

# 2023-2027 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan



**Charter Township of Garfield**

Grand Traverse County, Michigan



## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Community Description .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Jurisdiction and Focus of this Plan .....	4
<b>Administrative Structure .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Role of the Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission.....	5
Staff and Organizational Chart .....	5
Township Parks Budget .....	6
Current Funding Sources .....	6
Role of Volunteers and Organizations .....	7
Relationships with School Districts and Other Public Agencies .....	8
<b>Recreation Inventory .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Methods Used to Conduct the Recreation Inventory .....	10
Recreation Inventory Summary Table .....	13
Township-Owned Parks and Recreation Areas.....	19
Other Recreational Opportunities within Garfield Township .....	24
Regional Recreational Opportunities .....	26
Location Maps .....	28
Accessibility Assessment .....	43
Status Report for Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities .....	44
<b>Description of the Planning Process .....</b>	<b>47</b>
Planning Methods .....	48
<b>Description of the Public Input Process .....</b>	<b>49</b>
Early Public Input .....	49
30-Day Public Review Period .....	51
Public Hearing and Resolution of Adoption.....	52
<b>Goals and Objectives .....</b>	<b>53</b>
Development of the Goals and Objectives .....	53
Basis for the Goals and Objectives .....	53
Goals and Objectives .....	62
<b>Action Program.....</b>	<b>65</b>
Development of the Action Program .....	65
Five-Year Capital Improvements Program .....	65
Operations and Maintenance .....	66
Policy Development.....	67
Non-Motorized Facilities and Connections to Parks .....	67
Green Infrastructure Plan .....	78
<b>Appendices.....</b>	<b>79</b>



## Acknowledgments

### *Township Board of Trustees*

Chuck Korn, Supervisor  
Lanie McManus, Clerk  
Chloe Macomber, Treasurer  
Molly Agostinelli, Trustee  
Chris Barsheff, Trustee  
Steve Duell, Trustee  
Denise Schmuckal, Trustee

### *Parks and Recreation Commission*

Chris DeGood, Chair / Planning Commission Representative  
Fern Spence, Vice Chair  
Chris Remy, Secretary  
Denise Schmuckal, Township Board Representative  
Art Bukowski  
Lynn Fricke  
Andy Hoort

## List of Common Abbreviations

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
EGLE	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
GTB	Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
GTCD	Grand Traverse Conservation District
GTCRC	Grand Traverse County Road Commission
GTRLC	Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
ISN	Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network
MDNR	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
MDOT	Michigan Department of Transportation
MNRTF	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
NRPA	National Recreation and Park Association
RA	Charter Township of Garfield and City of Traverse City Recreational Authority
TART	Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails, Inc.
TCAPS	Traverse City Area Public Schools



## Introduction

The Charter Township of Garfield (“Garfield”) has developed this five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan (“Plan”) to provide Garfield with a roadmap for parks and recreation decisions over the next five years and beyond. The process of preparing the Plan has provided Garfield with a better understanding of the Township’s parks and recreation system and insights into what the residents of Garfield want for parks and recreation.

The Plan was formulated following an inventory of parks and recreation resources, and thorough planning and public input processes. This Plan makes Garfield eligible for Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grant programs. This Plan contains the following sections:

### *Community Description*

- Location of Garfield and description of the jurisdiction and focus of this Plan

### *Administrative Structure*

- Roles of Parks and Recreation Commission, Township Board, and Staff
- Parks budget and other parks funding sources
- Roles of volunteers, schools, public agencies, and other outside agencies and partners

### *Recreation Inventory*

- Methods to conduct the Recreation Inventory and classification systems used
- Summary table of recreational resources in Garfield and throughout the region
- Descriptions and maps of recreational resources in Garfield and throughout the region
- Accessibility assessment and status of grant-assisted parks and recreation facilities

### *Description of the Planning Process*

- Planning methods used and other Garfield planning efforts

### *Description of the Public Input Process*

- Public input opportunities for this Plan and relevant feedback from other efforts

### *Goals and Objectives*

- Development of and basis for the goals and objectives
- Goals and objectives for the Garfield parks and recreation system

### *Action Program*

- Five-year capital improvements program highlighting priority projects
- Description of operations, maintenance, and policy development priorities
- Priority projects to provide greater non-motorized connections to parks
- Green infrastructure priority projects and policies

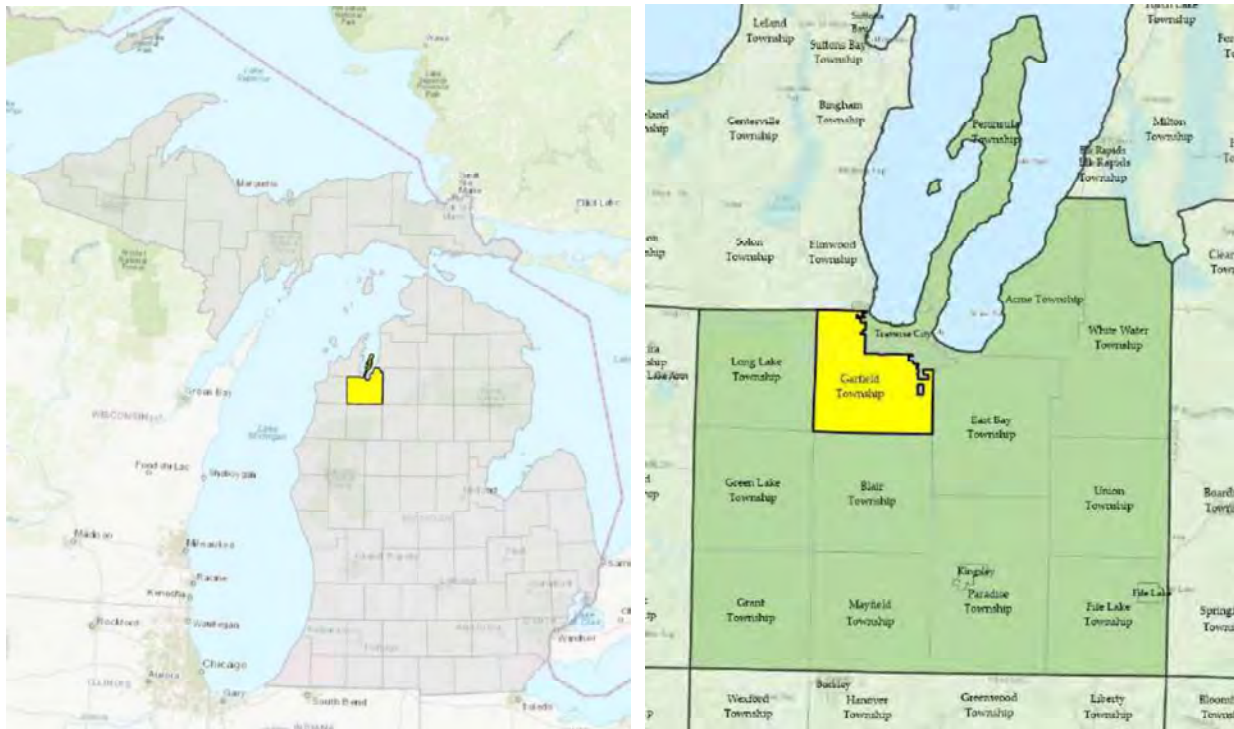




## Community Description

This Plan was prepared for the Charter Township of Garfield, in Grand Traverse County in the northwest Lower Peninsula of Michigan (*see Regional Location Map below*). Garfield's population totaled 19,499 as of the 2020 United States Census. Garfield borders the following municipalities (*see Local Jurisdiction Map below*):

Direction	Neighboring Municipality	County	Population (2020 Census)
North & east	City of Traverse City	Grand Traverse & Leelanau (portion)	15,678
North	Elmwood Township	Leelanau	4,892
West	Long Lake Township	Grand Traverse	9,956
Southwest	Green Lake Township	Grand Traverse	6,703
South	Blair Township	Grand Traverse	8,994
East	East Bay Township	Grand Traverse	11,589



*Left – Regional Location Map: Grand Traverse County within Michigan*

*Right – Local Jurisdiction Map: Garfield Township within Grand Traverse County*

## **Jurisdiction and Focus of this Plan**

This Plan was prepared primarily for the Township's use in evaluating current and future needs for active and passive recreation within its borders. This Plan also recognizes opportunities for collaboration across jurisdictions and with other public, private, and nonprofit entities. The role of volunteers and the relationships of the Township with other agencies are described under the Administrative Structure section of this Plan.

This Plan includes the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan, which involved the input and feedback of several stakeholder groups including other public, private, and nonprofit entities. These stakeholder groups are acknowledged as part of the development of this Plan.

This Plan is focused on all aspects of public recreation within the Township, including trailways, active recreation areas, and passive recreation and natural areas. The action program outlines the recommendations for specific Township parks, including any anticipated projects over the next five years, and potential non-motorized trail projects and connections. The action program also includes a green infrastructure component to guide priorities for acquiring parcels or receiving parcels as donations and outline potential opportunities to protect and preserve undeveloped or minimally developed wetlands, riparian lands, forests, woodlands, and other natural areas.



## Administrative Structure

The elected Township Board is ultimately responsible for the Township parks and recreation system with assistance from the Parks and Recreation Commission and Township Staff. The Parks and Recreation Commission, a body appointed by the Township Board, meets at least once every other month to discuss park-related issues and make recommendations to the Township Board for their consideration. The Township has two Park Stewards on staff working under the Township Supervisor who are responsible for the day-to-day management and maintenance of Township parks and infrastructure such as restrooms, tennis courts, and pavilions. The Planning Department also provides staff support for parks.

### Role of the Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission was established in 2010 under the Parks and Recreation Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.* The Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Township Board, and it serves as the recommending body for policy decisions regarding Garfield's parks and recreation system. Their specific duties include:

- Develop and maintain Garfield's Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Recommend priority projects for annual parks budget
- Recommend policies guiding use and operations of parks system
- Provide input on parks planning activities
- Review public feedback on Township parks

The Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance (Ordinance #63, Articles of Incorporation), as well as two amendments to this Ordinance, is attached to this Plan. (*See Appendix K*)

### Staff and Organizational Chart

Garfield Township Staff includes two Park Stewards primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the parks. The Park Stewards' duties include conducting regular maintenance projects, overseeing contractors, keeping an inventory of supplies, coordinating safety initiatives with local law enforcement, and responding to emergency situations. The Planning Department also provides staff support for parks including helping develop the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and creating GIS maps and databases.

The elected Township Board ultimately has the authority over the parks including committing funds for parks and recreation, setting the annual parks budget, accepting grants, and purchasing or accepting land on behalf of the Township. Please see the following organizational chart:

## Public

(Provides input to Township Board, Parks and Recreation Commission)

## Township Board

(Elected Board includes Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and four Trustees)

### Township Staff

(Park Stewards & Planning Department)

- Reports to Township Supervisor
- Staff support for the Parks and Recreation Commission

### Parks and Recreation Commission

(Seven members; appointed by Township Board)

- Serves as the recommending body for policy decisions regarding the Township parks and recreation system

## Township Parks Budget

Garfield Township has consistently budgeted for the maintenance and improvement of the park system, and the Township is anticipated to continue providing significant funding for the parks. Several capital improvement projects are expected over the next five years, and these comprise a major portion of the projected budget. The table below shows the projected parks budget over the next five years, estimating an annual 3% increase. Recreational programming is not included in the Township parks budget with such programming provided instead by private or non-profit organizations.

Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Budget (Five-Year Projection)					
Category	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Administrative / Staff	\$62,624	\$64,503	\$66,438	\$68,431	\$70,484
Contracted / Other Services	\$71,080	\$73,212	\$75,409	\$77,671	\$80,001
Contingencies	\$800	\$824	\$849	\$874	\$900
Maintenance	\$30,000	\$30,900	\$31,827	\$32,782	\$33,765
Capital Outlay	\$474,000	\$488,220	\$502,867	\$517,953	\$533,491
Total	\$638,504	\$657,659	\$677,390	\$697,711	\$718,641

## Current Funding Sources

The Township general fund is the primary funding source for Township parks. Garfield has also received funds from other sources for park system improvements, including Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants, Rotary Club of Traverse City, and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB).

## Role of Volunteers and Organizations

The Township works with several different volunteer groups on projects throughout the parks and recreation system, including but not limited to the following:

- The **Boardman River Clean Sweep** organization is dedicated to keeping the Boardman River clean and free of garbage to protect the river ecosystem. There are multiple cleanup events each month, with a few events in the Garfield section of the river throughout the year. Boardman River Clean Sweep volunteers have been instrumental in cleaning up the portion of River East Recreation Area near Goodwill Inn over the past few years.
- In 2020 and 2022, Garfield Township worked with **ReLeaf Michigan** and volunteers on tree planting events at Silver Lake Recreation Area and along the Buffalo Ridge Trail.
- The **United Way of Northwest Michigan** organizes volunteer groups for non-profit and public agencies throughout the region and has provided volunteer assistance to Garfield for several different parks-related projects. United Way also installed and maintains the Born Learning Trail signs on the Buffalo Ridge Trail, which emphasize the outdoors as an educational opportunity.



*"Born Learning Trail" sign on the Buffalo Ridge Trail*



## **Relationships with School Districts and Other Public Agencies**

Garfield Township lies entirely within the **Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS)** district. There are currently three TCAPS schools within Garfield Township: West Senior High School, West Middle School, and Silver Lake Elementary. A fourth school, TCAPS Montessori, is under construction next to West Middle School with an anticipated opening of fall 2023.

The Township and TCAPS have developed a close working relationship to facilitate continued development of the local trail network. Many existing and planned trails in the Township connect TCAPS properties and Township parks. Teachers use the parks for educational opportunities, and track coaches use the trails for cross-country training. The continued relationship between Garfield and TCAPS is regarded as beneficial to all.

## **Other Public Agencies**

The Garfield Township parks provide a variety of recreational resources. More active recreation is available at the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, Silver Lake Recreation Area, and River East Recreation Area, with nature hiking and passive recreation available at the other Township parks. The Township partners with several non-profits and public agencies on projects to enhance and protect the parks, and many organizations throughout the community provide both active and passive recreation opportunities. The following includes a brief description of these non-profits, public agencies, and other organizations involved in recreation in the Township. Please refer to the Recreation Inventory for further discussion regarding facility ownership and an inventory of all facilities in Garfield, including those not publicly owned.

Active recreation opportunities for Township residents are primarily provided by area non-profit and private organizations including the YMCA, Traverse City Youth Football, Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS), Traverse City Little League, Traverse Area Girls Softball, Traverse Area Community Sailing, and the Grand Traverse Hockey Association. Most of these organizations offer their programming at parks and facilities owned by local governmental units. The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA South facility is located on Township parkland at Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, though YMCA maintains other facilities in the region.

The **Charter Township of Garfield and City of Traverse City Recreational Authority (RA)** is a partnership between the citizens of the Township and Traverse City, creating an entity to allow for the management of park properties. Creation of the RA was provided for under the provisions of Michigan's Recreational Authorities Act (Public Act No. 321 of 2000). In 2004, voters in both jurisdictions approved ballot measures for the RA to purchase and operate three properties as public parks, including two located in Garfield: Historic Barns Park and Hickory Meadows.

In 2020, voters approved a new 20-year millage for continued operations of the RA and to pursue the public purchase and preservation of an additional property tentatively named Hickory Forest, located in the Township. Should the RA cease to exist, the lands within Garfield Township would be dedicated to the Township for their preservation in perpetuity. The RA is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors, with three members appointed by the Garfield Township Board of Trustees, including one of those three being an elected Township Trustee.

The **Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC)** is a local organization dedicated to protecting and preserving natural, scenic, farm, and forest lands. The GTRLC maintains nature preserves throughout the region which offer nature hiking and passive recreation opportunities. One of these preserves is the 128-acre Mitchell Creek Nature Sanctuary located in the Township, which has no trails or infrastructure but offers passive recreation and allows for certain types of hunting. Should the GTRLC cease to exist, this preserve would be dedicated to the Township for preservation in perpetuity. The GTRLC works with landowners to protect property through the establishment of conservation easements. The Township has conservation easements on several of its parks which are managed by GTRLC. Through a land donation, the GTRLC also provided a critical local match for the Township's 2002 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to establish Boardman Valley Nature Preserve.

**TART Trails, Inc.** supports non-motorized transportation and recreation in the region through trail planning, securing easements, construction, and maintenance of regional trails. TART and the Township were two key groups in a collaborative effort to complete the Boardman Lake Loop Trail, for which Garfield donated \$800,000 to establish a maintenance endowment fund.

The **Grand Traverse Conservation District (GTCD)** provides conservation and environmental services including educational programming at the Boardman River Nature Center, agricultural programs, and invasive species management through the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN). Garfield has used the GTCD's expertise on many park-related issues and on the Township's Recommended Planting Guidelines when reviewing landscaping plans.

**Grand Traverse County** owns several parks which serve the region including three in Garfield: Keystone Soccer Complex, Medalie Park, and the Natural Education Reserve. The County also owns and operates the Grand Traverse County Civic Center in Traverse City, which contains a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation amenities.

The **Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB)** is an indirect but important partner in the preservation and improvement of the Township's natural resources. The GTB has provided funding towards projects such as fish passage improvements, including drop culvert removal, in the Boardman River watershed.

## Recreation Inventory

A thorough inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities is essential to the development of a meaningful Parks and Recreation Plan. This Recreation Inventory is intended to assist Garfield Township in identifying the adequacy of various parks and recreational opportunities available to Garfield Township residents, including any surpluses or deficiencies thereof, which underlies the development of the Goals and Objectives.

The Recreation Inventory starts with an explanation of the park facility classification system used to conduct the Inventory, followed by the Inventory itself detailing the park name, type, acreage, likely service area, accessibility rating, and recreation amenities. The Inventory encompasses all resources available in Garfield regardless of whether they are owned by the Township including private facilities, semi-public facilities, or public facilities managed by another entity.

Because Garfield residents have other recreational resources and amenities available to them in neighboring municipalities, the Inventory also includes certain recreational resources offered by other surrounding jurisdictions. The Recreation Inventory is not intended to identify every park in neighboring municipalities but highlights recreational resources likely to be used by Garfield residents, including community pools, beaches, trails, campgrounds, or ski areas.

The Inventory includes a Summary Table, followed by more detailed descriptions of Township-owned parks and recreation areas, other recreational opportunities within Garfield, and regional recreational opportunities.

### Methods Used to Conduct the Recreation Inventory

This Inventory was completed in November 2022. Information used in completing the Inventory was gathered from the previous Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan (adopted in 2018), information from other agencies and surrounding municipalities including current and previous plans and park descriptions from their websites, aerial photo interpretation, field verifications, and internet research. The *Recreation Inventory Summary Table* begins on Page 16 of this Plan.

This Inventory is based on the following classification systems:



Park Facility Classifications	
Classification	Description
<b>Mini Parks</b>	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs. They generally measure between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size and serve a population within a quarter mile in a residential setting.
<b>School Parks</b>	Facilities owned and managed by TCAPS. In addition to providing play and athletic opportunities for students, school parks can help fulfill an identified need for other classifications of parks. The size and location of school parks varies depending on function.
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	Serve as the basic unit of the park system and recreational and social focus of a neighborhood, providing informal active and passive recreation. They generally measure between five to ten acres in size and serve a population within a half-mile in a residential setting.
<b>Community Parks</b>	Provide both active and passive recreation for a community and preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. Their location is determined by the quality and suitability of a site. Community Parks generally serve the entire community and measure at least 50 acres, with 75+ acres being optimal.
<b>Natural Features</b>	Significant natural resources including streams, rivers, lakes, or substantial topography that provide an opportunity for recreation.
<b>Natural Resource Areas</b>	Lands set aside to preserve Natural Features, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics or buffering. The location and size of a Natural Resource Area depends upon resource availability and opportunity. These areas also include opportunities for passive recreation such as hiking, nature watching, hunting, and fishing.
<b>Greenways</b>	Tie the parks system components together to form a continuous parklike environment. The location, size and characteristics of a Greenway are dependent upon resource availability and opportunity.
<b>Sports Complex</b>	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located across the community. Sports complexes usually measure at least 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.
<b>Private Park or Recreational Facility</b>	Privately owned but contributes to the public parks and recreation system. The location and size of a Private Park or Recreational Facility is dependent upon the specific use and the perceived need for the use.
<b>State Parks, State Forests, and State Forest Campgrounds</b>	Facilities owned and operated by the State of Michigan, and often include opportunities such as camping, swimming, fishing, hunting, boating, biking, nature watching, and other outdoor recreation activities.

Trail Facility Classifications	
Classification	Description
<b>Park Trail</b>	<p>Multipurpose trail located within a greenway, park, or natural resource area, which provide opportunities for walking, running, cycling, or rollerblading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type I – separate, single-purpose, hard-surfaced trail for pedestrians, cyclists, and inline skaters</li> <li>• Type II – multipurpose hard-surfaced trail</li> <li>• Type III – nature trail for pedestrians that may be hard- or soft-surfaced</li> </ul>
<b>Trailway</b>	<p>Multipurpose trail that provides a recreational experience and emphasizes safe non-motorized transportation between parks, residences, schools, shopping, entertainment, and employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type I – hard-surfaced trail located in an independent right-of-way (i.e., separate from a roadway)</li> <li>• Type II – located within an independent right-of-way but is soft surfaced</li> <li>• Type III – hard-surfaced trail located within or near a road right-of-way</li> </ul>
<b>On-Street Bikeways</b>	<p>Segments of roadways designated for use by cyclists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike Route – segment of roadway shared with motor vehicles</li> <li>• Bike Lane – striped, signed, or otherwise marked portion of the roadway designated for use by cyclists, which generally excludes motorized traffic</li> </ul>
<b>Mountain Bike Trails</b>	<p>Off-road trails that are designed and intended for biking, but also provide opportunities for hiking where conflicts can be avoided. Horseback riding and mountain biking are not usually compatible uses. Mountain Bike Trails may also be used for cross-country skiing (non-maintained) or snowshoeing in the winter and are usually looped networks located in larger parks and natural resource areas.</p>
<b>Cross-Country Skiing Trails</b>	<p>Developed for maintained (i.e., groomed) traditional and skate style cross-country skiing. They are usually constructed as looped networks in larger parks and natural resource areas.</p>
<b>Equestrian Trails</b>	<p>Trails developed for horseback riding, usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Equestrian trails may sometimes be developed as multipurpose trails including hiking but are not usually compatible with mountain biking.</p>
<b>Off-Road Vehicle Trails</b>	<p>Designated trail systems for use by motorized recreational traffic, including Off Road Vehicles (ORVs) of all sizes, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), motorcycles, and snowmobiles.</p>

## Recreation Inventory Summary Table

### Inventory of Garfield Township Parks

Facility Name	Facility Type	Size (acres)	Likely Service Area	Amenities
Boardman Valley Nature Preserve	Natural Area	125.1	Entire Township / surrounding area	Hiking Trails, Walking Trails, Cross-Country Skiing, Mountain Biking, Hunting, Fishing, Boardman River Access, Kayak Launch, Beach Volleyball, Pickleball
Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area	Natural Area	185.0	Entire Township / surrounding area	Hiking Trails, Walking Trails, Cross-Country Skiing, Mountain Biking
Hughes Drive Nature Reserve	Natural Area	8.7	< 0.5 miles	None; not developed
Kids Creek Park	Natural Area	20.6	< 3 miles	Hiking Trails, Nature Watching, Fishing Pond
Miller Creek Nature Reserve	Natural Area	93.9	< 3 miles	Hiking Trails, Walking Trails, Mountain Biking, Nature Watching, Fishing Pond, Hunting
River East Recreation Area	Natural Area / Community Park	70.9	< 3 miles	Hiking Trails, Hunting, Picnic Pavilion (Planned: possible future amenities include Dog Park, Restrooms, Paved Walking Trail, Fishing Platform, Playground, Observation Deck)
Silver Lake Recreation Area	Natural Area / Community Park	84.8	< 3 miles	Hiking Trails, Walking Trails, Picnic Pavilions, Dog Park, Playgrounds, Restrooms, Baseball, Basketball, Sledding Hill, Tennis, Multi-Purpose Field

### Inventory of Other Parks

Facility Name	Facility Type	Size (acres)	Likely Service Area	Amenities
Charter Township of Garfield and City of Traverse City Recreational Authority				
Hickory Forest	Natural Area	71.3	Entire Township / surrounding area	Hiking Trails (planned), Nature Watching
Hickory Meadows	Natural Area	107.6	Entire Township / surrounding area	Hiking Trails, Cross-Country Skiing, Nature Watching
Historic Barns Park	Community Park / Natural Area	53.4	Entire Township / surrounding area	Indoor Event Venue in Renovated Historic Barn, Hiking / Biking Trails, Community Garden, Botanic Garden

Facility Name	Facility Type	Size (acres)	Likely Service Area	Amenities
<b>Grand Traverse County</b>				
Grand Traverse County Civic Center	Sports Complex	45	Entire Township / surrounding area	Indoor Pool, Ice Rink, YMCA, Walking / Biking Trails, Skate Park, Outdoor Amphitheater, Pavilion, Picnic Tables, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields
Grand Traverse Natural Education Reserve	Natural Area	505	Entire Township / surrounding area	Hiking Trails, Walking Trails, Cross-Country Skiing, Fishing, Boardman River Access
Keystone Soccer Complex	Sports Complex	40	Entire Township / surrounding area	Soccer Fields, Pavilion, Playground
Maple Bay Park & Natural Area	Natural Area	450	Entire Township / surrounding area	Hiking Trails, Nature Watching, Birding, Hunting, Lake Michigan Beach
Medalie Park	Community Park	15	< 3 miles	Pavilions / Picnic Tables, Restrooms, Walking Trails, Boardman River Access, Boardman Lake Access, Fishing, Canoe Launch
Power Island / Bassett Island	Natural Area	202	Statewide	Lake Michigan Beach, Picnic Areas, Hiking Trails, Boat Dock, Primitive Camping
Twin Lakes Park	Community Park	175	Entire Township / surrounding area	Community Lodge, Soccer Fields, Playground, Pavilion, Picnic Tables, Swimming (County Commission voted in 2022 to transfer park ownership to Long Lake Township)
<b>Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy</b>				
Mitchell Creek Nature Preserve	Natural Area	128	Entire Township / surrounding area	Hunting, Nature Watching
<b>Traverse City Area Public Schools</b>				
Central High School	School Park	n/a	< 3 miles	Multi-Purpose Fields, Baseball and Softball Fields, Running Track, Tennis, Basketball
East Middle School & Carlisle Field	School Park	n/a	< 3 miles	Baseball and Softball Fields, Running Track, Tennis
Silver Lake Elementary	School Park	n/a	< 0.5 miles	Playground
West Middle School	School Park	n/a	< 3 miles	Multi-Purpose Fields, Baseball and Softball Fields, Running Track, Tennis
West Senior High	School Park	n/a	< 3 miles	Multi-Purpose Fields, Baseball and Softball Fields, Running Track, Tennis, Basketball

Facility Name	Facility Type	Size (acres)	Likely Service Area	Amenities
<b>Other Local Township Parks</b>				
<b>Blair Township Park</b>	Community Park	n/a	< 3 miles	Baseball Fields, Tennis, Basketball, Pavilion, Picnic Area, Walking Path, Splash Pad, Playground, Fitness Court
<b>Cherry Bend Community Park</b>	Community Park	14.5	< 3 miles	Baseball Fields, Multi-Purpose Field, Pickleball, Volleyball, Picnic Tables, Pavilion, Horseshoe Pits, Playground
<b>Grace MacDonald Park</b>	Community Park	42	Entire Township / surrounding area	Baseball Field, Multi-Purpose Field, Pickleball, Tennis Volleyball, Horseshoe Pits, Pavilion, Picnic Tables, Hiking Trails, Sledding Hill, Playgrounds
<b>Greilickville Harbor Park</b>	Community Park	3	Entire Township / surrounding area	Lake Michigan Beach, Pavilions, Playground, Volleyball, Restrooms
<b>Leelanau Conservancy</b>				
<b>DeYoung Natural Area</b>	Natural Area	191	Entire Township / surrounding area	Birding, Canoeing / Kayaking, Fishing, Hiking / Snowshoeing, Hunting, Cross-Country Skiing
<b>Palmer Woods Forest Reserve</b>	Natural Area	1,075	Entire Township / surrounding area	Hiking / Snowshoeing, Hunting, Mountain Biking, Cross-Country Skiing
<b>City of Traverse City</b>				
<b>Brown Bridge Quiet Area</b>	Natural Area	1,310	Statewide	Hiking Trails, Bird Watching, Fishing, Canoeing / Kayaking, Pavilion, Restrooms
<b>Bryant Park</b>	Community Park	3.3	Statewide	Lake Michigan Beach, Playground, Picnic Area, Restrooms
<b>Clinch Park</b>	Community Park	10.2	Statewide	Lake Michigan Beach, Boat Launch, Fishing, Food Vendors, Splash Pad, Playground, Picnic Area, Restrooms
<b>East Bay Park</b>	Community Park	3.1	< 3 miles	Lake Michigan Beach, Boat Launch, Playground, Picnic Area, Restrooms
<b>Hickory Hills</b>	Recreation Facility	121.5	Entire Township / surrounding area	Downhill Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Disc Golf, Hiking / Biking Trails, Community Lodge, Restrooms
<b>Hull Park</b>	Community Park	6.2	Statewide	Boat Launch, Fishing, Pavilion, Picnic Areas, Sailing, Restrooms
<b>West End Beach</b>	Community Park	9.9	Statewide	Lake Michigan Beach, Fishing, Volleyball, Picnic Areas, Restrooms
<b>National Park Service</b>				
<b>Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore</b>	National Lakeshore	71,000	Nationwide	Lake Michigan Beach, Hiking and Biking Trails, Campgrounds, Backcountry Camping, Visitor Center, Scenic Overlooks, Hunting, Restrooms

Facility Name	Facility Type	Size (acres)	Likely Service Area	Amenities
<b>State of Michigan</b>				
Arbutus Lake State Forest Campground	State Forest Campground	n/a	Statewide	Rustic Camping, Fishing, Hunting
Interlochen State Park	State Park	187	Statewide	Inland Lake Beach, Fishing, Boat Launch, Campground, Rustic Camping, Playground, Hiking Trails
Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park	State Park	47	Statewide	Lake Michigan Beach, Fishing, Biking, Hiking Trails, Playground, Picnic Area, Modern Campground
Lake Dubonnet State Forest Campground	State Forest Campground	n/a	Statewide	Rustic Camping, Fishing, Hunting, Hiking and Mountain Biking Trails, Horse Riding Trails, ORV Trails, Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Boat Launch
Sand Lakes Quiet Area	Natural Area	2,775	Statewide	Hiking Trails, Mountain Biking, Fishing, Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Rustic Camping
Scheck's Place State Forest Campground	State Forest Campground	n/a	Statewide	Rustic Camping, Hiking Trails, Horse Riding Trails, Hunting, Fishing
<b>Privately-Owned Recreational Facilities</b>				
Grand Traverse Bay YMCA – West	Recreation Facility	20.7	Entire Township / surrounding area	Swimming Pool, Tennis, Racquetball, Soccer Fields
Centre Ice Arena	Recreation Facility	n/a	Entire Township / surrounding area	Ice Rink (2), Fitness Center
Traverse City Curling Center	Recreation Facility	n/a	Entire Township / surrounding area	Curling Rinks
Mt. Holiday	Recreation Facility	n/a	Entire Township / surrounding area	Downhill Skiing, Hiking Trails, Zip Line, Snow Tubing, Community Lodge
Bay Meadows Family Golf Course	Recreation Facility	83	Entire Township / surrounding area	9-Hole Regulation Golf Course, 9-Hole Par Three Course, Driving Range
Elmbrook Golf Course	Recreation Facility	n/a	Entire Township / surrounding area	18-Hole Golf Course (anticipated to close upon construction of housing development on this site)
The Crown Golf Club	Recreation Facility	n/a	Entire Township / surrounding area	18-Hole Golf Course



### Inventory of Trail Facilities

Name	Trailway Type	Length (miles)	Description
<b>Portions within Garfield Township</b>			
<b>Boardman Lake Loop Trail</b>	I & II	4	Encircles Boardman Lake, with the northern portion in Traverse City and the southern portion in Garfield. The northern portion is primarily paved. The southern portion includes paved surfaces, crushed limestone, and boardwalk for different sections. The loop was completed in 2022.
<b>Boardman-Ottaway River Trail</b>	II	24	This trail follows the river and connects to Mayfield Pond Park and the North Country Trail (NCT), mostly within forested areas on existing dirt paths and two-tracks. From the NCT, users can connect with the Vasa Pathway and back to Traverse City via the TART Trail on a 41+ mile loop.
<b>Buffalo Ridge Trail</b>	I	1.5 (current) 4.5 (planned)	Currently connects the Village at Grand Traverse Commons to TC West Middle School and the YMCA, with future potential connections west and southwest of Traverse City. This trail is part of a larger network including the Mall Trail and Boardman Lake Loop Trail by way of Griffin Street, Barnes Trail at the Historic Barnes Park, and a Safe Routes to School pathway along Silver Lake Road from Wyatt Road to Barnes Road.
<b>Mall Trail</b>	III	2	Parallels US 31 from 14th Street to South Airport Road near the Grand Traverse Mall and connects Traverse City to commercial businesses along US 31.
<b>Traverse Ridge Trail</b>	II	0.5	Currently a single-track mountain bike trail behind Oleson Plaza at Cedar Run Road and North Long Lake Road, and part of a larger vision to connect Hickory Meadows and the Commons Natural Area.
<b>Other Regional Trails</b>			
<b>Leelanau Trail</b>	I & II	17	Paved pathway connecting Traverse City and Suttons Bay along a former railroad.
<b>TART Trail</b>	III	10.5	Paved pathway from M-72 / Bates Road in Acme Township to Carter Road in Traverse City, where it links to the Leelanau Trail.
<b>Acme Connector Trail</b>	III	1.8	Connects from the TART Trail terminus at Bunker Hill Road to the intersection of M-72 and US 31 in Acme, the Acme Meijer, and other businesses.
<b>Nakwema Trailway</b>	I & III	45 (planned)	Planned trail to connect Traverse City and Charlevoix. Nakwema, Ojibwe for “where paths connect,” follows long-ago established routes through the waters and woods of northwest Lower Michigan. This trail would also connect a 325-mile trail network that spans across Michigan.

Name	Trailway Type	Length (miles)	Description
<b>Three Mile Trail</b>	I & II	2 (current) 2 (planned)	Currently follows Three Mile Road from the Traverse City State Park beach on US 31 to South Airport Road. This trail is planned to be extended to Hammond Road and connect the existing trail to the cluster of school campuses south of Hammond Road, along with the Mitchell Creek Meadows Nature Preserve.
<b>Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail</b>	I & II	20 (current) 5 (planned)	Provides for non-motorized exploration of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the towns of Glen Arbor and Empire.
<b>VASA Pathway</b>	II	16	Located in Pere Marquette State Forest, and featuring a series of loops (3K, 5K, 10K, 25K) offering a variety of challenges. The VASA is maintained and groomed for cross-country skiing by TART Trails under an agreement with the Michigan DNR and Grand Traverse County. It is home to the North American VASA cross-country ski race and a portion of the annual "Iceman Cometh" mountain bike race.
<b>VASA Singletrack</b>	II	13	Primarily used for mountain biking; also available for hiking and cross-country skiing.
<b>Lake Ann Pathway</b>	II	5.3	Located at the Lake Ann State Forest Campground and divided into two loops. The first loop is 3.5 miles and passes by Marys Lake and Shavenaugh Lake. The second loop is 1.8 miles and meanders along Lake Ann.
<b>Lost Lake Pathway</b>	II	6.2	Starting from Lake Dubonnet State Forest Campground, and offering a loop for mountain bikers, hikers, and cross-country skiers.
<b>North Country Trail</b>	II	4,600	The North Country Trail (NCT), the longest National Scenic Trail in the US, links 8 states from Vermont to North Dakota, 10 National Forests, and more than 150 public lands. The NCT passes through Grand Traverse County east of Garfield.
<b>Shore-to-Shore Trail</b>	II	220	Hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trail from Oscoda to Empire, connecting Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. The trail also meets with the NCT in Kalkaska.

## **Township-Owned Parks and Recreation Areas**

Garfield Township owns seven properties which are used for recreational purposes. Two of these properties contain active recreation facilities, including baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, sledding hills, restrooms, picnic tables, and pavilions. The other Township properties are mainly undeveloped greenspace and preservation areas reserved for passive recreation.

### **Boardman Valley Nature Preserve – Natural Resource Area and Community Park**



The 125-acre Boardman Valley Nature Preserve (BVNP) mainly runs along the west bank of the Boardman River south of South Airport Road. Active and passive recreational opportunities at this park include hiking, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, beach volleyball, soccer, cross-country skiing, pickleball, hunting, and nature watching. Grand Traverse Bay YMCA also operates their South location on the site via a lease agreement with Garfield.

The BVNP was established in 2002, with funding assistance from an MNRTF acquisition grant, and was expanded in 2009 and 2013 with further MNRTF grants. Garfield received an MNRTF in 2015 grant for a project including pickleball courts, canoe and kayak launch, and pavilion, with these upgrades completed in 2019-2020. A crushed gravel trail was added in 2020 connecting the parking lot and the rest of the trails. An added parking area was constructed in 2021.

The BVNP will be a major connection in the developing regional trail network, with anticipated future connections to the Boardman Lake Loop Trail and Miller Creek Nature Reserve. The park is also currently the furthest navigable downstream point for canoes and kayaks since a series of dams upstream were removed in 2013, 2017, and 2018. This may put an increased pressure for commercial activity on the site, but also affords opportunities for water recreation.



### **Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area – Natural Resource Area**



The 185-acre Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area is located immediately west of the Village at Grand Traverse Commons at the former Traverse City State Hospital site. The park primarily provides for natural resource preservation and activities including hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, and cross-country skiing. In 1993, the State of Michigan deeded a 100.87-acre parcel of land which became known as the “Commons 100” to Garfield, which forms the bulk of the park today. Garfield has since acquired additional parcels to expand the park.

In 2022, Garfield Township conducted a planning process specifically for the design of the trails, trailheads, and other features in this park. The project was called the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan and was completed with assistance from Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT). The Design Plan is included as part of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan and will guide future projects for the park, with an anticipated timeline of 3-5 years for most of the major planned projects.

### **Hughes Drive Nature Reserve – Natural Resource Area**

The 9-acre Hughes Drive Nature Reserve is located within an industrial park south of Hammond Road. The site is primarily wetlands and is intended for preservation of natural features on the site, though some passive recreation is permitted.

## Kids Creek Park – Natural Resource Area



The 20-acre Kids Creek Park is located along US 31 near Franke Road. The park provides hiking trails along Kids Creek near a primary commercial area of Garfield. These trails also connect to the Buffalo Ridge Trail to the west. The land was historically used for many purposes, including a buffalo pasture and commercial trout fishing pond. This site was home to a historic grist mill that had fallen into disrepair. The mill was demolished in 2020 and the site was restored, however the original mill wheel was saved from demolition and donated to Buckley Old Engine Show for restoration after negotiations with the Franke family, the prior owners of the mill and property.

This land was dedicated to Garfield when the Great Wolf Lodge Planned Unit Development was approved in 2002. Since then, extensive volunteer efforts have helped to restore the stream banks which had been damaged by decades of traffic from the former buffalo herd, once the largest east of the Mississippi River. These volunteer efforts have helped improve the health of the watershed by reducing sedimentation and increasing shade and habitat for fish and insects. A management plan was also created for the fishing pond, which was dredged in 2009 and stocked by the MDNR with brown trout and bluegill. The pond continues to be stocked with fish annually.



### **Miller Creek Nature Reserve – Natural Resource Area**



The 94-acre Miller Creek Nature Reserve is located near major dense commercial and industrial areas of Garfield. Three portions of this site were acquired and are included as open space and protected areas of three different planned unit developments: Grand Traverse Crossings, Arbors, and Traverse Square. The park is available mainly for passive recreation including hiking, nature watching, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Future trail connections are being explored to Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, Boardman Lake Loop Trail, and Mall Trail, which would help better connect the regional trail network.

### **River East Recreation Area – Natural Resource Area and Community Park**





The 71-acre River East Recreation Area is located on Keystone Road along the eastern side of the Boardman River. It was established in October 2017 with the goal of creating a community park for residents on the east side of the Township, which was identified as a need through the public engagement efforts of the previous Parks and Recreation Plan. Portions of the site were acquired with the assistance of MNRTF acquisition grant funds in 2009 and 2013. The Parks and Recreation Commission created a park development plan for inclusion in the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan and formally named the park.

From 2021, ongoing improvements have included a gravel parking lot area, water and electrical service, and a pavilion. There are also hiking trails on the site including a trail leading down to the Boardman River. Over the next several years, additional anticipated projects include a dog park, walking trails, and restrooms. Other amenities may be considered such as fitness stations, a playground area, upgraded nature trails, and viewing platforms or other improved access to the Boardman River. The goal for this park is to balance passive and active recreation elements.

### **Silver Lake Recreation Area – Community Park**



The 85-acre Silver Lake Recreational Area is located on East Silver Lake Road and was established in 2004 to provide additional opportunities for active and passive recreation to Garfield residents. The eastern part of the park includes picnic pavilions, restrooms, a dog park, walking trail loop, playgrounds, sledding hill, tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball field, and a multi-purpose athletic field. The western part is heavily wooded with nature trails. Other potential recreational opportunities include pickleball courts near the existing basketball and tennis courts. For 2020, several upgrades were completed including a parking lot expansion near Metro Fire Station #12, sidewalk extension, trail reconfiguration and extension, and a new well house structure around the existing well.

## **Other Recreational Opportunities within Garfield Township**

The following describes other recreational facilities and opportunities located in the Township, but which are owned or operated by other public, semi-public, or private entities and not owned or operated by Garfield.

### **Charter Township of Garfield and City of Traverse City Recreational Authority (RA)**

In 2004, voters in Garfield Township and Traverse City approved a ballot measure to fund the acquisition and improvement of three properties under the guidance of the RA. Two of the three properties are in Garfield and are described as follows:

- ***Historic Barns Park – Large Community Park*** – Portions of this 54-acre property were once used by patients of the Traverse City State Hospital for farming activities as a form of therapy. The Cathedral Barn and surrounding Botanic Garden are now event venues available for weddings, receptions, meetings, and other gatherings. The funding for this park included support from an MNRTF development grant in 2011. Historic Barns Park also includes community educational and agricultural activities, and trails connecting to the Commons Natural Area.
- ***Hickory Meadows – Natural Resource Area*** – This 112.5-acre parcel offers opportunities for passive recreation including natural trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, and nature watching. This park is located immediately east of Hickory Hills Ski Area.

In 2020, voters approved a new 20-year operating millage for the RA to continue its operations and to pursue the purchase of an additional natural resource area, tentatively known as Hickory Forest, in Garfield immediately west of Hickory Hills Ski Area.

### **Hickory Hills Ski Area – Special Use**

Owned and operated by the City of Traverse City, the 122-acre Hickory Hills Ski Area is located at the west end of Randolph Road in Garfield Township, just west of Hickory Meadows. Hickory Hills is mainly known for skiing, but also offers disc golf and other recreational amenities. Recent improvements include a lodge offering rentals for events.

## **Grand Traverse County**

Grand Traverse County owns several parks within Garfield, including the following:

- ***Grand Traverse County Natural Education Reserve – Natural Resource Area*** – This park totaling about 505 acres is situated along the Boardman River next to the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. Features include bog, marsh, true swamp, level terrain, upland forest, pine forest, creek, river, and an active beaver pond, with trails providing access to bridges, boardwalks, canoe portage sites, boat launches, picnic areas, and opportunities for hiking, photography, nature watching, and other forms of quiet recreation. The Boardman River Nature Center, operated by the Grand Traverse Conservation District, is a public nature education facility located within the park providing environmental education resources and programming for families, children, and adults.
- ***Keystone Complex – Sports Complex*** – This 170-acre site is located on Keystone Road and includes a 40-acre soccer complex with 15 soccer fields. This park is home to over 3,000 soccer enthusiasts with the Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS) organization.
- ***Medalie Park – Community Park*** – This 8-acre parcel on South Airport Road includes a boat launch for canoes and kayaks, the south end of the Boardman Lake Loop Trail, three overlooks or fishing platforms, a picnic shelter, and indoor restrooms.

## **Mitchell Creek Nature Preserve – Natural Resource Area**

This 132-acre site is in the heart of the Mitchell Creek watershed and is owned and managed by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. The preserve is open to the public for passive recreation, nature watching, trapping, fishing, and hunting. The site is located off Townline Road along the east boundary of Garfield.

## **Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) – School Parks**

Recreational facilities at Traverse City West Middle School on Silver Lake Road include a running track, multi-purpose athletic fields, tennis courts, and baseball and softball fields. The school also figures prominently into trail planning regarding the Buffalo Ridge Trail. Recreational facilities available at Traverse City West Senior High on North Long Lake Road include a running track, multi-purpose athletic field, tennis courts, and baseball and softball fields.

The former Sabin Elementary at the corner of Hartman Road and Cass Road shares a short portion of its northwest property line with Miller Creek Nature Reserve. The school has been closed and is now used by TCAPS as a data center. This site is anticipated for a future trail connection from Miller Creek Nature Reserve to Boardman Valley Nature Preserve.

## **Regional Recreational Opportunities**

The following describes some of the recreational resources outside of Garfield which offer unique recreational opportunities to people in the region including Garfield residents:

### **Lake Michigan Beaches**

The Grand Traverse region is well-known for its sandy Lake Michigan shoreline. Public beaches in the region include Bryant Park, Clinch Park, East Bay Park, and West End Park, all owned and operated by the City of Traverse City. Other nearby beaches include Greilickville Harbor Park in Elmwood Township, Acme Township Park and Bayside Park in Acme Township, and the Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park in East Bay Township. These beaches are also frequented for fishing in spring, fall, and winter.

### **Hull Park**

Hull Park is located along the north end of Boardman Lake in the City of Traverse City, accessible to Township residents either by car or via the Boardman Lake Loop Trail. Hull Park includes the only public boat launch on Boardman Lake, and is home to the Traverse Area Community Sailing Club, which offers sailing instruction to community residents.

### **Other Natural Areas**

Many different entities in the region own lands which are preserved as natural areas, and which offer hiking and other opportunities for quiet recreation, including:

- Brown Bridge Quiet Area in East Bay Township, owner: City of Traverse City
- DeYoung Natural Area in Elmwood Township, owner: Leelanau Conservancy
- Maple Bay Park & Natural Area in Acme Township, owner: Grand Traverse County
- Sand Lakes Quiet Area in Whitewater Township, owner: State of Michigan

### **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**

This national lakeshore, operated by the U.S. National Park Service, is located about 20 miles to the west/northwest of Garfield Township. The park draws over 1.1 million annual visitors and includes over 71,000 acres, 65 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, 26 inland lakes, 12 miles of rivers and streams, 105 miles of trails, 357 campsites, and many unique natural features.

### **Grand Traverse County Civic Center – Large Community Park**

This 45-acre site, owned and operated by Grand Traverse County, is located about 1.2 miles from the northeast corner of the Township in Traverse City. The park includes Howe Arena with one sheet of ice, an outdoor 25,000 square-foot skate and bike park, 8 baseball and softball fields, and an indoor public swimming pool.

### **Boat Launches and Marinas**

The only publicly accessible boat launch within Garfield Township is located on East Silver Lake Road. This launch is owned and operated by the MDNR and provides access to Silver Lake. Hull Park in Traverse City has a boat launch providing access to Boardman Lake. Kayaks and other light boats are often hand-launched from Medalie Park at the southern end of Boardman Lake. Duncan L. Clinch Marina in Traverse City and Elmwood Marina in Elmwood Township provide access to West Grand Traverse Bay.

### **State Parks and Campgrounds**

The State of Michigan offers campgrounds with both modern and rustic camping sites, including at the following in the region:

- Arbutus Lake State Forest Campground in East Bay Township
- Interlochen State Park in Green Lake Township
- Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park in East Bay Township
- Lake Dubonnet State Forest Campground in Green Lake Township
- Scheck's Place State Forest Campground in East Bay Township and Union Township

### **Centre Ice Arena**

Centre Ice Arena, in East Bay Township, is the only facility aside from the Grand Traverse County Civic Center in the region to offer ice rinks for sports and recreation. The facility includes two ice sheets and a fitness center.

## **Regional Trail Network**

The trail network in the Grand Traverse region is largely managed, maintained, and fostered by TART. Several of these trails are in Garfield Township including the Boardman Lake Loop Trail, Buffalo Ridge Trail, and the Mall Trail. Existing trails connecting the Traverse City area to other parts of the region include the Leelanau Trail to Suttons Bay and the TART Trail to Acme.

Planned and potential future regional trail connections include the following:

- Northeast to Elk Rapids and Charlevoix, planned as the Nakwema Trailway
- Southeast to Kingsley and Cadillac, partially following the Boardman River and linking to Brown Bridge Quiet Area, North Country Trail, and White Pine Trail
- Southwest to Interlochen, Beulah, and the Lake Michigan shoreline, with potential routing through Garfield via an existing railway corridor

U.S. Bicycle Route 35 (USB35) is a 500-mile bicycle route in Michigan and Indiana with planned future connections to Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. USB35 passes through the region, including segments along the TART Trail and Leelanau Trail and connections to Sleeping Bear Dunes. The route encompasses many different trails and on-road bicycle routes.

## **Location Maps**

The following maps identify the locations of all parks owned by Garfield Township and the other parks and recreational facilities located in Garfield. Individual maps are also provided for the six developed Township parks (all except for Hughes Drive Nature Reserve), which are provided as informational handouts on the Township website and at Township Hall.



# Overview of Local Parks

## Legend

Township Boundary

Roads

Water

## All Parks within Garfield Township

Owner

Owned by Township

Owned by Other Entity

## Park Facility Inventory

Facility Type

Golf Course

Library

Municipal Facility

School

School Sports Facility

## Charter Township of Garfield

3848 Veterans Drive

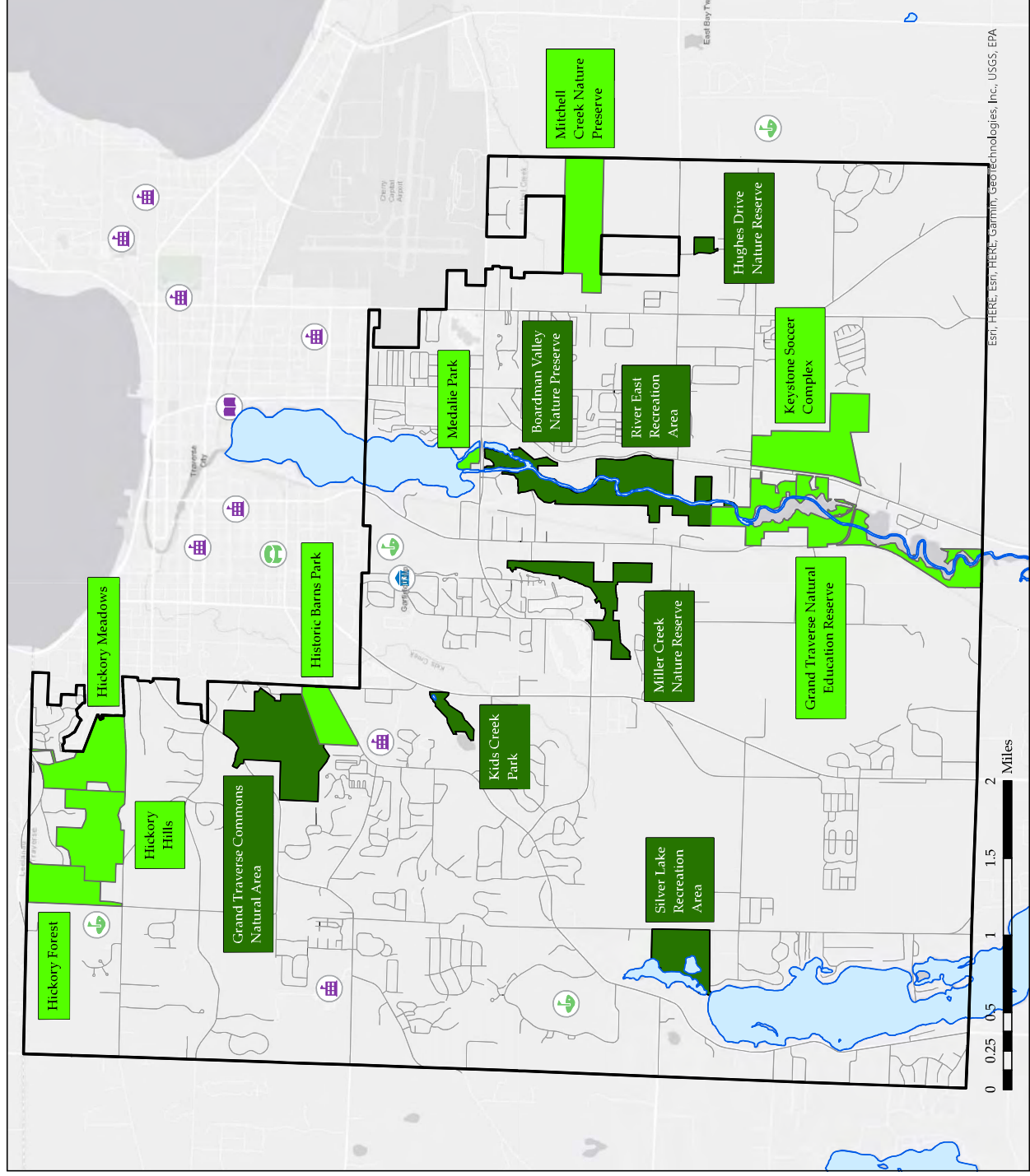
Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231.941.1620

Fax: 231.941.1688

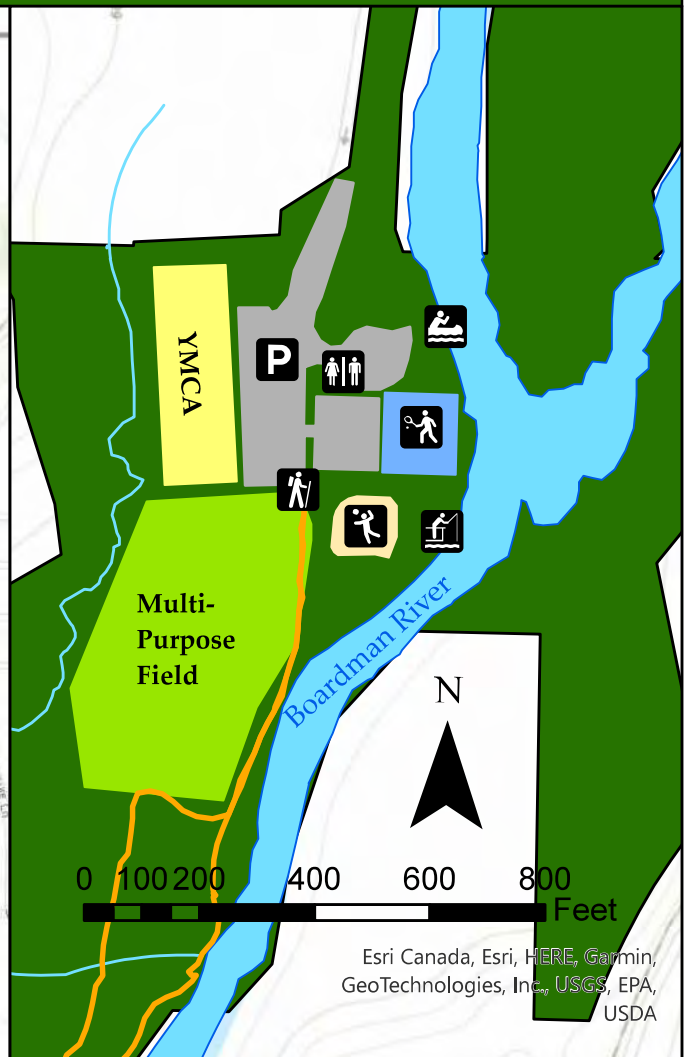
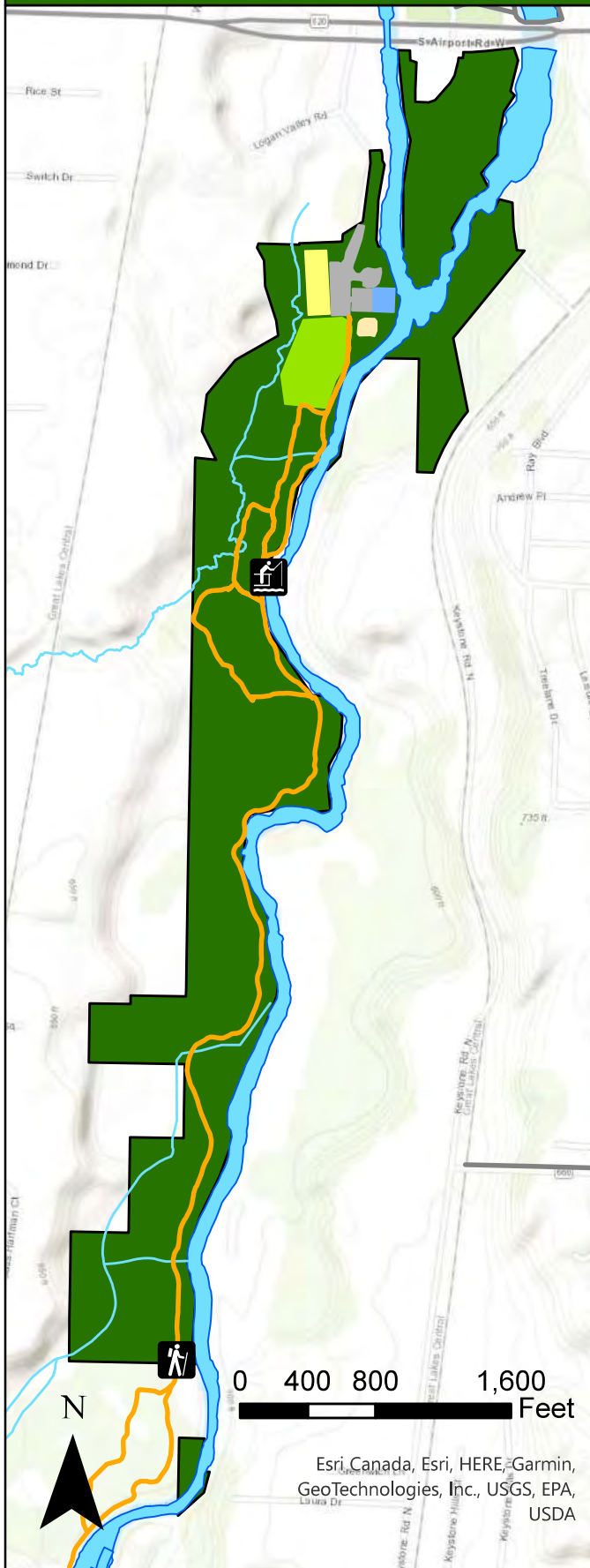


This map is based on digital databases prepared by the Charter Township of Garfield. The Township does not warrant, expressly or impliedly, or accept any responsibility for any errors, omissions, or that the information contained in the map or the digital databases is currently or positionally accurate.












# Boardman Valley Nature Preserve



## Park Features

-  Fishing
-  Hiking
-  Kayak Launch
-  Parking
-  Pickleball Courts
-  Restrooms
-  Volleyball Court

For more information  
about Township parks  
or to report any  
concerns, please email:  
[parks@garfield-twp.com](mailto:parks@garfield-twp.com)



**Charter Township of Garfield**  
3848 Veterans Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
Phone: 231.941.1620  
Fax: 231.941.1588  
[www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)

# Boardman Valley Nature Preserve



## Park Description

The Boardman Valley Nature Preserve (BVNP) is located along both sides of the Boardman River south of South Airport Road. It includes opportunities for hiking, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, tennis, beach volleyball, soccer, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, hunting (with prior Township approval), and nature watching.

The BVNP was established in 2002 with money received from a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, and includes over a mile of Boardman River frontage and around 1.5 miles of unpaved hiking trails on the west side of the river. Another Trust Fund grant in 2009 expanded the park to the east side of the river. In 2019, improvements were completed for a project to add pickleball courts and an ADA-accessible kayak launch, with assistance from an additional Trust Fund grant.

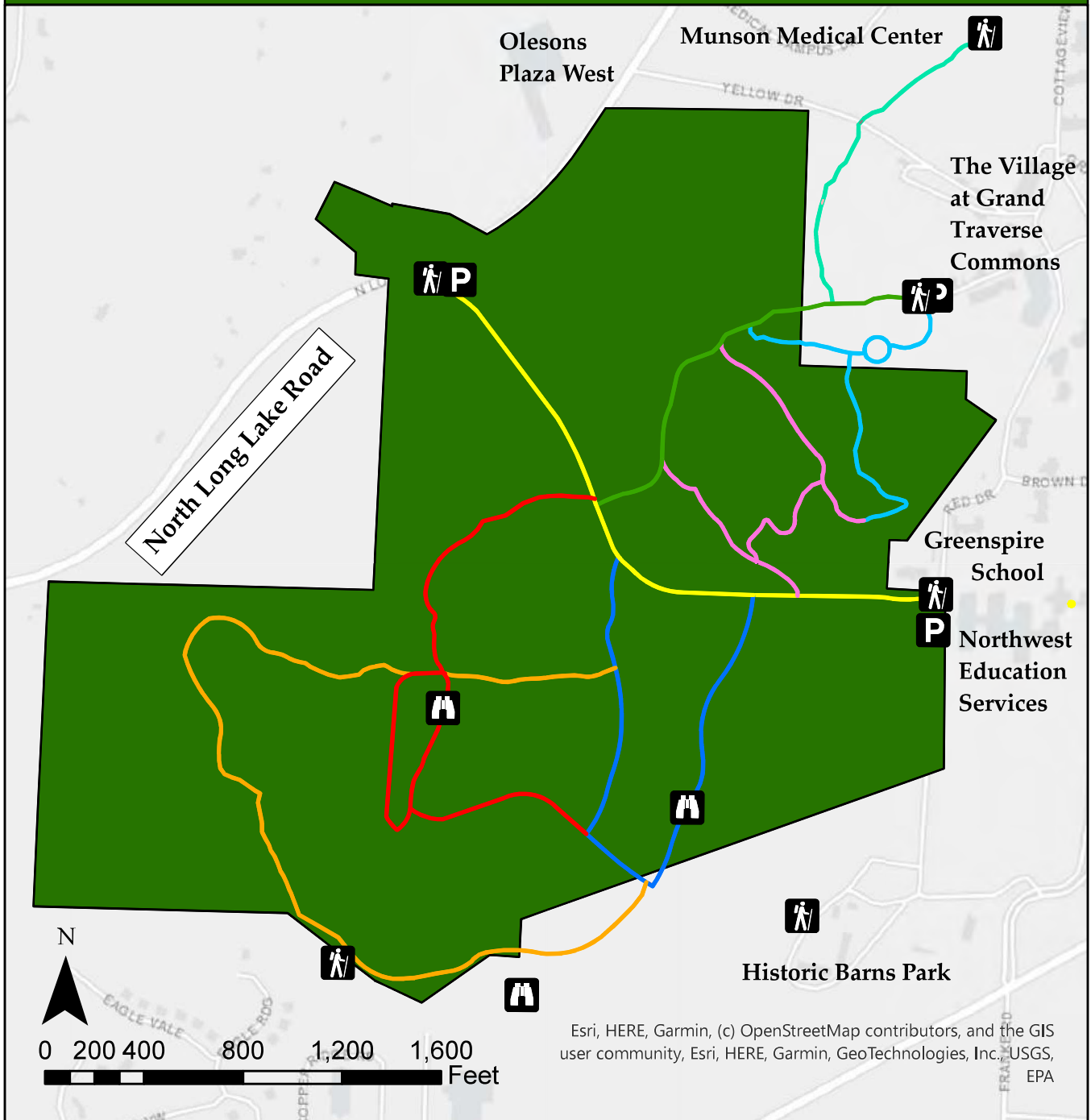


## Park Information

Location:	3000 Racquet Club Drive
Acreage:	125 acres
Hunting:	Allowed with Permit



# Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area






## Trails

- Cedar Cathedral Trail
- Cistern Spur
- Copper Ridge Trail
- Garfield Trail
- Meadows Loop
- Old Orchard Trail
- Streamside Loop
- Tanglewood Trail

For more information about Township parks, or to report any concerns, please email: [parks@garfield-twp.com](mailto:parks@garfield-twp.com)

## Park Features

-  Hiking
-  Parking
-  Scenic Area



## Charter Township of Garfield

3848 Veterans Drive  
 Traverse City, MI 49684  
 Phone: 231.941.1620  
 Fax: 231.941.1588  
[www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)

# Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area



## Park Description

What is today the site of the Grand Traverse Commons was previously the site of the Traverse City State Hospital. The hospital provided services to people experiencing mental health issues. This included offering patients an environment with light, sunshine, fresh air, and access to nature as part of the philosophy of “beauty is therapy” espoused by the hospital. The Commons Natural Area was a main part of the access to nature for the patients.

In 1993, the State of Michigan deeded a 100.87-acre parcel to Garfield Township, which became known as the “Commons 100” and which forms the bulk of the Commons Natural Area today. The Township has acquired other parcels since then to expand the parkland and provide more recreational opportunities for the community. Today, the Township parkland at the Commons Natural Area totals approximately 185 acres.

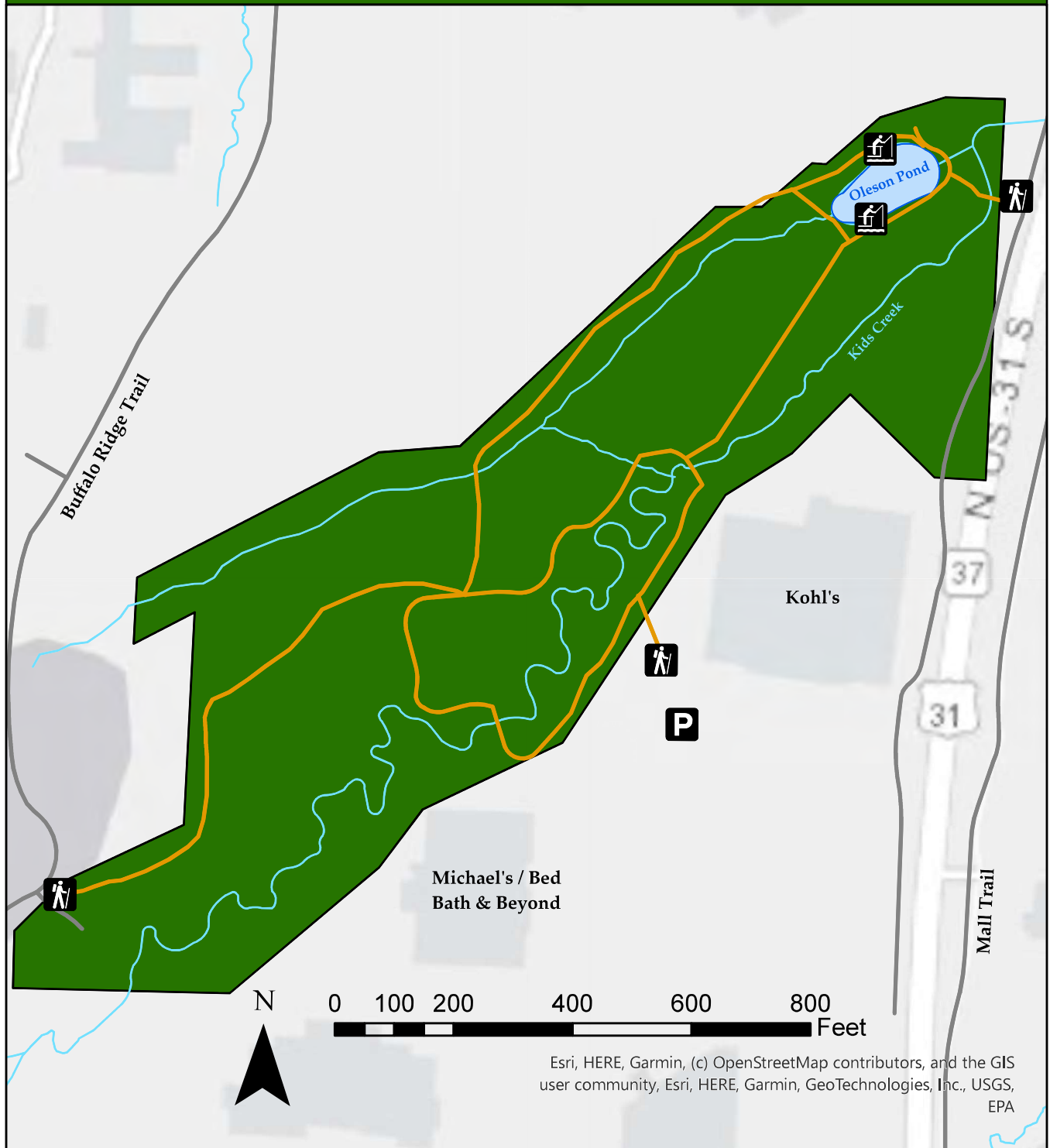


## Park Information




Location:	Entrances on N. Long Lake Road, Gray Drive, and Red Drive
Acreage:	185 acres
Hunting:	Not allowed



# Kids Creek Park



## Park Features

-  Fishing
-  Hiking
-  Parking

**For more information about Township parks, or to report any concerns, please email: [parks@garfield-twp.com](mailto:parks@garfield-twp.com)**



**Charter Township of Garfield**  
 3848 Veterans Drive  
 Traverse City, MI 49684  
 Phone: 231.941.1620  
 Fax: 231.941.1588  
[www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)

# Kids Creek Park



## Park Description

Nestled between Great Wolf Lodge and Kohl's, this park is a hidden gem along US 31. The 3/4 mile trail network includes wooden bridges and boardwalks following Kids Creek. Development of this park into a passive recreation resource is an ongoing process. Kids Creek Park makes for a great walk after some shopping at the nearby businesses!

Dedicated to Garfield Township during the development of the Great Wolf Lodge, this 20-acre park has seen extensive volunteer effort to restore the stream banks of Kids Creek, which meanders through the park.

Kids Creek Park is accessed via the parking lot between Kohl's and Bed Bath & Beyond (look for the "Exit" sign), or from the non-motorized trailhead along the US-31 bike path, which is a great spot to pull off from the path, park your bike, and take a walk around the stream! Public restrooms at the site are not available.






## Park Information

Location:	N. US 31 South
Acreage:	21 acres
Hunting:	Not allowed

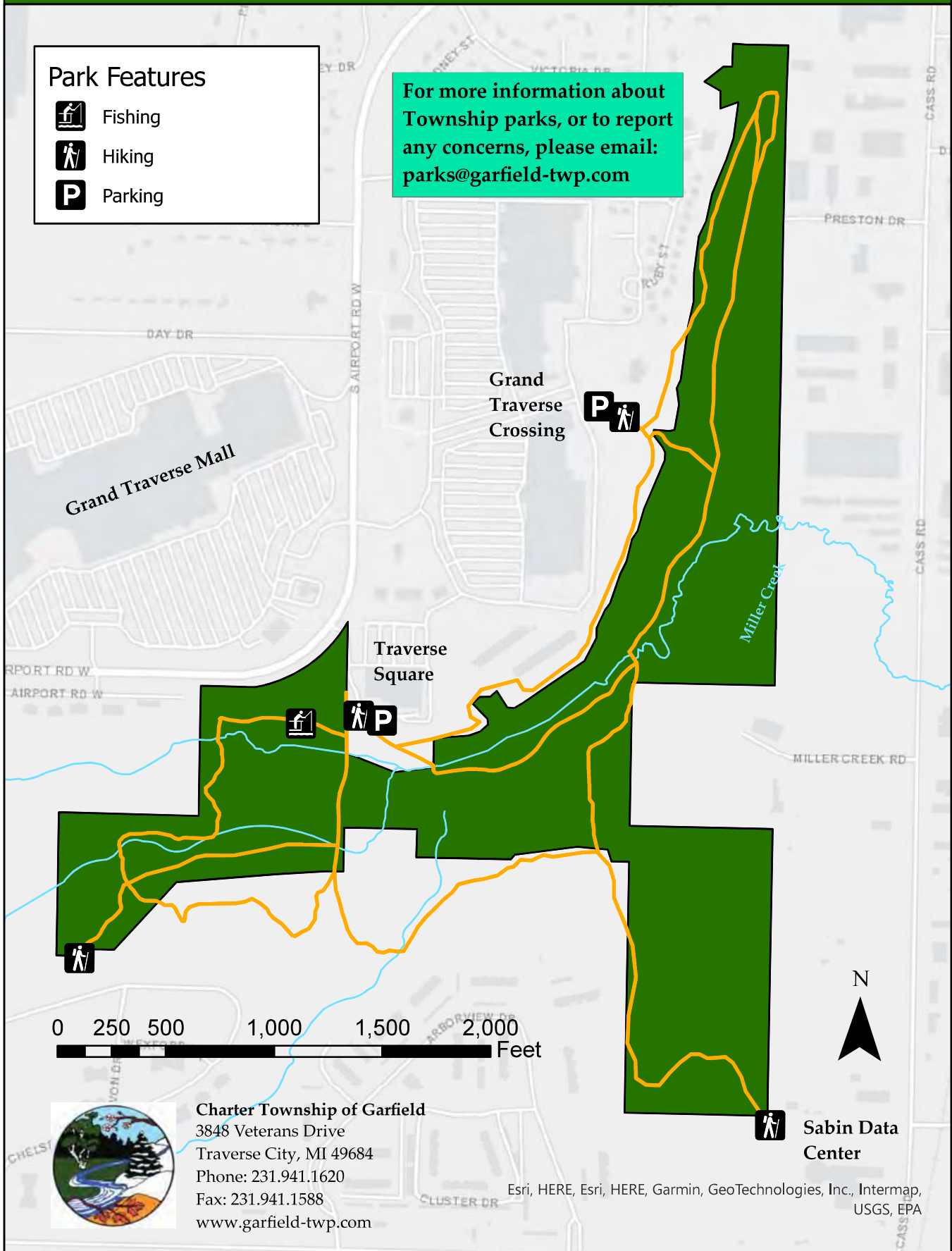


# Miller Creek Nature Reserve

## Park Features

-  Fishing
-  Hiking
-  Parking

For more information about Township parks, or to report any concerns, please email: [parks@garfield-twp.com](mailto:parks@garfield-twp.com)



# Miller Creek Nature Reserve



## Park Description

Just behind the Grand Traverse Crossing on South Airport Road, you can find the 94-acre Miller Creek Nature Reserve. Recreational opportunities at this park include hiking, nature watching, hunting (with prior Township approval), cross county skiing, mountain biking, and snowshoeing.

The trails at the Miller Creek Natural area pass through a former Red Pine plantation, skirt the edges of open meadows, wind through beautiful beech forests, cross boardwalks though cedar swamps, and follow Miller Creek, a tributary of the Boardman River. Very shortly, the trails at Miller Creek will be linked to the miles of trails within the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve via a connection across Cass Road at Dairy Square Drive.

Public restrooms are not available on site.

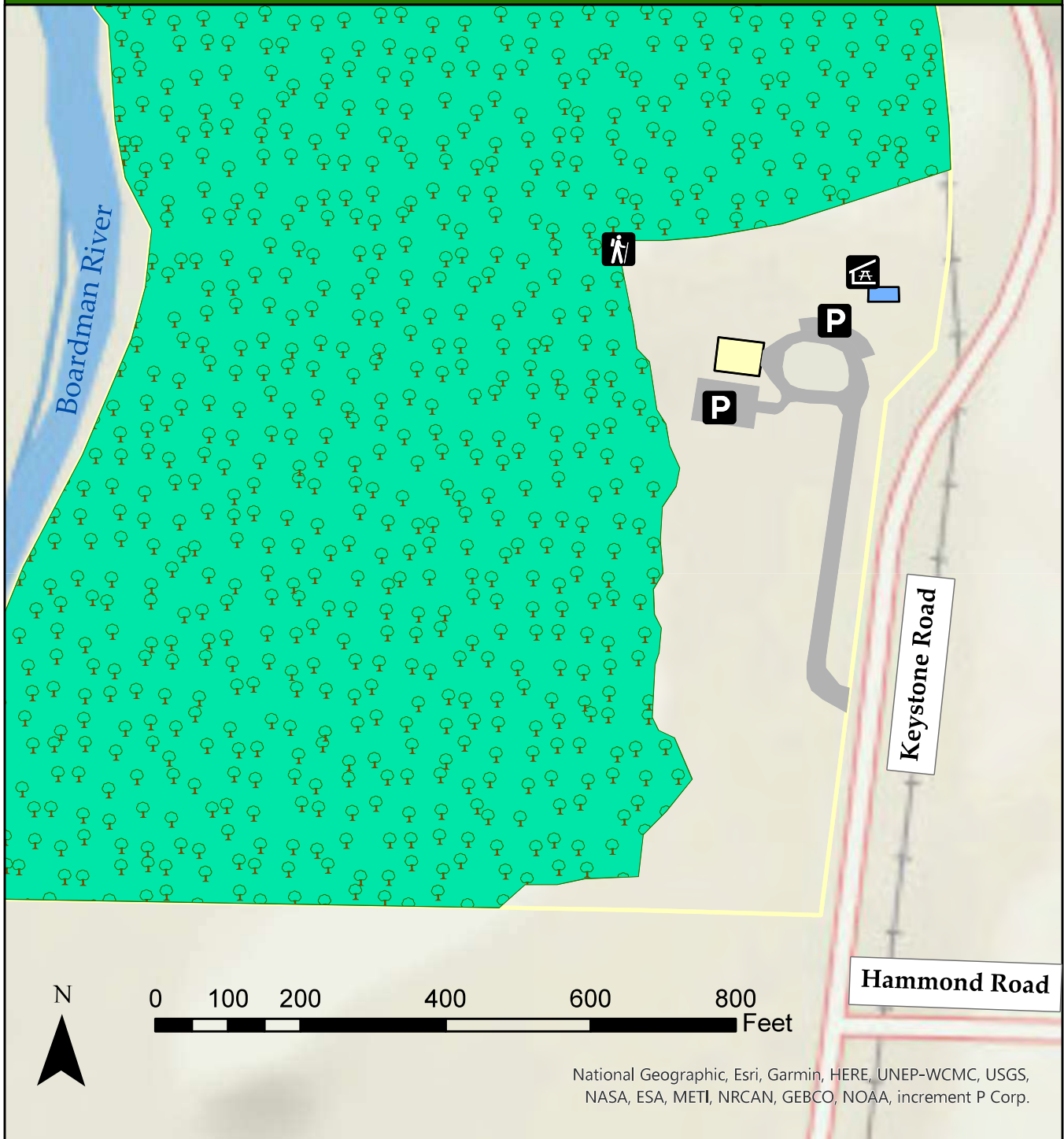


## Park Information

Location: W. South Airport Rd.  
Acreage: 94 acres  
Hunting: Allowed with Permit



# River East Recreation Area



## Park Features



Hiking



Parking



Pavilion

**For more information about Township parks, or to report any concerns, please email: [parks@garfield-twp.com](mailto:parks@garfield-twp.com)**



**Charter Township of Garfield**

3848 Veterans Drive

Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231.941.1620

Fax: 231.941.1588

[www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)

# River East Recreation Area



## Park Description

River East Recreation Area is the newest Township park, with the land having been recently acquired with the assistance of a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The park is situated along the east banks of the Boardman River across from the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve.

Since 2021, recent improvements to the park include a gravel parking area and pavilion. There is also a hiking trail leading down to the Boardman River. This park is anticipated to see additional investment in improvements over the next few years, which may include space for a dog park and additional trails.

There is one picnic pavilion at this park, which may be reserved for events such as family reunions and company picnics. The Park Reservation Application is available on the Parks and Recreation page.

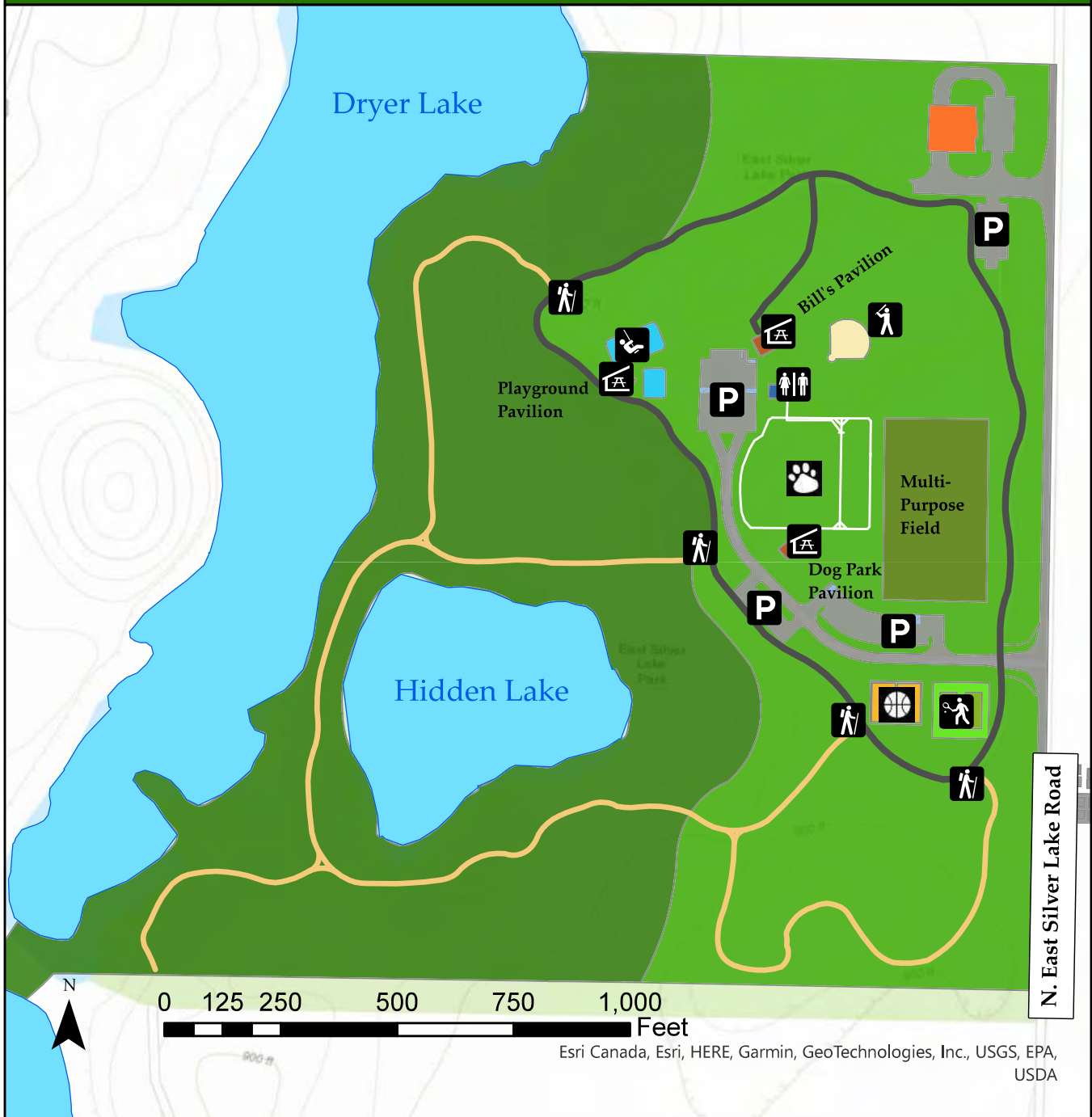


## Park Information

Location: N. Keystone Road  
Acreage: 71 acres  
Hunting: Allowed with Permit



# Silver Lake Recreation Area



## Park Features



Baseball



Basketball Courts



Dog Park



Hiking



Parking



Pavilion



Playground



Restrooms



Tennis Courts

"Bill's Pavilion" includes 8 picnic tables and 2 charcoal grills.

The "Dog Park Pavilion" includes 6 picnic tables and 1 charcoal grill.

The "Playground Pavilion" includes 4 picnic tables.

Please do not move tables outside of pavilions. Water or electricity is NOT extended to pavilions.

For more information about Township parks or to report any concerns, please email: [parks@garfield-twp.com](mailto:parks@garfield-twp.com)



## Charter Township of Garfield

3848 Veterans Drive  
 Traverse City, MI 49684  
 Phone: 231.941.1620  
 Fax: 231.941.1588  
[www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)

# Silver Lake Recreation Area



## Park Description

The 84-acre Silver Lake Recreation Area has several amenities including restrooms, grills, a tee-ball field, tennis courts, basketball courts, dog park, a sledding hill, and a multi-use field for playing catch, football, or tossing a Frisbee. Paved and unpaved walking trails are also offered. The paved trail loop surrounds the developed portion of the site and measures 3,700 feet long (seven-tenths of a mile). The unpaved trails, which meander around Hidden Lake and near the shores of the north branch of Silver Lake, total about 4,400 feet in length.

There are three picnic pavilions at this park, which may be reserved and are popular for family reunions and company picnics. The Park Reservation Application is available on the Parks and Recreation page.

The Dog Park at Silver Lake Recreation Area is a huge success. There is even a Facebook Page to find out when your furry friend will be there to play. When using the dog park, please be sure to familiarize yourself with the park rules and help others to understand them as well.



## Park Information

Location:	1785 N. East Silver Lake Road
Acreage:	85 acres
Hunting:	Not allowed

## Accessibility Assessment

This Recreation Inventory lists an accessibility grade for each park and recreation facility owned by Garfield. This evaluation was completed by Staff, and the accessibility grade is based the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design ranking system, summarized as follows:

DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

The accessibility grade for each Township-owned recreation facility is summarized as follows:

Accessibility Grade for Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Facilities	
Park Facility	Accessibility Grade
Boardman Valley Nature Preserve	2
Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area	1
Hughes Drive Nature Reserve	1
Kids Creek Park	3
Miller Creek Nature Reserve	1
River East Recreation Area	1
Silver Lake Recreation Area	2

Unfortunately, most Township recreational facilities do not meet accessibility guidelines. Many Township facilities are reserved as natural areas with unpaved hiking trails and relatively few facilities. However, Garfield has made some positive strides in providing accessible recreation opportunities. An ADA-accessible canoe and kayak launch was installed at the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, as part of a larger project which used funds from a 2015 MNRTF improvement grant. The Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan also includes an accessible trail loop among the planned trail improvements.

Other potential future action items for increasing the accessibility of Garfield parks and recreation facilities are included in the Action Program.

## Status Report for Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

Since 2002, Garfield has received six (6) grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund program, totaling over \$2.6 million. The following is a description and status report for each of these projects (post-completion self-certification reports are included in *Appendix A*):

Project Title: Boardman Nature Education Reserve Expansion		
Project Number:	TF02-220	Project Description: Acquisition in fee simple of approximately 80 acres of land with 7,275 linear feet of frontage along the Boardman River.
Project Year:	2002	
Grant Amount:	\$505,000.00	
Project Status:	Grant Closed	
Scope Items:	Acreage acquired: 83.21	
Project Notes:	The park is now known as the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. The parcels acquired with assistance from this grant encompass most of the acreage for this park. The park provides for hiking, biking, nature watching, hunting, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, and natural resource protection, and non-motorized connections to Grand Traverse County’s Natural Education Reserve, the South Airport Road corridor, and Boardman Lake Loop Trail.	

Project Title: Boardman Lake Trail and Nature Reserve Expansion		
Project Number:	TF09-173	Project Description: Acquisition of 61 acres for expansion of the township nature reserve and acquisition of easements for the Boardman Lake Trail along the Boardman River.
Project Year:	2009	
Grant Amount:	\$1,231,800.00	
Project Status:	Grant Closed	
Scope Items:	Acreage acquired: 61	
Project Notes:	One parcel (behind Goodwill Inn) acquired with the assistance of this grant has become part of Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, and the other parcel (former Templeton property) forms the basis of River East Recreation Area. These two properties are currently used for hiking, nature watching, hunting, fishing, and natural resource preservation. Future trail improvements are anticipated along the east side of Boardman River, including the establishment of trail easements from South Airport Road south to the southernmost acquisition property.	

Project Title: Historic Barns Park and Garden Development		
Project Number:	TF11-109	Project Description: Development to include universal access paved trails, picnic grove, interpretive center and site amenities.
Project Year:	2011	
Grant Amount:	\$300,000.00	
Project Status:	Grant Closed	
Scope Items:	- 3200', 10' wide trail and turnabouts - MNRTF sign - Benches, picnic tables, platform, viewer - Plumbing, boiler w/solar: - Floors, doors, windows: Interpretive Center Interpretive Center - Install, insulate walls and roof: Interpretive - Utility installation: Center Interpretive Center	
Project Notes:	The grant included construction of a bike path, interpretive center, and picnic grove at Historic Barns Park; these amenities are still in use. The park is owned and managed by the Charter Township of Garfield and City of Traverse City Recreational Authority (Joint Recreational Authority or RA), to which Garfield residents contribute funding through an operating millage.	

Project Title: Buffalo Ridge Trail Development		
Project Number:	TF12-141	Project Description: Development to include continued construction of the 4.5-mile Buffalo Ridge Trail connecting west and southwest areas of the Traverse City urban area.
Project Year:	2012	
Grant Amount:	\$199,000.00	
Project Status:	Grant Closed	
Scope Items:	- MNRTF sign - Trail construction - Permit fees - Wayfinding sign system	
Project Notes:	Phase I of the Buffalo Ridge Trail connects the Grand Traverse Commons area to Traverse City West Middle School. This grant helped fund Phase II of the trail project, which connects the middle school to Kids Creek Park and to the YMCA on Silver Lake Road. This trail is a well-used part of Garfield’s non-motorized trail system. This connection was long envisioned in the Non-Motorized Plan, and future extensions would connect the trail to neighborhoods on Silver Lake Road and to Silver Lake Recreation Area.	



Project Title: Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Acquisition		
Project Number:	TF13-118	Project Description: Acquisition of 30.5 acres for expansion of Boardman Valley Nature Preserve.
Project Year:	2013	
Grant Amount:	\$270,000.00	
Project Status:	Grant Closed	
Scope Items:	Acreage acquired: 30.5	
Project Notes:	<p>One parcel (behind Verizon site) acquired with the assistance of this grant has become part of Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, and the other parcel (former Templeton property) forms part of the River East Recreation Area. The parcel which forms part of Boardman Valley Nature Preserve is available for nature watching, hunting, and natural resource preservation.</p> <p>The other parcel forms part of River East Recreation Area. From 2021, ongoing upgrades have included a gravel parking lot, water and electrical service, and a pavilion. Over the next several years, additional anticipated projects include a dog park, walking trails, and restrooms. Improving River East Recreation Area has helped provide recreation opportunities on the east side of Garfield, which has been identified as a high priority since the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed.</p>	

Project Title: Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Improvements		
Project Number:	TF15-0141	<b>Project Description:</b> Development project at the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve to enhance public access to and enjoyment of the Boardman River and to provide a trailhead for the Boardman River Trail. The trailhead will serve both as water trailhead and non-motorized trailhead.  All improvements will be universally accessible and include parking, paths, floating kayak dock/launch, picnic pavilion, changing building and modern vault restroom, interpretive signs and trail maps and renovation of the existing pickleball courts.
Project Year:	2015	
Grant Amount:	\$100,000.00	
Project Status:	Grant Closed	
Scope Items:	<div><div>- Access pathway 5'-6' wide</div><div>- Canoe/kayak launch or ramp</div><div>- Landscaping</div><div>- Paved parking lot</div><div>- Pavilion</div><div>- Pickleball court</div><div>- Picnic table</div><div>- Recycle bin(s)</div><div>- Signage</div><div>- Vault/pit toilet(s)</div></div>	
Project Notes:	This project involves several elements intended to improve user access to and enjoyment of the river, including a floating ADA-accessible kayak and canoe launch, vehicular turnaround and access to the launch, trailhead signage, vault toilets, a picnic shelter, benches, pickleball courts, and native landscaping. The project was completed in 2019; grant closeout was finalized in spring 2020.	

## Description of the Planning Process

The planning processes used in the formation of this Plan are intended to assess the needs of the community regarding parks, recreation, and open space. The information gathered during these planning processes, along with the public input processes, serves as a basis for development of the Goals and Objectives as well as the Action Program.

In developing this Plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission used several methods, including compiling information from public input processes and institutional knowledge and insight into the community offered by Commissioners and Township Staff. There were several opportunities for public input throughout the development of this Plan, which are detailed in the Description of the Public Input Process.

Two recent projects which helped inform the development of this Plan are described below: the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan, which is included as part of this Plan, and the Michigan State University (MSU) Urban Planning Practicum Project. The Township Board has also adopted a Strategic Plan to form the vision statement, mission statement, and goals to guide the work of the Township.

### **Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan**

The Design Plan is intended to guide the future of the Commons Natural Area property including recreational activities, site improvements, and environmental restoration. This is a community-based planning effort to gather input from key stakeholders and the public on current conditions of the Commons Natural Area site, design scenarios, and proposed next steps. The Design Plan is included as part of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

### **MSU Urban Planning Practicum Project**

In early 2022, a team of students from the MSU urban planning program completed a project on sidewalks and trails in Garfield. This included analyzing which neighborhoods would benefit most from sidewalk and trail investments and developing a methodology for determining future priorities. This project helped inform the non-motorized project list in the Action Program.

### **Strategic Plan**

From June 2019 to August 2019, the Garfield Township Board of Trustees underwent a strategic planning process. The Board identified several strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing the Township, which were used to form the vision statement, mission statement, and goals. Many of the Goals and Objectives and items within the Action Program support the goals of the Strategic Plan, which are described by the following:



Goal	Description
<b>#1 – Identity</b>	Develop a strong identity that conveys the character and values of the community to the region and beyond
<b>#2 – Economic Development</b>	As part of a regional hub in Northern Michigan, promote Garfield Township as a great place for business development and job opportunities
<b>#3 – Public Safety</b>	Support collaborations which promote public safety including police, fire, and emergency medical services
<b>#4 – Parks &amp; Trails</b>	Foster a system of high-quality active and passive parks connected by trails
<b>#5 – Water Quality</b>	Make water system improvements and support environmental conservation efforts to protect water quality
<b>#6 – Housing</b>	Provide for a balance of housing choices with a variety of housing types
<b>#7 – Transportation and Infrastructure</b>	Invest in transportation and infrastructure which support high-quality development
<b>#8 – Partnerships</b>	Participate in local and regional partnerships to advance community interests
<b>#9 – Fiscal Responsibility</b>	Deliver effective public services to the community and operate with fiscal efficiency

## Planning Methods

Several planning methods are outlined by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) including comparison to park metrics, system planning, and equity-based planning. However, NRPA also emphasizes identifying which practices will best serve the community. Though the Township did not specifically follow these planning methods, elements of these approaches are included in this Plan as described by the following:

- According to the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review, a typical park and recreation agency has 10.4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, with one park per 2,323 residents. The Township owns 589 acres of parkland or approximately 29.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Garfield is continuing to grow, with a projected population of over 25,000 in 2030 based on current growth trends and building activity.
- In many other ways, the Township is unlike other typical park and recreation agencies as identified by NRPA. The Township has a much smaller park staff and budget than these agencies. Also, Garfield does not operate any parks programming, with other entities in the region fulfilling the role of programming providers.
- This Plan recognizes that the Garfield parks and recreation system is connected to other aspects of the community including transportation, environmental protection, and quality of life. The Action Program includes details regarding non-motorized connections and green infrastructure to reflect the priorities of the community.
- This Plan identifies the need to increase recreational opportunities on the east side of the Township, where a greater percentage of the population is living at or below the poverty line. The Action Program incorporates projects to continue the building out of River East Recreation Area and increase non-motorized access on this side of Garfield.

## Description of the Public Input Process

Several methods of gathering public feedback were used throughout the preparation of this Plan including surveys, open houses, and opportunities for public comment at open meetings.

### Early Public Input

In summer 2021, the Township conducted a survey of residents to receive feedback on the parks system and gain insight into how people use the parks. The survey was publicized in the summer Township newsletter, mailed out with summer tax bills, and received coverage in the local media. The survey was available via a link on the homepage of the Township website with paper copies also available at Township Hall. A total of 175 responses were received, and key insights include the following (full survey results and a summary of comments are provided in *Appendix B*):

2021 Township Park User Survey Results	
<b>Question 1:</b> Which of the following Garfield Township parks have you visited within the past year?	Silver Lake Recreation Area (85%) Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area (61%) Boardman Valley Nature Preserve (53%) Miller Creek Nature Reserve (27%) Kids Creek Park (26%) River East Recreation Area (15%)
<b>Question 2:</b> What activities do you participate in, or amenities do you use most often, when you visit one of the Township parks?	The most used amenities indicated by respondents are: Natural hiking trails (74%)      Other sports (29%) Paved trails (58%)              Pavilions (27%) Playground (38%)              Dog park (25%)
<b>Question 3:</b> What is one thing you like the most about the Township parks?	Many people commented on the overall quality cleanliness and maintenance of the parks, trails, and the playground. There were also many positive comments on the dog park.
<b>Question 4:</b> What is one thing you would most like to see added to the Township parks?	A wide variety of responses and suggested amenities, although many said they like the parks the way they are, while the most common responses were about disc golf. Many people wanted more shade and more seating to be made available.
<b>Question 5:</b> What is one thing you would most like to see changed about the Township parks?	Similar comments as the previous question, including on disc golf, bathrooms (adding more, and/or keeping them open in winter) and issues with dogs off leashes. Some people desired more year-round and winter activities.

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agendas are published on the Township website before each meeting so the public is aware of and can comment on parks discussions. However, public comment at these meetings was not an extensive public involvement element of this Plan.

In 2022, the Township conducted a community survey in advance of updating the Master Plan in 2023. The survey was distributed to a random sample of 4,200 qualified voters evenly distributed among Garfield's seven voting precincts. There were 875 responses for a return rate of 20.83%. Survey topics included housing, development, community character, parks, and non-motorized facilities. Responses to parks and non-motorized facility questions were as follows:

2022 Community Survey: Selected Questions				
<b>8. For the future, I would like Garfield to focus on the following:</b>				
Protect the natural environment	65.4%			
Housing choices and affordability	50.4%			
Quality and quantity of parks and open space	47.9%			
Improve transportation options	30.7%			
Improve image and character of Garfield	27.7%			
Increase entertainment and food choices	15.0%			
Employment opportunities	11.8%			
Increase shopping opportunities	10.4%			
12. Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
12.e. I want more paved bicycle paths and sidewalks in the area where I live.	28.2%	34.6%	27.0%	10.2%
12.f. Garfield should fund the construction of bike paths and sidewalks in the form of a millage, grants, general fund, or other funding sources.	22.2%	40.3%	23.6%	13.9%
12.i. I wish there was a park closer to my home.	10.6%	32.7%	49.2%	7.5%
12.j. Garfield should purchase more parkland.	15.9%	47.9%	30.4%	5.9%

### **Public Input for Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan**

The Design Plan process sought to gather feedback from key stakeholders and the public on the future design for the Commons Natural Area. This included interviews with representatives of key stakeholder community groups as listed below to encompass a variety of park users and to generate awareness of the Design Plan.

- Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Joint Recreational Authority (RA)
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
- Grand Traverse Audubon Club
- Botanic Gardens
- Northern Strategies 360
- Northwest Education Services
- Greenspire School
- The Minervini Group
- Cherry Capital Cycling Club
- TART Trails
- Norte

Major takeaways from the stakeholder interviews were the desires to provide safe and accessible trails, account for restoration and maintenance, incorporate site amenities such as restrooms and benches, improve wayfinding and connectivity, improve trailheads and parking, and resolve user conflicts especially between hikers and mountain bikers.

Throughout the process there were also three open houses to gather public feedback on the design concepts. The first was on May 11, 2022 at the Cathedral Barn at Historic Barns Park. The second was on August 10, 2022 at Kirkbride Hall, at the Village at Grand Traverse Commons. The third was on November 7, 2022 at Kirkbride Hall.

The first open house provided an overview of the existing conditions and two conceptual designs: one showing primarily separated trails and another showing mainly shared-use trails. Most of the attendees preferred trails separated by use type, mainly to keep bikes away from other users.

The second open house incorporated the public input from the first open house and showed the concept plans for trails, trailheads, hubs, and amenities. There was general support from people for the proposed trails and people liked the more separated trails. Some comments also indicated to avoid overbuilding the trails and to keep as much natural area as possible.

The third open house presented the preferred design concept and explained the next steps of the process, including potential project timelines. The presentation also summarized how the Design Plan will be incorporated into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and invited public feedback on the full Parks and Recreation Master Plan. More detailed summaries for all the open houses are included as part of the Commons Natural Area Design Plan.

### **30-Day Public Review Period**

At their December 5, 2022 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission finalized the draft Plan and motioned to notice the 30-day public review period.

The legal notice was published in the December 11, 2022 edition of the Traverse City Record Eagle indicating the draft Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan was available for a 30-day review and comment period beginning on December 11, 2022, either in person at Garfield Township Hall or on the Township website at [www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com). Legal notice and affidavit of publication for the December 11, 2022 publication is provided in *Appendix D*.

In addition to the newspaper publication, the Township also invited public inspection of the Plan via postings at Township Hall, within kiosks at the various parks, and postings on the Township website. The draft Plan remained available for public inspection until January 10, 2023.

## Public Hearing and Resolution of Adoption

At its December 5, 2022 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission, in addition to finalizing the draft Plan and motioning to notice the 30-day public review period, also adopted Resolution #2022-01-PR recommending that the Township Board adopt the Plan following the public review period and the public hearing. The certified resolution recommending the adoption of this Plan is provided in *Appendix C*.

At their December 13, 2022 regular meeting, the Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees motioned to set a public hearing on the Plan for their regular meeting on January 10, 2023, which was published in the newspaper on December 18, 2022. Legal notice and affidavit of publication for the December 18, 2022 publication is provided in *Appendix E*.

At its January 10, 2023 meeting and upon conclusion of the 30-day public review period described above, The Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees held a public hearing to review the Plan and passed Resolution #2023-01-T adopting the Plan. The certified resolution adopting the Plan is provided in *Appendix G*.

Timetable of Adoption	
<b>November 7, 2022</b>	Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the draft Plan
<b>December 5, 2022</b>	Parks and Recreation Commission finalized the draft Plan, motioned to give notice for the 30-day public review period, and adopted Resolution #2022-01-PR recommending the Township Board adopt the Plan following the public review and public hearing
<b>December 11, 2022</b>	A notice was published in the newspaper regarding the availability of the Plan for public review for 30 days beginning on December 11, 2022
<b>December 13, 2022</b>	The Township Board motioned to set a public hearing on the draft Plan for their regular meeting on January 10, 2023
<b>December 18, 2022</b>	A notice was published in the newspaper for the public hearing for the Plan at the Township Board regular meeting on January 10, 2023
<b>January 10, 2023</b>	The 30-day public review period concluded
<b>January 10, 2023</b>	The Township Board held a public hearing on the draft Plan and passed Resolution #2023-01-T adopting the Plan



# Goals and Objectives

## Development of the Goals and Objectives

The Parks and Recreation Commission used the information gathered from the planning process and public input process to develop the draft Goals and Objectives. The specific public comments received and how they impacted on the development of the Plan are addressed more thoroughly in the Basis for Goals and Objectives.

## Basis for the Goals and Objectives

The planning process included an analysis of several factors which informed the formation of the Goals and Objectives of this Plan. The following specific characteristics were considered:

### Demographics

Data from the United States Census Bureau (2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2020 Decennial Census, and other data) was used for the demographic analysis of the Township. Garfield Township had a population of 19,499 as of the 2020 Census, a 20% increase from the 2010 Census population of 16,256. Population density is about 762 people per square mile, an increase from 611 people per square mile in 2010. Other demographic characteristics are as follows, with comparisons to Grand Traverse County and Michigan overall:

Topic	Garfield Twp.	Grand Traverse County	Michigan
Per capita income	\$30,884	\$35,705	\$32,854
Median household income	\$48,782	\$66,457	\$59,234
Median age	41.9	43.0	39.8
Age – Under 18	20.2%	20.2%	21.7%
Age – 18-64	56.9%	60.0%	61.2%
Age – 65 and over	22.9%	19.8%	17.2%
Female / male ratio	54% / 46%	51% / 49%	51% / 49%
Poverty rate – all persons	20.6%	10.2%	13.7%
Poverty rate – Under 18	34.6%	14.4%	18.8%
Poverty rate – 65 and over	15.5%	7.6%	8.5%
Mean travel time to work	15.3 minutes	20.7 minutes	24.6 minutes
Means of travel to work			
– Drove alone	83.8%	76.9%	80.7%
– Carpooled	9.0%	10.2%	8.6%
– Public transit	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%
– Bicycle	0.6%	1.2%	0.4%
– Walked	1.2%	2.0%	2.2%
– Other	0.1%	0.7%	0.9%
– Worked at home	4.1%	8.0%	6.0%

Topic	Garfield Twp.	Grand Traverse County	Michigan
Number of households	8,062	37,939	3,980,408
Persons per household	2.1	2.4	2.5
Race and ethnicity			
– White	93.3%	92.5%	74.5%
– Black / African American	0.7%	0.8%	13.5%
– American Indian / Alaska Native	1.3%	0.8%	0.4%
– Asian	0.2%	0.6%	3.2%
– Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.1%	<0.1%
– Some other race	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
– Two or more races	1.6%	2.3%	3.0%
Hispanic / Latino, of any race	2.6%	3.0%	5.2%

Sources include 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2020 Decennial Census, and Census Reporter profile for Garfield Twp.: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/06000US2605531580-garfield-charter-township-grand-traverse-county-mi/>

Demographic trends from the above analysis reveal the following patterns:

- Garfield has a poverty rate over twice that of the county and higher than the state
- Garfield has a lower median household income than the county and state
- Garfield has a smaller average household size than the county and state
- The share of the population in Garfield age 65 and over is higher than that of the county and state, and the poverty rate of the population age 65 and over is nearly double that of the county and state

### **Physical Characteristics – Land Use and Development Patterns**

Roughly two-thirds of Garfield’s population lives west of Boardman River and Boardman Lake, with the remaining one-third to the east of the river and lake. Development patterns for specific residential housing types include the following:

- **Single-family** – Major neighborhoods are located just off many major roadways including Silver Lake Road, Barnes Road, Zimmerman Road, North Long Lake Road, West Silver Lake Road, East Silver Lake Road, South Airport Road, Veterans Drive, Hartman Road, Birmley Road, and Garfield Road.
- **Multi-family** – Concentrations of multi-family housing include apartment complexes on Hartman Road, LaFranier Road, Park Drive, Veterans Drive, and near the Grand Traverse Crossings. There is increasingly more senior housing including two complexes currently under construction, on North Long Lake Road and LaFranier Road respectively.
- **Mobile home** – Mobile home parks throughout the Township include Meadow Lane on US 31, Kings Court on LaFranier Road, Town and Country on Barlow Street, Silver Lake View on East Silver Lake Road, and Garfield Oaks on Garfield Road.

The most densely developed residential areas are concentrated in the portions of Garfield north of Hartman Road and Hammond Road, west of Garfield Road, and around Silver Lake. Many of the parks are located near these dense residential areas and provide recreational opportunities to the people in these neighborhoods.

Most commercial and industrial development is in the north-central portion of Garfield, though these uses do exist in smaller pockets and corridors throughout the Township. Some parks such as Kids Creek Park and Miller Creek Nature Reserve provide recreational opportunities near the major commercial corridors and help protect natural resources in densely developed areas.

Garfield has several areas with a more rural character including Garfield Road south of Birmley Road, Hoch Road, Dracka Road, Silver Pines Road, and the northwest corner of Garfield (North Long Lake Road, Cedar Run Road, Barney Road, and Gray Road). These places include several larger-lot subdivisions, rural residences, and agricultural areas. Some parks such as Silver Lake Recreation Area are at the edge of both densely developed and rural areas and offer recreational opportunities to people in both places.

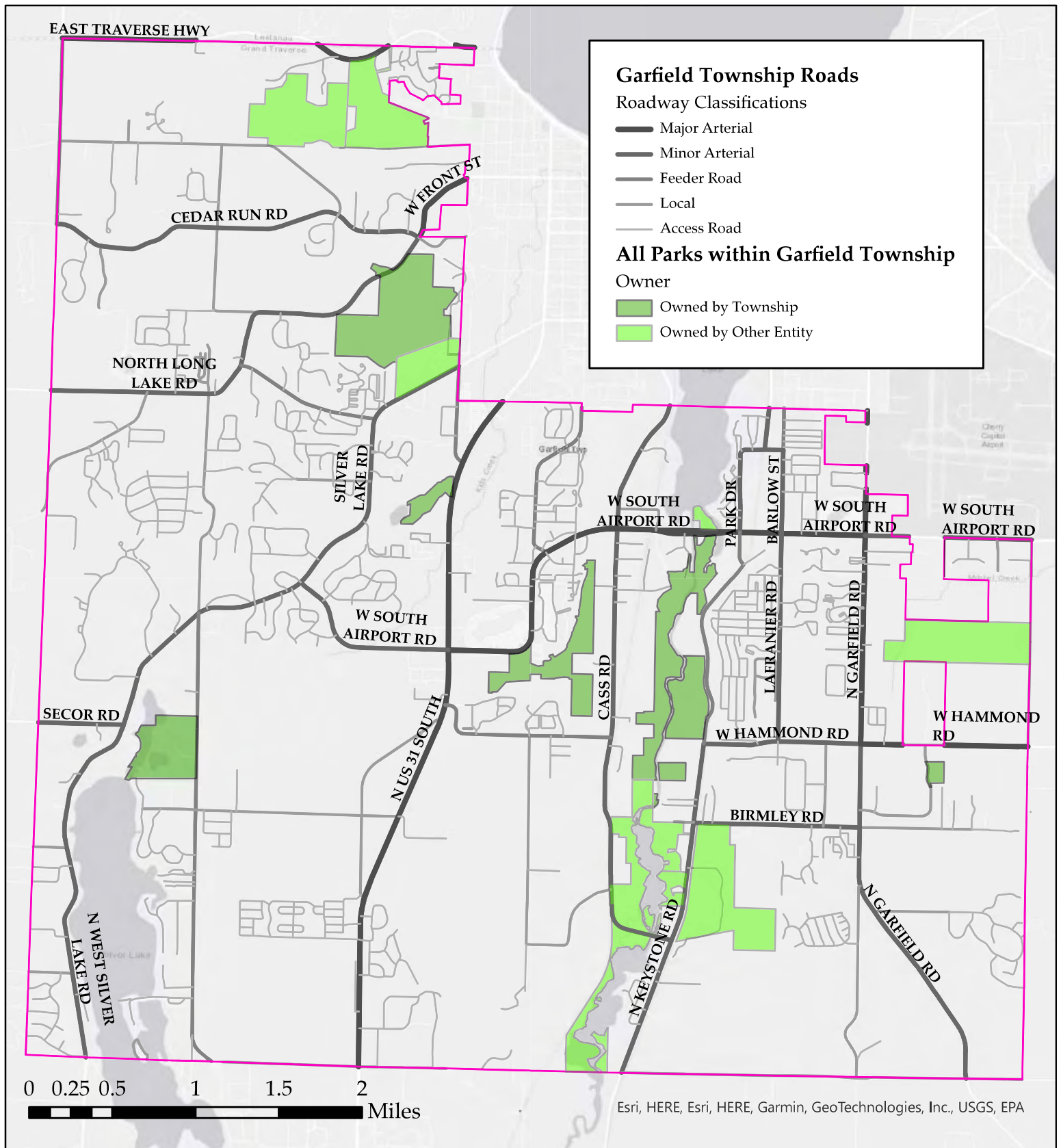
### **Physical Characteristics – Transportation**

There are two major north-south roadways in Garfield: US 31 and Garfield Road. Each roadway carries traffic between the region and downstate population centers. US 31 is primarily a heavily developed commercial and industrial corridor. Garfield Road transitions from a rural character to more urbanized near the Birmley Road / Emerson Road intersection. Other significant north-south roadways include Silver Lake Road, Cass Road, and Keystone Road.

Major east-west roadways include South Airport Road, North Long Lake Road, and Hammond Road. There are only two motorized crossings of the Boardman River in Garfield which provide east-west access: South Airport Road and Cass Road. There have been long-standing discussions regarding a potential third river crossing at Hartman Road and Hammond Road; this crossing is currently being studied by the Grand Traverse County Road Commission.

The non-motorized trail and sidewalk system in Garfield provides access between parks, schools, residences, entertainment, and employment centers, though there are many gaps in the system. In addition to the non-motorized connections envisioned in this Plan, the Township Master Plan includes a full Non-Motorized Plan for Garfield. New sidewalks and trails are also required in many cases as part of development or redevelopment projects.

A map of the major roadways in Garfield is included on the following page.



# Major Roadways in Garfield Township



**Charter Township of Garfield**  
 3848 Veterans Drive  
 Traverse City, MI 49684  
 Phone: 231.941.1620  
 Fax: 231.941.1588  
[www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)

### **Physical Characteristics – Natural Features**

Two of the most significant natural features of Garfield include the Boardman-Ottaway River and Boardman Lake. The river flows from south to north, entering Garfield in the south-central part of the Township before emptying into Boardman Lake near South Airport Road. The lake is split with Traverse City, with the southern portion in Garfield and the northern part in Traverse City. The river and lake divide Garfield from east to west. About one-quarter of Garfield's geographic area is east of the river and lake. Areas on either side of these two natural features have different characteristics and represent distinct places within Garfield.

Topographic elevations fall from a high point of roughly 1,100 feet above sea level in the western portion of Garfield, to roughly 600 feet within the Boardman River valley, before rising once again to over 900 feet above sea level in the southeastern corner.

Portions of Garfield are in four different watersheds. Most of the Township is in the Boardman-Ottaway River watershed, with smaller areas in the watersheds of Mitchell Creek and the Platte River and some portions which drain directly into Lake Michigan.

<b>Watershed</b>	<b>Area in Garfield (square miles)</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Boardman-Ottaway River	21.0	75.6%
Mitchell Creek	4.8	17.2%
Lake Michigan (direct drainage)	1.2	4.3%
Platte River	0.8	2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

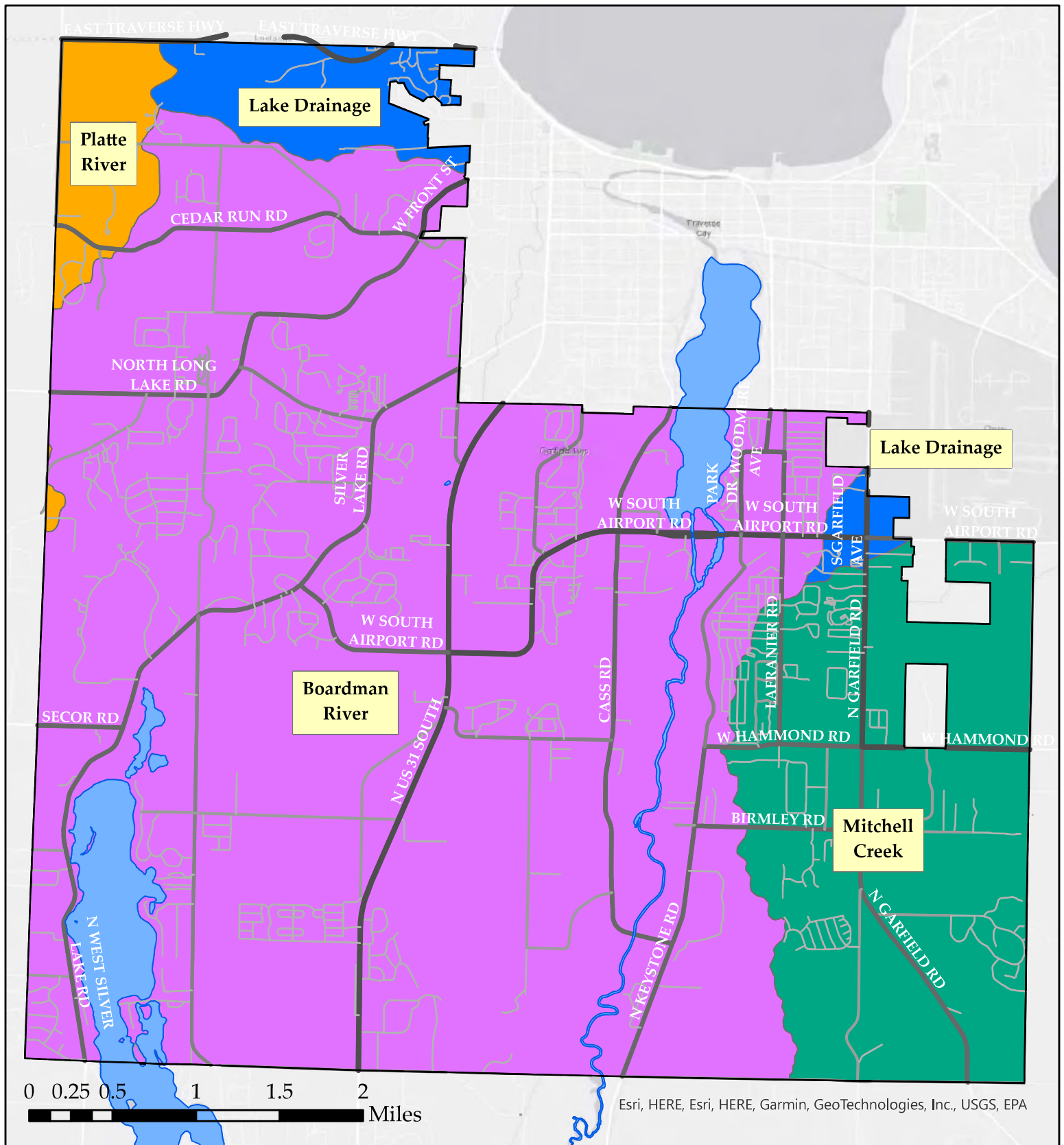
A map of the watersheds within Garfield is included on the following page.

#### ***Boardman-Ottaway River Watershed***

The Boardman-Ottaway River runs for approximately 50 miles in Kalkaska and Grand Traverse counties, encompassing a watershed area of 287 square miles of land which drains into the West Arm of Grand Traverse Bay. Most of Garfield is within this watershed. Tributaries of the river in Garfield include Miller Creek, Jack's Creek, and Kids Creek. The portion of the river south of Hammond Road is also one of 16 Natural River systems in Michigan designated by MDNR. This program helps protect the rivers by regulating construction within 400 feet of the river.

The river is surrounded by parkland for most of its length in Garfield, including the Township's Boardman Valley Nature Preserve and River East Recreation Area, and Grand Traverse County's Natural Education Reserve and Medalie Park. There are some privately owned parcels abutting the river near Keystone Road and at Logan's Landing and Logan Place near South Airport Road. The former City dump site and current County brush drop-off site also abuts the river.





# Watersheds in Garfield Township



**Charter Township of Garfield**  
 3848 Veterans Drive  
 Traverse City, MI 49684  
 Phone: 231.941.1620  
 Fax: 231.941.1588  
[www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)

From 2012 to 2018, three dams along the river dating back to the late 1800s were removed in the largest dam removal project in Michigan history. These dams were Brown Bridge Dam in East Bay Township (owned by the City of Traverse City, removed in 2012) and Boardman Dam and Sabin Dam in Garfield Township (owned by Grand Traverse County, removed in 2017 and 2018 respectively). Modifications are also planned at Union Street Dam in Traverse City to allow for selective passage of Great Lakes fish.

These dam removal projects have helped to restore the natural habitat and free-flowing original course of the river and provided additional recreational opportunities. The bottomlands of the dams are currently being restored as natural habitat. Management and restoration of these areas is ongoing and will help to enhance the health of the river system. Garfield will continue to work with partner organizations and property owners on issues related to the river and water quality, including initiatives that support the Township's Strategic Plan goal to "support environmental conservation efforts to protect water quality."

### ***Mitchell Creek Watershed***

The eastern portion of Garfield is in the Mitchell Creek watershed, which drains about 16 square miles of land into the East Arm of Grand Traverse Bay. Several recent and planned development projects on LaFranier Road and Hammond Road are in the Mitchell Creek watershed. It will be important for Garfield to monitor water quality as these projects are constructed and as further developments are proposed along these corridors.

### ***Boardman Lake***

Boardman Lake encompasses 314 acres and is shared between Garfield and Traverse City. The lake offers recreational opportunities including fishing, sailing, canoeing, and kayaking. In 2022, the Boardman Lake Loop Trail was completed to provide a pathway all the way around the lake. This 4-mile loop provides connections to commercial and civic resources for the community and links to the regional trail system. Boardman Lake is included as part of the river watershed and any activities impacting the river upstream will also impact the lake.

### ***Silver Lake***

Silver Lake is over 600 acres and is shared between Garfield and Blair Townships, with roughly the northern two-thirds within Garfield and the remainder in Blair. There are several residential neighborhoods along the shoreline. The lake is primarily used for boating for lakefront residents and the public. Silver Lake is part of the Boardman-Ottaway River watershed.

Silver Lake Recreation Area is the only public park on the lake, although the park only has about 100 feet of shoreline frontage on the lake. The MDNR maintains a boat launch on East Silver Lake Road, though swimming is not permitted there.

Two other lakes are located just north of Silver Lake: *Hidden Lake*, located completely within the park, and *Dryer Lake* or *Mud Lake* which comprises the park's western border. Both smaller lakes are shallow and have no recreational amenities. If any amenities were to be considered for these lakes, Garfield should determine if dredging is needed, or if any contamination must be mitigated or sensitive natural features maintained.

### **Invasive Species**

Invasive species are non-native organisms which are introduced to new ecosystems, and which subsequently cause harm to the native ecosystem. Such harm can take the form of crowding out food supplies and other natural resources for native species, causing overpopulation of invasive species and reducing biodiversity. Spillover effects can include harm to economic activities such as farming, with costlier farmland management, or tourism with damage to native resources.

Invasive species are an issue in Garfield, including within the parks. For example, Autumn olive and purple loosestrife have impacted Kids Creek Park, and Silver Lake Recreation Area has had issues with spotted knapweed. Lakes and rivers have also seen problems with invasive aquatic species. Garfield works with several partners to help manage invasive species including GTCD and the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN). The ISN serves a four-county area of Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Manistee counties. The ISN works to help prevent the introduction and spread of new invasive species and educate the public about natural resources, through sharing technical expertise and offering volunteer events.

## **Public Involvement**

This Plan was formed using feedback from several public engagement efforts including:

- 2021 Park User Survey (online and mailed with Township newsletter)
- 2022 Community Survey (random sample survey, part of Master Plan process)
- Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan – public open houses

The following is a summary of common public sentiments and comments that were used to help shape the Goals and Objectives of this Plan:

- The most-visited parks are Silver Lake Recreation Area, the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area, and Boardman Valley Nature Preserve
- The amenities most often used by park visitors are the natural hiking trails, paved trails, playgrounds, sports fields, pavilions, and the dog park
- Many people provided comments appreciating that the Garfield parks system has been kept clean and well-maintained
- Many people indicated they like the parks as they are but would appreciate some added amenities like benches, picnic tables, and shade areas
- Some people would like to see additional bathrooms, or have existing bathrooms open in the winter, and some people commented on issues with dogs off leashes in some parks
- Garfield residents want the Township to focus on the quality and quantity of parks and open space as a priority going forward
- Garfield residents generally support additional trails and pathways
- Garfield residents generally support the purchase of additional parkland
- For the Commons Natural Area Design Plan, the following input was gathered:
  - Most people want to see trails separated by user type to accommodate all users
  - People want to highlight natural features and historical elements on the site
  - Improved wayfinding is crucial for the entire trail system

## Goals and Objectives

The following Goals and Objectives were developed using the information gathered during the planning process and public input process and guided by the Basis for the Goals and Objectives as described above. The Goals and Objectives of this Plan provided the basis for development of the Action Program.

### **Goal 1 – Expand and improve the Township’s non-motorized transportation system of trails, sidewalks, and pathways**

#### **Objectives:**

- Invest in non-motorized projects identified in the Action Program
  - Identify and pursue additional funding sources for projects, including grants
  - Engage the public for input on priority non-motorized projects
  - Work with MDOT and GTCRC to include safe crossings for trails and sidewalks which intersect major roadways
- Collaborate with partner organizations, including TART and neighboring communities, on future projects for additional connections and expansions to the regional trail system
- Build out the trail system design as envisioned in the Commons Natural Area Design Plan including the different trail types, trailheads, and hubs
- Develop consistent maintenance standards for trails and sidewalks, including innovative and cost-effective approaches to long-term maintenance, and clarify responsibilities for each entity in the regional non-motorized system
- Work with regional partners to develop consistent wayfinding signage and information for the regional non-motorized system
- Work with MDOT and GTCRC to implement the Township’s Complete Streets resolution to incorporate Complete Streets design considerations and practices as a routine part of infrastructure planning and implementation
- Include Complete Streets considerations in Township processes including the Township Master Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and development review

### **Goal 2 – Protect and preserve natural resources such as wetlands, habitats, and water bodies**

#### **Objectives:**

- Invest in projects identified in the Green Infrastructure Plan within the Action Program
  - Identify and pursue additional funding sources for projects, including grants
  - Evaluate property acquisitions or donations using criteria described in the Green Infrastructure Plan to determine their overall benefit to the Township, and review these criteria on a regular basis
- Inventory properties which are protected or preserved through other methods, such as a conservation easement, but which are not intended for acquisition
- Develop a planting and forestry management program for each park to identify invasive species for removal and vegetation for planting including native species



- Develop management plans for water bodies in parks including Kids Creek and Oleson Pond, monitor water quality, and pursue projects to improve water quality as needed
- Restore wetlands as envisioned in the Commons Natural Area Design Plan
- Continue working with the ISN, landowners, EGLE, MDNR, and other stakeholders to prioritize and remove invasive species, prevent the spread of new invasive species, and educate residents about the stewardship of natural resources
- Require wetland delineations in Township processes including development review, and enforce Zoning Ordinance provisions to protect wetlands

**Goal 3 – Provide a variety of parks and recreation amenities and activities to meet the needs of all segments of the population**

**Objectives:**

- Prioritize new amenities, improvements to existing amenities, and maintenance projects which improve accessibility for all users
- Consider accessible design elements in all projects including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, barrier-free accessibility, and principles of universal design
- Add benches, rest areas, and shade areas where feasible to enhance usability of the parks
- Evaluate potential demand for new park features or amenities, especially those which are not currently offered at any Township parks, when creating park development plans for specific parks or considering projects

**Goal 4 – Promote responsible stewardship of the parks and recreation system**

**Objectives:**

- Utilize volunteer groups for stewardship projects and document all volunteer activities
- Encourage the public to contact Staff to report any issues at the parks, and document the type of issue, resolution, and other information for each report
- Educate the public on the parkland rules as defined in the Township Parkland Ordinance and spread awareness of any major issues, such as vandalism or off-leash pets
- Publicize parks and recreation information via the Township website, Facebook page and other social media, newsletter articles, and by posting at trailhead kiosks, and make the information accessible digitally using QR codes or other technology

**Goal 5 – Encourage continued public involvement in evaluating and improving the parks and recreation system**

**Objectives:**

- Provide regular opportunities for residents to offer feedback on the Township parks and recreation system including focus groups, public meetings, surveys, or through feedback solicited at Township events
- Use the Township's Public Participation Strategy to guide public engagement methods, identify key stakeholders, and evaluate the effectiveness of public engagement efforts

- Promote meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission as an opportunity for people to provide input
- Utilize public input to help guide amendments to and implementation of this Plan

**Goal 6 – Develop stable sources of funding and practice sound fiscal management of the parks and recreation system**

**Objectives:**

- Maintain consistent parks funding for general maintenance, improvements, acquisition, and as a local match for grants
- Pursue additional funding sources for the park system including state and federal grants, local nonprofits, local businesses, and other sources
- Generate revenue for the park system through appropriate fees for pavilion reservations, hunting permits, or other activities, and review fees annually

**Goal 7 – Evaluate the parks and recreation system on a regular basis**

**Objectives:**

- Update annual maintenance and management programs to anticipate major projects and repairs needed for each park in the upcoming year
- Guide improvement projects for specific parks by utilizing park development plans, such as the River East Recreation Area Park Development Plan and Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan, and review development plans as projects are completed
- Gather information on the use of the parks and recreation system from public input, trail counters, and other sources to determine ongoing needs
- Create an implementation matrix to track progress on meeting the Goals, Objectives, and Action Program and to identify responsible parties, funding sources, partnerships, and timelines, and review the matrix annually

## Action Program

### Development of the Action Program

The Goals and Objectives of this Plan provided the basis for development of the Action Program. The Action Program will guide the implementation of the Goals and Objectives over the next five years and includes details on specific capital projects, potential policy discussions, operations and maintenance, non-motorized facilities, and green infrastructure.

### Five-Year Capital Improvements Program

Budgets for capital improvement projects are subject to change depending on current costs and available funding opportunities. For this reason, estimates are shown to provide a sense of the magnitude of funding needed and its expected source. These capital projects will be evaluated annually and may be adjusted based on demand, priority, and/or funding.

Year	Project	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
2023	Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Final trail systems, signage design, permitting</li><li>Red Drive trailhead construction</li><li>Conservation Recreation trail construction</li><li>Restoration activities</li></ul>	\$1,095,000	General Fund Donations Grants
2023	River East Recreation Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Restrooms, trail, and sidewalk construction</li><li>Planning for future uses and facilities</li></ul>	\$349,000	General Fund
2024	Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Copper Ridge and Munson trailhead construction</li><li>Connector trail construction</li><li>Restoration activities</li></ul>	\$975,000	General Fund Grants Donations
2024	River East Recreation Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Trail upgrades and development</li><li>Templeton barn siding</li><li>Electrical hookup for pavilion</li></ul>	\$150,000	General Fund Grants
2024	Silver Lake Recreation Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Amenities: pickleball court, outdoor gym</li><li>Bathroom heating improvement</li><li>Electrical hookups for pavilions</li></ul>	\$100,000	General Fund Donations Grants
2024	Boardman Valley Nature Preserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Trail upgrades, including gap between crushed gravel trail and boardwalk along Peace Trail</li><li>Volleyball court and viewing platform upgrades</li></ul>	\$100,000	General Fund
2024	Kids Creek Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oleson pond dredging</li></ul>	\$50,000	General Fund

Year	Project	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
2025	Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-use / hike / mountain bike trail construction</li> <li>• Amenities final design and permitting</li> <li>• Restoration activities</li> </ul>	\$680,000	General Fund Donations Grants
2025	Kids Creek Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridge / bench upgrades near Kohl's entrance</li> <li>• Construction of pavilion or covered benches with shade cover at Buffalo Ridge Trail</li> </ul>	\$25,000	General Fund
2026	Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenities construction</li> <li>• Wayfinding final design and installation</li> <li>• Long Lake Road trailhead design and permitting</li> <li>• Wetland restoration design</li> <li>• Restoration activities</li> </ul>	\$340,000	General Fund Donations Grants
2026	Silver Lake Recreation Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog park expansion</li> </ul>	\$100,000	General Fund
2026	Miller Creek Nature Reserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boardwalk repair and replacement</li> <li>• Trail connections to properties along US 31</li> </ul>	\$100,000	General Fund
2027	Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long Lake Road trailhead construction</li> <li>• Wetland restoration implementation</li> <li>• Future connection trail systems</li> <li>• Restoration activities</li> </ul>	\$965,000	General Fund Donations Grants

Two of the Garfield parks, River East Recreation Area and Silver Lake Recreation Area, have park development plans which have guided projects in these parks. These park development plans are included in *Appendix L* of this Plan.

## Operations and Maintenance

Current staffing for the Garfield parks system consists of two Parks Stewards with support from the Planning Department and Township Engineer. Parks Stewards conduct the day-to-day parks operations, including maintenance, communications, and code enforcement. Planning staff and the Township Engineer provide technical assistance for the Parks Stewards and for the Parks and Recreation Commission, including parks system planning, project specific planning, engineering, and construction.

Contracted services are used by the Township for ongoing maintenance of parks, trails, and park facilities along with specific capital projects. Parks Stewards oversee all maintenance activities.



The Township Board maintains the parks system budget and approves procurement of contracts for services. Budget appropriations for staff and contracted maintenance services are expected to remain consistent with overall park development and maintenance needs. Outside sources of funding including grants and donations will help support specific capital projects.

## **Policy Development**

The Township recognizes the value of generating policies to help reduce the risk of future issues. Park policies are developed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and recommended to the Township Board as appropriate. The following have been identified as potential policy subjects for review by the Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Accessibility and ADA-compatible amenities
- Planting and forestry management programs, including invasive species removal
- Fee schedule including pavilion and multi-purpose field rentals, and other activities
- Park lighting
- E-bike usage on trails
- Updates to park rules

## **Non-Motorized Facilities and Connections to Parks**

One goal for this Plan is to expand and improve Garfield's non-motorized transportation system of trails, sidewalks, and pathways, and the Strategic Plan also includes a goal of fostering a system of high-quality active and passive parks connected by trails. The following projects would help to enhance the non-motorized system over the next five years and beyond by providing greater connections to and between parks and trails. These connections are also envisioned as part of the Non-Motorized Plan within the Township Master Plan.

The non-motorized system benefits the community by giving people transportation options other than automobiles and by providing recreational opportunities. Sidewalks and trails provide an amenity for neighborhoods which is reflected in the value they provide to property owners.

The following projects have been identified through discussions with the Parks and Recreation Commission, residents, and key stakeholders, and all represent potential additions to Garfield's non-motorized system. These projects would link existing parks and natural areas, commercial areas, neighborhoods, schools, and areas of concentrated employment with non-motorized trail and sidewalk connections. Garfield should continually evaluate opportunities and priorities for advancing these projects. Corridors for potential trails are highlighted in white on the maps on the following pages.

### *LaFranier Road / Barlow Road – Boardman Lake Loop Trail*



In 2022, the Boardman Lake Loop Trail was completed, and this loop trail can become a key hub connection for other trails into the regional system. This project envisions a connection from the Boardman Lake Loop Trail to the east side of Garfield on South Airport Road, Barlow Road and LaFranier Road. These corridors connect to dense residential areas including Kings Court mobile home park. This area is served by Traverse Heights Elementary School in Traverse City; a recent Safe Routes to School grant provided for upgraded sidewalks in nearby neighborhoods.

The project would include about 0.3 miles along South Airport Road and about 0.75 miles each along Barlow Road to Boon Street, and along LaFranier Road to the County Health Department. This project was identified as part of the MSU Urban Planning Practicum student project in 2022. The Township also applied for grant funding from Grand Traverse County for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which was supported by partners including TART.

Challenges for this project include the intersection crossing at South Airport Road with Barlow Road and LaFranier Road, acquiring easements, and curb cuts and existing developments along these roads. LaFranier Road also has a steep grade immediately south of the South Airport Road intersection. Alternative connections, especially to the west, may be explored if the steep grade prevents a trail from feasibly being constructed there.

### *Miller Creek Nature Reserve – Boardman Valley Nature Preserve*



This trail would connect Miller Creek Nature Reserve and Boardman Valley Nature Preserve by filling in a gap of about 0.4 miles between these two parks. This project was listed in the Action Program of the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan but has not been pursued with other projects taking priority.

From Miller Creek Nature Reserve, the trail would continue east along the site of the Sabin Data Center, a former elementary school owned by TCAPS. The trail would need to cross Cass Road and then continue along Dairy Square to property owned by Four Seasons Storage LLC. Garfield acquired an access easement on one of the Four Seasons Storage sites in 2011 to access Boardman Valley Nature Preserve.

The crossing of Cass Road is a challenge because of the high speed and its proximity to the major intersection with Hartman Road. Garfield should coordinate with GTCRC to ensure safe crossing of this trail.



### *Miller Creek Nature Reserve – Mall Trail*



South Airport Road presents an opportunity to connect the Mall Trail with Miller Creek Nature Reserve. A trail of about 0.6 miles would provide access to several businesses including those in Grand Traverse Commerce Centre and Traverse Square and connect to the Miller Creek Nature Reserve trailhead behind Traverse Square.

This project was identified as part of the MSU Urban Planning Practicum student project in 2022. One key challenge for this project is topography, with a steep slope from South Airport Road to the adjacent Miller Creek Nature Reserve. The Township should work with GTCRC to find the most ideal location for this trail project and coordinate work on any portion in the South Airport Road right-of-way.



### *Miller Creek Nature Reserve – Boardman Lake Loop Trail*



This project would fill an approximately one-mile gap between Miller Creek Nature Reserve and the Boardman Lake Loop Trail. The trail would provide enhanced access to the park, the regional trail system, the NMC University Center, and many businesses. TART had previously acquired trail easements for most parcels on Cass Road, except for Good News Automotive, on behalf of Garfield in anticipation of future connections to the Boardman Lake Loop Trail.

Challenges for this project include crossing Cass Road and South Airport Road, potential grade issues, and acquiring additional easements including behind properties on the west side of Cass Road, south of South Airport Road.

*Kids Creek Park – Silver Lake Recreation Area (Buffalo Ridge Phase 3)*



The Buffalo Ridge Trail is currently a 1.5-mile connection between the Grand Traverse Commons and the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA West. The first phase was a 0.5-mile connection between the Commons and Traverse City West Middle School completed in 2011, and the second phase was a 1-mile connection from the Middle School to the YMCA completed in 2016.

Future anticipated extensions of this trail include a roughly two-mile segment along Silver Lake Road and East Silver Lake Road. This segment would provide approximately 300 homes with a connection to the park, schools, commercial businesses, and the greater trail system. This project was envisioned in the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan and received support from the public and TART. Challenges include a steep grade along Silver Lake Road, wetlands, easement acquisition, and intersection crossings.



*Traverse Ridge Trail (Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area – Hickory Meadows)*



The Traverse Ridge Trail is part of a long-term vision to connect the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area and Hickory Meadows. TART is working with volunteer groups on constructing a single-track mountain biking trail behind Oleson Plaza near the North Long Lake Road entrance for the Commons Natural Area.

The trail is planned to be a single-track for now but may offer future opportunities for additional non-motorized access. Further connections are also possible to other neighborhoods and trails, including the trail system at Hickory Hills that is currently being updated. Total trail length from the Commons Natural Area to Hickory Meadows would be about 1.5 miles.

North Long Lake Road and Cedar Run Road are both major roadways with high speed and low visibility in some places. TART has had discussions with GTCRC about a safe crossing of North Long Lake Road and future safe crossings will be marked and signed. Other challenges for this project include space limitations for providing pedestrian amenities especially along Cedar Run Road, potential grade issues, and acquiring easements.

*TC West Middle School – TC West Senior High School (Wyatt Road-Westchester Commons)*



This non-motorized route would include both trail and on-road segments providing for a 2-mile connection between West Middle School and West Senior High School. A segment of trail was recently completed at the Meadow Valley senior living complex, building a connection that was envisioned on the Township's Non-Motorized Plan within the Master Plan. The on-road portions would connect with neighborhoods along Westchester Commons and Wyatt Road.

One key challenge for this project is that while a portion of Wyatt Road is a public road, the rest of Wyatt and all of Westchester Commons are private roads. The crossings of Zimmerman Road and Silver Lake Road also present a challenge with the high speeds. The Township should work with the GTCRC to express the desire for these safe crossings and gather information from traffic studies or other sources to determine their feasibility. There are potential opportunities for cost sharing between GTCRC and Garfield on ADA-accessible ramps, painted crosswalks, signage, or other aspects of these crossings.



### *Mall Trail – Silver Lake Recreation Area*



A trail from Silver Lake Recreation Area to the existing Mall Trail would need to be coordinated with future development on a site west of the existing Sam's Club on US 31. A future trail would connect a 2-mile gap through this site and along South Airport Road west of US 31.

There are no current development proposals for this site. Discussions with future developers will help determine the ultimate location of a trail. If any public roads are built, the Township should work with GTCRC to ensure that a trail is part of the overall design considerations.

## Boardman-Ottaway River Trail

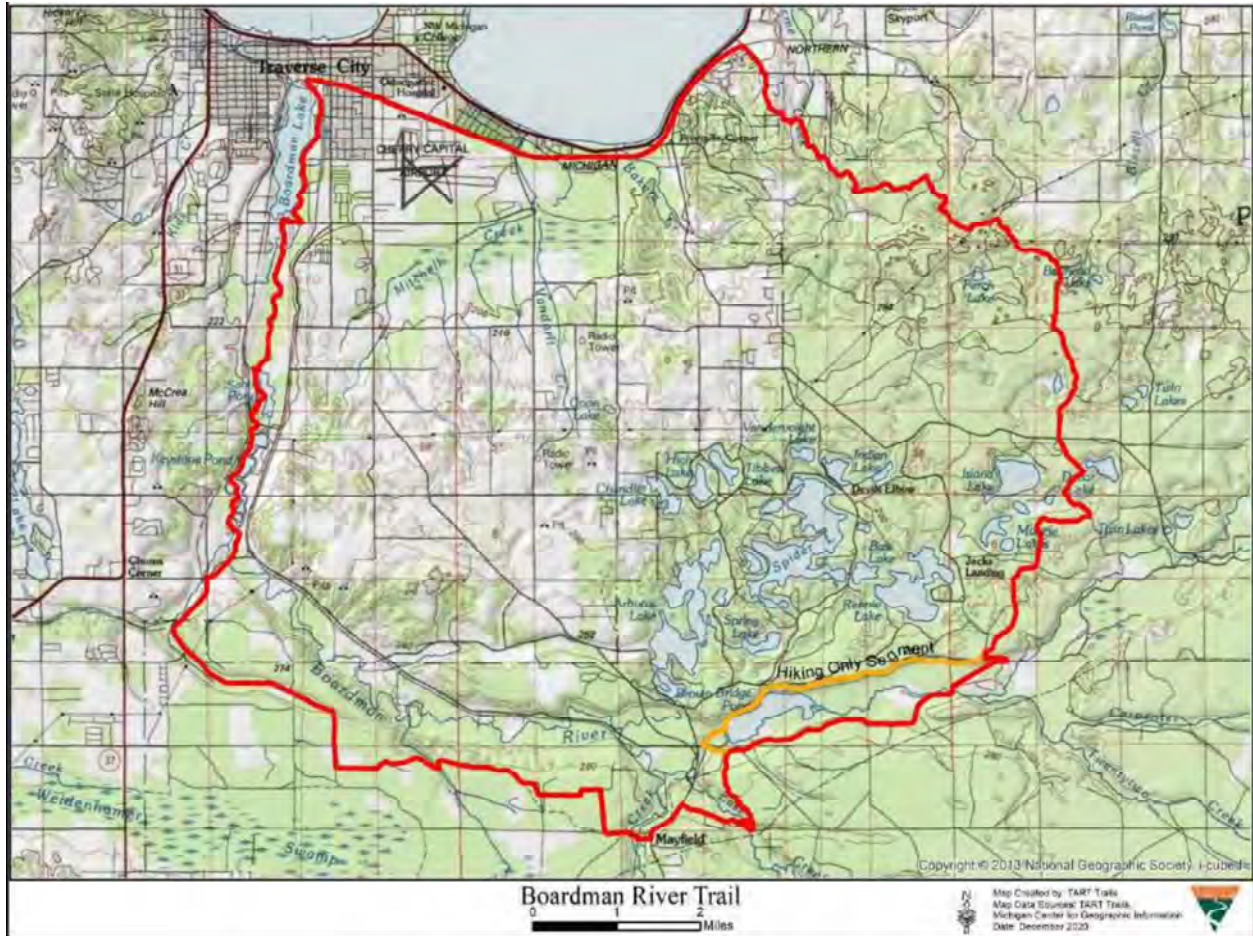


Image Source: TART Trails, Inc.

This trail includes land and water trails which connect the Boardman-Ottaway River with other natural areas. A 42-mile loop connects parts of the Boardman Lake Loop Trail, Boardman Valley Nature Preserve trails including the Peace Trail, Boardman-Ottaway River Trail, Brown Bridge Quiet Area, North Country Trail, Vasa Pathway, and the TART Trail. Removal of the three dams on the river in the 2010s also offers greater possibilities for a water trail.

Future projects for this trail include a potential improved connection between the Boardman Lake Loop Trail and Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. South Airport Road is currently carried over the river by two culverts. Future improvements may include a bridge over the river allowing for safe crossing under South Airport Road and further water navigation between the river and lake. Potential connections to this trail include access to other recreational areas including River East Recreation Area and Keystone Soccer Complex. Garfield should work with stakeholders such as the GTCRC, TART, and private property owners on connections and improvements to this trail.

### ***Other Trails***

Trail connections and expansions offer opportunities for greater non-motorized access for people in the Township and the region. The rail corridor from the Boardman River Nature Center south to Blair Township and Interlochen may potentially provide access for those areas and would also connect with Boardman Valley Nature Preserve and the Boardman-Ottaway River Trail. Utility corridors may be explored to provide connections in the southeast part of Garfield, such as from the Spring Hill neighborhood to Keystone Soccer Complex.

### ***Maintenance***

Maintenance of trails in Garfield is shared by public and private entities. Several stakeholders in the area have explored the feasibility of a regional entity for parks and trail network maintenance and development. This entity could include Garfield, City of Traverse City, the Joint Recreational Authority, Grand Traverse County, private property owners, TART, and others. Garfield should continue discussions with these groups to evaluate different maintenance scenarios.

Regardless of which entity is performing maintenance, Garfield may consider establishing a set of consistent maintenance standards including times for snow blowing, snow clearing, and lawn mowing, and for dealing with major issues such as erosion. Garfield could also coordinate with volunteer groups including the TART Ambassador Network on maintenance projects.

### ***Data Collection***

Garfield should collect data on trails usage to understand demands on the system and to inform future planning efforts. Trail counters determine the number of users at specific points. TART has used trail counters on the Boardman Lake Loop Trail and other places. Garfield could work with TART or another entity on gathering data from trail counters or acquire its own. Data can also be gathered through applications such as Strava, which publishes a publicly available heat map of user activity. Such data helps inform planning efforts by showing the frequency of usage on existing trails and where unofficial connections (e.g., desire paths) have occurred.

### ***Wayfinding***

Public feedback has found wayfinding to be a key issue on the trail system and within the parks. Garfield should ensure consistent wayfinding and signage within the trails on its parks. TART has a consistent branding for signs on the regional trail system and has shared signage at parks such as the City of Traverse City's Clinch Park and Hull Park. Garfield anticipates having TART signage along any additional regional trails in the Township and at major trailheads, with signs in the parks having Garfield branding.



## Green Infrastructure Plan

In the context of this Plan, green infrastructure refers primarily to the interconnected network of parks, natural areas, undeveloped land, and open space in Garfield. The goal of such a network is to conserve regional ecosystem values and functions to benefit both the environment and the community. Some benefits of maintaining green infrastructure include improved water quality, preserved habitats, and enhanced recreational opportunities.

The foundation of a green infrastructure network are woodlands, wetlands, rivers and streams, grasslands, and similar elements. The network is anchored by “hubs” or large areas of protected lands, which are then linked by a series of natural resource corridors. Garfield has worked with stakeholders including Grand Traverse County, GTRLC, and other entities to establish a green infrastructure network including the Township’s parks, the County’s Natural Education Reserve, GTRLC’s Mitchell Creek Nature Preserve, and more.

The proposed green infrastructure action plan identifies criteria for Garfield to consider for the acquisition of parkland and other green infrastructure parcels. The action plan also supports the protection and preservation of lands not intended for acquisition through other methods, such as conservation easements. Criteria to consider for acquisition of parcels include the following:

- How would the acquisition enhance the current park system?
- Does the parcel abut or connect to existing Township parkland or natural areas?
- Would the acquisition create greater access to Township parkland, including additional non-motorized connections?
- Would the acquisition help provide better distribution of parkland resources to residential areas and neighborhoods in Garfield?
- Would the acquisition help protect water quality in the Boardman River, Boardman Lake, or Silver Lake, by preserving wetlands or other natural features?

Garfield requires wetland delineations as a part of development review. Garfield may consider evaluating other green infrastructure standards, including low-impact development (LID) design practices, to encourage preservation of natural features on individual sites and at smaller scales. Conservation easements should also be encouraged as a tool to protect sensitive natural features.

For each park, a planting and forestry management program would help inventory the existing vegetation, determine planting needs including native species, and identify invasive species and other plants to remove. Garfield worked with a forestry consultant on a forest management plan in 2012 and a hazard tree assessment in 2014 for the Commons Natural Area. Management plans can help protect the landscape and vegetation at the other Township parklands.



## Appendices

Appendix A: Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports for Grant-Assisted Projects

Appendix B: 2021 Park User Survey Results

Appendix C: Official Resolution (December 5, 2022) of the Parks and Recreation Commission Recommending Adoption of the Plan by the Governing Body

Appendix D: Copy of the Notice (December 11, 2022) of Availability of the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Public Review and Comment

Appendix E: Copy of the Notice (December 18, 2022) for the Public Hearing Held After the One Month Public Review Period

Appendix F: Copy of the Minutes from the Township Board Meeting (January 10, 2023) – Public Hearing and Resolution of Adoption

Appendix G: Official Resolution of Adoption by Township Board (January 10, 2023)

Appendix H: Copy of Letter Transmitting Adopted Plan to Regional Planning Agency (Networks Northwest)

Appendix I: Copy of Letter Transmitting Adopted Plan to Grand Traverse County Parks Department

Appendix J: Copy of Signed Certification Checklist

Appendix K: Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance and Amendments

Appendix L: Park Development Plans for River East Recreation Area and Silver Lake Recreation Area

Appendix M: Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan

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

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

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

**GRANTEE:** Charter Township of Garfield

**PROJECT NUMBER:** TF02-220

**PROJECT TYPE:** Acquisition

**PROJECT TITLE:** Boardman Nature Education Reserve Expansion

**PROJECT SCOPE:** Acquisition of ≈80 acres of land with 7,000+ feet of river frontage

**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Charter Township of Garfield	John Sych	Director of Planning
Address	Telephone	
3848 Veterans Drive	231-941-1620	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Traverse City, MI 49684	jsych@garfield-twp.com	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?  
If yes, please describe change(s).

☒ Yes ☐ No

New recreation activities after MNRTF development grant (#TF-15-0141) include pickleball courts and ADA kayak launch.

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

**SITE QUALITY**

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

## POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Appendix

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

Regular ongoing maintenance of parkland is part of the duties of the Parks Stewards on Township Staff.

### GENERAL

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

Year-round, daily from dawn to dusk.

### COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

The park is now named the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve and offers opportunities for hiking, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, tennis, beach volleyball, soccer, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, hunting (with prior Township approval), and nature watching.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Appendix A

**CERTIFICATION**

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

**John Sych**

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

**11-30-2022**

Date

**Stephen Hannon**

Please print



Witness Signature

**11-30-2022**

Date

Send completed report to:

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



Park Entry Sign:



Program Recognition Plaque:



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

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

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

**GRANTEE:** Charter Township of Garfield

**PROJECT NUMBER:** TF09-173

**PROJECT TYPE:** Acquisition

**PROJECT TITLE:** Boardman Lake Trail and Nature Reserve Expansion

**PROJECT SCOPE:** Acquisition of 61 acres to expand the Preserve and Boardman Lake Trail

**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Charter Township of Garfield	John Sych	Director of Planning
Address	Telephone	
3848 Veterans Drive	231-941-1620	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Traverse City, MI 49684	jsych@garfield-twp.com	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?  
If yes, please describe change(s).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

**SITE QUALITY**

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

A portion of this property is considered part of Boardman Valley Nature Preserve and the other portion is part of River East Recreation Area. Photos of both signs are included.

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

Parks Stewards have worked with volunteers (e.g., Boardman River Clean Sweep) & property owners to clean up encampments. Vandalism may also be cause of plaque being misplaced.

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Appendix

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

Regular ongoing maintenance of parkland is part of the duties of the Parks Stewards on Township Staff.

**GENERAL**

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

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

River East Recreation Area will have a pavilion available for rental. This pavilion is on the parcel acquired with assistance from MNRTF grant #TF13-118.

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

Year-round, daily from dawn to dusk.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

The portion behind Goodwill Inn is considered part of the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. The portion of the "Templeton" property is considered part of River East Recreation Area. Vandalism has been an issue, especially on the portion behind Goodwill Inn, with several areas seeing a high number of homeless encampments. The Parks Stewards have worked with several volunteers, including the Boardman River Clean Sweep group, to remove trash and clean up the park. Parks Stewards have also worked with neighboring property owners and local law enforcement officers to regularly monitor the area and to help prevent future vandalism in the park.

The Program Recognition plaque at this site was unable to be found. The picture included with this report is from 2014. The plaque may have been removed as part of the vandalism issue in the area.

**CERTIFICATION**

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

John Sych

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

11-30-2022

Date

Stephen Hannon

Please print



Witness Signature

11-30-2022

Date

Send completed report to:

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



Park Entry Sign:





**Program Recognition Plaque (picture from 2014):**

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

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

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

**GRANTEE:** Charter Township of Garfield

**PROJECT NUMBER:** TF11-109

**PROJECT TYPE:** Development

**PROJECT TITLE:** Historic Barns Park and Garden Development

**PROJECT SCOPE:** Accessible trails, picnic grove, interpretive center, & site amenities

**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Charter Township of Garfield	John Sych	Director of Planning
Address	Telephone	
3848 Veterans Drive	231-941-1620	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Traverse City, MI 49684	jsych@garfield-twp.com	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?  
If yes, please describe change(s).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

**SITE QUALITY**

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

## POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Appendix

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

The Historic Barns Park site is operated by the Joint Recreational Authority, which is responsible for maintenance.

### GENERAL

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

The Cathedral Barn and Botanic Gardens are available for rental for events, but otherwise the park is available free of charge.

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

Year-round availability; the Joint Recreational Authority maintains hours for this site.

### COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

The Historic Barns Park site is operated by the Joint Recreational Authority (Charter Township of Garfield and City of Traverse City Recreational Authority) which has its own staff. The park is adjacent to the Township's park, Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area.



**CERTIFICATION**

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

John Sych

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

11-30-2022

Date

Stephen Hannon

Please print



Witness Signature

11-30-2022

Date

Send completed report to:

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

**Park Entry Sign:**



**Program Recognition Plaque:**



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

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

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

**GRANTEE:** Charter Township of Garfield

**PROJECT NUMBER:** TF12-141

**PROJECT TYPE:** Development

**PROJECT TITLE:** Buffalo Ridge Trail Development

**PROJECT SCOPE:** Continuation of trail connecting west and southwest of Traverse City

**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Charter Township of Garfield	John Sych	Director of Planning
Address	Telephone	
3848 Veterans Drive	231-941-1620	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Traverse City, MI 49684	jsych@garfield-twp.com	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?  
If yes, please describe change(s).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

**SITE QUALITY**

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

## POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Appendix A

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

Regular ongoing maintenance of parkland is part of the duties of the Parks Stewards on Township Staff. Contractors are also used for some maintenance (e.g., snow clearing)

### GENERAL

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

Year-round, daily from dawn to dusk.

### COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

This project is part of the Buffalo Ridge Trail, which connects the Grand Traverse Commons, Traverse City West Middle School, and the YMCA West site. Future trail connections and extensions are envisioned to the Green Hill neighborhood and Silver Lake Recreation Area.



**CERTIFICATION**

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

John Sych

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

11-30-2022

Date

Stephen Hannon

Please print



Witness Signature

11-30-2022

Date

Send completed report to:

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

Program Recognition Plaque:



Park Entry Sign:



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

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

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

**GRANTEE:** Charter Township of Garfield

**PROJECT NUMBER:** TF13-118

**PROJECT TYPE:** Acquisition

**PROJECT TITLE:** Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Acquisition

**PROJECT SCOPE:** Acquisition of 30.5 acres for expansion of BVNP

**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Charter Township of Garfield	John Sych	Director of Planning
Address	Telephone	
3848 Veterans Drive	231-941-1620	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Traverse City, MI 49684	jsych@garfield-twp.com	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?  
If yes, please describe change(s).

☒ Yes ☐ No

The portion of this site in River East Recreation now has a pavilion and gravel parking area, and future projects will include a dog park and trail improvements.

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

**SITE QUALITY**

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

Parks Stewards have worked with volunteers (e.g., Boardman River Clean Sweep), property owners, and law enforcement officers to clean up encampments.

# POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Appendix

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

Regular ongoing maintenance of parkland is part of the duties of the Parks Stewards on Township Staff.

## GENERAL

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

River East Recreation Area will have a pavilion available for rental (\$20 for 4 hours & \$40 for all day for residents; \$35 for 4 hours & \$50 for all day for non-residents).

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

Year-round, daily from dawn to dusk.

## COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

The portion behind Verizon is considered part of the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. The portion of the "Templeton" property is considered part of River East Recreation Area. Vandalism has been an issue with several areas seeing a high number of homeless encampments. The Parks Stewards have worked with several volunteers, including the Boardman River Clean Sweep group, to remove trash and clean up the park. Parks Stewards have also worked with neighboring property owners and local law enforcement officers to regularly monitor the area and to help prevent future vandalism in the park. The pavilion will be available for rental according to the above fee structure, but the park is otherwise free to use for the general public.



**CERTIFICATION**

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

John Sych

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

11-30-2022

Date

Stephen Hannon

Please print



Witness Signature

11-30-2022

Date

Send completed report to:

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

Park Entry Sign:





## Program Recognition Plaque:



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

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

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

**GRANTEE:** Charter Township of Garfield

**PROJECT NUMBER:** TF15-0141

**PROJECT TYPE:** Development

**PROJECT TITLE:** Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Improvements

**PROJECT SCOPE:** Development to enhance public access & enjoyment of the park & river

**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
Charter Township of Garfield	John Sych	Director of Planning
Address	Telephone	
3848 Veterans Drive	231-941-1620	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Traverse City, MI 49684	jsych@garfield-twp.com	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?  
If yes, please describe change(s).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

**SITE QUALITY**

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No



## POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Appendix A

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

Regular ongoing maintenance of parkland is part of the duties of the Parks Stewards on Township Staff.

### GENERAL

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

Year-round, daily from dawn to dusk.

### COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Development project included a trailhead for the Boardman River Trail, serving both as a water trailhead and non-motorized trailhead. All improvements are universally accessible & include parking, paths, floating kayak dock/launch, picnic pavilion, changing building and modern vault restroom, interpretive signs and trail maps, and pickleball courts.

**CERTIFICATION**

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

John Sych

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

11-30-2022

Date

Stephen Hannon

Please print



Witness Signature

11-30-2022

Date

Send completed report to:

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

Park Entry Sign:

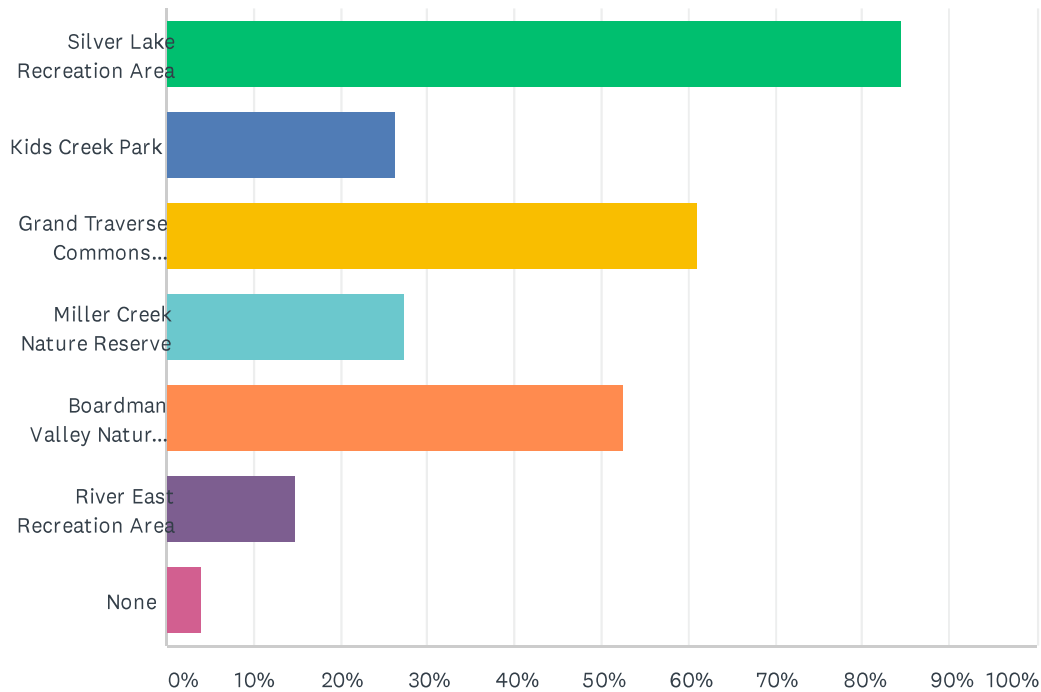


Program Recognition Plaque:



## Q1 Which of the following Garfield Township parks have you visited within the past year (see map below, and check all that apply)?

Answered: 175 Skipped: 0

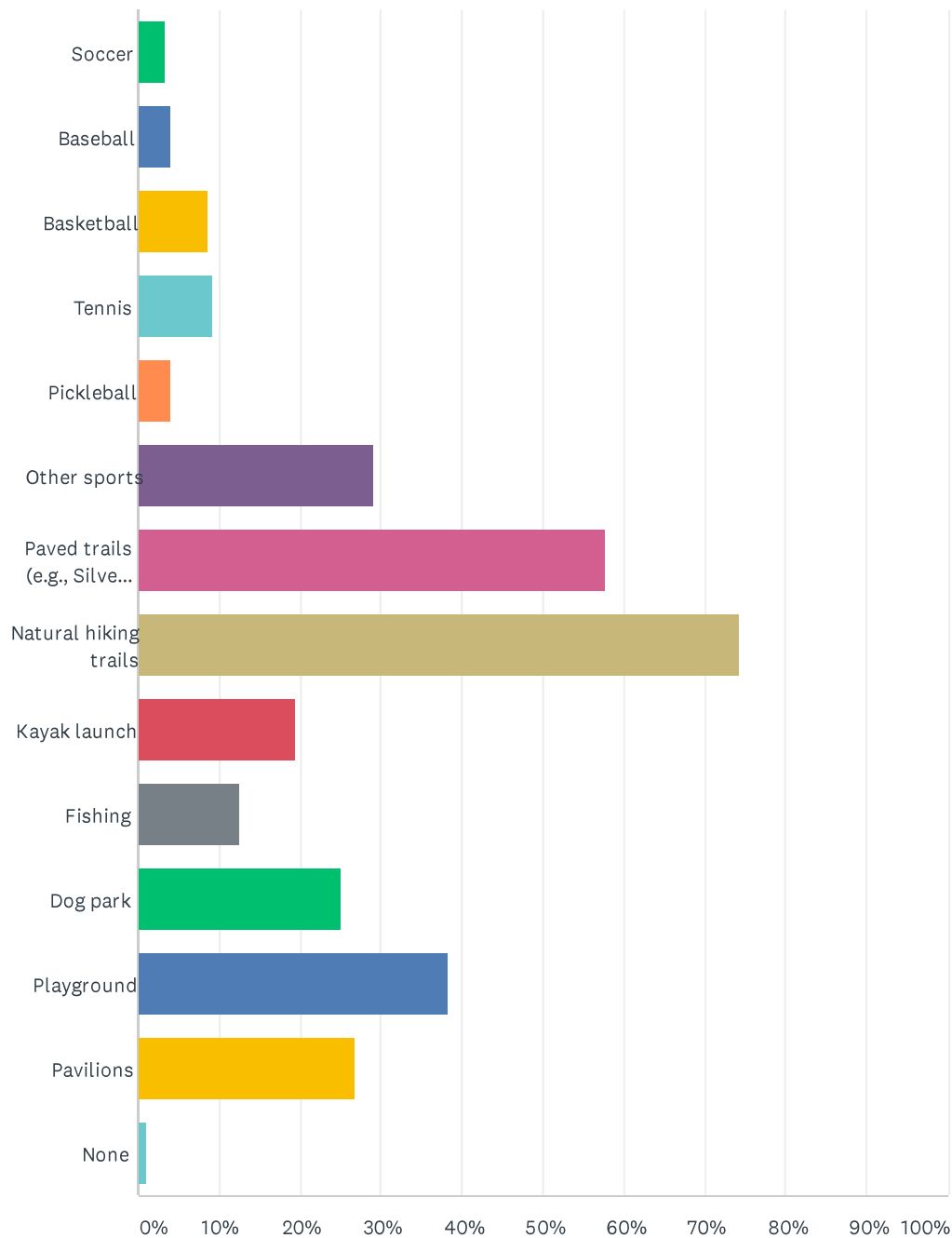


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Silver Lake Recreation Area	84.57%	148
Kids Creek Park	26.29%	46
Grand Traverse Commons Recreation Area	61.14%	107
Miller Creek Nature Reserve	27.43%	48
Boardman Valley Nature Preserve	52.57%	92
River East Recreation Area	14.86%	26
None	4.00%	7
Total Respondents: 175		



## Q2 What amenities do you use most often when you visit one of the Township parks (check all that apply)?

Answered: 175 Skipped: 0



# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

## Appendix B

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Soccer	3.43%	6
Baseball	4.00%	7
Basketball	8.57%	15
Tennis	9.14%	16
Pickleball	4.00%	7
Other sports	29.14%	51
Paved trails (e.g., Silver Lake Recreation Area)	57.71%	101
Natural hiking trails	74.29%	130
Kayak launch	19.43%	34
Fishing	12.57%	22
Dog park	25.14%	44
Playground	38.29%	67
Pavilions	26.86%	47
None	1.14%	2
Total Respondents: 175		

## Q3 What is one thing you like the most about the Township parks?

Answered: 153    Skipped: 22

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	When there toilets available I can use with my children and a changing table...and well manicured paths to take my 5.5 y/o and 22 month old on.	7/24/2021 2:05 PM
2	accessibility and cleanliness	7/23/2021 12:49 PM
3	they are clean and we love the paved trails	7/21/2021 1:26 PM
4	Great trail network	7/20/2021 8:58 PM
5	Disc golf	7/18/2021 2:20 PM
6	Preserved open spaces and natural areas for recreation	7/17/2021 1:21 PM
7	It is absolutely beautiful	7/16/2021 9:18 PM
8	accessibility	7/16/2021 8:46 PM
9	Well kept	7/16/2021 2:52 PM
10	Dog friendly, poop bags and trash cans available	7/16/2021 2:37 PM
11	Disc golf	7/16/2021 2:31 PM
12	the cleanliness and ease of access	7/16/2021 11:48 AM
13	If I had to choose it would be the trails and the pond.	7/16/2021 11:20 AM
14	Well Maintained	7/16/2021 10:21 AM
15	Trail and added disc golf baskets	7/16/2021 10:09 AM
16	Open space, clean, design , clean and safe bath rooms	7/16/2021 9:54 AM
17	Disc Golf	7/16/2021 9:17 AM
18	Cleanliness	7/16/2021 9:05 AM
19	The grass is nice and cut.	7/16/2021 8:54 AM
20	Clean and close distance to home	7/16/2021 8:05 AM
21	Something for everyone	7/16/2021 8:02 AM
22	Dog park	7/16/2021 7:45 AM
23	The playgrounds	7/16/2021 12:42 AM
24	Place for kids to play	7/15/2021 11:35 PM
25	Hiking	7/15/2021 10:29 PM
26	I love the walking trail and pavilions as well as the playground at silver lake. Hiking trails at commons.	7/15/2021 7:26 PM
27	Locations	7/15/2021 6:46 PM
28	shade by the playground, places to sit, and nice bathrooms like at silver lake rec. (i'd consider those nice)	7/15/2021 5:31 PM
29	Trails	7/15/2021 5:29 PM
30	Large enough areas for people to spread out	7/15/2021 5:27 PM
31	ease of access and cleanliness	7/15/2021 4:39 PM

# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

## Appendix B

32	Well maintained	7/15/2021 3:36 PM
33	Playground	7/15/2021 3:27 PM
34	Size	7/15/2021 2:18 PM
35	Well maintained	7/15/2021 1:52 PM
36	Playgrounds for all ages	7/15/2021 1:20 PM
37	Natural settings. Playgrounds for my kids. Hiking trails that are well maintained and easily accessible.	7/15/2021 1:18 PM
38	Love the trails along the river	7/15/2021 1:09 PM
39	The wide variety and topography that is available	7/15/2021 12:42 PM
40	Size	7/15/2021 12:18 PM
41	Clean and cared for.	7/15/2021 12:10 PM
42	They have alpt of space to have fun	7/15/2021 12:00 PM
43	silver lakes disc golf course	7/15/2021 11:57 AM
44	I like that they are generally clean and well maintained.	7/15/2021 11:49 AM
45	Clean, family friendly	7/15/2021 11:47 AM
46	Disc golf	7/15/2021 11:40 AM
47	Location and cleanliness	7/15/2021 11:35 AM
48	Multi-use trails! Plus the dog park at silver lake	7/15/2021 11:25 AM
49	Trails.	7/15/2021 10:58 AM
50	Overall good condition	7/15/2021 10:45 AM
51	It's a park	7/15/2021 10:36 AM
52	Access is great	7/15/2021 10:29 AM
53	Clean	7/15/2021 10:28 AM
54	the protection of the Boardman River	7/15/2021 10:04 AM
55	Clean, nice	7/15/2021 9:51 AM
56	The large playground and fields at Silver Lake park	7/15/2021 9:26 AM
57	Disc golf!	7/15/2021 9:18 AM
58	Walking trails	7/15/2021 9:17 AM
59	Paved trails	7/15/2021 9:16 AM
60	We love Hickory Meadows!!	7/15/2021 9:16 AM
61	The easy access.	7/15/2021 9:14 AM
62	Well maintained	7/15/2021 9:05 AM
63	Dog parks and playground at the same park.	7/15/2021 9:03 AM
64	Clean	7/15/2021 9:00 AM
65	Open spaces and natural areas	7/15/2021 8:59 AM
66	Playing rugby	7/15/2021 8:44 AM
67	Good walking trails	7/15/2021 8:44 AM
68	Family outdoor activities	7/15/2021 8:41 AM
69	Locations & trails	7/15/2021 8:30 AM



# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

## Appendix B

70	The trails	7/15/2021 8:26 AM
71	We'll maintained, easy access	7/15/2021 8:23 AM
72	Provides outdoor space to walk (& bike in some parks) away from traffic	7/15/2021 8:09 AM
73	All the things available to the user. Green- it's a beautiful park to walk.	7/15/2021 8:08 AM
74	There is a disc golf course	7/15/2021 8:08 AM
75	Nature	7/15/2021 8:05 AM
76	Clean. Well marked trails. Safety.	7/15/2021 8:01 AM
77	That they are available to be used.	7/15/2021 7:28 AM
78	The proximity to home	7/15/2021 7:12 AM
79	Accessibility and typical cleanliness of trails	7/15/2021 7:07 AM
80	Size, beauty, hiking trail, walking path	7/15/2021 6:58 AM
81	Variety of options	7/15/2021 6:55 AM
82	Convenient	7/15/2021 6:25 AM
83	I love Silver Lake Rec	7/15/2021 6:11 AM
84	Hiking trails	7/15/2021 3:54 AM
85	Walking trails	7/15/2021 2:40 AM
86	Layout, trails and ease of access	7/15/2021 1:21 AM
87	Natural hiking trails	7/15/2021 1:21 AM
88	Cleanliness	7/15/2021 1:14 AM
89	I like the nature reserves and walking trails.	7/15/2021 12:10 AM
90	Tables & pavilions	7/15/2021 12:10 AM
91	Hiking Trails	7/15/2021 12:09 AM
92	Great playgrounds and hiking	7/14/2021 11:38 PM
93	Flat green space	7/14/2021 11:02 PM
94	The disc golf course	7/14/2021 10:24 PM
95	The cleanliness	7/14/2021 10:18 PM
96	Clean and safe	7/14/2021 10:15 PM
97	Trails at the Commons	7/14/2021 10:11 PM
98	Hiking trails	7/14/2021 10:03 PM
99	Clean	7/14/2021 9:52 PM
100	Nature close to town	7/14/2021 9:46 PM
101	Great spots for outdoor recreation and potential for good disc golf courses	7/14/2021 9:20 PM
102	trails and pavement for exercise	7/14/2021 9:05 PM
103	Trails, dog park, great snowshoeing, paved running, cleanliness. Just great parks!	7/14/2021 8:58 PM
104	Location	7/14/2021 8:35 PM
105	Disc golf!	7/14/2021 8:32 PM
106	Close to our home, we can walk there.	7/14/2021 8:31 PM
107	Walking trails that are safe	7/14/2021 8:28 PM

# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

## Appendix B

108	Cleanliness	7/14/2021 8:22 PM
109	All of the options and amenities	7/14/2021 8:20 PM
110	Paved trails for walking/running/skating	7/14/2021 8:20 PM
111	Accessibility	7/14/2021 8:18 PM
112	Currently have not visited yet	7/14/2021 8:17 PM
113	Updates disc golf	7/14/2021 8:15 PM
114	Family fun	7/14/2021 8:14 PM
115	The hiking trails are fairly nicely kept up	7/14/2021 7:59 PM
116	Disc golf course	7/14/2021 7:54 PM
117	The trails	7/14/2021 7:27 PM
118	Outdoors and the fresh air	7/14/2021 7:15 PM
119	Trash cans and hiking areas	7/14/2021 7:11 PM
120	Amazing response time!! I recently within the past year have noticed wooden trails over wetlands damaged by fallen trees. The township is AMAZING at responding fast - always the very next day!! There's a lot of negative views towards government, but the township consistently gets it right. That's not just sounds policy, but speaks volumes to the men and women who serve this township's parks. They clearly step up and work hard to make the parks what they are, particularly the hiking trails, and I can't say enough about how their upkeep and appearance makes them the amazing parks they are.	7/14/2021 7:09 PM
121	Hiking trail	7/14/2021 7:07 PM
122	Disc golf	7/14/2021 7:01 PM
123	Playground for kids	7/14/2021 6:42 PM
124	Nature	7/14/2021 6:15 PM
125	Space, cleanliness	7/14/2021 5:58 PM
126	proximity to my home.	7/14/2021 4:58 PM
127	easy access	7/14/2021 4:42 PM
128	Location	7/14/2021 4:36 PM
129	Clean and dog friendly	7/14/2021 4:14 PM
130	Hiking/walking/water scapes	7/14/2021 3:45 PM
131	location	7/14/2021 3:45 PM
132	Quiet	7/14/2021 3:45 PM
133	How well they are taken care of	7/14/2021 3:38 PM
134	Mountain biking	7/14/2021 11:35 AM
135	Cleanliness	7/14/2021 2:03 AM
136	The Commons quiet beauty	7/13/2021 11:06 PM
137	Trails	7/13/2021 10:23 PM
138	Hiking trails and multi use trails. Dog park	7/13/2021 10:08 PM
139	Hiking, walking, biking in a safe area	7/13/2021 10:04 PM
140	Diversity of playgrounds, working drinking fountains, nice bathroom, maintained asphalt and trails.	7/13/2021 9:03 PM
141	Dog friendly/restrooms/water	7/13/2021 6:55 PM

# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

## Appendix B

142	Great scenery and close to home	7/13/2021 6:51 PM
143	The walking trails and that Silver Lake Recreation Area is well attended so I never feel unsafe going there alone	7/11/2021 10:00 PM
144	Well maintained.	7/11/2021 1:41 PM
145	Love the uninterrupted paved trail to walk without concern.	7/10/2021 7:03 PM
146	Having them to walk in and exercise in	7/9/2021 10:54 AM
147	Feeling of being rural but near amenities	7/8/2021 1:34 PM
148	Accessibility	7/8/2021 10:28 AM
149	Variety	7/6/2021 4:54 PM
150	The trails are well cared for. I think all our parks are great. We hike with our dog every day. Kudo's to parks n rec for a job well done!	7/5/2021 5:22 PM
151	Great for dog walking, convenient to where I live, they are beautiful	7/5/2021 12:09 PM
152	Large parcels away from traffic	7/3/2021 9:22 AM
153	Convenience of access; cleanliness	7/2/2021 6:21 PM

## Q4 What is one thing you would most like to see added to the Township parks?

Answered: 150    Skipped: 25

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The Zipline toy at the Civic center is a favorite...it would be amazing at a park closer!	7/24/2021 2:05 PM
2	online reservation calendar to see what dates/times are available	7/23/2021 12:49 PM
3	waterfront beach that we all know is there, but we are unable to access from the park, and it needs to be cleaned up.	7/21/2021 1:26 PM
4	Dedicated and maintained mountain bike trails, including beginner trails	7/20/2021 8:58 PM
5	Disc golf	7/18/2021 2:20 PM
6	Mountain bike trails, or at least bike park features like pump tracks	7/17/2021 1:21 PM
7	Kayak launch	7/16/2021 9:18 PM
8	Disc Golf Course	7/16/2021 9:17 PM
9	Frisbee golf	7/16/2021 8:46 PM
10	Better beach access at Silver Lake	7/16/2021 2:52 PM
11	Shade structures	7/16/2021 2:37 PM
12	Disc golf	7/16/2021 2:31 PM
13	more benches to sit down	7/16/2021 11:48 AM
14	Maybe more seating or picnic tables would be super nice around the pond area and in the trails.	7/16/2021 11:20 AM
15	Disc Golf Courses	7/16/2021 10:21 AM
16	Disc golf baskets	7/16/2021 10:09 AM
17	More benches to sit on the trails	7/16/2021 9:54 AM
18	Disc Golf	7/16/2021 9:17 AM
19	Parking	7/16/2021 9:05 AM
20	More pavilions with seating and better bathrooms.	7/16/2021 8:54 AM
21	Public beach on Silver lake	7/16/2021 8:05 AM
22	Beach swim area	7/16/2021 8:02 AM
23	More places to fish!	7/16/2021 12:42 AM
24	More play structures and covered pavilions	7/15/2021 11:35 PM
25	Better trail maps	7/15/2021 10:29 PM
26	It'd be cool to see some of that outdoor gym equipment. Likes. Playground for working out	7/15/2021 9:14 PM
27	I would like to see power in the pavilions. Better marked trails on the commons last time it was very hard to navigate what was the trail and what was trails bikers had made.	7/15/2021 7:26 PM
28	Splash pads	7/15/2021 6:46 PM
29	natural playscapes, more shade by playgrounds, bathrooms	7/15/2021 5:31 PM
30	Disc golf	7/15/2021 5:29 PM



# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

## Appendix B

31	Disc golf courses/baskets. Blair township park is a great example of how a disc golf course can co-exist within a Township park	7/15/2021 5:27 PM
32	nothing	7/15/2021 4:39 PM
33	Interpretive trails for kids	7/15/2021 3:36 PM
34	Restrooms	7/15/2021 3:27 PM
35	Another bathroom	7/15/2021 2:18 PM
36	Frisbee golf courses	7/15/2021 2:17 PM
37	Mulch or gravel at the Silver Lake playground, it gets terribly muddy to the point of being unusable	7/15/2021 1:52 PM
38	Year round accessible bathrooms at some. More playground equipment at others. More shaded area by silver lake playground.	7/15/2021 1:18 PM
39	A kayak take out for people who ride the boardman after bietner	7/15/2021 1:09 PM
40	More educational resources	7/15/2021 12:42 PM
41	Mountain bike trails	7/15/2021 12:18 PM
42	More benches on the trails	7/15/2021 12:10 PM
43	Silver lake park could have a drone flying area, and the commons could put more benches on the trail	7/15/2021 12:00 PM
44	a better disc golf course	7/15/2021 11:57 AM
45	Fitness obstacles (pull up bar, sit up station, balance objects, etc.) around walking paths would be fun, as well as an opportunity to vary & increase fitness.	7/15/2021 11:49 AM
46	Disc golf opportunity.	7/15/2021 11:47 AM
47	Disc golf please	7/15/2021 11:40 AM
48	Ice skating rink and sledding hills	7/15/2021 11:35 AM
49	More dog parks!	7/15/2021 11:25 AM
50	Disc golf.	7/15/2021 10:58 AM
51	rest areas in shade areas	7/15/2021 10:45 AM
52	Rest rooms that can actually be used and cleaned. More pavilions, BBQ, water stations.	7/15/2021 10:36 AM
53	Clean up the area around the playground. It's very muddy and needs new wood chips or rubber, and a border with the grass	7/15/2021 10:29 AM
54	Great park	7/15/2021 10:28 AM
55	More paved trails	7/15/2021 10:23 AM
56	DiscGolf courses	7/15/2021 10:05 AM
57	Permanent protection of the Boardman River and prohibition of new road crossings over the river.	7/15/2021 10:04 AM
58	Disc golf courses / updated	7/15/2021 9:51 AM
59	Repair/upgrade the disc golf course at Silver Lake	7/15/2021 9:26 AM
60	Disc golf!	7/15/2021 9:18 AM
61	Lighting at Garfield Township Park	7/15/2021 9:17 AM
62	More paved trails	7/15/2021 9:16 AM
63	none	7/15/2021 9:16 AM
64	Improvement on the disc golf course at Silver Lake. I love practicing there, but it needs love	7/15/2021 9:14 AM

# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

## Appendix B

on the trails and paths and nets.

65	Sledding hills without obstructions. i.e. trees/bushes	7/15/2021 9:03 AM
66	Nothing	7/15/2021 9:00 AM
67	More restrooms and/or toilets	7/15/2021 8:59 AM
68	Disc golf course	7/15/2021 8:44 AM
69	mountain biking options; disc golf	7/15/2021 8:41 AM
70	Information about trail loops and history of area	7/15/2021 8:30 AM
71	Groomed XC ski trails in winter	7/15/2021 8:23 AM
72	Bathroom facilities at trailhead.	7/15/2021 8:09 AM
73	More enforcement of the non leashed dog offenders.	7/15/2021 8:08 AM
74	More disc golf, upkeep on the courses.	7/15/2021 8:08 AM
75	A climbing boulder.	7/15/2021 8:05 AM
76	Disc Golf Courses. Very fast growing sport for ALL ages!!	7/15/2021 8:01 AM
77	Trash cans, water fountains, dog areas	7/15/2021 7:55 AM
78	Disc golf at silver lake. There are some kind of baskets, but not a real course.	7/15/2021 7:28 AM
79	Kids Creek Park- Bathrooms and a designated parking area closer to the pond with better signage. Most people don't know the park is there. More frequent stocking of trout in pond. Very few fish there. This pond is very beautiful and should be a place to introduce kids and others to fishing.	7/15/2021 7:26 AM
80	DISC GOLF	7/15/2021 7:12 AM
81	More benches/picnic tables. Currently one bench and one picnic table.	7/15/2021 7:09 AM
82	None	7/15/2021 6:58 AM
83	Bathrooms	7/15/2021 6:55 AM
84	Improve disc golf at silver lake	7/15/2021 6:25 AM
85	Fence around basketball court with windbreak	7/15/2021 6:11 AM
86	Another Bank with Multi-million dollar homes.	7/15/2021 4:24 AM
87	Disc golf	7/15/2021 3:54 AM
88	Respect for the parks	7/15/2021 2:40 AM
89	A water feature for dogs to play and romp in on hot days. Not alot of dog friendly beaches in chums corners	7/15/2021 1:21 AM
90	More paved walking trails	7/15/2021 1:21 AM
91	I would love to see the DiscGolf course at silver lake park revised.	7/15/2021 12:10 AM
92	A new disc golf course in the GT commons area or river east area would be nice.	7/15/2021 12:09 AM
93	Disc golf	7/14/2021 11:38 PM
94	More multipurpose fields. Particularly lacrosse field in the spring	7/14/2021 11:02 PM
95	Better disc golf equipment	7/14/2021 10:24 PM
96	I would like to see the tart trail extended to silver lake park	7/14/2021 10:18 PM
97	More disc golf	7/14/2021 10:15 PM
98	Kayak launch at Silver Lake	7/14/2021 10:11 PM
99	Disc golf	7/14/2021 9:52 PM

# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

## Appendix B

100	Disc golf	7/14/2021 9:46 PM
101	Disc golf	7/14/2021 9:45 PM
102	More disc golf courses	7/14/2021 9:20 PM
103	Beach front.	7/14/2021 8:58 PM
104	more landscaping , ex: trees around walking path	7/14/2021 8:35 PM
105	More integrated spaces (disc golf with parks, hiking trails, bathrooms etc...)	7/14/2021 8:32 PM
106	More climbing structures-ninja style in playground	7/14/2021 8:31 PM
107	More walking paths	7/14/2021 8:28 PM
108	Disc Golf!	7/14/2021 8:27 PM
109	Fishing docks	7/14/2021 8:20 PM
110	Improved Disc Golf course	7/14/2021 8:20 PM
111	Disc golf courses	7/14/2021 8:18 PM
112	Disc golf	7/14/2021 8:15 PM
113	Fire pits/family bonfires.	7/14/2021 8:14 PM
114	Shade for the tennis and basketball courts and shade for the playground at Silver Lake Park	7/14/2021 7:59 PM
115	Need disc golf courses	7/14/2021 7:54 PM
116	Disc golf	7/14/2021 7:30 PM
117	Mountain Bike Trails	7/14/2021 7:27 PM
118	Disc golf amenities	7/14/2021 7:15 PM
119	More playground equipment	7/14/2021 7:11 PM
120	Future connector trail currently listed on map needs to be completed. This will be a HUGE improvement, as it provides greater accessibility to the boardman River.	7/14/2021 7:09 PM
121	More dog parks, fishing	7/14/2021 7:07 PM
122	Disc golf	7/14/2021 7:01 PM
123	Natural hiking trails	7/14/2021 6:42 PM
124	More hiking trail locations, water access.	7/14/2021 4:58 PM
125	Ice skating rink in the winter	7/14/2021 4:48 PM
126	Swimming pool	7/14/2021 4:42 PM
127	The trails need to be trimmed. The trails could be wider	7/14/2021 4:36 PM
128	Restroom options - some don't have porta-potties	7/14/2021 4:14 PM
129	More trash cans	7/14/2021 3:45 PM
130	Disc golf	7/14/2021 3:45 PM
131	Better trail signs in the Commons	7/14/2021 3:45 PM
132	Paved trails connecting them	7/14/2021 11:35 AM
133	Trail signs	7/14/2021 6:47 AM
134	No smoking enforced	7/14/2021 2:03 AM
135	Doggy bags and trash can. See too many bags lying on trails.	7/13/2021 11:06 PM
136	Lighting	7/13/2021 10:23 PM
137	Sidewalks to connect Silver lake park the commons to Buffalo ridge trail up to Silver lake	7/13/2021 10:08 PM

# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

## Appendix B

138	More hiking trails and a bike path that connects to the tart trail	7/13/2021 10:04 PM
139	More slides and playground equipment for kids to climb on and hide in. Check out whiting forest playground in midland MI	7/13/2021 9:03 PM
140	Another dog park on the east side of the township? I think 1 is in the works?	7/13/2021 6:55 PM
141	More dog waste stations	7/13/2021 6:51 PM
142	It might be nice to have a splash pad at Silver Lake over by the children's slides and swings	7/11/2021 10:00 PM
143	Splash pad - water park for kids.	7/11/2021 1:41 PM
144	Nothing! They are great the way they are.	7/10/2021 7:03 PM
145	Nothing	7/9/2021 10:54 AM
146	Skatepark/pump track	7/8/2021 1:34 PM
147	Ice skating trail similar to one in Muskegon	7/6/2021 4:54 PM
148	Maybe a little better signage in some areas but really they are great just the way they are	7/5/2021 12:09 PM
149	A thoughtfully designed sustainable mountain bike trail at the common and Hickory meadows/hills	7/3/2021 9:22 AM
150	Silver Lake Rec Area - more shade around paved path	7/2/2021 6:21 PM



## Q5 What is one thing you would most like to see changed about the Township parks?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 61

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	More bathroom facilities like the silver lake one.	7/24/2021 2:05 PM
2	more parking	7/23/2021 12:49 PM
3	access to Silver Lake via the beach that is supposed to be there for everyone to use.	7/21/2021 1:26 PM
4	More communication with key user groups regarding trail sustainability and usage is greatly needed. This is so evident at the Commons where I hike often. The downhill mountain bikers get a bad rap about building trails (which is wrong and some are erosion problems) but many of them are well done and sustainable and needed to meet demand and separate riders from hikers. The rider groups (Norte, NMMBA, etc.) are ready to partner and build sustainable trails for all levels. Partner with them ASAP and embrace the usage in a positive way to keep both user groups safe and happy. If you don't want riders in there, why is Norte allowed to have camps there and ride unmarked trails? Other user groups such as Human Nature School, Greenspire, etc. need to be involved too. Kids Creek and the area that surrounds it and the adjacent hillside behind Greenspire has been damaged almost beyond repair and is now a sad place to stop. Greenspire students primarily have overrun the area, messed with the creek flow and damaged the ground cover and trees in that area. They are usually unsupervised when I pass by. Why has this not been addressed? Why are they not using their STEM/nature based, hands on curriculum to repair and sustain the trails? Why are there not cameras near the Hippie Tree and signage asking people to stop tagging everthing on and near it, living and dead with spray paint? Why is Life & Whimsy (the organizers of the fairy trail) not held accountable or more proactive in removing the non-native and not natural materials (aka ocean shells, plastic toys, fake flowers, painted wood and rocks , glue, etc.) found on the Fariy Trails? If it isn't assembled with all biogradable, natural materials or place and removed the day of their annual event, it should not be there. It is litter on the forest floor. The Commons and other trails in the GT Township network are getting overused and need reroutes or basic maintenace for life long use. I know, we need a lot of money to make that happen, but my grievenaces about theimpact of partner user groups should have been addressed eons ago before so much costly damage was done.	7/20/2021 8:58 PM
5	More disc golf	7/18/2021 2:20 PM
6	More trails, safe connections to other nearby parks, and no need to drive between them.	7/17/2021 1:21 PM
7	Too many dogs are not on leashes. I know that's hard to control but it had been a problem several times when a dog runs up to my leashed dog	7/16/2021 9:18 PM
8	More up keep	7/16/2021 8:46 PM
9	Get the hobos out.	7/16/2021 2:52 PM
10	nothing, thanks!	7/16/2021 11:48 AM
11	I wish the paved walkway was snowblowed in the winter.	7/16/2021 11:20 AM
12	renovation of the Silver Lake Park Disc golf course. It just needs to be updated. Existing course is already there	7/16/2021 10:21 AM
13	More disc golf	7/16/2021 10:09 AM
14	More Disc Golf	7/16/2021 9:17 AM
15	Better bathrooms more pavilions	7/16/2021 8:54 AM
16	Expansion	7/16/2021 8:05 AM
17	Nothing	7/16/2021 8:02 AM

# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

## Appendix B

18	More places to fish from shore	7/16/2021 12:42 AM
19	More kid friendly and better parking	7/15/2021 11:35 PM
20	More bathrooms	7/15/2021 9:14 PM
21	More water-related activities	7/15/2021 6:46 PM
22	Natural playscapes to include more kids, people	7/15/2021 5:31 PM
23	Improved disc gold course at silver lake park	7/15/2021 5:27 PM
24	nothing	7/15/2021 4:39 PM
25	None	7/15/2021 3:36 PM
26	Trash pickup more frequently	7/15/2021 2:18 PM
27	Add a take out point for river sports	7/15/2021 1:09 PM
28	To have more outreach to all neighboring communities	7/15/2021 12:42 PM
29	More trails paved and unpaved	7/15/2021 12:18 PM
30	Shade trees on trails	7/15/2021 12:10 PM
31	Silver lake needs to change their play structure for a newer and more fun one with more things to play on, and nothing really needs to be change at the commons	7/15/2021 12:00 PM
32	the disc golf course to be upgraded. thanks.	7/15/2021 11:57 AM
33	It would be nice if baseball crowds cleaned up after themselves.	7/15/2021 11:49 AM
34	Silver lake needs garbage cans near pavilions.	7/15/2021 11:47 AM
35	Disc golf please please	7/15/2021 11:40 AM
36	All good	7/15/2021 11:35 AM
37	Longer connected Trailway systems	7/15/2021 11:25 AM
38	More Disc golf.	7/15/2021 10:58 AM
39	No special item	7/15/2021 10:45 AM
40	Enforced rules on pet owners to cleanup their poop	7/15/2021 10:36 AM
41	See above	7/15/2021 10:29 AM
42	Well maintained	7/15/2021 10:28 AM
43	Updated disc golf parks	7/15/2021 9:51 AM
44	Repair/upgrade the disc golf course at Silver Lake.	7/15/2021 9:26 AM
45	Improve Disc golf course at Silver Lake!	7/15/2021 9:18 AM
46	More waste bins and recycling options along with cleaner bathrooms	7/15/2021 9:14 AM
47	The small tree removed/transplanted from the bottom of the hill that kids use for sledding at Silver Lake Park.	7/15/2021 9:03 AM
48	Security cameras	7/15/2021 9:00 AM
49	Nothing	7/15/2021 8:44 AM
50	Better signage for trails	7/15/2021 8:41 AM
51	Community events	7/15/2021 8:30 AM
52	Enforcement of dogs on leash and littering.	7/15/2021 8:09 AM
53	Silver lake park - has been taken over by dogs. On one walk I had 4 encounters with un-leashed dogs on walking trail.	7/15/2021 8:08 AM

# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

## Appendix B

54	Inclusion of natural artwork and native wildflowers	7/15/2021 8:05 AM
55	I'm sure there are ideas out there. I'm drawing a blank at the moment. :)	7/15/2021 8:01 AM
56	More areas for off leash dog walking, in particular I see bikers and x-country skiers trying to keep there dogs on leash and that is just a recipe for disaster. We are a tourist area and people bring there dogs we need to accommodate.	7/15/2021 7:55 AM
57	Let the whole township approve or deny something. I'm pretty sure it was a board member who stoped the last disc golf development. The people wanted it, but she did not. I think she lived near by.	7/15/2021 7:28 AM
58	Kids Creek Park needs the most attention.	7/15/2021 7:26 AM
59	Disc golf	7/15/2021 7:12 AM
60	I would like to see the disc golf baskets changed out for new ones at the Silver Lake Recreational park	7/15/2021 7:07 AM
61	None	7/15/2021 6:58 AM
62	Improved disc golf baskets/course	7/15/2021 6:25 AM
63	A tow bridge over hidden lake could be cool	7/15/2021 6:11 AM
64	More like Chicago where I grew up.	7/15/2021 4:24 AM
65	Make tourists pay to use our parks	7/15/2021 2:40 AM
66	Not sure	7/15/2021 1:21 AM
67	Additional access points	7/15/2021 1:21 AM
68	I would like to see the disc golf course at the silver lake park revised because it's not on the same level as others and could use new baskets.	7/15/2021 12:10 AM
69	I'd like to see the disc golf course a the Silver Lake park be updated. It's an okay course layout, which could use some improvement, but the baskets/targets are the primary issue here (and why this course gets so little play from locals). These weird custom made baskets are awkward in both look and function. In my opinion, simply replacing these with modern manufactured baskets would make the course 70% more playable.	7/15/2021 12:09 AM
70	cleaner bathrooms	7/15/2021 12:04 AM
71	Add disc golf	7/14/2021 11:38 PM
72	More multipurpose green space for other sports that are rising in popularity like rugby and lacrosse. Parks seem to not be open to renting to groups for those uses, but fields are rarely used in the spring.	7/14/2021 11:02 PM
73	Improve the disc golf course	7/14/2021 10:24 PM
74	Fix disc golf course at silver lake park	7/14/2021 10:15 PM
75	More trash cans	7/14/2021 9:52 PM
76	Disc golf course improvements	7/14/2021 9:20 PM
77	I think you're doing a great job!	7/14/2021 8:58 PM
78	More ninja type equipment for older children	7/14/2021 8:35 PM
79	The shrubs and trees planted by the fire station in Silver Lake Park are either a bad plan or a bad execution. Trees planted under power lines and a rectangle of shrubs that maybe should have shielded the perimeter of the parking lot. This corner needs help.	7/14/2021 8:31 PM
80	More picnic and grilling areas	7/14/2021 8:28 PM
81	NA	7/14/2021 8:20 PM
82	Updated disc golf course! I am looking at moving to the traverse area and try to play daily. This sport is growing quickly and can bring hundreds of people to the area with some good	7/14/2021 8:17 PM

# Garfield Township 2021 Parks User Survey

Appendix B

courses around. Greg argyle with Aloft disc golf is a great guy and would be an awesome contact about more info!

83	Updated disc golf and softball fields	7/14/2021 8:15 PM
84	One of the decks at the Boardman Nature Preserve is old rickety and scary. Should be taken down and redone.	7/14/2021 7:59 PM
85	Need/improve disc golf course	7/14/2021 7:54 PM
86	Enforce dog regulations	7/14/2021 7:27 PM
87	I think adding would be better not necessarily changing what we already have	7/14/2021 7:15 PM
88	Disc golf at silver lake	7/14/2021 7:11 PM
89	Nothing!	7/14/2021 7:09 PM
90	Bathrooms	7/14/2021 7:07 PM
91	Improve disc golf at silver lake	7/14/2021 7:01 PM
92	Garbage cans	7/14/2021 6:42 PM
93	homeless population makes some parks areas not desirable to visit.	7/14/2021 4:58 PM
94	less animals	7/14/2021 4:42 PM
95	No overnight parking! Several constant vehicles overnight. I would like better winter trail cleaning. This past winter was almost no existence.	7/14/2021 4:36 PM
96	Increasing park land in the area for increasing population	7/14/2021 3:45 PM
97	nothing	7/14/2021 3:45 PM
98	Planned development	7/14/2021 11:35 AM
99	Speed limits with mountain bikes	7/13/2021 11:06 PM
100	Improve LaFranier Loops	7/13/2021 10:23 PM
101	Bike path sidewalks to connect Silver lake park down the hill on Silver lake rd to the Buffalo ridge trail to connect us all to the commons and downtown	7/13/2021 10:08 PM
102	Bike path that connects to tart trail	7/13/2021 10:04 PM
103	Bathrooms open in winter as we visit playgrounds and run or ski all year round	7/13/2021 9:03 PM
104	it would be nice if the township had more walkable/bike paths to the parks	7/13/2021 6:55 PM
105	Improvements on trails in the Boardman Valley Nature reserve. Make trails for current river run.	7/13/2021 6:51 PM
106	Nothing, I love the wide open spaces without too much stuff	7/11/2021 10:00 PM
107	Excited to see River East evolve and what is in store for the Commons	7/11/2021 1:41 PM
108	Nothing	7/10/2021 7:03 PM
109	Nothing	7/9/2021 10:54 AM
110	Lack of enforcement of park rules such as dogs being leashed	7/8/2021 1:34 PM
111	Bike pathways!!	7/8/2021 10:28 AM
112	I wish we could stop the graffiti at the Commons, better signage in Miller Creek	7/5/2021 12:09 PM
113	The lack of water fountains	7/3/2021 9:22 AM
114	Enforcement of leash requirements.	7/2/2021 6:21 PM



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

Appendix C

**RESOLUTION# 2022-01-PR**

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING ADOPTION OF A FIVE-YEAR  
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Garfield has undertaken a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreational facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain park facilities during the period between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Garfield has developed the Plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the Plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was duly noticed and was held on December 5, 2022 to hear comments on the proposed Plan;

**WHEREAS**, the Township Parks and Recreation Commission having found that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been developed to a final form.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission does hereby recommend to the Township Board that it adopt the Charter Township of Garfield Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation for Township residents.

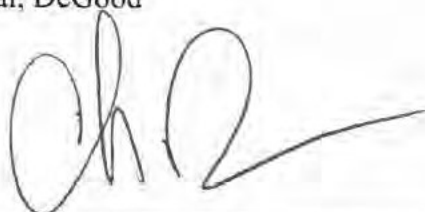
Moved: Chris Remy

Supported: Art Bukowski

Ayes: Remy, Bukowski, Hoort, Schmuckal, DeGood

Nays: None

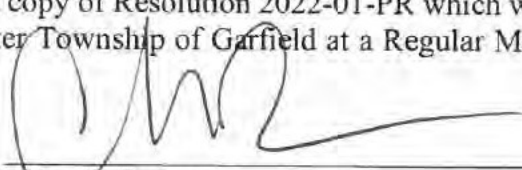
Absent and Excused: Spence, Fricke

By:   
Chris Remy, Secretary  
Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Chris Remy, Secretary of the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 2022-01-PR which was adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Charter Township of Garfield at a Regular Meeting on the 5th day of December, 2022.

Dated: 01/03/23

By:   
Chris Remy, Secretary  
Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission

T. C. RECORD-EAGLE, INC.  
120 WEST FRONT STREET  
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684  
(231) 946-2000  
Fax (231) 946-8273

Appendix D

ORDER CONFIRMATION

Salesperson: MEGAN O'BRIEN

Printed at 12/07/22 09:00 by mobri

-----  
Acct #: 5508

Ad #: 594888

Status: New

GARFIELD, TOWNSHIP OF  
3848 VETERANS DRIVE  
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684

Start: 12/11/2022 Stop: 12/11/2022  
Times Ord: 1 Times Run: \*\*\*  
STDAD 3.00 X 2.90 Words: 130  
Total STDAD 8.70  
Class: 147 LEGALS  
Rate: LEGAL Cost: 91.60  
# Affidavits: 1

Contact:

Phone: (231) 941-1620

Fax#: (231) 941-1588

Email: kleaver@garfield-twp.com as Created: mobri 12/07/22 08:38

Agency: Last Changed: mobri 12/07/22 09:00  
-----

PUB	ZONE	EDT	TP	START	INS	STOP	SMTWTFS
RE	A	97	W	Sun 12/11/22	1	Sun 12/11/22	SMTWTFS
IN	AIN	97	W	Sun 12/11/22	1	Sun 12/11/22	SMTWTFS

-----

AUTHORIZATION

Thank you for advertising in the Record-Eagle, our related publications and online properties. If you are advertising with the Record-Eagle classifieds, your ad will begin running on the start date noted above.

Please be sure to check your ad on the first day it appears. Although we are happy to make corrections at any time, the Record-Eagle is only responsible for the first day's incorrect insertions. Also, we reserve the right to edit or reclassify your ad to better serve buyers and sellers.

No refunds or rebates will be issued if you cancel your ad prior to the stop date.

We appreciate your business.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

T. C. RECORD-EAGLE, INC.  
120 WEST FRONT STREET  
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684  
(231) 946-2000  
Fax (231) 946-8273

Appendix D

ORDER CONFIRMATION (CONTINUED)

Salesperson: MEGAN O'BRIEN

Printed at 12/07/22 09:00 by mobri

-----  
Acct #: 5508

Ad #: 594888

Status: New

**LEGAL NOTICE**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD  
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE Garfield Township has prepared a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements.

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is available for review and comment for a one-month period ending January 10, 2022.

The Plan may be examined at the Garfield Township Planning Department office at the Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, Michigan, 49684 during the Township's regular hours of 7:30am to 6:00pm, Monday through Thursday and on the Township website at <http://www.garfield-twp.com/parks.asp>.

GARFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
(231) 941-1620

December 11, 2022-1T

594888

T. C. RECORD-EAGLE, INC.  
120 WEST FRONT STREET  
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684  
(231) 946-2000  
Fax (231) 946-8273

Appendix E

ORDER CONFIRMATION

Salesperson: MEGAN O'BRIEN

Printed at 12/15/22 10:09 by mobri

-----  
Acct #: 5508

Ad #: 595315

Status: New

GARFIELD, TOWNSHIP OF  
3848 VETERANS DRIVE  
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684

Start: 12/18/2022 Stop: 12/18/2022  
Times Ord: 1 Times Run: \*\*\*  
STDAD 3.00 X 4.54 Words: 313  
Total STDAD 13.62  
Class: 147 LEGALS  
Rate: LEGAL Cost: 147.20  
# Affidavits: 1

Contact:

Phone: (231) 941-1620

Fax#: (231) 941-1588

Email: kleaver@garfield-twp.com as Created: mobri 12/15/22 09:05

Agency: Last Changed: mobri 12/15/22 10:09  
-----

PUB	ZONE	EDT	TP	START	INS	STOP	SMTWTF
RE	A	97	W	Sun 12/18/22	1	Sun 12/18/22	SMTWTF
IN	AIN	97	W	Sun 12/18/22	1	Sun 12/18/22	SMTWTF

-----

AUTHORIZATION

Thank you for advertising in the Record-Eagle, our related publications and online properties. If you are advertising with the Record-Eagle classifieds, your ad will begin running on the start date noted above.

Please be sure to check your ad on the first day it appears. Although we are happy to make corrections at any time, the Record-Eagle is only responsible for the first day's incorrect insertions. Also, we reserve the right to edit or reclassify your ad to better serve buyers and sellers.

No refunds or rebates will be issued if you cancel your ad prior to the stop date.

We appreciate your business.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



T. C. RECORD-EAGLE, INC.  
120 WEST FRONT STREET  
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684  
(231) 946-2000  
Fax (231) 946-8273

Appendix E

ORDER CONFIRMATION (CONTINUED)

Salesperson: MEGAN O'BRIEN

Printed at 12/15/22 10:09 by mobri

-----  
Acct #: 5508

Ad #: 595315

Status: New

**LEGAL NOTICE**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TO ADOPT A NEW PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE Garfield Township has prepared a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements.

Notice is hereby given that the Garfield Township Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, Michigan, to hear comments on and consider adoption of the 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Also, please note a correction to the Garfield Township Legal Notice titled "Notice of Public Review Period Parks and Recreation Master Plan" published in the December 11, 2022 Record Eagle. The one-month period to review and comment on the Master Plan should have stated ending January 10, 2023, not 2022 as printed.

All interested persons are invited to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend, written comment may be submitted to the Garfield Township Board at the Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, Michigan, 49684, up to the date of the hearing and may be further received by the Township Board at said hearing. The Plan may be examined at the Garfield Township Planning Department office at the above address during the Township's regular hours of 7:30am to 6:00pm, Monday through Thursday and on the Township website at <http://www.garfield-twp.com/parks.asp>.

Garfield Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities upon the provision of reasonable advance notice to Garfield Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Garfield Township by writing or calling Lanie McManus, Clerk, Ph: (231) 941-1620.

**GARFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
(231) 941 -1620**

December 18, 2022-1T

595315

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD

## TOWN BOARD MEETING

### January 10, 2023

The Town Board Meeting was called to order at the Garfield Township Hall on January 10, 2023 at 6:00p.m.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **Roll Call of Board Members**

Present: Molly Agostinelli, Chris Barsheff, Steve Duell, Chuck Korn, Chloe Macomber, Lanie McManus and Denise Schmuckal.

Staff Present: Planning Director John Sych

#### **1. Public Comment (6:01)**

None

#### **2. Review and Approval of the Amended Agenda - Conflict of Interest (6:03)**

*Duell moved and Barsheff seconded to approve the amended agenda as presented.*

*Yeas: Duell, Barsheff, Agostinelli, Schmuckal, McManus, Macomber, Korn  
Nays: None*

#### **3. Consent Calendar (6:03)**

##### **a. Minutes**

December 13, 2022 Regular Board Meeting  
(Recommend Approval)

##### **b. Bills**

General Fund	\$199,588.11
(Recommend Approval)	

##### **c. MTT Update (Receive and File)**

##### **d. Veteran's Exemptions Report (Receive and File)**

##### **e. Building Department 2022 Statement of Operations and Annual Report (Receive and File)**

##### **f. Zoning Department 2022 Activities (Receive and File)**

##### **g. Parks and Recreation 2022 Annual Report (Receive and File)**

*Agostinelli moved and Schmuckal seconded to approve the consent calendar as presented.*

*Yeas: Agostinelli, Schmuckal, Duell, Barsheff, Macomber, McManus, Korn  
Nays: None*

**4. Items Removed from the Consent Calendar (6:05)**

None

**5. Correspondence (6:05)**

None

**6. Reports**

**a. County Commissioner's Report (6:06)**

County Commissioner Brad Jewett reported that ARPA funds were allocated in late December and Garfield Township was funded for a couple infrastructure projects. Five new commissioners were sworn in and there are now nine commissioners instead of seven. An organizational meeting was held on January 4<sup>th</sup> and Rob Hentschel was elected Chair and Brad Jewett was elected Vice Chair. Jewett thanked Denise Schmuckal for her service to the county and wished her well in retirement.

**b. Sheriff's Report (6:07)**

Lt. Brinks reviewed statistics for the month of December 2022 and for the entire year of 2022. He added that Deputy Amanda Peck is now a Garfield Township CPO.

**f. Planning Department Monthly Report for January 2023 (6:11)**

Township Planning Director John Sych submitted his report in writing and added that the Planning Commission would hear a conceptual plan on the Oleson property tomorrow evening.

**g. Parks & Recreation Report (6:12)**

Parks Steward Sean Kehoe submitted his report in writing and updated board members on parks activities. Parks Stewards have been busy clearing downed trees in the Commons area and at Boardman Valley.

**h. Clerk's Report (6:16)**

McManus stated that her report was submitted in writing and her department is preparing for year-end activities and the upcoming audit.

**i. Supervisor's Report (6:16)**

Korn reported that a joint Town Board and Planning Commission meeting is set for February 28<sup>th</sup> and the Road Commission will share a presentation. He added that the MTA conference will be held on April 17-

20<sup>th</sup> here in Traverse City. Anyone who wants to attend should speak with Lanie McManus.

**7. Unfinished Business**

**a. Public Hearing – Consideration of Resolution 2023-01-T, a resolution adopting the Garfield Township 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (6:19)**

Korn opened the Public Hearing at 6:19.

*Andrew Ferren* of Buckhorn Drive commented on the Commons trail plan and said that there is a group maintaining the trails. He is asking for this group to help guide the Commons Area plan in terms of biking trails.

*Stephanie Musall* spoke regarding the bike trails at the Commons. She is the wife of the person who died on the trails and she asked the township to keep the advanced mountain biking trails.

*Levi Kaiser* of Interlochen commented on the Commons trails.

*Adam Sutherland* of Solon Township commented on the Commons trails and hopes the trails can serve the community.

*Tabitha Lee* of Traverse City urges board members to prioritize technical mountain biking trails.

*Andy Hyde* of Lincoln Street commented that it would be nice to keep trails in Traverse City for mountain biking.

*Levi Kaiser* commented on the trails on the commons and said he likes the challenging trails.

*Adrian Bailey* of Holiday Road commented on the need for more challenging trails in the area.

*Peter Trucot* of Wild Card Cycle Works commented on the Commons Area trails and said there are many opportunities to benefit children and future bikers.

Korn closed the Public Hearing at 6:46pm.

Schmuckal stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission has appointed a subcommittee for the Commons mountain biking trails.

*Barsheff* moved and *Schmuckal* seconded *THAT Resolution 2023-01-T, attached to Planning Department Report 2023-4 adopting the Charter Township of Garfield 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, BE ADOPTED.*

*Yeas: Barsheff, Schmuckal, Agostinelli, Duell, Macomber, McManus, Korn*  
*Nays: None*

**b. Consideration of Resolution 2023-02-T, a resolution adopting Ordinance 77 – Transitional Housing Facilities (6:54)**

Zoning Administrator Michael Green reviewed the Transient Housing Ordinance with board members and recommended adoption of the

ordinance to ensure that such facilities are maintained and operated in compliance with applicable ordinances and law.

*Duell moved and Barsheff seconded THAT Resolution 2023-02-T to establish ordinance No. 77, an Ordinance to License Transitional Housing Facilities, BE ADOPTED.*

*Yeas: Duell, Barsheff, Agostinelli, Schmuckal, Macomber, McManus, Korn  
Nays: None*

**c. Consideration of Resolution 2023-03-T, a resolution updating the existing fee schedule (7:00)**

Zoning Administrator Mike Green reviewed the revised fee schedule with board members.

*Schmuckal moved and Agostinelli seconded to adopt Resolution 2023-03-T a resolution updating the existing fee schedule.*

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Agostinelli, Barsheff, Duell, Macomber, McManus, Korn  
Nays: None*

**8. New Business**

**a. Consideration of Application SPR 2022-16 for Birmley Hills Site Condominium development (7:02)**

This application is for a site condominium development of 35 single-family residential lots. According to the application, the lots will be between 15,000 and 38,000 square feet in area. About 14% of the site will be preserved as open space and is primarily forested hills. The proposed development would be served by the water and sewer extending from the existing Birmley Hills Estates subdivision. The property is approximately 21.3 acres and is zoned as R-1 One-Family Residential. Planning Director John Sych answered questions about the application from the board.

*Barsheff moved and Agostinelli seconded THAT the Findings of Fact for application SPR 2022-16, submitted by T&R Investments for a site condominium at Parcel #05-026-020-30, as presented in Planning Department Report 2023-5 and as recommended for adoption by the Planning Commission, BE ADOPTED.*

*Yeas: Barsheff, Agostinelli, Duell, Schmuckal, McManus, Macomber, Korn  
Nays: None*

*Barsheff moved and Duell seconded THAT application SPR 2022-16, submitted by T&R Investments for a site condominium at Parcel #05-026-*



020-30, BE APPROVED subject to the following conditions:

1. Final engineering review and approval by the Township Engineer is required including all infrastructure and stormwater.
2. All final reviews from agencies with jurisdiction shall be provided prior to any Land Use Permits being issued.
3. The applicant shall record promptly the Report and Decision Order (RDO) and any amendment to such order with the Grand Traverse County Register of Deeds in the chain of title for each parcel or portion thereof to which the RDO pertains. A copy of each recorded document shall be filed with the Township prior to any Land Use Permits being issued.
4. After recording the condominium plan, master deed, bylaws and deed restrictions, the developer shall file two (2) copies of each document, including all pertinent attachments, with the Township.
5. Condominium Protective Covenants and Deed Restrictions which hold harmless the Township for improvements within the site condominium subdivision and which require conformance with all conditions and requirements of condominium plan approval and this ordinance shall be required.
6. The Condominium Master Deed and Bylaws shall include the following statement: "Condominium Amendments which are recorded prior to the receipt of written Garfield Township Planning Department approval shall be considered null and void."
7. After the construction of all improvements, the developer shall file with the Township two (2) copies of the as-built condominium plan and a certification from the developer's engineer that the improvements have been installed in conformance with the approved construction drawings.

Yeas: Barsheff, Duell, McManus, Agostinelli, Schmuckal, Macomber, Korn

Nays: None

**b. Consideration of Submitting Ordinance 78 – Soil Erosion Sedimentation Control to EGLE/DEQ (7:08)**

Mike Green reviewed proposed Ordinance #78 – Control of Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance. This proposed ordinance would allow the township to administer its own soil erosion and sedimentation control program and would mirror the state ordinance.

*Schmuckal moved and Barsheff seconded to authorize submission of proposed Garfield Township Ordinance No. 78 as attached to this report, to the State of Michigan for review and approval.*

Yeas: Schmuckal, Barsheff, Macomber, McManus, Duell, Agostinelli, Korn  
Nays: None

9. **Public Comment: (7:18)**

None

10. **Other Business (7:18)**

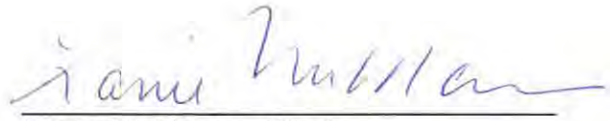
Schmuckal went to Metro Board orientation and said it was informative. Agostinelli asked about residential classification in the building department and zoning department and inquired about the real cost of fees and permits. Duell asked to add updates from other committees in the township such as the Joint Recreation Authority. Chuck Korn responded to Steve Duell that if there is something to report, please inform the Board by the Wednesday before the next TB Meeting so as to be placed on the next agenda.

11. **Adjournment**

*Korn adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.*



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chuck Korn, Supervisor  
Charter Township of Garfield  
3848 Veterans Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686



\_\_\_\_\_  
Lanie McManus, Clerk  
Charter Township of Garfield  
3848 Veterans Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION# 2023-01-T**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FIVE-YEAR  
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Garfield has prepared a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreational facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain park facilities during the period between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Garfield has developed the Plan in a manner to qualify for and receive grants awarded by the State of Michigan to acquire land and develop parks and recreational properties within our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission has approved Resolution# 2022-01-PR unanimously recommending adoption of the Plan by the Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, a 30-day public review and comment period was conducted, and a public hearing was held at the Garfield Township Hall on January 10, 2023, at a Regular Meeting of the Charter Township Board of Trustees to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions on the Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Charter Township of Garfield Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation for Township residents.

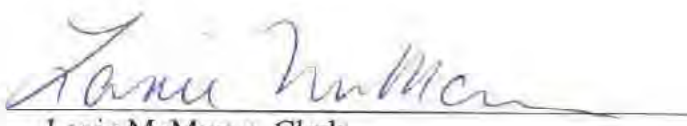
Moved: Chris Barsheff

Supported: Denise Schmuckal

Ayes: Barsheff, Schmuckal, Duell, Agostinelli, Macomber, McManus, Korn

Nays: None

Absent and Excused: None

By:   
Lanie McManus, Clerk  
Charter Township of Garfield

### CERTIFICATE

I, Lanie McManus, Clerk of the Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution# 2023-01-T which was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Garfield at a Regular Meeting on the 10th day of January, 2023.

Dated: 1/11/2023

By: Lanie McManus  
Lanie McManus, Clerk  
Charter Township of Garfield



# Charter Township of Garfield

## Grand Traverse County

3848 VETERANS DRIVE  
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN 49684  
PH: (231) 941-1620 • FAX: (231) 941-1588

January 26, 2023

(Sent VIA EMAIL to Terry Vandercook at [terry.vandercook@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:terry.vandercook@networksnorthwest.org) and Robert Carson at [rob.carson@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:rob.carson@networksnorthwest.org))

Terry Vandercook, Chief Executive Officer  
Networks Northwest  
PO Box 506  
Traverse City, MI 49685-0506

**Re: Submission of Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Dear Mr. Vandercook:

The Charter Township of Garfield is pleased to submit the 2023-2027 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Plan is being submitted to Networks Northwest to ensure cooperation and coordination of planning efforts.

The Plan was adopted by the Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees on January 10, 2023. A certified resolution of the adoption is included in the Plan.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at (231) 941-1620, or at [shannon@garfield-twp.com](mailto:shannon@garfield-twp.com).

Sincerely,

Stephen Hannon, AICP  
Deputy Planning Director

cc: Robert Carson, Community Development Regional Director





# Charter Township of Garfield

## Grand Traverse County

3848 VETERANS DRIVE  
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN 49684  
PH: (231) 941-1620 • FAX: (231) 941-1588

January 26, 2023

(Sent VIA EMAIL to John Chase at [jchase@gtcountymi.gov](mailto:jchase@gtcountymi.gov))

John Chase, Director  
Grand Traverse County  
Parks and Recreation Department  
1213 W Civic Center Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49684

**Re: Submission of Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Dear Mr. Chase:

The Charter Township of Garfield is pleased to submit the 2023-2027 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Plan is being submitted to the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department to ensure cooperation and coordination of planning efforts.

The Plan was adopted by the Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees on January 10, 2023. A certified resolution of the adoption is included in the Plan.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at (231) 941-1620, or at [shannon@garfield-twp.com](mailto:shannon@garfield-twp.com).

Sincerely,

Stephen Hannon, AICP  
Deputy Planning Director



## COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this  
information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than March 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

### PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan:

Charter Township of Garfield - 2023-2027 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.

County

Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body

Charter Township of Garfield

Grand Traverse

January 2023

### PLAN CONTENT

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

☒ **1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

☒ **2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

☒ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)

☒ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart

☒ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming

☒ Current Funding Sources

☒ Role of Volunteers

☒ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

**Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:**

☐ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities

☐ Articles of Incorporation

☒ **3. RECREATION INVENTORY**

☒ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory

☒ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities

☒ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)

☒ Accessibility Assessment

☒ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

☐ Waterways Inventory (if applicable)

☐ **4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)**

☒ **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

☒ **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

- ☒
- Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

- ☒
- Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice December 11, 2022Type of Notice Newspaper and OnlinePlan Location Township Hall and OnlineDuration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 30 days

- ☒
- Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice December 18, 2022Name of Newspaper Traverse City Record-EagleDate of Meeting January 10, 2023

- ☒
- Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☒ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**☒ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**☒ **9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)****PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- ☒ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 10, 2023
- ☒ 2. Official resolution of the Parks and Recreation Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: December 5, 2022
- ☒ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: January 26, 2023
- ☒ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: January 26, 2023

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION**

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

*I hereby certify that the recreation plan for*

Charter Township of Garfield

(Local Unit of Government)

*above and as set forth by the DNR.*

*includes the required content, as indicated*



1-26-2023

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

Date

**This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.**

## **Ordinance # 63**

### **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ORDINANCE**

#### **Preamble**

An ordinance to establish a Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*; provide for the composition of that parks and recreation commission; and provide for the powers, duties and limitations of that parks and recreation commission.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD, GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

#### **Section 1: Scope, Purpose and Intent**

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority granted the township board under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, to establish a parks and recreation commission with the powers, duties and limitations provided by that Act and subject to the terms and conditions of this ordinance and any future amendments to this ordinance.

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide that the Charter Township of Garfield Township Board shall hereby establish under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission; to establish the appointments, terms, and membership of the parks and recreation commission; to identify the officers and the minimum number of meetings per year of the parks and recreation commission; and to prescribe the authority, powers and duties of the parks and recreation commission.

#### **Section 2: Establishment**

The township board hereby establishes under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission shall have five members.

#### **Section 3: Membership**

Membership of the parks and recreation commission shall be comprised as follows:

1. One member of the township board may be appointed to the parks and recreation commission as an ex officio member. The Township Supervisor shall not serve as the ex officio member.
2. One member of the Garfield Township Planning Commission may be appointed to the parks and recreation commission.
3. One member of the City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield Joint Recreational Authority may be appointed to the parks and recreation commission.
4. All other parks and recreation commission members shall be qualified electors of the township.
5. No other elected officer or employee of the township is eligible to be a member of the parks and recreation commission.

**Section 4: Appointments and Terms**

- A. The township supervisor, with the approval of the township board by a majority vote of the members elected and serving, shall appoint all parks and recreation commission members, including the ex officio member, in accordance with the following:
  - 1. The parks and recreation commission members, other than the ex officio member, shall serve for terms of 3 years each.
  - 2. The ex officio member shall serve for a term of 1 year.
  - 3. A parks and recreation commission member, other than the ex officio member, shall hold office until his or her successor is appointed.
  - 4. The ex officio member's term and the term of any member appointed from a separate board or commission shall expire with his or her term on the board from which he or she was appointed.
  - 5. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.
- B. All members, inclusive of the ex officio member, shall have full voting rights.

**Section 5: Solicitation for Membership**

- A. By November of each year, the township shall determine which members' terms of office expire.
- B. If the township does not have at least two candidates for each office, an advertisement(s) shall be placed in a newspaper of general circulation within the township, seeking applications for appointment.
- C. In December of each year, the township board shall consider the applications and appoint members to the parks and recreation commission by a majority vote. All three year terms shall expire on December 31.
- D. These procedures need not be followed for initial appointments establishing the parks and recreation commission or to reappoint a current member of the parks and recreation commission.

**Section 6: Removal**

The township board may remove a member of the parks and recreation commission for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office upon written charges and after a public hearing. Failure to repeatedly attend parks and recreation commission meetings shall be considered nonfeasance in office.

The secretary of the parks and recreation commission shall report any member who has missed three regular meetings in a row to the Township Board.

**Section 7: Conflict of Interest**

Before participating in parks and recreation commission deliberations or casting a vote on a matter on which a parks and recreation commission member may reasonably be considered to have a conflict of interest, the member shall disclose the potential conflict of interest to the parks and recreation commission. Failure of a member to disclose a potential conflict of interest as required by this ordinance constitutes malfeasance in office.

Conflict of interest shall be addressed in the parks and recreation commission By-laws.

**Section 8: Compensation**

Parks and recreation commission members shall serve without compensation. Subject to funding as may be provided for by township board resolution, the parks and recreation commission may adopt bylaws relative to compensation and expenses of its members for travel when engaged in the performance of activities authorized by the township board, including, but not limited to, attendance at conferences, workshops, educational and training programs and meetings.



**Section 9: Training**

Appointed members of the parks and recreation commission may attend educational programs designed for training members of parks and recreation commissions if the adopted Garfield Township budget for that fiscal year includes funds to pay for tuition, registration, and travel expenses for the training.

**Section 10: Officers and Committees**

The parks and recreation commission shall elect a chairperson and a secretary from its members, and may create and fill other offices as it considers advisable. The ex officio member of the parks and recreation commission is not eligible to serve as chairperson. The term of each office shall be 1 year, with opportunity for reelection as specified in the parks and recreation commission bylaws.

The parks and recreation commission may appoint advisory committees whose members need not be members of the parks and recreation commission.

**Section 11: Bylaws, Meetings and Records**

- A. The parks and recreation commission shall adopt bylaws for the transaction of business.
- B. The parks and recreation commission shall hold at least 4 regular meetings each year, and shall by resolution determine the time and place of the meetings.

Unless otherwise provided in the parks and recreation commission's bylaws, a special meeting of the parks and recreation commission may be called by the chairperson or by two other members, upon written request to the secretary. Unless the bylaws otherwise provide, the secretary shall send written notice of a special meeting to parks and recreation commission members at least 48 hours before the meeting.

- C. The business that the parks and recreation commission may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, MCL 15.261, *et seq.*
- D. The parks and recreation commission shall keep a public record of its resolutions, transactions, findings, and determinations. A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by a parks and recreation commission in the performance of an official function shall be made available to the public in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, *et seq.*

**Section 12: Staff**

- A. The parks and recreation commission shall be assigned staff from the planning department to carry out the duties of Section 15.
- B. The appointment of all employees shall be subject to the same provisions of law, employment policies, employee roster, and employee or union contracts, if any, as govern other employees of the township.
- C. Employees that are assigned to work with the parks and recreation commission shall follow the directives of the parks and recreation commission in matters of park and recreation planning issues, but shall not be subject to parks and recreation commission directives concerning employment provisions of law, employment policies, employee roster, and employee or union contracts, if any.

**Section 13: Liaisons**

The parks and recreation commission, in its Bylaws, may name "liaisons" to the parks and recreation commission. The sole purpose of liaisons is to provide certain Garfield Township and quasi-Garfield Township officials the ability to participate in discussion with the parks and recreation commission in addition to speaking in public participation. At a minimum, liaisons shall include:

1. Garfield Township Planning Department staff, and their agents and consultants.
2. Garfield Township Zoning Administrator.
3. Garfield Township Building Department staff.
4. Garfield Township Attorney.

**Section 14: Annual Report**

The parks and recreation commission shall make an annual written report to the township board concerning its operations and the status of the parks and recreation activities, including recommendations regarding actions by the township board related to parks and recreation planning.

**Section 15: Duties and Authority**

It shall be the responsibility of the parks and recreation commission to:

1. Advise the township administration and township board concerning the parks and recreation needs of the citizens of the township.
2. Study existing programs and policies and plan for the future long-range development of a viable parks and recreation program for all of the citizens of the township.
3. Promote and encourage the implementation of any parks and recreation programs approved by the township board.
4. Make recommendations as to rules and regulations for public parks and recreation facilities in the township, to the township board for their review and approval.
5. Make recommendations to the township board regarding the parks and recreational programs and activities for the township, and the policies and rules governing these programs and activities.
6. Such other functions and duties as may be authorized by the township board from time to time.

**Section 16: Severability**

The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any part is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the remainder of the ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect.

**Section 17: Effective Date**

This ordinance shall take full force and effect on the date of its publication.

**CERTIFICATE**

Passed by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Garfield on July 13, 2010, at its regular meeting with 7 members in attendance, 7 voting aye, 0 voting nay.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_, Chair.

I hereby certify that the foregoing was duly adopted by the Township Board of Garfield Charter Township, Grand Traverse County, Michigan, at its regular meeting on the July 13, 2010, that of 7 members of the Township Board, 7 were in attendance, and 7 voted for the adoption of the Ordinance.

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_  
Kay Schumacher, Garfield Township Clerk

# **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD**

## **ORDINANCE NO. 63**

### **AMENDMENT NO. 1**

#### **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 63 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ORDINANCE**

**WHEREAS** the Charter Township of Garfield Ordinance No. 63, adopted on July 13, 2010, established the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, to provide for the composition of that parks and recreation commission and to provide for the powers, duties and limitations of that parks and recreation commission; and

**WHEREAS** the Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission has guided the development and adoption of a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Charter Township of ; and

**WHEREAS** it is important to the citizens of Garfield Township that the recommendations of that Five-Year Plan be implemented; and

**WHEREAS** the Charter Township of Garfield has experienced difficulty in attracting qualified electors of the Township to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

#### **NOW THEREFORE:**

#### **THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD ORDAINS:**

#### **AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO GARFIELD TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 63:**

**That Section 3: Membership is hereby amended by adding a new item 4. to read as follows with the current items 4. and 5. to be renumbered 5. and 6.:**

4. One member may be an individual who is not a qualified elector of the Township.

Amendment No. 1 to the Charter Township of Garfield Ordinance No. 63 shall become effective immediately upon its publication.

MOVED: Bob Featherstone

SECONDED: Jeane Blood

YEAS: Korn, Schumacher, Blood, Featherstone, Schmuckal, Wilson and Agostinelli

NAYS: None

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: None

AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO ORDINANCE NO. 63 DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an ordinance amendment adopted by the Garfield Township Board at a regular meeting held on June 26, 2012, pursuant to the required statutory procedures.



Kay Schumacher, Clerk  
Charter Township of Garfield

Introduced: June 12, 2012  
Adopted: June 26, 2012  
Published: July 2, 2012  
Effective: July 2, 2012

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD**

**ORDINANCE NO. 63**

**AMENDMENT NO. 2**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 63  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ORDINANCE**

**WHEREAS** the Charter Township of Garfield Ordinance No. 63, adopted on July 13, 2010, and as amended on June 12, 2016 established the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, to provide for the composition of that parks and recreation commission and to provide for the powers, duties and limitations of that parks and recreation commission; and

**WHEREAS** the Township Board has determined that increasing the membership to seven would bring the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) more in line with other recommending bodies;

**WHEREAS** The Charter Township of Garfield Board of Trustees desires to increase the Parks and Recreation Commission membership to seven (7) members.

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD ORDAINS:**

**AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO GARFIELD TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 63:**

**That Section 2: Establishment, be amended to provide for 7 members and the section shall read:**

Section 2: The township board hereby establishes under the Parks and Recreation and Playgrounds Act, Public Act 156 of 1917, MCL 123.51, *et seq.*, the Charter Township of Garfield Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission shall have ~~five~~ **seven** members.

Amendment No. 2 to the Charter Township of Garfield Ordinance No. 63 shall become effective immediately upon its publication.



MOVED: Dan Walters

SECONDED: Jeane Blood Law

YEAS: Walters, Blood Law, Schmuckal, Duell, Agostinelli, McManus


NAYS: None

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Korn

AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO ORDINANCE NO. 63 DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I, Lanie McManus, hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an ordinance amendment adopted by the Garfield Township Board at a regular meeting held on April 11, 2017, pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lanie McManus", written over a horizontal line.

Lanie McManus, Clerk  
Charter Township of Garfield

Introduced: March 14, 2017

Adopted: April 11, 2017

Published: April 16, 2017

Effective: April 16, 2017

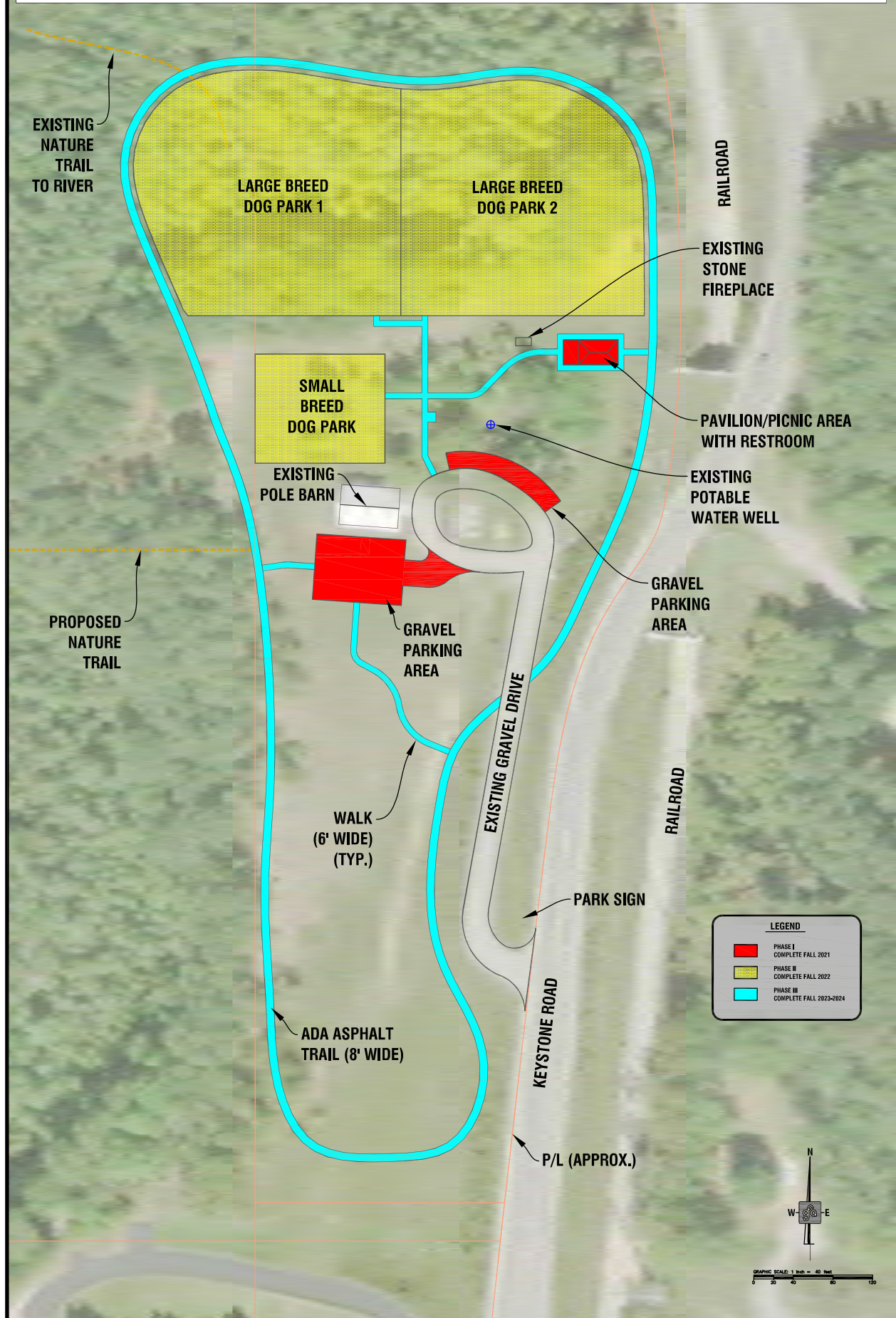
# River East Recreation Area Concept



ENGINEERING  
SURVEYING  
TESTING & OPERATIONS



<http://gfa.io>  
23 9/16/2024 [p]  
23 9/16/2024 [f]



# Silver Lake Recreation Area

## Park Development Plan

Appendix L

### Legend

- Paved Trail
- Nature Trails

1. Playground Pavilion
2. Bill's Pavilion
3. Dog Park Pavilion
4. Large Playground
5. Small Playground
6. Dog Park
7. Restrooms
8. Parking
9. Baseball Field
10. Multi-Purpose Field
11. Sledding Hill
12. Fire Station #12
13. Basketball Courts
14. Tennis Courts
15. Drainage / Rain Garden
16. Silver Lake Access
17. South Entrance
18. Meadow

- P1. Proposed Outdoor Fitness Area
- P2. Proposed Dog Park Expansion
- P3. Proposed Pickleball Courts

Note: Please refer to Plan narrative for greater descriptions of facilities.

Garfield Charter Township

3848 Veterans Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
Phone: 231.941.1620  
Fax: 231.941.1688  
[www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)

