, and the need for dredging. However, the preference is to keep the launch as a single-launch facility.

The overall accessibility assessment for Haserot Beach is 3.

## **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 Park Commission budgeting process.

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

- Historic display
- Log Cabin days programming

The overall accessibility assessment for Hessler Log Cabin is 2 because the door is too narrow for wheelchair access.

## **Robert & Colleen Kelley Park**

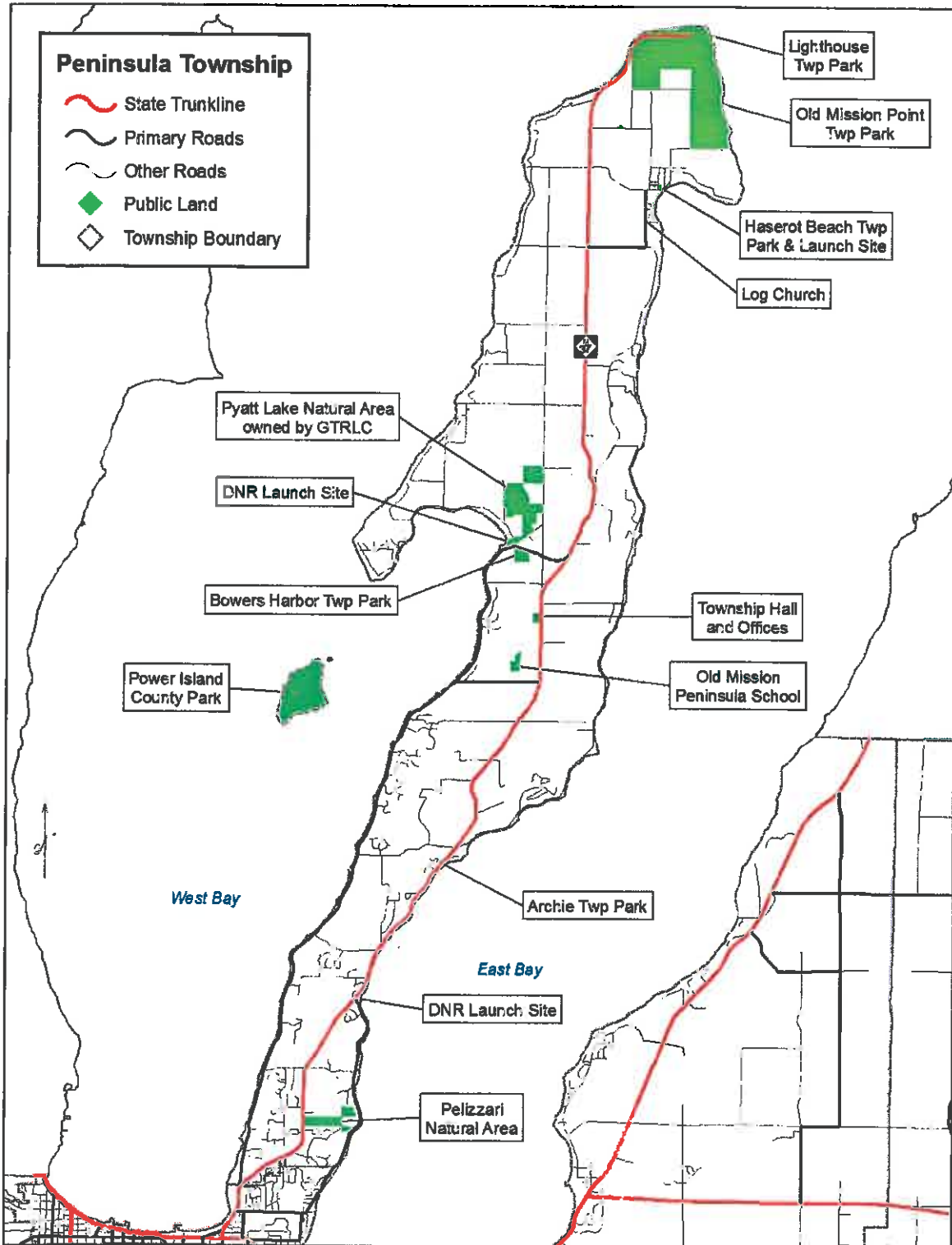
Robert & Colleen Kelley Park is a DNR-initiated Trust Fund acquisition project located on Mission Road and Old Mission Harbor, in close proximity to Haserot Beach.

Initially, the park was purchased in order to install a deep-water boat launch but now remains undeveloped. Following an investigative process, the DNR initially concluded in the summer of 2017 that Robert & Colleen Kelley Park may be best as an Improved Water Access Location suited for non-motorized, carry-down boats such as kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards which do not require a dredged channel.

The DNR will also utilize some of the current asphalt and pavement for parking, starting small with spaces for five single vehicles and five trailered vehicles. A flush toilet might be included in the design, as well.

Further public input will be involved as the DNR gets into more detailed design. Because Haserot Park and Robert & Colleen Kelley Park are in close proximity, the DNR has expressed interest in partnering with the Township in shared maintenance efforts. Consideration must be given to shielding the neighboring properties as this park is developed.

Map 3: Peninsula Township Parks and Public Land





## **Mission Point Lighthouse Park**

Lighthouse Park consists of 145 acres surrounding the Mission Point Lighthouse. It includes a wide variety of recreation facilities, including historic buildings, picnic areas, and trails, and is linked through trails with the 700 acre Old Mission Point Park, including Murray Road and Ridgeway Road trailheads. Beach access is available in several locations throughout Lighthouse Park (see Map 4, page 19).

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, page 19). 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 building includes a museum and gift shop, which is open May through October. Volunteers assist with maintenance, tours and gift shop sales through a Lighthouse Keeper Program.



*Ridgeway Road Trailhead*

With increased usage of the lighthouse area, erosion is occurring along the beach, and action is needed to reduce the automobile access areas to those high risk beach areas. Higher visitation levels also create a greater interest and need for improved internal and external access to the Lighthouse and grounds. Renovation of the Lighthouse building to historically accurate conditions has been in continual progress. Largely through grants from SHIPO, the Lighthouse Building proper has been repainted (after lead paint abatement), re-insulated windows have been added, the foundation has been shored up to mitigate the effects of aging and a poorly prepared original foundation. Historic sidewalks have been exposed or resurfaced. In addition the former concession stand building has been moved back to its original site and its foundation strengthened, insulation added and new siding and roofing is in progress.

A Historic Structures Report, commissioned through the State Historic Preservation Office, serves as the strategic plan for the Mission Point Lighthouse and Grounds. This serves as a working document for the Park Commission to guide activities relative to the Lighthouse buildings and programs and grounds.

The very large influx of visitors has in particular put stress on the parking lots and pit toilets. Planning for flush toilet facilities is seen as essential and is in progress.

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 house
- Parking lot (2)
- Visitor Center
- Picnic areas
- Handicapped Vault toilets (3)
- Swimming areas

The overall accessibility assessment for the Lighthouse Park is 3.

### **Replica Log Church**

The Replica Log Church is located across from the Dougherty Historic Home Site, 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.

The overall accessibility assessment for the Log Church is 2.

### **Old Mission Point Park**

Old Mission Point Park is connected to the mission Point Lighthouse Park through hiking and skiing trails; however, separate gravel parking area, picnic area, and an accessible vault toilet is available at that trailhead. A parking area is located on Murray Road. (see Map 4, page 19). Barrier-free trails link the parking areas to Mission Point Lighthouse Park.

### **Murray Road Trailhead**

The Murray Road 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, page 16). Trails are for passive use only. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Some of the facilities meet accessibility standards.

### **Ridgewood Road Trailhead**

The Ridgewood Road 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 Ridgewood Road 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

The overall accessibility assessment for Old Mission Point Park is 4.



## **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 future development and management plan for Pelizzari Park was developed in 2010 and is incorporated into this Park Master Plan as Appendix "A".

There are many young trees and seedlings growing next to the trails. Many have already been broken off or branches cut off. Some of these could be transplanted into areas of the park that need trees.

The overall accessibility assessment for Pelizzari Natural Area is 4. Users can get to the parking lot, but the Park Commission has envisioned an accessible trail loop in the upper meadow. Accessible trails are a high priority for future improvements at the park, and are a goal identified in the Management Plan. Facilities include trails and a 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 National Scenic Byway***

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

The Scenic Byway creates some opportunities in terms of recreational coordination.

#### ***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.

Both the East Bay and Bower's Harbor launches are Boating Access Site facilities as defined by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

## **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 Neah-ta-wanta Road 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.

## **Status Report for all Grant – Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities:**

Peninsula Township has received the following grant assistance from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The following is a summary and status update.

TF87-273 – Haserot Beach Park Expansion. Status: The acquisition was successfully completed and the park is open to the public.

TF95-149 – PDR Easement Acquisition. Status: The acquisition was successfully completed and the scenic view shed remains open for public enjoyment.

TF13-086 – Bowers Harbor Park Expansion. Status: The acquisition was successfully completed and the park is open to the public. In 2017, a professional planning consulting firm created a development plan for the area, which has been partially implemented. The Park Commission's annual budget will continue to fund the implementation of the plan. The Bowers Harbor Park plan is incorporated in this document as Exhibit B.



# Goals, Objectives and Action Program

## Recreation Plan Goal and Objectives

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

**Objectives:**

- Continue to maintain and improve Peninsula Township’s parks and natural areas for enjoyment by individuals of all ages and capabilities.
- Improve accessibility for users of all ages and capabilities.
- Explore appropriate locations to expand existing parks, water access points, recreation facilities, and trail systems.
- Develop an overall future trails plan along roadways to link Peninsula Township’s trail systems together as well as connect to regional trails systems. Pursue funding for trail projects as available and work to develop partnerships with advocacy groups such as Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails (TART).
- Continue positive collaboration with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.
- Pursue opportunities and funding sources for better public access to the Great Lakes, including both land acquisitions and existing site improvements.
- Encourage expansion of public launch sites, beach sites, and associated parking areas.
- Develop comprehensive fund raising strategies to generate money through grants and gifts to fund park projects.

## Recreation Plan Action Program

Action	Timeframe
<b>Archie Park</b>	
Beach access improvements, in particular, signage to improve road crossing safety	2018-2019
Playground equipment	2020-2022
Invasive species abatement	2018-2019
<b>Bowers Harbor Park</b>	
Assess the need for more pickle ball courts	2018
Resurface tennis courts, line for tennis and pickle ball	2018
Develop action plan for construction of new pickle ball courts as necessary	2018-2022
Replace 6 grills	2018-2020

Repair and replace playground structures (north and south) and add safe landing pads	2018-2022
Develop universally accessible hiking trails in south area with viewing areas and interpretive signing	2018-2023
Expand and improve parking areas	2018-2023
Add additional toilets	2018-2023
Add portable winter ice rink in north park area	2018-2023
<b>Haserot Beach</b>	
Develop and implement a plan in cooperation with the DNR for usage of Robert & Colleen Kelley Park including consideration of soft launch and flush toilets as well as increased parking.	2018-2020
Develop a plan—in cooperation with the DNR—for redesign and repair/rebuild of a single ramp motorized boat launch at Haserot.	2018-2020
Increase parking	2018-2020
Replace present play station and add landing pad	2018-2020
Picnic area improvements including shade trees and grills and water fountain with foot wash	2018-2020
Investigate Mobi-Mat for wheelchair accessibility	2020-2022
Provide a small covered pavilion	2020-2022
<b>Mission Point Lighthouse Park</b>	
Provide access for swimming and launch of small, non-motorized carry boats	2019-2020
Provide flush toilets	2018-2020
Consider moving Gift Shop out of Lighthouse into adjacent storage building	2018-2020
Provide Security Cameras for buildings and grounds	2020-2022
Build rescue boat exhibit on the beach	2020-2022
<b>Replica Log Church</b>	
Update lighting and displays	2018
Repair Log Finish and Chinking	2018
<b>Old Mission Point Park</b>	
Continue and intensify Trash Control and Erosion Control	2018-2019
<b>Murray Road Trailhead</b>	
Forestry management plan and invasive species control	2018-2019
<b>Ridgewood Trailhead</b>	
Forestry management plan and invasive species control	2018-2019
<b>Pelizzari Natural Area</b>	
Maintain MDEQ Due Care Compliance	2018
Maintain A Forest MGMT & Invasive Species Program	2018

Protect wetlands & Watershed	2018
Provide signage explaining history and purpose of the Natural Area	2018-2019
Develop a natural prairie area	2020-2022
Consider toilet facility	2020-2022
<b>General Park Activities</b>	
Secure Secretarial Services	2018
Secure Buildings & Grounds Services	2018
Update future land acquisition	2020-2022