

# SANDS TOWNSHIP



RECREATION PLAN  
2024-2029



# SANDS TOWNSHIP

## RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

Resolution #10082024

### RESOLUTION BY THE SANDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR FINAL ADOPTION OF THE SANDS TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN 2024-2029

*WHEREAS*, the Sands Township Recreation Committee has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation needs and desires of its residents and support economic growth through tourism during a five-year period covering the years 2024 through 2029, *and*

*WHEREAS*, the Sands Township Recreation Committee began the process of developing a Draft Recreation Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, *and*

*WHEREAS*, residents of Sands Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity of over 30-days during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, *and*

*WHEREAS*, a public hearing was held by the Sand Township Board of Trustees on July 30, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. during a special meeting at the Sands Township Office and Facilities located at 987 State Hwy. M-553, Gwinn, Michigan 49841 to provide opportunity for all residents of Sands Township to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Draft Sands Township Recreation Plan 2024-2029, *and*

*WHEREAS*, after the public hearing the Sands Township Board of Trustees voted to support the Draft Sands Township Recreation Plan 2024-2029, *and*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*, the Sands Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Sands Township Recreation Plan 2024-2029. Motion by D. Kallio, Seconded by J. Yelle.

*Ayes: J. Yelle, D. Kallio, L. Yelle, D. Walch, C. Kerkela*

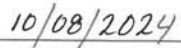
*Nays: None*

*Absent: None*

**MOTION CARRIED: Yes - 5 No - 0**

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the forgoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by the Sands Township Board of Trustees during a regular meeting held on October 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sands Township Office and Facilities located at 987 State Hwy. M-553, Gwinn, Michigan 49841.

  
Carolyn Kerkela, Sands Township Clerk

  
Date

# SANDS TOWNSHIP

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION   A VISION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION IN SANDS TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION   HISTORY, DEMOGRAPHICS + DATA</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE   STAFFING, BUDGET + VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT   LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES, SOILS + WILDLIFE</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>RECREATION INVENTORY   STANDARDS, PARK LOCATIONS + DESCRIPTIONS</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>COMMENTS + ISSUE SCOPING</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>VALUES, GOALS + OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN   COMMUNITY PRIORITY PROJECTS</b>	<b>40</b>
	<b>APPENDIX A   PUBLIC NOTICE + COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS</b>	<b>46</b>
	<b>APPENDIX B   GRANT HISTORY</b>	<b>68</b>
	<b>APPENDIX C   UNIVERSAL ACCESS DESIGN GUIDELINES</b>	<b>69</b>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED WITH INPUT FROM THE SANDS TOWNSHIP RECREATION COMMITTEE AND THE SANDS TOWNSHIP BOARD:

**Sands Township Recreation Committee**

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Missy Lehtomaki | • Bill Kapeller    |
| • Carrie Lusk     | • Wendy Maas       |
| • Bob Kallio      | • Shawn Sitar      |
| • Wendell Kurr    | • Kirsten Matthews |

### **Sands Township Elected Officials**

- Supervisor: Darlene Walch
- Clerk: Carolyn Kerkela
- Treasurer: Kent Koehn (2023)
- Treasurer: Lee Yelle (2024)
- Trustee: Justin Yelle
- Trustee: David Kallio



# 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN

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

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

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

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

The National Parks and Recreation Association 2022 Agency Performance Review highlights what many of us have realized: *“Two years into the Coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic, one thing is clear: parks and recreation is essential.”*

With an uptick in visitation and outdoor recreation during the pandemic, the need for additional recreational resources and access continues. As evidenced in the community feedback received (see Chapter 6 Comments + Issue Scoping) Sands Township is witnessing this demand as well. The priorities outlined in the following chapters reflect community driven parks and recreation goals as well as chart a path forward for the township.

Crunching numbers, the parks and recreation industry provides an avenue for community development and economic resiliency as well. As noted in the June 2023 speech by Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II, *“The outdoor recreation sector was worth \$10.8 Billion to the state’s economy in 2021, providing more than 100,000 direct jobs.”* Sands Township already owns and manages a community park with a diverse palate of recreation opportunities. By generating a plan for sustainable recreation access and design within the township, the promise of a vibrant, diverse recreation destination for current and future generations to meet, exercise, and play can be realized.

*Let’s keep this momentum going!*







## Regional Context

Sands Township is located in east central Marquette County just south of the City of Marquette, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The township occupies more than 46,000 acres or 71.9 square miles. The township lies within the Marquette urban area and is known for a large motorized trail network, the Blueberry Ridge pathway system, and Thunder Valley Equestrian Trails.

# PLANNING PROCESS

## RECREATION PLAN





# 2

## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION SANDS TOWNSHIP

Marquette County recently completed their county-wide 2040 Master Plan including detailed studies of each region within. Sands Township is part of the 'Blueberry Farms' region, characterized by an abundance of natural resources, more affordable housing options, a wealth of parks and trails, and ease of access to more urban amenities such as food and shopping. The township land ownership features 43% commercial forest land and 16% publicly owned land, leaving the remaining 41% as privately owned land.

The economic history of Sands Township, like that of the region, is closely related to natural resources and features. With approximately 87 percent of the township's land area classified as forested, logging and lumbering, these industries maintain their historical importance in the local economy. The proximity and abundance of forest products provide much of the raw material utilized in commercial enterprises.

The economic well-being of the township reflects the activities associated with the Marquette-Negaunee-Ishpeming urban center.



STRAWBERRY LAKE

Many township residents are employed in or nearby the City of Marquette and have chosen to live in the township's more rural setting.

The majority of the township's commercial activities occur along M-553 and CR 480. The 'Crossroads' is the intersection in which these two highways meet and features the most concentrated commercial development in the township. This intersection has been a popular topic within community discussions as there is a desire to connect the township to the recreational resources to the north.

In addition to DNR properties and county forest, the township also includes the Sands Plains Area, primarily made up of commercial forest and state lands serving as a popular recreation destination for motorized and non-motorized trail users alike. The township hall and adjacent park is a popular destination for locals as well as a destination for pickleball players throughout the county. Each of these recreation amenities is summarized in the following chapters with extra attention given to the township owned and managed facilities.



BLUEBERRY RIDGE SKI TRAIL

# COMMUNITY DATA

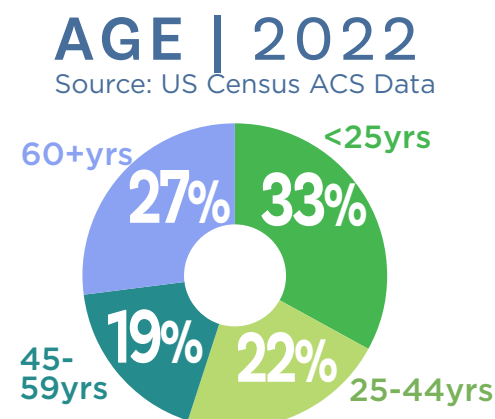
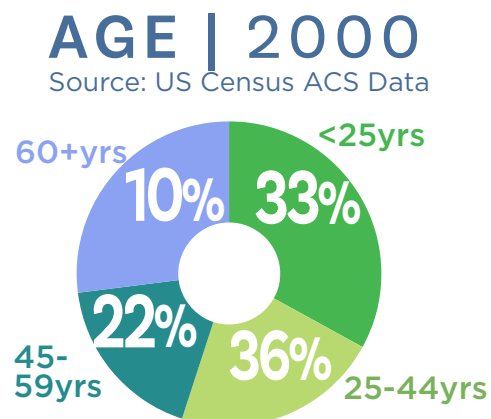
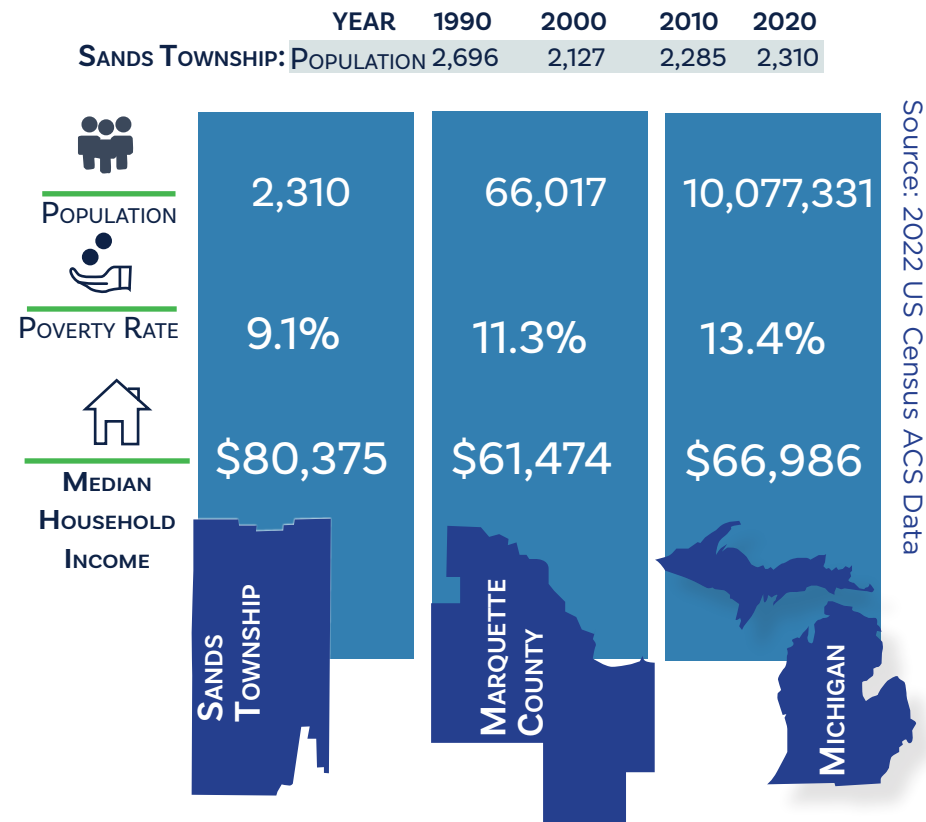
## AS IT RELATES TO RECREATION

Assessing the number of people in the community and their demographic characteristics helps planners and policy makers determine the needs of the community. For recreation planning, population data is useful when applying recreation standards to a community.

While the population in Sands Township had decreased significantly from 1990 to 2000 the numbers have increased in recent years. The significant decline was likely in part due to the closing of the KI Sawyer Air Force Base in 1995. The more recent population increase is partially due to lower housing costs in comparison to the township's neighbor to the north, the City of Marquette. The township also has a higher median household income than other Marquette County communities.

Understanding the composition of the population by age will help leaders plan for the types of recreation and facilities that will maximize opportunity for as many residents as possible. In the pie charts shown below, Sands Township resident's ages are slowly shifting into an older demographic. This shift to an aging demographic is apparent throughout much of Michigan's upper peninsula. It is curious the percent of under 25 year olds has remained at 33% over the last couple of decades, indicating no change in the percent of residents in the township's youngest demographic.

Some measures being taken to ensure aging populations and younger generations have access to recreation opportunities is by developing accessible facilities that can be enjoyed year round. This includes trail development and necessary measures to groom or remove snow from parking areas and transition spaces to access paths and other winter site amenities.





# 3

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

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



### Mission:

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

### Pillars:

Health & Wellness  
Social Equity  
Conservation

**3,759** Residents  
per playground



**10.8** acres  
of parkland for  
every 1,000  
residents

Residents per Park:

**2,287**



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

**8.9**



Economic Activity  
related to parks:

**\$218B**



**14** miles of  
silent sport trails

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

## BUDGET AND SPENDING

The recreation budget is the responsibility of the Sands Township Board, who maintains fiscal control through approval of expenditures. During the past five years, the Township Board has spent in excess of \$136,000 for recreational purposes. During this time, the board has helped maintain existing facilities with minor improvements as funding allows.

The annual totals presented below include all recreation expenses including wages, programming and capital improvements paid with Township funds:

2023	\$ 55,421.60*
2022	\$ 17,943.40*
2021	\$ 21,730.61*
2020	\$ 16,256.36*
2019	\$25,004.42*

\* A Parks and Recreation Millage was approved in February 2024 for a period of 6 years, including 2024-2029. It is a millage rate of 0.4688 and will generate approximately \$56,885 its first year.

It is the hope of the Township that the millage will help offset the costs of upkeep of parks and facilities. Applying for grant funds can help to accomplish larger projects and programming initiatives.

The facts on the following page feature information gathered by the National Recreation and Parks Association for their 2023 annual report. This data illustrates many of the beneficial facets of having a robust park and recreation system within one's community.



# PARKS AND RECREATION:



**164K+**

full-time employees of local park and recreation agencies in the United States, plus hundreds of thousands of part-time workers<sup>1</sup>

**40M**

youth participate in at least one local park and recreation program annually<sup>3</sup>

**280M+**

people in the United States visited a local park or recreation facility during the past year<sup>4</sup>

**\$218B**

in economic activity, plus support for 1.3 million jobs<sup>2</sup>

**9 IN 10**

U.S. adults want their local park and recreation agency to ensure all community members feel welcome<sup>5</sup>

**84%**

of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live<sup>6</sup>

**88%**

of U.S. adults support their local park and recreation agency implementing sustainability initiatives<sup>7</sup>

Photo courtesy of Lexington Parks and Recreation

<sup>1</sup>NRPA, [bit.ly/44XU7b8](https://bit.ly/44XU7b8)  
<sup>2</sup>NRPA, [bit.ly/3F4CZGI](https://bit.ly/3F4CZGI)  
<sup>3</sup>NRPA, [bit.ly/3EMMxWi](https://bit.ly/3EMMxWi)  
<sup>4</sup>NRPA, [bit.ly/3EMMxWi](https://bit.ly/3EMMxWi)  
<sup>5</sup>NRPA, [bit.ly/3EMMxWi](https://bit.ly/3EMMxWi)  
<sup>6</sup>NRPA, [bit.ly/45XSCuW](https://bit.ly/45XSCuW)

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

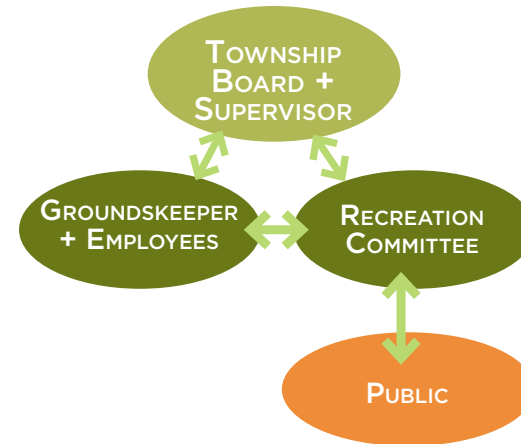
The Township has significantly improved and expanded recreational facilities and programs in recent years. The 5-member Sands Township Board is an elected governing body responsible for the formal adoption and implementation of the recreation capital improvement program. The Board strives to assure the limited funds available are spent on projects that produce maximum benefits to the entire community. The Board continues to look to the recreation committee for input and guidance.

In 2004, recognizing the importance of recreational programs within Sands Township, Sands Township Board established a recreation committee for parks and recreation with representation from the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western portions of the Township. One Township Board member is appointed to serve as a liaison to the committee.

The goals of the recreation committee are:

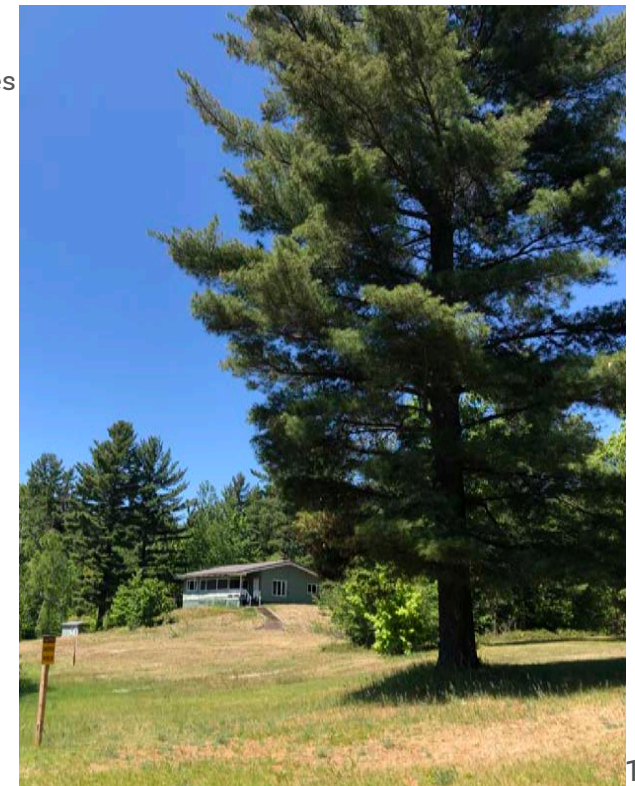
- 1 | Study existing services and indicate needs for eliminating facilities or programs
- 2 | Educate the public on the value of parks and recreational services
- 3 | Raise funds for specific recreational projects
- 4 | Formulate a township recreation plan for adoption by the township board
- 5 | Sponsor cooperative special programs
- 6 | Serve as a clearinghouse for citizen's suggestions, reactions and opinions and present to the township board

Maintenance of the facilities is performed by township employees and volunteer labor. The Township has part-time groundskeepers who are responsible for maintenance at the various township-owned facilities. During the summer, the township board uses seasonally hired workers to perform needed work at Township owned properties.



The Board is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of the recreation facilities. The Township Board plans and directs the work. Any needed expenses for supplies come from the township's recreational facilities fund, as well as the general fund.

Sands Township operates the Strawberry Lake Recreation Area on a seasonal basis. The park is maintained by the groundskeeper. An organizational chart is depicted above and a photo of the existing building at Strawberry Lake is on the right.



# VOLUNTEERS

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

The Sands Township Recreation Committee is made up of volunteers and several of the local recreation clubs complete volunteer trail maintenance and other tasks within the community, but no formal volunteer agreements are in place. Informal volunteer efforts are also frequent within the trails systems. These include trail brushing, invasive removal, hazard tree mitigation and general site clean up.

The township does not have any formal relationships with schools in the area as children attend different districts due to their positioning between Gwinn and Marquette.



# 4

## THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

The natural features of Sands Township are a reflection of the soils and geology that make up their foundation. The images on this page feature a selection of landscape typologies that are defined by the characteristics within the landscape including vegetation type, water, terrain, and the level of development.

These layers are analyzed in the pages that follow. Finding the right balance of development and preservation of natural resources within a community is key to maintaining a long lasting beautiful place for generations to explore and appreciate.



OPEN/DEVELOPED LANDSCAPE



DECIDUOUS FOREST



WOODY WETLANDS



OPEN FIELDS



EVERGREEN FOREST



INLAND LAKES



MIXED FOREST



# GEOLOGY + SOILS

Geology and soils are a landscape's foundation providing the groundwork for all forms of life. Generating an understanding of these baseline layers is critical to developing a smart strategy for future development and preservation of an area.

The uppermost materials were deposited by glaciers thousands of years ago. These define most topographical features including lakes, valleys, hills, and streams. Below is a summary of a soil survey for the township sourced from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation.

Soil associations located on bedrock controlled moraines:

- Keewaydin-Michigamme-Rock outcrop Association consists of very deep and moderately deep, nearly level to very hilly, well-drained soils and rock outcrop.
- Schweitzer-Michigamme-rock outcrop Association consists of very deep and moderately deep, gently to very hilly, well drained loamy soils and rock outcrops.
- Pits-Dump Mine-Slickens Association consists primarily of former pits and dump mines.
- Kalkaska-Ishpeming-rock outcrop Association consists of very deep to moderately deep, gently rolling to very hilly, somewhat excessively drained sandy soils and rock outcrops.

Soil associations found on till floored lake plains and dissected moraines:

- Munising-Yalmer Association consists of very deep, nearly level to gently sloping, moderately well drained loamy, sandy soils.
- Keweenaw-Kalkaska-Waiska Association consists of very deep, moderately sloping to very steep, well-drained, somewhat excessively drained and excessively drained, sandy soils.
- Garlic-Alcona-Voelker Association consists of very deep, moderately sloping to steep, well-drained, sandy, loamy soils.

Soil association found on outwash plains, terraces and beach ridges:

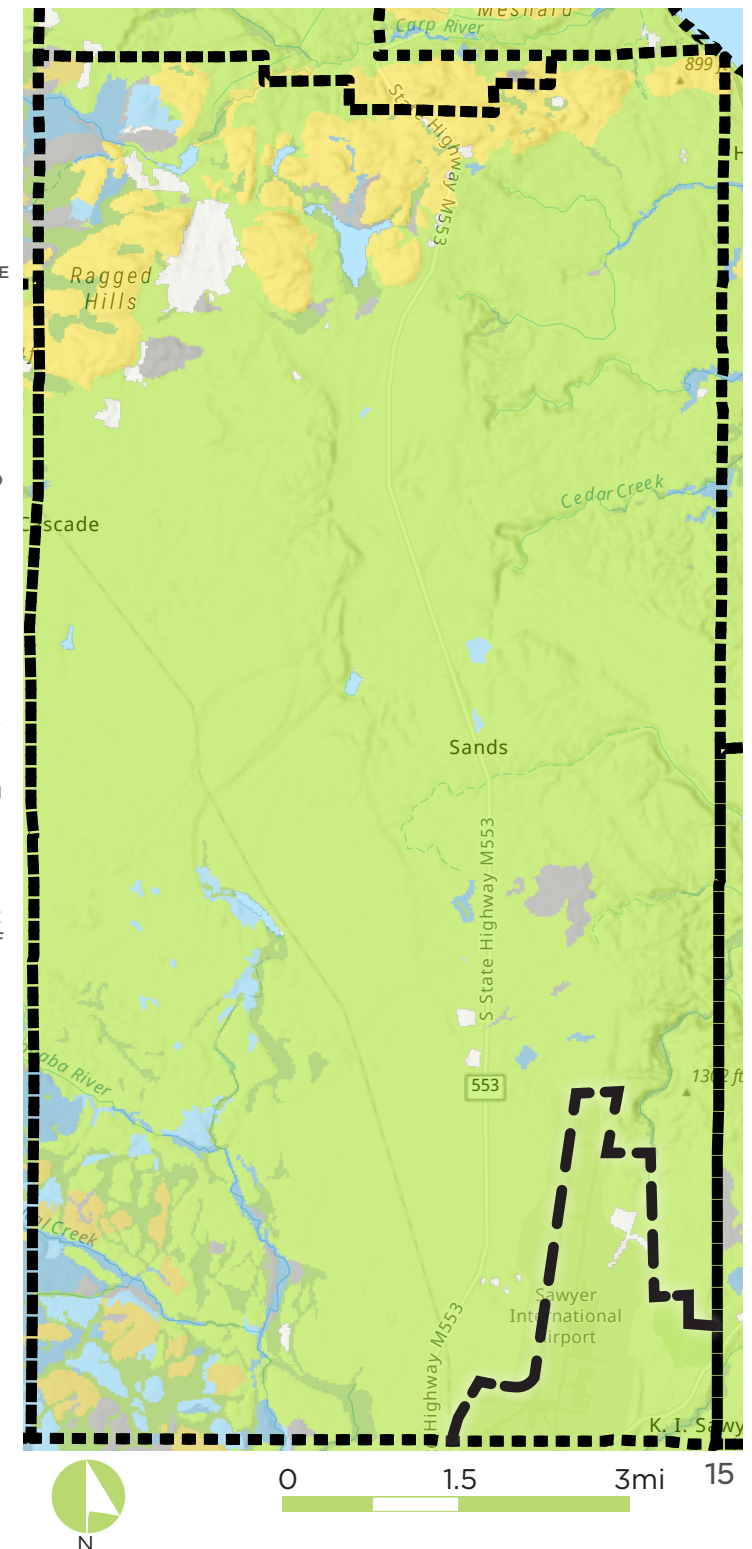
- Grayling Association consists of very deep, nearly level to very hilly, excessively drained sandy soils.

Soil association found on disintegration moraines:

- Rubicon-Keweenaw Association consists of very deep, gently undulating to very hilly, excessively drained and well drained sandy soils.

## HYDROLOGIC SOIL GROUPS:

- GROUP A** - DEEP, WELL DRAINED SANDS OR GRAVELLY SANDS WITH HIGH INFILTRATION AND LOW RUNOFF RATES.
- GROUP B** - DEEP WELL DRAINED SOILS WITH A MODERATELY FINE TO MODERATELY COARSE TEXTURE AND A MODERATE RATE OF INFILTRATION AND RUNOFF.
- GROUP C** - CONTAIN A LAYER THAT IMPEDES THE DOWNWARD MOVEMENT OF WATER OR FINE TEXTURED SOILS AND A SLOW RATE OF INFILTRATION.
- GROUP D** - HAVE A VERY SLOW INFILTRATION RATE AND HIGH RUNOFF POTENTIAL. THIS GROUP IS COMPOSED OF CLAYS THAT HAVE A HIGH SHRINK-SWELL POTENTIAL, SOILS WITH A HIGH WATER TABLE, SOILS THAT HAVE A CLAY PAN OR CLAY LAYER AT OR NEAR THE SURFACE, AND SOILS THAT ARE SHALLOW OVER NEARLY IMPERVIOUS MATERIAL.
- GROUP A/D** - HAVE A VERY SLOW INFILTRATION RATE DUE TO A HIGH WATER TABLE BUT WILL HAVE HIGH INFILTRATION AND LOW RUNOFF RATES IF DRAINED.
- GROUP B/D** - HAVE A VERY SLOW INFILTRATION RATE DUE TO A HIGH WATER TABLE BUT WILL HAVE A MODERATE RATE OF INFILTRATION AND RUNOFF IF DRAINED.
- GROUP C/D** - HAVE A VERY SLOW INFILTRATION RATE DUE TO A HIGH WATER TABLE BUT WILL HAVE A SLOW RATE OF INFILTRATION IF DRAINED.



# WATER + CLIMATE

There are a handful of smaller lakes scattered throughout the township, most of which are surrounded by corporate lands. Strawberry Lake, centrally located in the township, is owned by the township. Lake Pelissier, in the northern part of the township, is the largest lake. The East Branch of the Escanaba and Carp are the major rivers running through the Township.

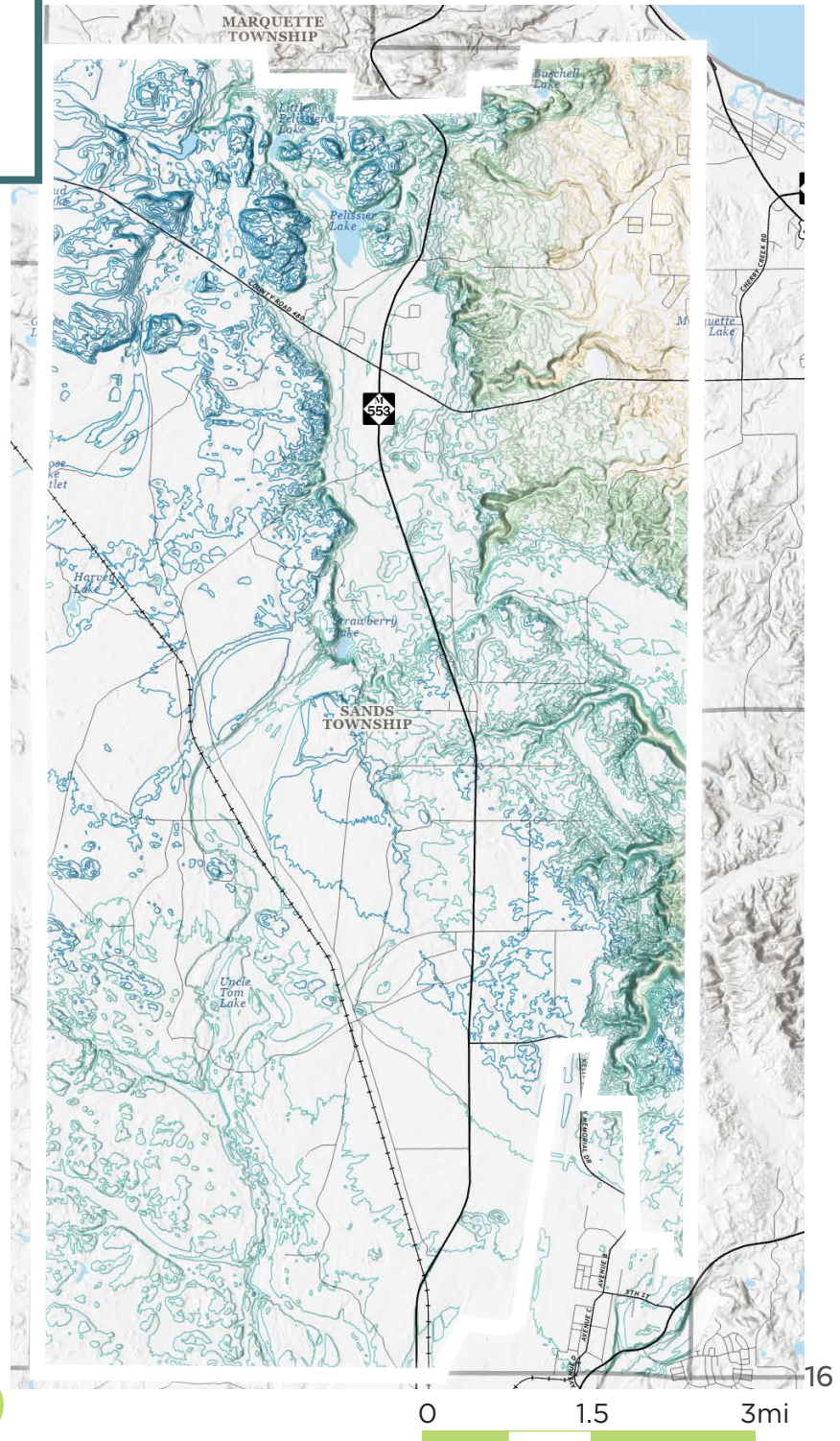
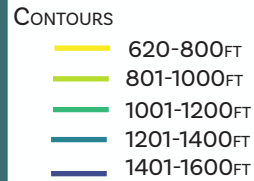
Sands Township is home to the Sands Plains Aquifer considered to be one of the highest quality water sources in Michigan. This aquifer provides groundwater to thousands of individuals in Sands Township and surrounding townships. The Sands Aquifer is a major source of the water supply in the Chocolay Watershed and streams in the local area.

Sands Township has a humid continental climate that is heavily influenced by Lake Superior, with cold winters and humid cool summers. The lake helps keep temperatures cool in summer and generally moderate in winter. The temperature in the township ranges from the 90's to the negative teens, with a mean annual temperature of about 42 degrees Fahrenheit. Total precipitation averages approximately 34 inches per year, with the wettest month in September and the driest month in February. The winter snowfall in the township averages between 90 and 110 inches annually.

# TOPOGRAPHY

Sands Township is primarily composed of upland areas with rivers and streams criss-crossing through the landscape. The Blueberry Ridge Pathway System and Thunder Valley Equestrian Trails capitalize on this rolling terrain and picturesque views these elevation changes offer. The eastern and northern portions of the township offer the most rugged topography with the terrain leveling out moving south.

The highest elevation point is about 1440ft above sea level (838ft above Lake Superior), just west of Pelissier Lake. The lowest elevation is about 700ft above sea level (98ft above Lake Superior) in the north eastern corner of the township near Silver Creek.




















# LAND COVER + WILDLIFE

Sands Township is largely undeveloped with “The Crossroads” where Hwy 553 and Hwy 480 intersect as the most developed zone. The remainder of the landscape is primarily covered in deciduous, conifer and mixed forest. There is some open shrub scrub land as well.

These landscape layers support a variety of recreation types from forested trail systems to more open plains areas. Much of the Sands Township landscape is criss-crossed by motorized and non-motorized trail routes.

The rural character of the region provides an expansive landscape for wildlife. Common sightings include bear, deer, moose, grey wolf, smaller mammals, song birds, raptors, and an abundance of fish within lakes and rivers. The Kirtland’s warbler, a songbird recently delisted from the threatened and endangered species list due to recovery, has been spotted throughout the Jack Pine forests in the region. Below is a summary of rare and endangered species that may also occupy the township landscape.

## LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION

-  TOWNSHIP BORDERS
-  DEVELOPED, OPEN SPACE
-  DEVELOPED, LOW INTENSITY
-  DEVELOPED, MEDIUM INTENSITY
-  DEVELOPED, HIGH INTENSITY
-  BARREN LAND
-  DECIDUOUS FOREST
-  CONIFER FOREST
-  MIXED FOREST
-  SHRUB/SCRUB
-  HERBACEOUS
-  HAY/PASTURE
-  CULTIVATED CROPS
-  WOODY WETLANDS
-  EMERGENT WETLANDS

### THREATENED



CANADA LYNX

### THREATENED



RED KNOT

### CANDIDATE



MONARCH BUTTERFLY

### PROPOSED ENDANGERED



TRICOLORED BAT

### ENDANGERED



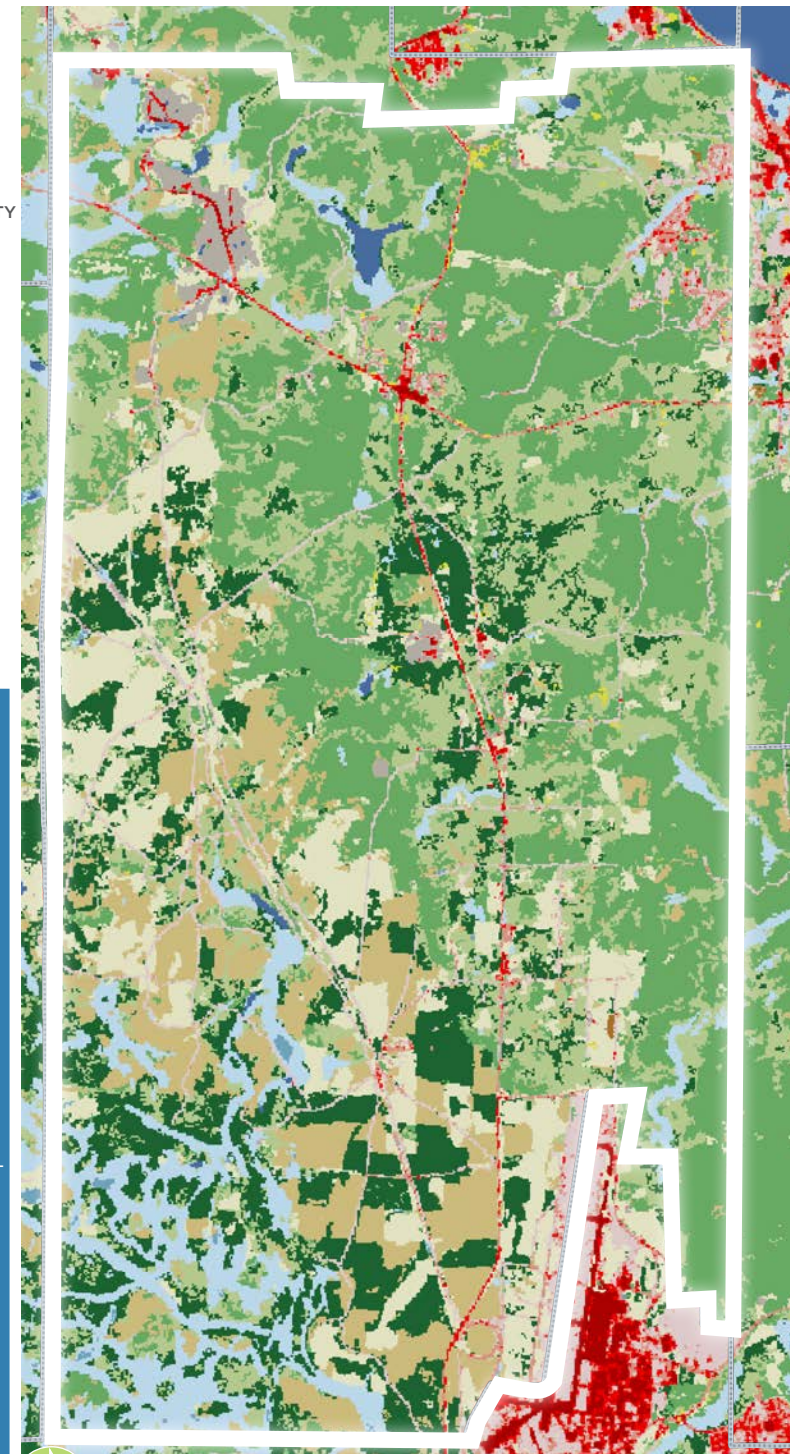
GRAY WOLF

### THREATENED



NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

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





# TRAILS

The Sands Township region hosts trails for a variety of user types. The Thunder Valley Equestrian trails are a quiet destination for local and visiting equestrians while Blueberry Ridge Pathway System serves as a winter destination for cross country skiing and snowshoeing. ORV and snowmobile trails are abundant on Commercial Forest (CF) lands connecting the township to neighboring communities.

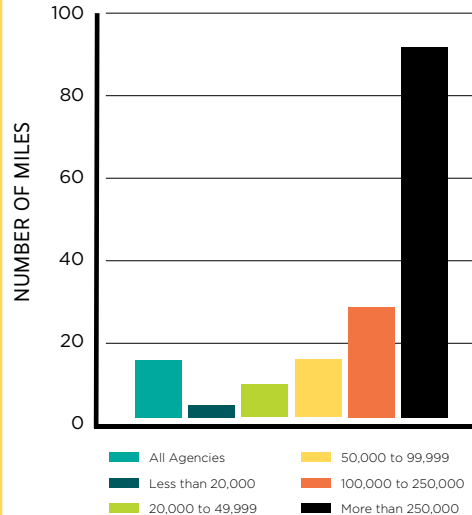
Despite the abundance of trails within the region, there is still room to increase the network. Many survey respondents highlighted a need for off road multi-use and bike paths as well as a desire for a mountain bike trail system within the township. Survey respondents also noted the need for complete township trail maps including motorized/non-motorized trails in the Sands Plains region. With a recent proposal to install solar in approximately 520 acres of this region, motorized trail users expressed a need to have permanent trails.

Below is an NRPA chart featuring average miles of trail per population range. Sands has many more miles than the average community and proves to be a destination for non-motorized and motorized trail users alike.



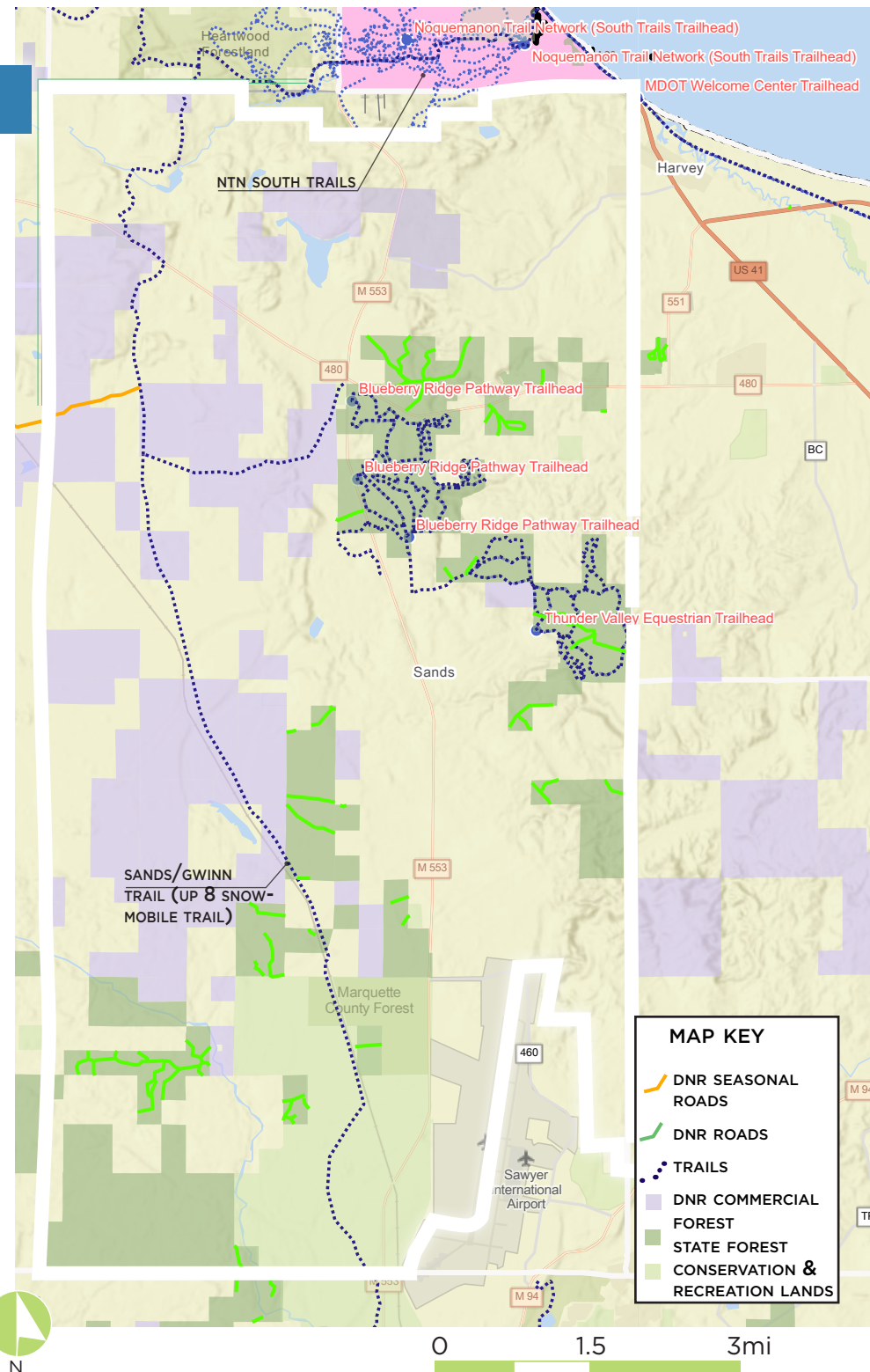
NATIONAL RECREATION  
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

## MILES of TRAIL



	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999
Median	14.0	3.0	8.0	14.0
Lower Quartile	5.0	2.0	4.0	7.0
Upper Quartile	39.0	10.0	18.0	29.0

*\*FINDINGS FROM THE 2022 NRPA AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW USES SURVEY DATA GATHERED FROM 2019-2021 BY NRPA PARK METRICS*





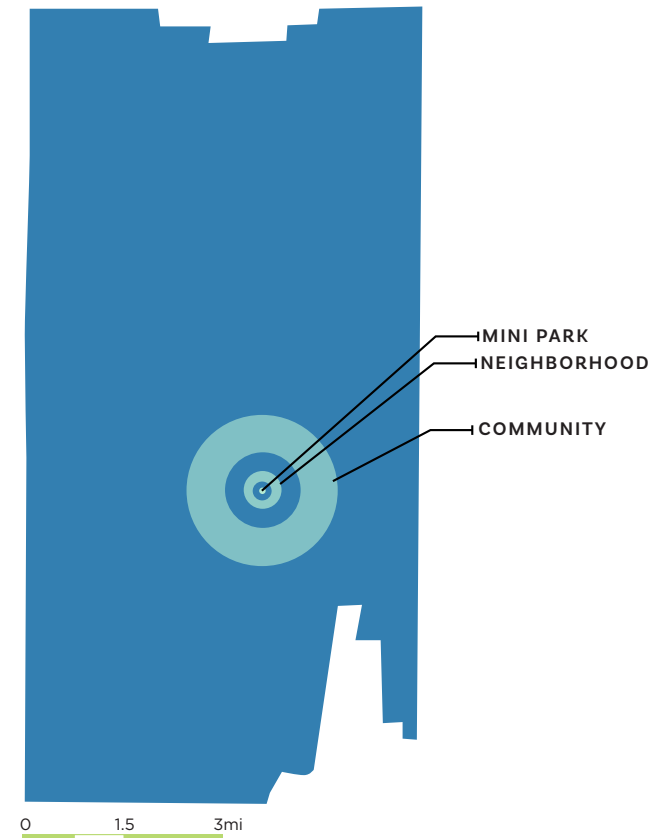


# 5 RECREATION INVENTORY

## STANDARDS FOR RECREATION

According to the Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2023-2027, Cities/Townships/Villages serve as a recreation provider responsible for the operation and maintenance of their parks and facilities. These may include nature preserves, nature centers, community centers, and public water access sites. They may also provide public recreation programming which may include but is not limited to classes, youth sports, and special events all using outdoor public recreation facilities.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a scale to help measure an existing recreation system's park facilities and provide a baseline standard for equitable park access within a community. A typical park and recreation system offers one park for every 2,323 residents served, with 10.4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Due to its lower density population Michigan's Upper Peninsula trends toward having a higher acreage of parkland per resident.



PARK TYPE	SERVICE AREA (RADIUS)	SIZE (ACRES)	ACRES/1,000 POP	PARKS (ACRES)	USES
Mini-Park	<1/4mi	1 or less	0.25 to 0.5	0.5 to 1 <b>Currently:</b> --	Specialized facility serving a concentrated or limited population
Neighborhood Park	1/4 to 1/2mi	15+	1 to 2	2 to 4 <b>Currently:</b> --	Hosts intense recreation activities: Play, sports fields/courts, picnicking etc.
Community Park	1 to 2mi	25+	8 to 10	16 to 20 <b>Currently:</b> 10	Diverse environmental quality; may include sports complexes or more natural forms of outdoor recreation
Regional Park	1 hr drive	200+	5 to 10	10 to 20 <b>Currently:</b> 120	Area of natural quality for outdoor recreation; boating, swimming, camping, trail use etc.
School Park				<b>Currently:</b> --	Park associated with an educational institution

Sands Township has a unique mix of park and recreation property as it hosts the largely unimproved Strawberry Lake Area and surrounding community forest. This has the potential to serve as a recreation destination for the region. The township is also known for its Township Hall Park Complex hosting courts for multiple sport activities, a shelter, playground and office complex with a gym. Community programming and other recreation opportunities will be explored in greater detail on the following page.

# RECREATION INVENTORY

## PROGRAMMING

Sands Township is the home of Marquette County Fairgrounds and hosts the annual county fair event. The Superiorland Ski Club has an agreement with the township to manage the warming hut at Blueberry Ridge. Blueberry Ridge also serves as a location for Superiorland Ski Club's ski cats lessons.

Other recreation related clubs that do not have a direct affiliation with the township include:

- Superiorland Pickleball Club
- Sands Speedway and Sandstormers groups
- Hiawathaland Snowmobile Club
- Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter and Dog Park (UPAWS)
- The UP 200 dog sled race runs through Sands Township during the Jack Pine 30. This is an annual event and is well-attended.



Below is a summary of the 2023 NRPA findings reflecting the types of facilities communities offer and the associated number of residents per facility. As Michigan's Upper Peninsula has a very low density population compared to most other regions in the country, there is often a greater number and type of facilities within a population. The facilities Sands Township offers its residents are highlighted below. The facilities the township has yet to offer that would be the most common for a low population community include a baseball diamond and a multi-use/soccer field.



### Outdoor Park + Recreation Facilities | Population per Facility

	All Agencies	Less than 20,000
Playgrounds	3,759	2,014
Basketball courts	7,404	3,729
Diamond fields: baseball - youth	6,863	3,114
Tennis courts (outdoor)	5,860	2,805
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	9,177	3,859
Dog park	43,532	11,100
Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	15,345	5,800
Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	11,384	5,079
Diamond fields: baseball - adult	20,228	7,627
Community gardens	31,395	8,178
Swimming pools (outdoor only)	38,635	9,745
Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	7,228	3,600
Multiuse courts -basketball, volleyball	17,475	5,093
Totlots	11,649	5,816
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	13,692	6,955
Skate park	53,144	10,726
Rectangular fields: football field	26,780	8,637
Pickleball	13,922	3,252
Regulation 18-hole courses	94,109	9,587
Driving range stations	25,930	4,555
Multipurpose synthetic field	36,884	9,518
Ice rink (outdoor only)	17,741	8,045
Rectangular fields: cricket field	139,248	
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field	26,411	9,786
Overlay field	14,763	8,707
Rectangular fields: field hockey field	20,909	18,000

 Boat Facilities	 Biking
 Playground	 Ball Sports
 Picnic Area	 Sledding
 Hockey + Ice Skating	 Sightseeing + Wildlife Viewing
 Hiking + Walking	 Camping
 Mountain Biking	 Disk Golf
 Fishing	 Cross-Country Skiing
 Swimming	 Snowshoeing
 Paddling	 Arts + Culture
 Skate Park	 Exercise Classes
 Racket Sports	 Horseback Riding

## PARK/FACILITY

### SANDS TOWNSHIP PARK

### STRAWBERRY LAKE

## ACTIVITY



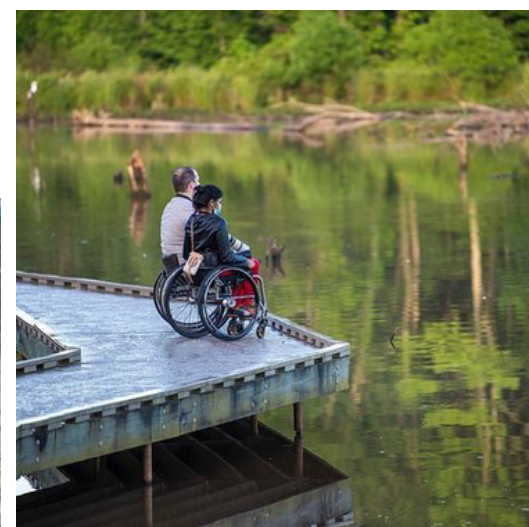
## DNR ACCESSIBILITY GRADING SYSTEM

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





## ACCESSIBILITY











The facilities were evaluated for accessibility via site visits by CUPPAD on June 8th, 2023. Tools utilized in conducting the assessments included the ADA Checklist found at [ADAChecklist.org](http://ADAChecklist.org) and the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design.

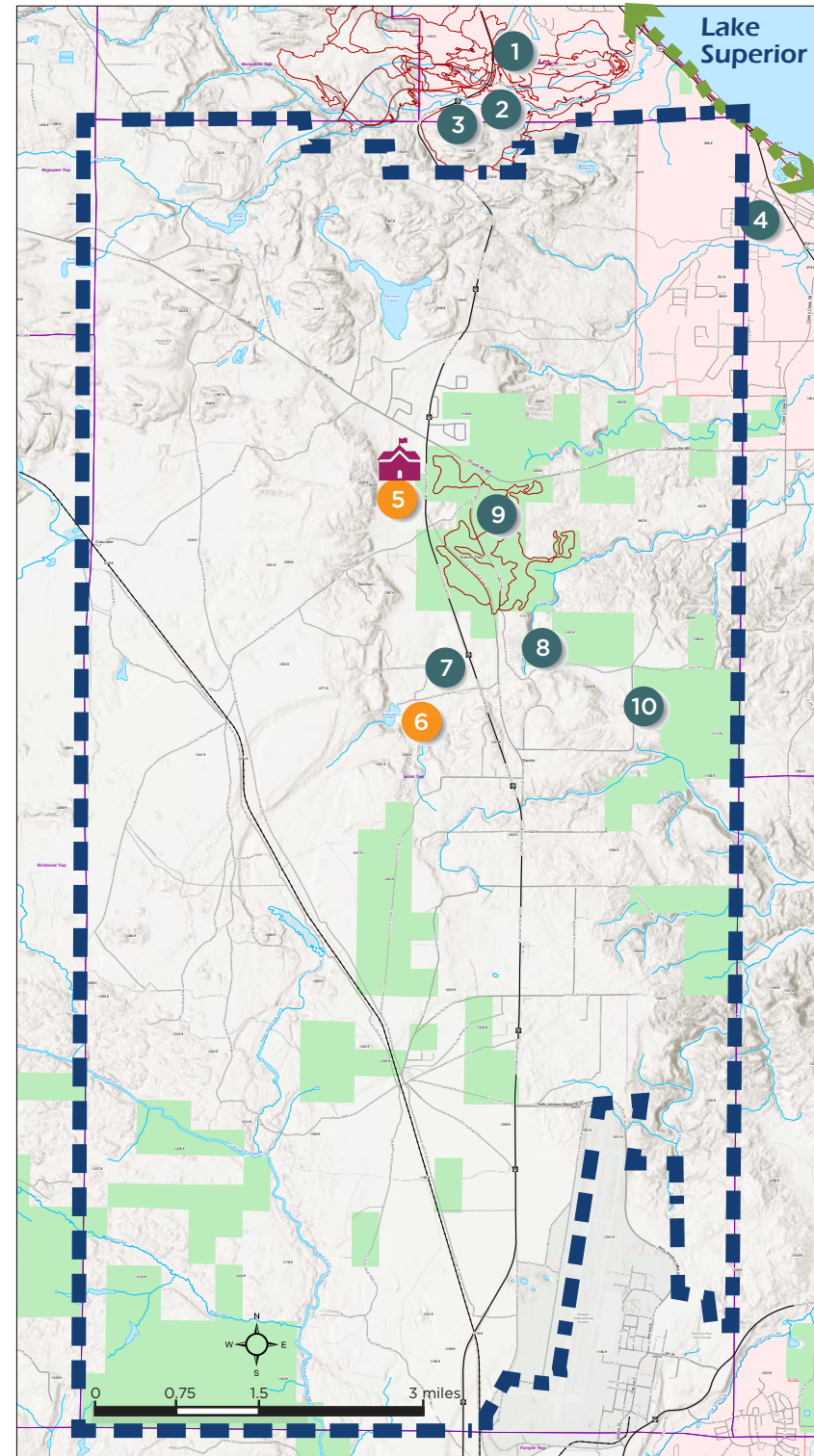
Each facility was graded according to the scale featured above with more detailed descriptions of the facility's accessible features and shortfalls in Appendix C. The recommended accessibility improvements were integrated into the action plan and priority project lists for the community.





-  Sands Township Office Complex
-  Iron Ore Heritage Trail
-  Township Owned Park
-  Parks owned/managed by others

-  1 NTN South Trails
-  2 Rippling River Resort
-  3 Marquette Mountain
-  4 Silver Creek Recreation Area
-  5 Sands Township Park
-  6 Strawberry Lake
-  7 Marquette County Fairgrounds
-  8 Sands Speedway
-  9 Blueberry Ridge Trails
-  10 Thunder Valley Equestrian Trails



# **SANDS TOWNSHIP PARKS:** OWNED + MANAGED BY THE TOWNSHIP

## **10 ACRES SANDS TOWNSHIP PARK**

The Recreation Area is located adjacent to the Sands Township Office Complex at 987 M-553 at the Crossroads. This facility is very popular among residents and an even larger regional audience as it offers one of the largest pickleball playing areas in the county. The township office complex also includes a gym that is regularly rented out for indoor sports activities and events. It was evident in the community survey responses this facility is well loved and appreciated.

Accessibility: 3

Amenities at the park include:

- Tennis courts/ Pickleball courts
- Basketball courts
- Playground
- Parking area
- Vault toilets
- Pavilion

### **GRANT HISTORY**

2005, #26-01644, for \$95,500

- To develop basketball and tennis courts, playground, parking lot and vault toilet



**~120  
ACRES**

## **STRAWBERRY LAKE TOWNSHIP PARK**

Strawberry Lake is a picturesque little lake located just to the west of the Marquette County Fairgrounds and Hwy M-553. It is open from May 1st through September 30th of each year and hosts a two track entrance road and small dirt parking area with signage and a few picnic tables overlooking the lake. The original caretaker's residence is located to the west of the day use area but is currently uninhabited. Potential projects listed by community members and recreation committee participants included adding hiking or equestrian trails throughout the forest around the lake, improving the access road and parking area, making the site more accessible with a place to launch kayaks or canoes and perhaps a swimming beach.

Accessibility: 1

**~120 ACRES**

**GRANT HISTORY**  
1985, TF1061:  
(withdrawn)



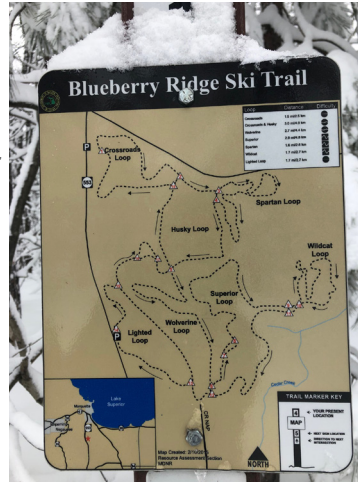


## RECREATION AREAS: OWNED + MANAGED BY OTHERS

15 MILES  
OF TRAILS

### BLUEBERRY RIDGE PATHWAY SYSTEM

This MDNR owned ski/hiking trail system is located just south of the “Crossroads” intersection of M-553 and CR-480 within the Gwinn State Forest Management Unit. The system hosts a 1.7 mile lighted ski loop in winter months as well as several other groomed ski trails. It is very popular among nordic and skate skiers alike.



#### GRANT HISTORY

Sands Township partnered with the DNR to lease a portion of the property at one of the park's trailheads to develop an accessible warming shelter with restrooms.

In 2013 an \$83,700 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant was awarded to the township to fund the warming hut and was later paired with a \$20,000 DNR Partnership Match Grant. The ski club and local individuals, organizations and businesses donated the remaining funds needed to meet the total figure of \$190,000. The installation was complete in 2016.



60  
ACRES

### MARQUETTE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

This parcel hosts the county fair each August.

Facilities include: Exhibition building, American Legion building, 4-H building (with kitchen and restroom), horse show arena, two cattle show rings, horse barn, poultry and small animal building, large livestock building, office building (with a kitchen and restrooms), barrier-free restroom/utility building, two storage structures, power outlets, two wells, large lighted parking area, outside speaker system, dirt race track, mud drag strip, paved go-cart track, large carnival area, outside horse stalls, two outdoor pavilions, and portable bleachers. All buildings are used for storage during the winter months. The property/facility is privately owned.





**7,000  
ACRES**

## ESCANABA RIVER STATE FOREST

The DNR maintains more than 7,000 acres of forested lands in the township.

**215  
ACRES**

## THUNDER VALLEY EQUESTRIAN PATHWAY

This trail system positioned just south of the Blueberry Ridge Pathway System is a local equestrian favorite. This is DNR owned land featuring an 8.8 mile loop trail through undulating terrain and oak woodlands.



## SANDS/GWINN TRAIL 8

This regional trail connects from Nordeen Park in Gwinn, through the K.I. Sawyer area into the Blueberry Ridge Pathway System. This is not a formal hard surface trail as others like the Iron Ore Heritage Trail are, but a less developed trail used by a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail users alike.

## SANDS SPEEDWAY

This is a privately owned speedway with a 1/4 mile track open June-August of each year. It hosts very well attended regular races. Additional details can be found at: <https://sandsspeedway.com/about/>



## UPAWS PAWS PARK

Owned and operated by UPAWS, this dog park is located behind the UPAWS facility and requires a permit for access. Annual passes per dog are \$35, a family pass (up to 4 dogs) is \$50. Seasonal permits are available from November to April at \$20 per individual dog, \$35 for a family pass (up to 4 dogs). The operational hours are 7am-9pm in Summer, 8am-7pm in Winter.





## NOQUEMANON (NTN) SOUTH TRAILS

As the name indicates, this network of non-motorized, primarily mountain and fat bike designed trails is located in South Marquette along M-553. The trails are built and managed by NTN a 501C-3 non-profit on properties owned by various land owners. The organization and accompanying lands host a variety of local recreation clubs, races and events. This trail network has become an icon for the region and is a destination for visitors from around the country. A trail map and additional resources can be found here:

<https://noquetrails.org/>



## RIPPLING RIVER RESORT

This privately owned resort and campground is situated along the Carp River between Marquette Mountain and NTN South Trails. It serves as lodging and a starting point for visitors coming to the region to recreate and enjoy the amenities the region has to offer. The resort also hosts many events and concerts. The website is: <https://www.ripplingriverresort.com/>



source: [ripplingriverresort.com](https://www.ripplingriverresort.com/)

## IRON ORE HERITAGE TRAIL (IOHT)

Per the trail website (<https://ironoreheritage.com/>):

*"The Iron Ore Heritage Trail is a 47-mile, year round, multi-use, interpretive trail that crosses the Marquette Iron Range in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Call us the outdoor linear museum where you exercise your body and mind. Those who bike, walk, run, hike, ORV, snowmobile, cross country ski, birdwatch, and/or wander will find a section of trail perfect for your activity."*

This trail serves as a regional destination within the county running through Chocolay Township, Marquette, Marquette Township, Negaunee Township, Negaunee, Ishpeming and beyond. It is funded in part by a millage. The potential of creating a connector trail to the IOHT was discussed in recreation committee meetings and community survey responses during the planning process.





## MARQUETTE MOUNTAIN

Located just a couple miles south of downtown Marquette along M-553, Marquette Mountain is a recreation destination open year round. Trails connect to the NTN South Trails and the ski hill is open in winter months. This facility is privately owned. <https://marquettemountain.com/>



source: indyskipass.com

## RAGING RIVER RESORT

Just south of Marquette Mountain along M-553 in Sands Township, is a new campground. This site encompasses 600 acres and will include 112 sites per the approved permit. This campground also includes trails that connect with the NTN South Trails.



Sands Township welcomes future recreational development!

## **Recreation Inventory | Facilities in nearby areas**

### **City of Marquette**

- Presque Isle Park, 323 acres peninsula, forested with areas for walking, climbing, beach visits, picnicking and a playground. Also features a marina.
- Tourist Park Campground, A 40 acre wooded campground
- NTN North trails and Forestville featuring a large network of all season non-motorized trails. Primarily on CFR lands.
- Ellwood A. Mattson Lower Harbor Park, 22 acres with a large grassy area for community events, parking, playground, rest rooms, boat launch, and picnic area.
- Lakeview Arena, recreation and convention center used for hockey, skating, concerts, shows and events.
- Shiras Park, 31 acres at the Northeast end of Marquette with a long beach on Lake Superior, restrooms, parking, cooking facilities, and playground.
- Marquette Senior Center, has an indoor gym for court sports including pickleball.
- McCarty's Cove, the southernmost coastal pieces of Shiras Park includes a swimming beach equipped with lifeguard stand and water rescue station, parking, sand volleyball, sitting areas, rest rooms and a playground.
- South Beach Park, Hosts lifeguard watch stations, a large swim beach, play area, parking, and rest rooms.
- Fit Strip (Cemetery) and Cross Country Ski Trail; Lit ski trails and fit strip winding through the cemetery property. There is also a community garden area.
- Marquette Commons, the downtown square hosting community events including the farmers market
- NMU Superior Dome and recreation facility
- Founder's Landing, South of the Ore Dock a brownfield site now has a new life as a continuation of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail with beach access and restrooms.
- A variety of smaller playgrounds and community play fields pepper the Marquette City landscape.

### **Forsyth Township Parks**

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

### **West Branch Township Parks**

- West Branch Recreation Area: Picnic area and fishing site on the West Branch of Silver Lead Creek
- Chocoley River Access Site: Fishing access
- Engman Lake Access Site: Fishing access with boat ramp and toilets
- Sporley Lake Access Site: Fishing access with boat ramp

### **Skandia Township Parks**

- Sports complex adjacent to the township hall featuring a new playground and existing sport court, and baseball fields
- Privately owned Maple Lane Sports cross-country ski area

## City of Ishpeming Area Parks

- National Ski Hall of Fame, Constructed in 1992 on a 1 acre site. Museum with historical displays and artifacts of skiing from all countries.
- Al-Quaal; A 200 acre recreation site utilized year round with tennis, basketball, baseball, horseshoes, volleyball, mountain biking, hiking, swimming, picnicking, boating & fishing, skiing, sledding, tobogganing, ice fishing and snowmobiling in winter months.
- City Playground featuring a variety of sports facilities, Brasswire Campground and many smaller parks primarily featuring play equipment and basketball courts.

### **Suicide Ski Center**

This ski center is on Suicide Bowl road south of M-28. The site is owned by CCI and leased to the Ishpeming Ski Club. The site hosts a 90 meter ski jump and cross country ski trails.

### **River Rock Lanes**

This privately owned facility offers 16 bowling lanes and 6 billiards tables and is located at 1011 North Road in Ishpeming.

### **St. Johns Church**

This privately owned facility offers an indoor gymnasium and is located on South Pine Street in Ishpeming.

### **906 Cross Fit**

This privately owned facility offers an indoor strength and fitness center and is located on Lakeshore Drive in Ishpeming.

### **Cross Bridge Church**

This privately owned facility offers an indoor gymnasium and is located on Third Street in Ishpeming.

### **Heritage Hills**

This privately owned facility offers a riding stable and horse trails on Malton Road in Ishpeming.

## **Wawonowin Country Club**

This privately owned facility offers an 18 hole golf course on Co Rd 478 in Champion.

### **St. Joseph's Church**

This privately owned facility offers an indoor gymnasium as is located on Prairie Ave. in Ishpeming.

### **Strength and Fitness**

This privately owned facility offers an indoor strength and fitness center and is located on South Main Street in Ishpeming.

## **Ishpeming Township Parks**

### **Ishpeming Township Park**

This seven acre park hosts a softball diamond, little league diamond, tennis courts, pavilion, tot lot, restrooms, concessions, playground, horseshoe court, shuffleboard, volleyball court, basketball court, picnic table and grills.

## **Negaunee Township Parks**

### **Negaunee Township Park**

71-acres with basketball court, pavilion, warming building, concessions, playground area, little league field, Babe Ruth baseball field, softball field, tennis court, cross-country ski trail, picnic tables, and snowmobile trail access.

### **Michigan Mining Museum**

30-acres with exhibits of early iron ore mining artifacts, audio-visual programs, and outdoor interpretive paths.

### **McClure Storage Basin Access Site**

Hard-surface launch ramp, toilets and parking area. Site is 1.03 acres.

### **Hoist Basin Access Site**

Hard-surface launch ramp, toilets and parking area. Site is 1.82 acres.



## City of Negaunee Area Parks

### Iron Town Field

This **Neighborhood Park** is located on Prince Street east of Camelot Drive. It is owned by the Cleveland Cliffs, Inc. (CCI) and leased to the City. The site includes a baseball field, concession stand, rest room and storage building.

### Miners Park

This **Community Park** is located on the north side of Hwy 41 between Maas and Maple Streets. It hosts the largest play structure in the community, a picnic pavilion that is frequently rented, illuminated basketball courts, horseshoe courts, a volleyball court, historical marker and rest rooms. Several parents have expressed the need for a fence as the playground is adjacent to Hwy 41.

### Lincoln Street Park

This **Mini Park** is located east of Healy Street and north of Lincoln Street. It is owned by the City and has a basketball court and a picnic table.

### Teal Lake Beach

This **Community Park** is located on the Eastern shore of Teal Lake along Croix Street. The City plans to extend the current storm water culverts that run to the beach into the water and rehab the existing timber retaining wall. Many survey respondents commented on water quality issues and excessive goose poop at this site. The site is owned by the City and features several picnic tables and a swimming area.

### Teal Lake Boat Launch

Teal Lake Boat Launch is a facet of the Teal Lake Beach Park. The facility was installed in 1995 with partial funding from a DNR Trust Fund Grant. The site includes a paved boat launch and accessible fishing dock.

### Breitung Park

This **Neighborhood Park** is located on Pioneer Ave. near the fire station in downtown Negaunee. It is owned by the City and contains a band shell with grassy area and benches.

### Veteran's Park

This **Mini Park** is located in front of the City Hall in Downtown Negaunee. The park has benches, a concrete pathway, a fountain, and a memorial.

### Copper St/Partridge Creek Park

This **Mini Park** is located on the corner of Copper and Division Streets. It hosts a basketball court and grassy area.

### Ann Street Park

This **Mini Park** is located on Ann Street in downtown Negaunee. It hosts a basketball court, sand volleyball, and swing set.

### Bartle Park

This **Mini Park** is located at the corner of Cyr and Lombard Streets. The park features an open grassy area with a gazebo.

### Sunset Drive Park

This **Neighborhood Park** is located on Sunset Drive in the Northeast corner of the City. It hosts a basketball court, grassy field, playground equipment, and picnic area.

### Negaunee Ice Arena

This **Community Park** is located on Rail Street, south of downtown Negaunee. Negaunee features a full sized arena, new locker rooms and rest rooms as of 2021, a lobby, kitchen, concession area, two offices, meeting room and large parking lot.

## Buffalo Road Park

This **Neighborhood Park** is on the southern edge of the City's property at New Buffalo Road. It is owned by CCI and leased to the City. It contains a swing set, basketball court, and picnic area/table.

## Chiri Park

This **Mini Park** is located at the corner of Iron and Silver Street in Downtown Negaunee. It hosts a grassy area with a bench.

## Old Town Recreation Area

This **Regional Park** serves as the community gateway to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. It hosts a trailhead to the RAMBA mountain biking trail network, a volunteer built disk golf course, and several interpretive stops showcasing the rich history of the region.

## Community Play Field

The Community Play Field is a 5 ½ acre park that is located. The park is owned by CCI and leased to the schools. The park includes an 1,800 person capacity stadium, track, practice fields, rest rooms, lockers, weight lifting room, and concession building. The facility also has an adjacent wrestling and weight-lifting room, lavatory facilities and locker room. The site received an upgrade with the construction of a year round indoor recreation facility.

## LaCombe Field

This **Community Park** is located on Baldwin Street between Water Street and Mitchell Avenue. It features a lighted softball field, batting cages, press box, rest room and storage facility, and an open area used for football/soccer practice. New, high school student built dugouts and an accessible sidewalk are currently proposed improvements for the site. It is owned by (CCI) and leased to the City.

## Ericson Parkway

This **Mini Park** is located between Iron and Jackson Streets. It is owned by CCI and leased to the City. It features a winding concrete path with picnic table.

## Negaunee Middle School

The Middle School is located on Case Street Between Pioneer Street and Teal Lake Avenue. It is owned by the school district. The school has a gym, outdoor basketball court, and hard surface play area.

## Negaunee High School

The High School is located on Arch Street. It hosts a 50x75' indoor pool, auditorium, 75x42' gym, and 8 outdoor tennis courts.

## Negaunee Luge

The luge is located on Lucy Hill at 230 E County Road. The property is owned by CCI and leased from the City. It includes warming shacks, a maintenance building, starting house, equipment rental and a parking lot.

## Lakeview Elementary

This school is located on Teal Lake Avenue. It is owned by the school district.

The school features playground equipment, 2 tennis courts, 1 basketball court, and open field, and a gym.

## Bernie Rivers Memorial Field

This **Community Park** is located on Prince Street, east of Vine Street. It contains a baseball field, lighted horseshoe courts, a basketball court, playground, portable rest room, pavilion, concessions and storage building. It is owned by CCI and leased to the City.

## Jackson Mine Park + Senior Center Park

This **Community Park** is located on Tobin Street in downtown Negaunee. It is owned by the City and part of the larger Old Town recreation area. Recent updates include lighting along the Iron Ore Heritage Trail to Ishpeming, a new pavilion with rest rooms, a new parking area and a soon to be new playground.

## Richmond Township Parks

### **Richmond Township Park**

This park hosts a horseshoe court, basketball court, tennis courts, baseball field, playground, picnic area, pavilion and restrooms.

## Tilden Township Parks

### **Recreation Complex**

This six acre site with tennis courts, baseball field, horseshoe courts, basketball court, playground area, pit toilets, parking, picnic area, and pavilion.



# 6

## COMMENTS + ISSUE SCOPING PUBLIC INPUT

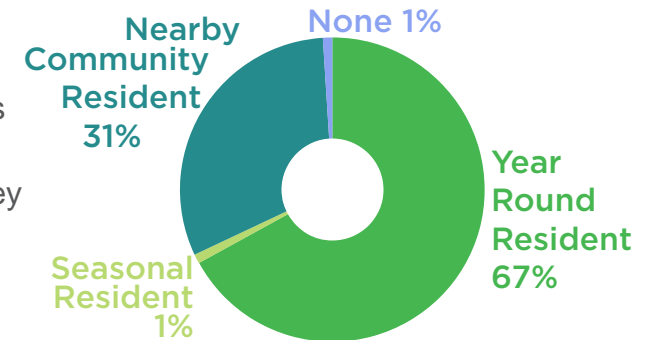
A community survey was launched in May of 2023. The survey was shared via multiple methods including social media, the township website, and paper copies stationed at the township hall. 315 survey responses were received.

The feedback garnered was extremely informative and helped in generating recreation values, goals and priority improvements for the community. The pie charts to the right illustrate the age distribution of survey participants and the community in general. A larger percent of 26-45 year olds responded and smaller proportions of the oldest and youngest demographics. It is assumed parents responded with their child's interests in mind.

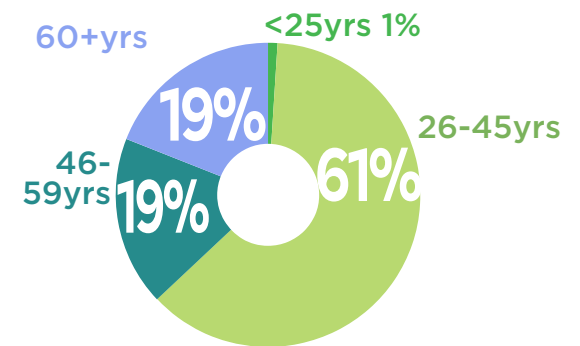
In addition to the surveys, a community recreation workshop was hosted in the evening of Thursday October 19th. Roughly 10-15 participants attended adding their recreation goals and project ideas to a series of interactive presentation boards. They were able to illustrate what action items from the last 5-year plan should remain a priority moving forward as well. Several discussions helped to illuminate the evolution of trail user types within the township and the potential for overlap between certain user groups. The township owned forest area as well as the adjacent Strawberry Lake property were discussed as potentially receiving some all-season non motorized trail development for hikers, snowshoers, and equestrians.

The following page illustrates the number of survey participants who responded with specific recreation activities they participated in. The most frequent responses were hiking, skiing and snowshoeing, biking, ORV, SxS and Dirt Biking and visiting the playground.

### RESIDENCY SURVEY

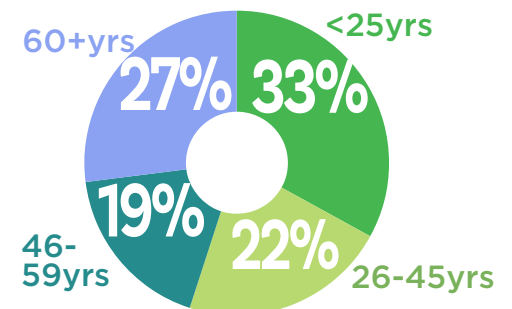


### AGE | SURVEY



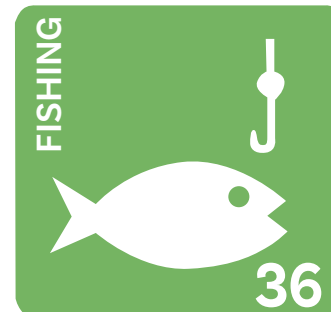
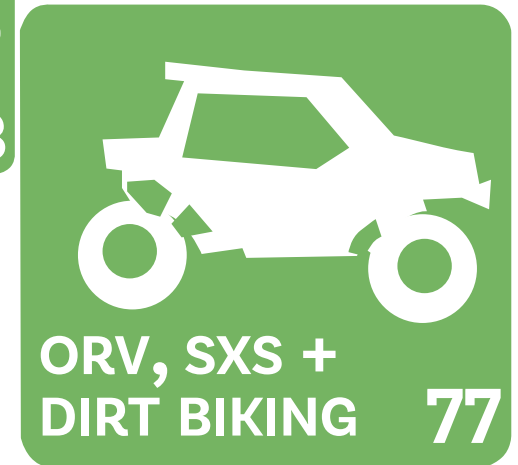
### AGE | 2021

Source: US Census ACS Data



# SURVEY RESULTS

IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, WHAT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATED IN?



## LESS FREQUENT MENTIONS:

- 4 - BOATING
- 4 - BIRDING
- 4 - GOLF
- 3 - FAIR
- 2 - FITNESS TRAIL

\* NUMBERS INDICATE THE NUMBER OF TIMES MENTIONED IN THE SURVEY RESPONSES

# SURVEY RESULTS

This page summarizes all community values received within the surveys. The word diagram to the right illustrates the values listed. The larger the font, the more common the response was.

The most frequent mentions included Access, Safe + Clean, Kid Friendly and Beautiful Natural Areas. Each of these was integrated into a community value that helped shape the recreation goals for the township.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR REGION?

## VALUES

**“SANDS IS A GREAT PLACE. LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES IN THE QUIET SPORTS AREAS AND LOTS OF WOODS TO EXPAND THEM.”**

-LOCAL RESIDENT

**“SANDS TOWNSHIP PARK IS THE BEST PARK IN THE AREA!”**

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

**“ENJOYING THE BEAUTY OF WHERE WE LIVE! THE PEACEFULNESS.”**

-LOCAL RESIDENT

**“OF ALL THE GREAT RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN SANDS TOWNSHIP, I APPRECIATE THE ORV/ATV OPPORTUNITIES SO INCREDIBLY MUCH IT’S ONE OF THE MAIN, IF NOT THE MAIN, REASONS I MOVED INTO THE TOWNSHIP.”**

-LOCAL RESIDENT







# VALUES, GOALS + OBJECTIVES

## STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

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

### PLANNING METHODOLOGY

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

### Recreation Participation:

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

### Motivators:

Mental health and physical benefits are key reasons participants recreate.

### Land Use:

Recreation opportunities in and around more urban areas are needed.

### Resources:

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

### Information Seeking Technology:

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

### Barriers:

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

### Physical Activity:

Prioritize physical health for all Michigan residents.

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

## SCORP GOAL

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

-SCORP 2023-2027

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

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

### IMPROVE AND EXPAND RECREATIONAL ACCESS:

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

### ENHANCE HEALTH BENEFITS

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

### ENHANCE PROSPERITY

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

# VALUES + GOALS

The values generated with help from the responses summarized in the previous chapter defined parks and recreation goals for the community. The Sands Township parks and recreation values are:

- **We VALUE having ready access to beautiful wide open spaces.**
- **We VALUE having safe and clean community parks.**
- **We VALUE having a variety of trails for all user types.**
- **We VALUE having a variety of family and kid friendly recreation opportunities.**

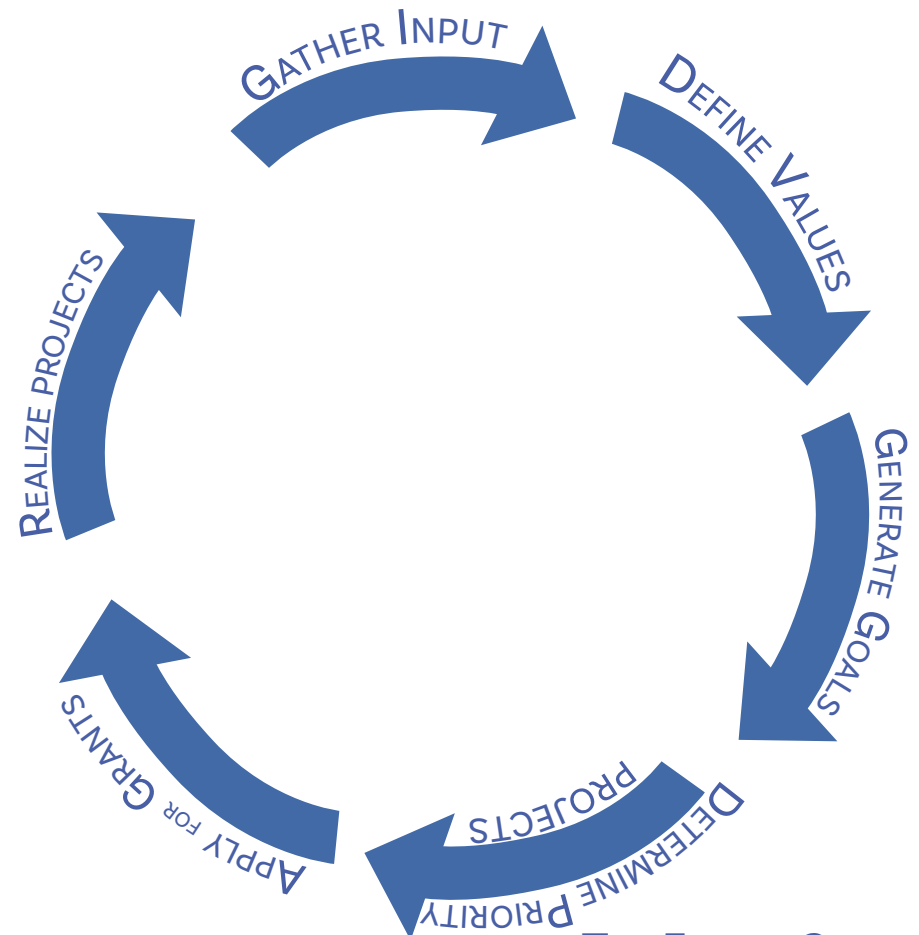
Community members were then asked what they would like to see change regarding recreation within the township. A summary of the proposed changes is featured on the last two pages of this chapter. Combining these perspectives of community recreation values with desired improvements allowed the planning team to formulate a series of parks and recreation goals. These include:

**Goal 1: Continue to prioritize and support recreation related improvements within the community.**

**Goal 2: Promote non-motorized and motorized trail access and connections between neighboring communities, public properties, and township owned facilities.**

**Goal 3: Provide clean, safe facilities where community members of all ages and ability levels can recreate year round.**

The next step was to generate a series of objectives and action items that would help guide the community through the five year planning window and beyond. The following page features a diagram of the township's recreation values, goals and objectives illustrating the cyclical nature of this process.



## GOAL 1

**Prioritize and support recreation related improvements within the community.**

### OBJECTIVES

- » Develop a recreation plan outlining community goals and priority projects.
- » Partner with community organizations to apply for funding, maintain and develop recreation related improvements
- » Support the culture of outdoor recreation through community outreach, programming and partnerships.

## GOAL 2

**Promote non-motorized and motorized trail access and connections between neighboring communities and public properties.**

### OBJECTIVES

- » Create and enhance trails that tie the community and surrounding municipalities together.
- » Work with land owners, community members, MDOT and local clubs to define routes and prioritize phasing for trail maintenance and connections.
- » Develop a strategy for funding the maintenance and improvements made to trail infrastructure within the community.

## GOAL 3 | **Provide clean, safe facilities where community members of all ages and ability levels can recreate year round.**

### OBJECTIVES

- » Apply for funding to make Strawberry Lake a more accessible site for everyone, including the addition of trails to explore the extensive forested property the township owns.
- » Continue to maintain and adapt the township park complex to fit with desired recreation needs.
- » Ensure existing facilities and infrastructure at township owned parks are safe and accessible for all .



# 8

## ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

IMPROVE PARKING  
AREA

ADD HIKING TRAILS

ADD BIKE TRAILS

ADD EQUESTRIAN  
TRAILS

As a facet of the community survey and then again at the public recreation workshop, community members were asked to provide their ideas and opinions for park and recreation projects within the community.

Strawberry Lake received its own question highlighting potential options for improving access or making it a more beneficial resource for the community. The bar graph below illustrates the responses gathered during the survey process.

Requests for additional trails were a top priority as well as parking area improvements.

The chart on the following page reaffirms the community's desire to see additional trail work.

Survey and workshop participants were then asked to note what they would like to see change regarding parks and recreation within the township. The image charts on pages 44-45 illustrate the specific changes mentioned in the community surveys with the numbers in the top right hand corners noting how many people noted these desired changes. Rising to the top, again, is the development of trails including both motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities. The need for additional pickleball/tennis courts was regularly expressed as well as the desire for a multi-sport field and playground area updates.

## COMMENTS

**"I DISLIKE THAT THE STRAWBERRY LAKE ACCESS IS GATED UNTIL MAY 1ST AND CLOSSES AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER WHEN THE LAKE ITSELF, BEING DESIGNATED TYPE D TROUT LAKE, IS OPEN TO FISHING FROM THE LAST SATURDAY IN APRIL UNTIL OCTOBER 31ST."**

-LOCAL RESIDENT

**"I DIDN'T KNOW STRAWBERRY LAKE WAS PUBLIC ACCESS."**

-LOCAL RESIDENT

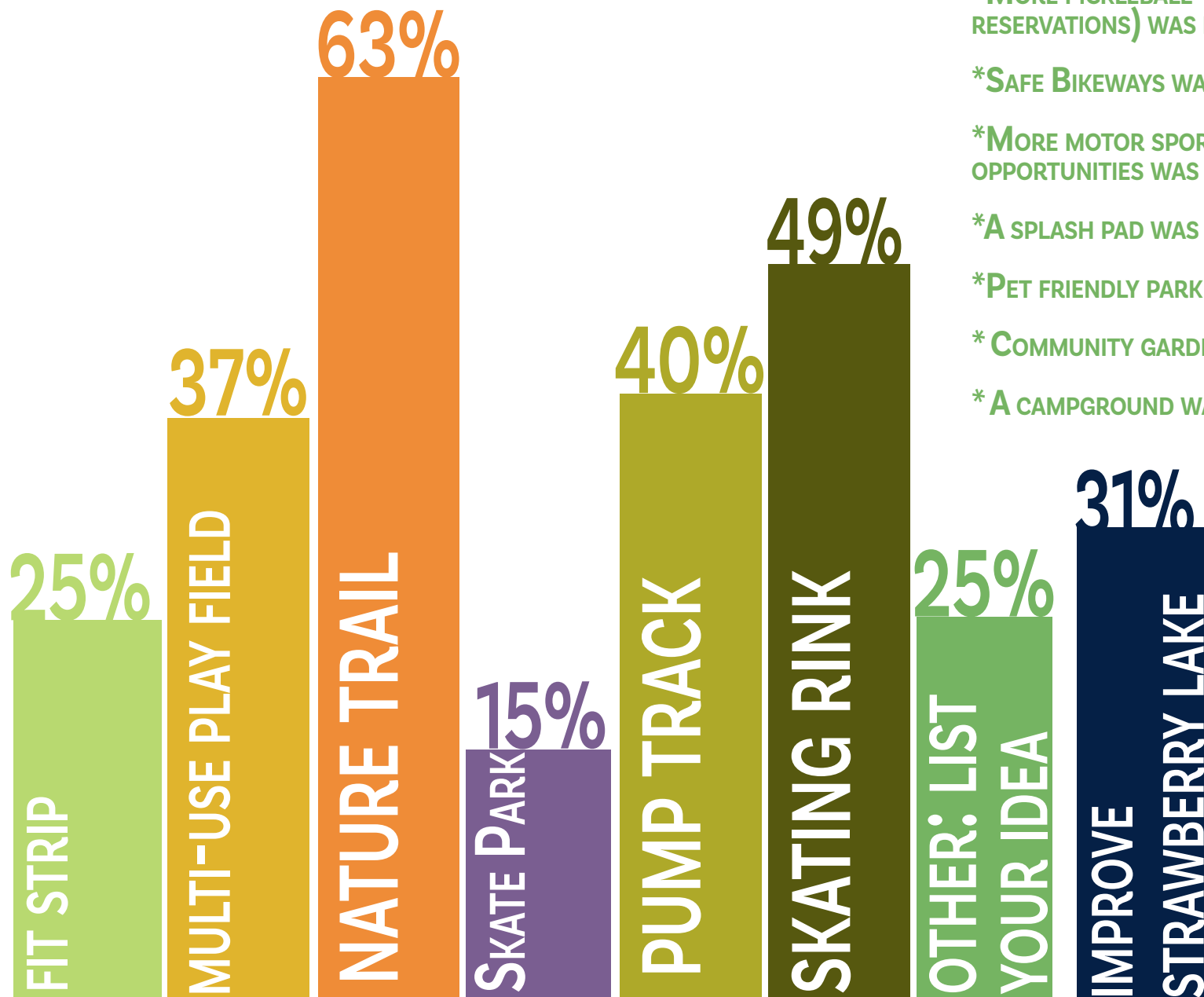
**"MAKE STRAWBERRY LAKE FISHABLE!"**

-LOCAL RESIDENT

**"A PLAYGROUND AT STRAWBERRY LAKE."**

-LOCAL RESIDENT

”



#### TOP MENTIONS IN THE 'OTHER' CATEGORY:

\*MORE PICKLEBALL + TENNIS (ONLINE RESERVATIONS) WAS MENTIONED 8 TIMES

\*SAFE BIKEWAYS WAS MENTIONED 6 TIMES

\*MORE MOTOR SPORT ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES WAS MENTIONED 9 TIMES

\*A SPLASH PAD WAS MENTIONED 3 TIMES

\*PET FRIENDLY PARK WAS MENTIONED 3 TIMES

\*COMMUNITY GARDEN WAS MENTIONED 3 TIMES

\*A CAMPGROUND WAS MENTIONED 3 TIMES

PLEASE SELECT THE PARKS AND RECREATION PROJECTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN WITHIN SANDS TOWNSHIP.



# CHANGES

## WHAT PARK OR RECREATION SITES WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE AND HOW?

“**OPEN GYM TIME IN WINTER MONTHS.**” -LOCAL RESIDENT

“**IT’S IMPOSSIBLE TO PLAY TENNIS ANYMORE AS THE PICKLE BALL PLAYERS ALWAYS SEEM TO BE USING THE COURTS. IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE MORE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS. WISH THERE WAS SAFER BIKE PATHS FOR KIDS TO RIDE FROM THE NEIGHBORHOODS TO THE PARK/ GAS STATION/BLUEBERRY. IT’S DANGEROUS FOR KIDS TO CROSS AND DANGEROUS FOR THEM TO BIKE ON THE SHOULDER WITH ALL THE TRAFFIC AND THE ODD SHAPED INTERSECTION. MORE PICKLEBALL COURTS, INDOOR COURTS WOULD BE A DREAM! BUT, MORE OUTDOOR COURTS WOULD BE NICE.**”

-LOCAL RESIDENT

“**EMBRACE ALL OUTDOOR SPORTS MOTORIZED AND NON MOTORIZED.**”

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT





\*NUMBERS SIGNIFY THE QUANTITY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS WHO MENTIONED THIS POTENTIAL CHANGE.



## CHANGES

**SANDS TOWNSHIP PARK ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT (POSSIBLY THE ADDITION OF A NATURAL PLAY SPACE). THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ICE RINK OR ICE TRAIL AT BLUEBERRY.”**

-LOCAL RESIDENT

**“I’D LOVE A MAP TO BE MAILED OR DIGITALLY DISTRIBUTED TO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS DETAILING WHAT PUBLIC LANDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOG WALKING, SNOWSHOEING, AND BIRD WATCHING...WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FIGHT MOBS OF PEOPLE WHO DON’T LIVE HERE FOR ACCESS.”**

-LOCAL RESIDENT

**“FOCUS ON MULTI-USE. WE NEED TO SHARE OUR TRAILS & SPACES. BIKES ARE TAKING OVER MANY AREAS AND EXCLUDING OTHER USES, PARTICULARLY HORSES!”**

-SURVEY PARTICIPANT

**“BIKE TRAILS. THERE ARE NO DEFINED BIKE OR E-BIKE TRAILS OR CONNECTING CORRIDORS. THERE SHOULD BE SAFE BIKE PATH/ROUTES FROM: IN SANDS TOWNSHIP TO KI SAWYER ALONG KELLEY DRIVE TO M-553 THEN NORTH TO CROSSROADS- SIDE OF PAVED ROADS AND OR UTILITY RIGHT OF WAY COULD BE USED. IN CONJUNCTION WITH FORSYTH TOWNSHIP TO KI SAWYER ALONG M-94 TO M-553 THEN TO GWINN.”**

-LOCAL RESIDENT

# PRIORITY PROJECTS

This Action Plan on the following pages attempts to channel the many ideas provided via community input, recreation board and staff feedback and develop a list of park and recreation improvements within the coming years. By no means is this a comprehensive list as interests, demographics, and the environment are constantly evolving. The township will continue to revisit its recreation plan within the future and amend this list as needed.

The past 5-year Recreation Plan included quite a few projects that have yet to be realized. These were reintegrated into the list of potential projects as well.



NATURE TRAIL + PLAY AREA



ACCESSIBLE PLAY FEATURE FOR ALL

## GOAL #1

### Prioritize and support recreation related improvements within the community.

#### RECREATION PROGRAMMING

- Host additional community recreation events including the community fishing day, introducing children to fishing
- Continue to support community efforts to introduce people to different forms of recreation including Superior Ski Club's Ski Cats Program often hosted at Blueberry Ridge
- Encourage community exercise programs such as yoga that utilize the existing community facilities

#### STRAWBERRY LAKE

Complete Strawberry Lake site access and maintenance improvements including:

- » Accessible parking area + road improvements
- » Accessible fishing and picnic spaces
- » Consider adding a nature play component for kids
- » Nature trail development for all season's use
- » Open park for longer season
- » Add rustic camping

#### SANDS TOWNSHIP PARK

- » Continue to update park facilities to accommodate changing recreation needs and priorities; ie consider adding a multi-use play field, update play equipment and restroom, add sport courts, Add loop trail with exercise stations, add pump track, clear viewshed to roadway and add lighting to extend open hours and feelings of safety
- » Support and encourage community groups to seek funding for and define maintenance strategy for park improvements and upkeep. This could include the installation of additional pickleball courts, community garden plots, and playground improvements



## GOAL #2

Promote non-motorized and motorized trail connections between neighboring communities and public properties.

### TRAILS

- Identify any user or traffic conflicts along existing trail corridors and correct them
- Provide additional trailheads if needed
- Notify trail users of proper trail etiquette and clearly mark user types allowed on trails
- Work with the MDNR and others to determine proper placement for ORV and Snowmobile trails throughout the township
- Work with neighboring communities, land owners and transportation departments to create a regional multi-use trail connection
- Establish a pet friendly trail area
- Promote year round trail opportunities
- Create safe crossing for pedestrians, bikes and motorized trail users alike at the Crossroads intersection



EXAMPLE ROAD CROSSING



MULTI-USE CONNECTOR TRAIL



NATURE TRAIL

## GOAL #3

Provide clean, safe facilities where community members of all ages and ability levels can recreate year round.

### SANDS TOWNSHIP PARK

- Work with local clubs to ensure everyone has opportunity to utilize community facilities (this includes courts and gym)
- Make updates to facilities that are not accessible
- Provide programming for community members who may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience various forms of recreation. This may include partnering with local businesses or clubs to provide rental equipment and instruction.



LEARNING CAMPING SKILLS



SUPERIORLAND SKI CLUBS SKI CATS PROGRAM



# A

## APPENDIX A

### PUBLIC NOTICE + SURVEY RESULTS



Sands Township

June 13 · 🌐

A draft of the proposed Sands Township 5-year Recreation Plan is available for review online at: <https://www.sandstownship.org/parks/>. A paper copy of the draft plan is available for review at the Sands Township Office & Facilities (987 State Hwy. M-553, Gwinn, Michigan 49841). We will be accepting comments until July 20, 2024.



News TV6 Live Latest Videos Weather TV6 Investigates Sports Upper Michigan Today Back to School Obituaries

## Public comment period opening soon for Sands Township 5-year recreation plan

SANDS TOWNSHIP, Mich. (WLUC) - [Sands Township](#) is working on its five-year recreation plan and now, you can weigh in. A 10-member recreation committee has come up with a draft of the five-year plan after collecting data from a survey.

Next week, the 30-day public comment period will be open for residents to leave thoughts on the plan online. The township supervisor says recreation is an important part of Sands Township.

"Recreation is a very large component of Sands Township," Sands Township Supervisor Darlene Walch said. "A lot of land is devoted to that. There are hiking trails all over the Sands Plains, snowmobile trail 8 runs through here, we have a playground and the tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball courts, so we do try to make sure that we have all of those recreation areas listed in the plan."

A public hearing for the recreation plan is scheduled for Tuesday, July 30 at 7 p.m. at the Sands Township Hall.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE  
SANDS TOWNSHIP  
FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN  
PUBLIC INPUT SESSION AND PUBLIC HEARING**

The Sands Township Recreation Committee has released a draft of the proposed Sands Township 5-year Recreation Plan. The plan is available for public review online at: <http://www.sandstownship.org/parks/>. A paper copy of the draft plan is available for review at the Sands Township Office and Facilities located at 987 State Hwy. M-553, Gwinn, Michigan 49841. Public comments regarding the draft 5-year Recreation Plan can be submitted to:

CUPPAD  
c/o Sands Twp Rec Plan  
2950 College Ave.  
Escanaba, MI 49829

Or email comments to Dotty LaJoye at: [dlajoye@cuppad.org](mailto:dlajoye@cuppad.org)

A Special Meeting will be held to conduct a Public Hearing on the draft 5-year Recreation Plan on July 30, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Sands Township Office and Facilities located at 987 State Hwy. M-553, Gwinn, Michigan 49841.

Survey Responses: What follows is a summary of all data gathered from the Sands Township Recreation Survey, which was done through the website, SurveyMonkey, and ran from April 5, 2024 through June 26, 2024. 313 responses were gathered.

Sands Township Recreation Survey

Q1 We have received comments regarding the Superior Solar/Cleveland Cliffs Land Transaction Application:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/real-estate/superior-solar-and-cleveland-cliffs> This 5-year township recreation plan focuses on township owned parcels and does not address recreation on privately owned property. If you have comments regarding the Superior Solar/Cleveland Cliffs Land Transaction please comment via this DNR provided email address: DNR-SUPERIORSOLAR-Comments@Michigan.gov. The township is open to receiving comments regarding future opportunities to improve trail access for all users on township owned properties or through acquisition if determined to be a priority. Please provide your ideas for the township.

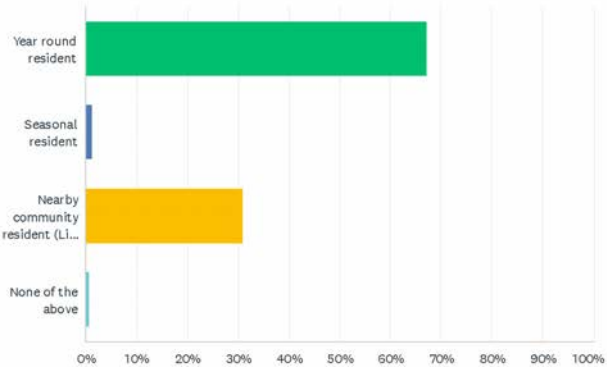
Answered: 5   Skipped: 308

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Trails are fine except when motorized vehicles (mini bikes, atvs and side by sides) are allowed on trails that are close to homes.	6/28/2023 6:29 PM
2	Marquette County is in need of outdoor soccer fields AND indoor arena for all sports.	6/28/2023 11:01 AM
3	Why not do something that could be used year around for families. Like bring back roller rinks. Miniature golf. Indoor go carts. Things that are family oriented.	6/28/2023 9:46 AM
4	Would love a Splash pad	6/28/2023 7:41 AM
5	Township run campground	5/29/2023 7:04 PM

Q2 Please select what best describes your residency:

Answered: 310   Skipped: 3

Sands Township Recreation Survey



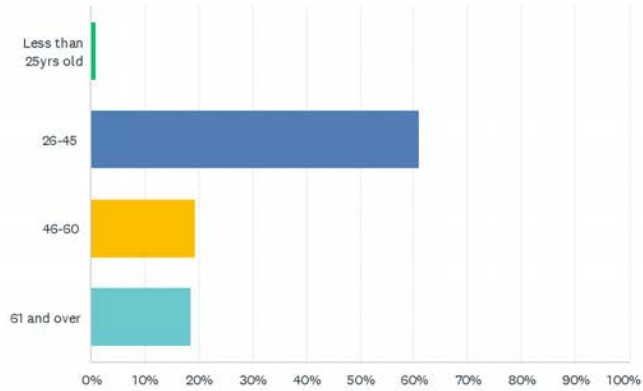
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Year round resident	67.10% 208
Seasonal resident	1.29% 4
Nearby community resident (Live outside township limits)	30.97% 96
None of the above	0.65% 2
TOTAL	310

Q3 Are you:

Answered: 313   Skipped: 0



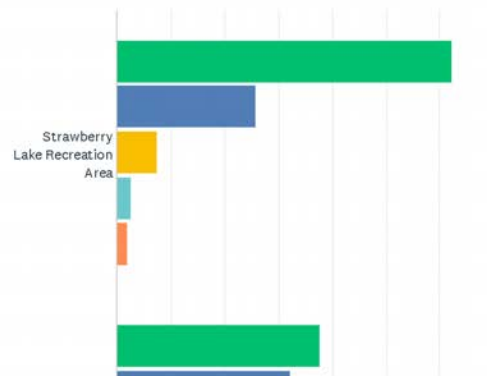
Sands Township Recreation Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 25yrs old	0.96%	3
26-45	61.02%	191
46-60	19.49%	61
61 and over	18.53%	58
TOTAL		313

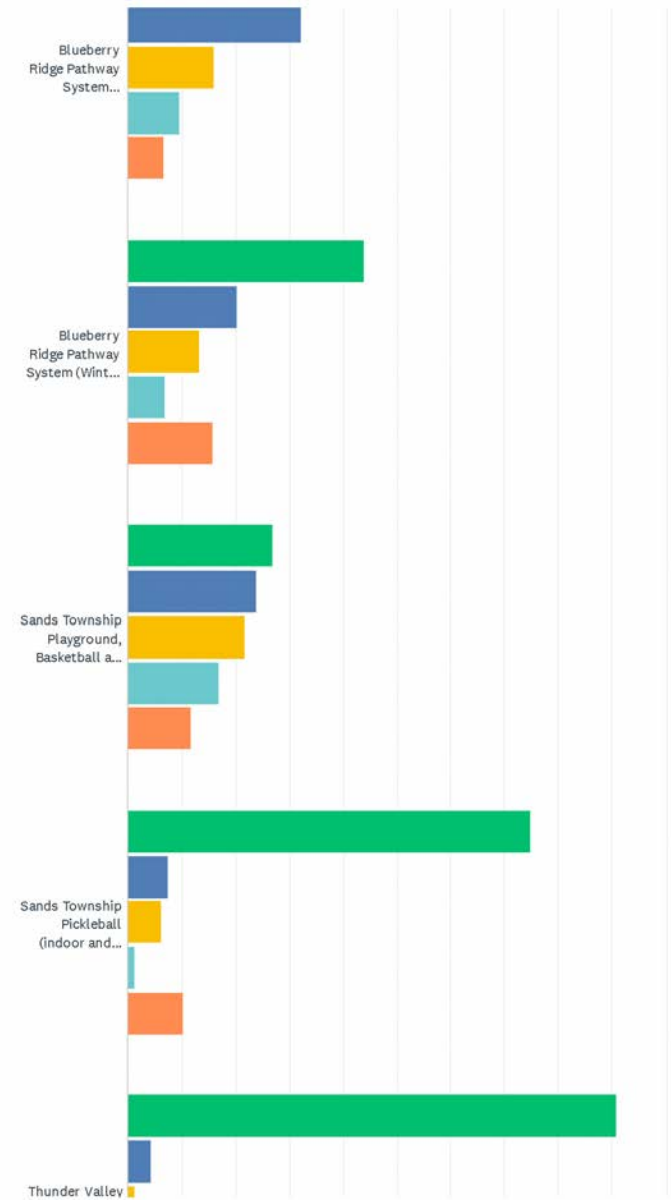
Q4 In the past two years, how often have you or a member of your household visited the facilities below? (Please check a box for each facility)

Answered: 312 Skipped: 1



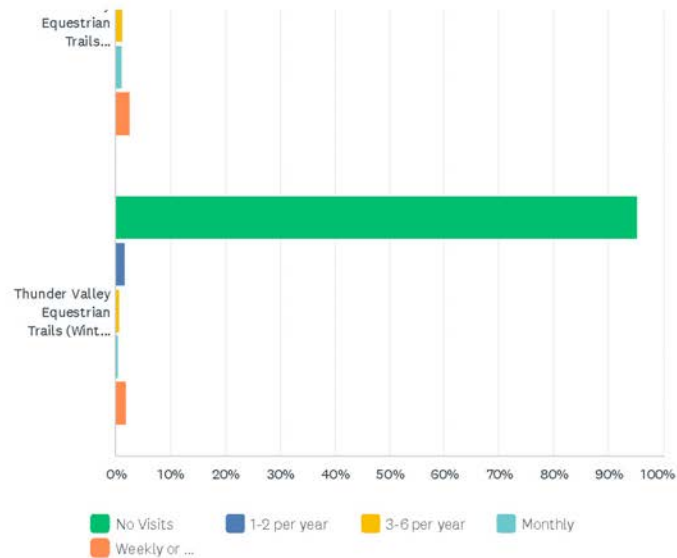
3 / 40

Sands Township Recreation Survey



4 / 40

Sands Township Recreation Survey



	NO VISITS	1-2 PER YEAR	3-6 PER YEAR	MONTHLY	WEEKLY OR MORE	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Strawberry Lake Recreation Area	62.21% 191	25.73% 79	7.49% 23	2.61% 8	1.95% 6	307
Blueberry Ridge Pathway System (Summer/Shoulder Seasons)	37.70% 115	32.13% 98	16.07% 49	9.51% 29	6.56% 20	305
Blueberry Ridge Pathway System (Winter Season)	43.93% 134	20.33% 62	13.11% 40	6.89% 21	15.74% 48	305
Sands Township Playground, Basketball and Pavilion	26.86% 83	23.95% 74	21.68% 67	16.83% 52	11.65% 36	309
Sands Township Pickleball (Indoor and outdoor)	74.84% 229	7.52% 23	6.21% 19	1.31% 4	10.13% 31	306
Thunder Valley Equestrian Trails (Summer/Shoulder Seasons)	90.79% 276	4.28% 13	1.32% 4	0.99% 3	2.63% 8	304
Thunder Valley Equestrian Trails (Winter Season)	95.38% 289	1.65% 5	0.66% 2	0.33% 1	1.98% 6	303

Q5 In the past two years, what recreational activities have you or a member of your household participated in?

Answered: 285 Skipped: 28

#	RESPONSES	DATE
---	-----------	------

Sands Township Recreation Survey

1	Down hill skiing, snowshoeing, sailing, Biking, Hiking.	7/1/2023 9:55 PM
2	biking, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, camping, running	6/30/2023 12:40 PM
3	Hiking, biking, tennis, swimming and fishing	6/28/2023 6:29 PM
4	Cross country skiing, golf, hiking, pickleball, dog walking, and biking	6/28/2023 3:10 PM
5	Mountain biking and horse back riding	6/28/2023 12:50 PM
6	Hiking, Cross Country Skiing	6/28/2023 11:01 AM
7	Trail walking, Water fall hunting, Camping.	6/28/2023 9:46 AM
8	Swimming, hiking, biking, playground	6/28/2023 7:41 AM
9	Skiing, hiking, biking	6/27/2023 8:07 PM
10	Biking and running, berry picking	6/27/2023 6:21 PM
11	X country skiing	6/27/2023 6:14 PM
12	hiking, snow shoeing, biking (casual trail), pickleball, camping, walking, swimming	6/26/2023 2:22 PM
13	Cross country skiing & hiking	6/15/2023 8:47 AM
14	Skiing, hiking, Berry picking, playground, basketball, biking	6/7/2023 10:47 PM
15	Pickleball	6/7/2023 6:05 AM
16	Ski hike bike	5/29/2023 7:04 PM
17	Cross country skiing, biking	5/24/2023 7:50 PM
18	HIKING, BIKING, SNOWSHOEING	5/24/2023 3:07 PM
19	Skiing, biking, hiking, soccer	5/24/2023 8:22 AM
20	Atv sands plains	5/23/2023 7:02 PM
21	biking, fishing, camping, hiking, disc golf	5/23/2023 11:24 AM
22	Walking trails and bike paths.	5/23/2023 10:11 AM
23	Walking/Birding	5/22/2023 11:53 AM
24	Cross Country skiing, snowshoeing, picnic at pavilion, county fairs	5/21/2023 10:53 PM
25	Hiking, snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, trail riding (side by side), Mtn Biking, Disc Golf	5/21/2023 8:19 PM
26	Camping, boating, fishing	5/20/2023 1:08 PM
27	running, biking, river fishing, lake fishing, playground, picnics, snowshoeing, general fitness, dog-walking, hiking, hunting, blueberry picking, kayaking	5/20/2023 1:00 PM
28	None	5/20/2023 12:54 PM
29	Cross country skiing, ATV, playground	5/20/2023 9:10 AM
30	Parks, volleyball, biking	5/19/2023 11:19 PM
31	Playing at the park	5/19/2023 9:43 PM
32	Volleyball	5/19/2023 9:00 PM
33	Baseball and playing at the park	5/19/2023 8:52 PM
34	Hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, biking, disc golfing, fishing	5/19/2023 7:39 PM
35	Nordic skiing, mountain biking, hiking and trail running	5/19/2023 5:57 PM
36	None	5/19/2023 4:06 PM
37	Hiking	5/19/2023 3:24 PM
38	Cross country skiing, the playground	5/19/2023 10:38 AM

Sands Township Recreation Survey

39	Xc ski pickleball	5/18/2023 10:53 PM
40	Hiking, running, snowshoes, biking	5/18/2023 10:40 PM
41	Trails, cross country, playgrounds and hope for a fitness trail including exercise stations	5/18/2023 10:39 PM
42	Hiking, Park	5/18/2023 9:33 PM
43	Hiking, snowshoeing	5/18/2023 8:56 PM
44	Skiing, pickle ball	5/18/2023 7:57 PM
45	Basketball	5/18/2023 7:20 PM
46	Walking, hiking, snowshoeing	5/18/2023 5:23 PM
47	Horseback riding	5/18/2023 3:44 PM
48	Fishing, hiking, biking, hunting, camping, playgrounds, County Fair	5/18/2023 3:05 PM
49	Kayaking, e-biking, hiking, picnicking	5/18/2023 1:44 PM
50	Hiking and playground	5/18/2023 1:39 PM
51	Snowshoeing, Cross Country skiing, Walking, Hiking, Running, Birding.	5/18/2023 1:11 PM
52	Skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, hiking	5/18/2023 9:19 AM
53	Basketball, Bike riding	5/18/2023 4:17 AM
54	Sands township park	5/17/2023 6:48 PM
55	Playing at the park, skiing Blueberry	5/17/2023 6:48 PM
56	XC skiing, playgrounds, hiking, biking, swimming, kayaking	5/17/2023 5:44 PM
57	Walking	5/17/2023 3:00 PM
58	Baseball	5/17/2023 11:37 AM
59	Atv and snowmobile trails	5/17/2023 11:10 AM
60	Pickle ball and snow shoeing	5/17/2023 11:09 AM
61	Hiking, biking, tennis	5/17/2023 9:54 AM
62	Hiking	5/17/2023 8:38 AM
63	Soccer, hiking, biking	5/17/2023 8:20 AM
64	Snowshoeing, hiking, biking, downhill skiing, cross country skiing, dirt biking, SXS	5/17/2023 6:45 AM
65	XC skiing, pickleball, trail running	5/17/2023 6:28 AM
66	Atv/snowmobile	5/17/2023 6:13 AM
67	Skiing, hiking, camping, volleyball, baseball, basketball, hunting	5/17/2023 12:12 AM
68	Cross country skiing, cycling	5/16/2023 10:26 PM
69	Basketball and playground would like a field	5/16/2023 10:15 PM
70	Volleyball, golf, snowshoeing, skiing	5/16/2023 9:56 PM
71	Kayaking, hiking, disc golf	5/16/2023 9:21 PM
72	Pickleball	5/16/2023 9:05 PM
73	Playing at the park	5/16/2023 7:51 PM
74	Cross country skiing, visiting park in the summer	5/16/2023 7:28 PM
75	Sands plains orv	5/16/2023 7:18 PM
76	Rented pavilion for retirement party. Also brought kids to playground.	5/16/2023 4:49 PM

Sands Township Recreation Survey

77	Kayaking, walking, and bike riding	5/16/2023 4:02 PM
78	Pickleball	5/16/2023 3:49 PM
79	I'm not sure if you mean in Sands or in general but our family does a lot of paddle boarding and park visits	5/16/2023 3:30 PM
80	Playing at the park and hiking the trails	5/16/2023 2:49 PM
81	Racing at sands speedway and the the go cart track. Monster trucks also	5/16/2023 2:48 PM
82	none	5/16/2023 1:09 PM
83	Taking kids to park	5/16/2023 12:59 PM
84	Pickleball	5/16/2023 10:08 AM
85	Snowshoeing, hiking, biking	5/16/2023 8:44 AM
86	Pickleball	5/16/2023 7:54 AM
87	Pickleball and cross country ski	5/16/2023 7:50 AM
88	Hiking, skiing, basketball, pickle ball, horse back riding, mountain biking	5/16/2023 6:43 AM
89	Hiking, cross country skiing, playground	5/16/2023 5:03 AM
90	Snowshoeing, hiking, biking	5/16/2023 4:25 AM
91	Hiking, Riding, Snowshoeing, Skiing	5/15/2023 10:46 PM
92	Pickleball, basketball, camping, disc golf biking	5/15/2023 10:09 PM
93	Pickleball, Cross country skiing	5/15/2023 8:55 PM
94	Snowshoeing, playgrounds, basketball	5/15/2023 7:48 PM
95	Martial arts, hiking, biking, snowshoeing, archery, kayak, fishing.	5/15/2023 7:41 PM
96	XC skiing, blueberry picking, running and biking in Goose Lake area, hiking at Blueberry Ridge, tennis	5/15/2023 7:33 PM
97	Orv	5/15/2023 7:20 PM
98	Hiking, biking, running, swimming, fishing, hunting	5/15/2023 7:01 PM
99	Hiking, biking, skiing, pickleball	5/15/2023 5:59 PM
100	Playground use, blueberry ridge: ski and walk	5/15/2023 5:55 PM
101	ATVs and snowmobiles	5/15/2023 5:04 PM
102	Pickleball	5/15/2023 4:41 PM
103	Cross country skiing, basketball, golf, softball	5/15/2023 4:33 PM
104	Hiking, snowshoeing	5/15/2023 3:49 PM
105	Pickle ball	5/15/2023 3:34 PM
106	Auto Racing, X-Country Skiing, hiking, biking	5/15/2023 3:27 PM
107	Pickle ball, hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, swimming, snowshoeing.	5/15/2023 2:39 PM
108	Pickleball	5/15/2023 2:37 PM
109	Quad/Dirtbike riding, Snowshoeing, Walking/Hiking, Pickleball	5/15/2023 2:12 PM
110	Skiing, hiking, tennis and playground	5/15/2023 1:58 PM
111	Atv and other off-Road fun	5/15/2023 1:49 PM
112	Utv and snowmobile	5/15/2023 1:47 PM
113	Snow shoeing mountain biking hiking fishing	5/15/2023 1:24 PM



### Sands Township Recreation Survey

114	Or/ATV trail riding	5/15/2023 1:08 PM
115	Skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, biking	5/15/2023 12:55 PM
116	Mountain biking, kayaking/paddle boarding, skateboarding, xc ski, snowshoe, downhill skiing, snowboard, hiking, trail running	5/15/2023 12:21 PM
117	Just utilized the playground and tennis, Pickleball courts	5/15/2023 12:08 PM
118	Bike riding, kayaking, canoeing	5/15/2023 11:22 AM
119	Tennis, volleyball, hiking, kayaking, running, biking	5/15/2023 10:23 AM
120	Atv/utv riding, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing	5/15/2023 8:40 AM
121	Spectator at thunder valley raceway, ORV recreation	5/15/2023 8:04 AM
122	Snowmobile, dirtbike	5/15/2023 7:44 AM
123	Pickleball	5/15/2023 7:43 AM
124	Snowmobile. And riding atvs	5/15/2023 7:34 AM
125	Play	5/15/2023 7:24 AM
126	Pickleball	5/15/2023 6:59 AM
127	Atv/orv riding trails. Sands speedway	5/15/2023 6:56 AM
128	Lots of ATV/ORV riding, Snowmobile riding, trail hiking, walking & running	5/15/2023 6:46 AM
129	Pickleball	5/15/2023 6:32 AM
130	Atv, orv, snowmobiling	5/15/2023 5:57 AM
131	Hiking, mountain biking, fat biking, running, cross country skiing, down hill skiing, paddle boarding, kayaking, basketball, volleyball, football, scootering	5/15/2023 5:55 AM
132	Snowmobiling and ORVing	5/15/2023 5:01 AM
133	Dirt biking in Sands Twp	5/15/2023 4:26 AM
134	Pickleball	5/15/2023 3:02 AM
135	ATV and Snowmobile	5/14/2023 11:28 PM
136	Pickleball and tennis	5/14/2023 11:09 PM
137	Basketball, tennis, xc skiing, snowmobiling, orv, hiking, and fishing	5/14/2023 10:54 PM
138	Four wheelers, dirt bikes, snowmobiles	5/14/2023 10:41 PM
139	Orv/ATV riding	5/14/2023 10:40 PM
140	Dirtbikes and side by sides	5/14/2023 10:38 PM
141	Blueberry picking	5/14/2023 10:09 PM
142	Biking, hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing	5/14/2023 10:03 PM
143	Dirtbike, Orv, jeep adventures, softball,	5/14/2023 10:00 PM
144	Motorcycle ORV Trails, ORV Trails, snowmobile trails	5/14/2023 9:54 PM
145	Pickleball, hiking, crafting	5/14/2023 9:47 PM
146	Snowmobile, atv, x-country skiing	5/14/2023 9:45 PM
147	ATV, or, dirtbike, snowmobile all in the sands. Dont forget motorized recreation	5/14/2023 9:40 PM
148	ATV, dirt biking, motor sports	5/14/2023 9:38 PM
149	Sands speedway, and ORV snowmobile trails	5/14/2023 9:37 PM
150	Atv/ORV riding	5/14/2023 9:25 PM

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

151	Cross country skiing, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, curling	5/14/2023 9:21 PM
152	Hiking, skiing, bike riding	5/14/2023 9:20 PM
153	Riding ATV's / ORV's	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
154	Twice a week Motorsport recreation in sands. Some of the best trails in the country. Dirt bikes and snowmobiles.	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
155	Atv riding in sands twp	5/14/2023 9:05 PM
156	Atv s dirtbikes snowmobile	5/14/2023 9:03 PM
157	Pickle ball. And gatherings	5/14/2023 9:03 PM
158	Cross county skiing, hiking, Dirt biking	5/14/2023 9:00 PM
159	ATV riding, utilizing the playground	5/14/2023 8:56 PM
160	Disc golf, hiking, waterfalling, fishing	5/14/2023 8:54 PM
161	ORV, camping, off-roading	5/14/2023 8:54 PM
162	Cross country skiing, atv, orv	5/14/2023 8:54 PM
163	Playground tennis courts pickle ball courts	5/14/2023 8:51 PM
164	Dirt bikes, Offroad, stock cars	5/14/2023 8:50 PM
165	Mountain Biking, skiing, swimming, dancing, snowboarding	5/14/2023 8:49 PM
166	Skiing, snowshoe, pickleball, biking, hiking.	5/14/2023 8:48 PM
167	Off road riding in sands township in various vehicles.	5/14/2023 8:47 PM
168	Biking, fishing, cross country skiing	5/14/2023 8:44 PM
169	Running, biking, snowshoe, skiing, blueberry picking, park play	5/14/2023 8:44 PM
170	Dirt biking, baseball, basketball, tennis, fishing	5/14/2023 8:43 PM
171	The playground, hiking	5/14/2023 8:41 PM
172	Orv/ snowmobile trails	5/14/2023 8:40 PM
173	Atv/orv/snowmobile	5/14/2023 8:40 PM
174	Dirt biking, snowmobiling	5/14/2023 8:37 PM
175	ORV, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, camping, biking, dog trianing	5/14/2023 8:36 PM
176	Pickleball	5/14/2023 8:35 PM
177	Snowmobiling and side by side riding	5/14/2023 8:34 PM
178	Riding ATV's and Snowmobiles	5/14/2023 8:34 PM
179	Snowmobile sxs dirt bikes of road jeeps basketball football baseball soccer	5/14/2023 8:29 PM
180	Mountain biking	5/14/2023 8:26 PM
181	Pickleball	5/14/2023 8:23 PM
182	Pickleball	5/14/2023 8:23 PM
183	Mountain Bike, Dirt Bike, XC ski	5/14/2023 8:20 PM
184	Dirt bike, atv, sands speedway, snowmobile	5/14/2023 8:04 PM
185	Tennis, golf	5/14/2023 5:47 PM
186	Soccer, cross country skiing, tennis, mountain biking	5/14/2023 5:11 PM
187	XC skiing, hiking, basketball, playground	5/14/2023 3:55 PM
188	None	5/14/2023 2:24 PM

Sands Township Recreation Survey

189	Hiking, skiing, canoeing, backpacking	5/14/2023 1:19 PM
190	Cross country skiing and playground use	5/14/2023 8:41 AM
191	The play ground	5/14/2023 8:11 AM
192	Hockey, snowshoeing, hiking	5/13/2023 10:29 PM
193	Cross country skiing	5/13/2023 9:56 PM
194	Pickleball, skiing, playground.	5/13/2023 8:30 PM
195	Skiing, running, biking, hiking	5/13/2023 7:30 PM
196	Park	5/13/2023 6:09 PM
197	Four wheeling, picking blueberries, fishing	5/13/2023 5:31 PM
198	Playground with the grandchildren: Cross country skiing; playing pickle ball	5/13/2023 5:09 PM
199	ATV and snowmobiling	5/13/2023 4:24 PM
200	Hiking, biking, climbing, camping, swimming, boating, skiing, snowshoeing, frisbee, basketball, dogs	5/13/2023 4:00 PM
201	Hiking, biking, birding	5/13/2023 2:29 PM
202	Biking	5/13/2023 2:29 PM
203	HIKING, FISHING, WATCHING GRANDKIDS, HORSE & AUTO RACING EVENTS AT FAIRGROUNDS & TRACKSROUNDS	5/13/2023 2:19 PM
204	Hiking	5/13/2023 2:04 PM
205	Playground, hiking, xc skiing	5/13/2023 1:16 PM
206	Trails and playground	5/13/2023 12:44 PM
207	Trail riding, hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing	5/13/2023 12:27 PM
208	Hiking, biking, cross country skiing, and park play	5/13/2023 10:17 AM
209	Walking, kayaking, biking (mtn, loht)	5/13/2023 9:10 AM
210	Fat tire bike riding, walking, snow shoeing, hiking, bird watching	5/13/2023 8:30 AM
211	Cross-country skiing, park, running/walking at Blueberry Ridge, fishing	5/13/2023 7:55 AM
212	Hiking, biking, xc skiing, downhill skiing, ice skating, ice & regular fishing, hunting,	5/13/2023 7:39 AM
213	Pickleball, skiing, and playground	5/12/2023 11:12 PM
214	Walking, ice skating and hockey, fishing, hunting	5/12/2023 9:35 PM
215	Playing at playground, picnic lunch at playground, hiking at blueberry ridge, snowshoeing, x-country skiing at blueberry ridge	5/12/2023 9:25 PM
216	Hiking and playing at a park.	5/12/2023 8:09 PM
217	racing , fishing, playing at playground	5/12/2023 4:58 PM
218	Skiing, Hiking, Biking	5/12/2023 1:52 PM
219	None	5/12/2023 1:05 PM
220	Nordic skiing, biking, playground	5/12/2023 11:20 AM
221	Mountain Biking, Hiking, Snowmobiling, Dirt Biking, Snowshoeing	5/12/2023 10:57 AM
222	Biking	5/12/2023 10:45 AM
223	Biking (mountain, paved trails), playgrounds, hiking	5/12/2023 10:40 AM
224	Snowmobiling, UTV riding	5/12/2023 10:00 AM

Sands Township Recreation Survey

225	Hiking	5/12/2023 9:30 AM
226	ATV riding, walks, birthday parties at the park	5/12/2023 8:54 AM
227	Playing at the park	5/12/2023 8:16 AM
228	Cross country skiing, biking, hiking, four wheeling	5/12/2023 8:06 AM
229	Biking, x ctry skiing, hiking, rustic camping, side by side rides, boating, fishing	5/12/2023 7:49 AM
230	Hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country ski, play at park, basketball	5/12/2023 7:39 AM
231	Ice skating, hiking	5/12/2023 6:03 AM
232	Soccer, golf, sking, football, basketball, volleyball	5/11/2023 10:29 PM
233	Hiking, skiing, picnicking, dog walking, playground playing	5/11/2023 10:11 PM
234	Hiking	5/11/2023 4:20 PM
235	Hiking, kayaking, camping, swimming	5/11/2023 2:38 PM
236	Community garden walking trails	5/11/2023 12:57 PM
237	Biking ... soccer.... Frisbee golf.....	5/11/2023 12:22 PM
238	Basketball, baseball, soccer	5/11/2023 12:16 PM
239	basketball courts, playground, blueberry picking	5/11/2023 11:41 AM
240	Road biking, mtn biking, hiking, bird hunting	5/11/2023 11:36 AM
241	Walking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, running	5/11/2023 10:34 AM
242	Hiking, ATV in Sands plains, berry picking	5/11/2023 9:22 AM
243	Hunting, fishing, tennis, hiking, orv	5/11/2023 9:07 AM
244	Hockey, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, hiking	5/11/2023 7:01 AM
245	Cross country skiing, baseball, basketball, football and bike riding	5/10/2023 9:52 PM
246	ATV trail usage (in weekly in the summer), sands township playground (weekly in the summer), some usage at blueberry	5/10/2023 7:56 PM
247	Biking, downhill and cross country skiing, hiking, and water sports	5/10/2023 7:39 PM
248	Hiking, fishing	5/10/2023 7:30 PM
249	Park, 4-wheeling, renting township facilities	5/10/2023 6:45 PM
250	Hiking, running, biking, pickleball, kayaking, downhill skiing, swimming	5/10/2023 5:31 PM
251	Basketball, Cross country skiing, hiking, swimming,	5/10/2023 5:28 PM
252	Ice racing, riding four wheelers and dirt bikes, regular bikes also	5/10/2023 4:58 PM
253	None	5/10/2023 4:15 PM
254	Cross country skiing: rented the pavilion for birthdays; fishing; biking	5/10/2023 3:58 PM
255	Hiking biking kayaking fishing camping	5/10/2023 3:45 PM
256	Pickleball and cross country skiing	5/10/2023 3:39 PM
257	Dirt bike, mountain bike, sands speedway	5/10/2023 2:51 PM
258	Stock car races at Sands Speedway	5/10/2023 2:39 PM
259	Off-road motorcycle riding in sands plains	5/10/2023 1:52 PM
260	Target Shooting, fishing, softball	5/10/2023 10:36 AM
261	Hiking, biking, walks, kayaking, playing at parks,	5/10/2023 8:24 AM
262	Geocaching, hiking, kayaking	5/10/2023 7:24 AM

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

263	Skiing, hiking	5/10/2023 7:09 AM
264	Ski, hike, bike, swim	5/10/2023 6:30 AM
265	Playground, XC skiing	5/10/2023 2:30 AM
266	Blueberry Ridge Snowshoeing and Blueberry picking. Also, playing with my kids at the Sands Playground.	5/10/2023 2:12 AM
267	Motorcycle riding and related events	5/9/2023 10:21 PM
268	Skiing, cycling, hiking, snowshoeing, fishing.	5/9/2023 9:21 PM
269	Sands Plans Single Track. Loose Moose Enduro. Thunder Valley Raceway.	5/9/2023 9:10 PM
270	The park, basketball court, tennis/pickleball courts, indoor pickleball court	5/9/2023 9:08 PM
271	Bike riding on horse trails and dirt bike riding on two track roads. Hiking	5/9/2023 7:24 PM
272	Mountain biking, hiking	5/9/2023 6:21 PM
273	Snowshoe, hiking, swimming	5/9/2023 5:36 PM
274	tennis on the sand courts and snowshoeing on blueberry trail	5/9/2023 4:41 PM
275	Side by side riding on trail 8	5/9/2023 3:28 PM
276	Utv trail ridding, snowmobile ridding	5/9/2023 3:19 PM
277	Pickleball, tennis, biking, hiking, snowshoe, baseball, hockey, ice skating, golf	5/9/2023 1:23 PM
278	Swimming, hiking	5/9/2023 1:11 PM
279	Snowshoe	5/9/2023 12:57 PM
280	Hunting, fishing, orv, downhill skiing	5/9/2023 12:44 PM
281	Soccer, mountain biking, running trails, dog training grounds, hunting, camping	5/9/2023 12:41 PM
282	Swimming, walking, tennis	5/9/2023 12:37 PM
283	Hiking, biking, horseback riding, skiing, snowshoeing	5/9/2023 12:28 PM
284	Walking	5/9/2023 12:27 PM
285	X country skiing 4 wheeler riding, bicycle riding hunting	5/9/2023 12:19 PM

### Q6 What do you VALUE about recreation opportunities in your region?

Answered: 285 Skipped: 28

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Not crowded.	7/1/2023 9:55 PM
2	Very high value. This region is unique as there is so many recreation opps and public land.	6/30/2023 12:40 PM
3	Proximity to my home and cost	6/28/2023 6:29 PM
4	Convenience, well kept/maintained trails/facilities/equipment	6/28/2023 3:10 PM
5	The access to the trails	6/28/2023 12:50 PM
6	They allow us to get outside all year long!	6/28/2023 11:01 AM
7	Family oriented. Simplicity of activities that are enjoying and fun.	6/28/2023 9:46 AM
8	Variety. Condition (well maintained).	6/27/2023 8:07 PM
9	Natural setting for trail running and exploration Berry picking	6/27/2023 6:21 PM

13 / 40

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

10	The outdoors	6/27/2023 6:14 PM
11	quiet nature trails for walking, availability of pickleball courts indoor and outdoor (need more indoor courts since there are a lot of windy and cold days), paved or hard pack bike trails not on busy roads	6/26/2023 2:22 PM
12	Natural forest & waterfalls	6/15/2023 8:47 AM
13	Accessibility, free/open space, community	6/7/2023 10:47 PM
14	Exercise and social opportunities	6/7/2023 6:05 AM
15	Variety	5/29/2023 7:04 PM
16	Accessibility, maintenance, uniqueness	5/24/2023 7:50 PM
17	FREE ACCESS TO NON-MOTOR OUTDOOR RECREATION	5/24/2023 3:07 PM
18	The ready access to so many different expereinces.	5/24/2023 8:22 AM
19	Cleanliness	5/23/2023 7:02 PM
20	Great way to get exercise and fresh air.	5/23/2023 11:24 AM
21	Open to everyone.	5/23/2023 10:11 AM
22	Outdoors	5/22/2023 11:53 AM
23	Open, clean trails; easy access; beautiful scenery	5/21/2023 10:53 PM
24	State land, accessible	5/21/2023 8:19 PM
25	High value	5/20/2023 1:08 PM
26	The proximity of a quality playground for little and big kids The availability of a pavilion for gatherings The availability of a gym for gatherings Trails and lakes in unpopulated, low-traffic areas	5/20/2023 1:00 PM
27	That our children have places to explore.	5/20/2023 12:54 PM
28	Nice and clean. Good shape.	5/20/2023 9:10 AM
29	Outside green space, safe from high traffic area	5/19/2023 11:19 PM
30	Places to go and have fun	5/19/2023 9:43 PM
31	We value parks and activities for children	5/19/2023 9:00 PM
32	Having young kids we love all the opportunities we can to spend time outside	5/19/2023 8:52 PM
33	Enjoying the beauty of where we love! The peacefulness.	5/19/2023 7:39 PM
34	They are a critical part of why we live here. Our trail networks are a vital part of our community.	5/19/2023 5:57 PM
35	Space	5/19/2023 4:06 PM
36	The health benefits	5/19/2023 3:24 PM
37	Availability, free, adequate parking, family friendly	5/19/2023 10:38 AM
38	Easy access. good grooming, appropriate weather	5/18/2023 10:53 PM
39	Access	5/18/2023 10:40 PM
40	Close to home, clean, safe, inclusive, maybe a dog park nice	5/18/2023 10:39 PM
41	Great places to get kids outside	5/18/2023 9:33 PM
42	Being able to have access to the beautiful trails.	5/18/2023 8:56 PM
43	Trails and pockle ball courts	5/18/2023 7:57 PM
44	Great court	5/18/2023 7:20 PM
45	Nice trails, a pavilion, well kept public restrooms, and a nice play scape for the kids	5/18/2023 5:23 PM

14 / 40



### Sands Township Recreation Survey

46	I value that there are designated horse trails that don't allow atvs. The majority of trails we ride on can be dangerous with kids and horses can be spooky from fast moving or loud machines in the woods or along the trails on the road.	5/18/2023 3:44 PM
47	The diversity of recreational opportunities within a short distance of each other. Case in point, Strawberry Lake and the Marquette County Fairgrounds are right next to each other but worlds apart in the type of recreational experience.	5/18/2023 3:05 PM
48	Open spaces and availability of bike and ORV trails.	5/18/2023 1:44 PM
49	Variety and easy access for all to enjoy	5/18/2023 1:39 PM
50	It's accessibility to all free of charge	5/18/2023 1:11 PM
51	Ease of access, uncrowded conditions, peaceful.	5/18/2023 9:19 AM
52	Get the youth out and busy	5/18/2023 4:17 AM
53	Very few people to deal with	5/18/2023 12:10 AM
54	Options, having outdoor recreation and a variety of it	5/17/2023 11:46 PM
55	Updated, clean areas for kids to play	5/17/2023 10:28 PM
56	This park is absolutely one of the best in the area!	5/17/2023 6:48 PM
57	Love the lights, love the park and soft top court!	5/17/2023 6:48 PM
58	Nature! Clean, quiet, safe. Wonderful playgrounds and trail systems.	5/17/2023 5:44 PM
59	That they are provided for all ages	5/17/2023 3:00 PM
60	That my kids can get out an play an make new friends	5/17/2023 11:37 AM
61	Good maintenance of all trails and ease of access	5/17/2023 11:10 AM
62	Having designated space to do them	5/17/2023 11:09 AM
63	Availability, cleanliness, trash cans, water fountain, variety.	5/17/2023 9:54 AM
64	The beauty of nature.	5/17/2023 8:38 AM
65	Lots of options close by.	5/17/2023 8:20 AM
66	Woods to explore	5/17/2023 6:45 AM
67	Access	5/17/2023 6:28 AM
68	The freedom to go where we want when we want	5/17/2023 6:13 AM
69	Public buildings, trail abd playground facilities	5/17/2023 12:12 AM
70	Safety, variety	5/16/2023 10:26 PM
71	The ease of getting to it	5/16/2023 10:15 PM
72	Clean safe spaces for my children	5/16/2023 9:56 PM
73	We live in a beautiful community	5/16/2023 9:21 PM
74	Pickleball is fun and great exercise. Need more courts and indoor opportunities	5/16/2023 9:05 PM
75	Safe and friendly environment for my children to play in. The park at sands is great for all ages.	5/16/2023 7:51 PM
76	Love the ski trails and outdoor opportunities	5/16/2023 7:28 PM
77	Very important to family time and exercise	5/16/2023 7:18 PM
78	I love that we have a place available for all size groups of people. I think we have a great playground, just haven't had a lot of opportunity to use it because my grandkids live far away.	5/16/2023 4:49 PM
79	There's many to choose from no matter what you like to do!	5/16/2023 4:02 PM
80	Indoor and outdoor pickleball	5/16/2023 3:49 PM

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

81	Visibility to playing children and a comfy place for parents/ spectators to sit. Clean bathrooms.	5/16/2023 3:30 PM
82	Places for kids to go and be safe. A place for parents to sit and watch there kids play	5/16/2023 2:49 PM
83	That children have places to play and things to do. Also, I value the speedway because it brings money to our community.	5/16/2023 2:48 PM
84	enjoying the great outdoors	5/16/2023 1:09 PM
85	Safety and inclusion	5/16/2023 12:59 PM
86	For the opportunity to get together with others & to just get out to do things	5/16/2023 10:08 AM
87	Well signed, easy access	5/16/2023 8:44 AM
88	Trails, courts, outdoor areas	5/16/2023 7:54 AM
89	It's important for my physical and mental health to have community recreation activities	5/16/2023 7:50 AM
90	That they exist! We need more access to these types of activities so our local governments need to provide and support them.	5/16/2023 6:43 AM
91	Family friendly, well maintained, clean	5/16/2023 5:03 AM
92	Exercise, fresh air	5/16/2023 4:25 AM
93	Great to get outside and enjoy the outdoors!	5/15/2023 10:46 PM
94	Little to no cost	5/15/2023 10:09 PM
95	Physical activity (pickleball), Birding opportunities/nature/peace/beauty (Strawberry Lake)	5/15/2023 8:55 PM
96	Safety, winter activities, activities for children	5/15/2023 7:48 PM
97	Available spaces like a rec building, trails to hike and bike	5/15/2023 7:41 PM
98	Space to freely move about in nature that is well kept, kid friendly spaces and activities, inclusive activities, and easy access to opportunities to recreate.	5/15/2023 7:33 PM
99	Having a vast amount of options	5/15/2023 7:01 PM
100	Location, safe equipment and environment.	5/15/2023 5:59 PM
101	The location is so close and accessible. The park is one of our favorites!	5/15/2023 5:55 PM
102	Getting out and enjoying what we are blessed to have the great outdoors	5/15/2023 5:04 PM
103	Freinships	5/15/2023 4:41 PM
104	Playgrounds and parking	5/15/2023 4:33 PM
105	Having a great trail system to utilize	5/15/2023 3:49 PM
106	Getting together with others, recreational activities	5/15/2023 3:34 PM
107	Safe equipment and accessibility.	5/15/2023 3:27 PM
108	If your asking if I'm willing to pay to play? Yes.	5/15/2023 2:39 PM
109	Quality time outdoors with friends/family/self	5/15/2023 2:12 PM
110	Accessibility	5/15/2023 1:58 PM
111	The ability to be able to enjoy what I do in a fun and safe manner and not have people complain about what I enjoy.	5/15/2023 1:49 PM
112	Being able to go in the woods with friends and family	5/15/2023 1:47 PM
113	The cleanliness of the facility. Also the noise level at each facility is nice.	5/15/2023 1:24 PM
114	The trails	5/15/2023 1:08 PM
115	Remote little to know vehicle traffic unlikely to come across other people.	5/15/2023 12:55 PM
116	That there's a good variety of options so close by.	5/15/2023 12:21 PM

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

117	Outside play, clean playground, bathrooms but I truly value that the playground is away from the busy road.	5/15/2023 12:08 PM
118	Accessibility, Activities for a large age range	5/15/2023 11:55 AM
119	Ease of location, value, cleanliness	5/15/2023 11:22 AM
120	Mature trees and nature	5/15/2023 10:23 AM
121	Having the ability to do them and having a designated trail system	5/15/2023 8:40 AM
122	Motor sports	5/15/2023 8:04 AM
123	Keeping trails open as much as possible to all	5/15/2023 7:44 AM
124	Hiking trails	5/15/2023 7:43 AM
125	Can go pretty much anywhere on atv	5/15/2023 7:34 AM
126	Keeps us busy	5/15/2023 7:24 AM
127	Social aspect, fitness	5/15/2023 6:59 AM
128	The ability to explore	5/15/2023 6:56 AM
129	Unlimited access to use multiple trail systems	5/15/2023 6:46 AM
130	Love the diversity of outdoor rec opportunities	5/15/2023 6:32 AM
131	The opportunity for everyone to access the outdoors.	5/15/2023 5:57 AM
132	The trails are well maintained with many options. Usually with a great core group of volunteers/organization to take care of them.	5/15/2023 5:55 AM
133	Safety	5/15/2023 5:01 AM
134	Access. I don't mind helping with maintenance,	5/15/2023 4:26 AM
135	P	5/15/2023 3:02 AM
136	Hunting, fishing, ATV, Jeep trails, and snowmobiles	5/14/2023 11:28 PM
137	The exercise and social are very important	5/14/2023 11:09 PM
138	Of all the great recreational opportunities in sands township, I appreciate the orv/atv opportunities so incredibly much it's one of the main, if not the main, reason I moved into the township. Thank you for creating that environment in the Marquette area!	5/14/2023 10:54 PM
139	Living in the u.p. Freedom	5/14/2023 10:41 PM
140	I value maintaining a safe clean recreational area for everyone	5/14/2023 10:40 PM
141	Safe trails	5/14/2023 10:38 PM
142	Fishing, peace and quiet	5/14/2023 10:09 PM
143	Nice trails	5/14/2023 10:03 PM
144	Being able to access areas not easily assessable by tourists	5/14/2023 10:00 PM
145	Ability to access the area to enjoy the outdoors with friends and family	5/14/2023 9:54 PM
146	Community interaction, socializing, competition, site accessibility.	5/14/2023 9:47 PM
147	Having so many activities to be able to enjoy throughout the year. Many trails and land to use for snowmobiling and atv	5/14/2023 9:45 PM
148	Freedom to get about in nature	5/14/2023 9:44 PM
149	That is close!	5/14/2023 9:40 PM
150	Freedom to do so as we please	5/14/2023 9:38 PM
151	More motorsports related	5/14/2023 9:37 PM

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

152	The freedom to do the activities I enjoy locally without bother	5/14/2023 9:25 PM
153	Accessibility, wilderness setting, quiet setting	5/14/2023 9:21 PM
154	Nature	5/14/2023 9:20 PM
155	The ORV and ATV riding trails.	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
156	Dirt bike and snowmobile trail network.	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
157	Love to ride atvs and see all the cool places the UP has to offer	5/14/2023 9:05 PM
158	Orv trail activities	5/14/2023 9:03 PM
159	Trails	5/14/2023 9:03 PM
160	Ski trails and dirt bike trails. We value nature and being able to be out in nature on the trails	5/14/2023 9:00 PM
161	Close to home and we'll maintained	5/14/2023 8:56 PM
162	Activities for all ages	5/14/2023 8:54 PM
163	Accessibility, inclusive to all forms of recreation	5/14/2023 8:54 PM
164	Being able to operate motorized vehicles in the township	5/14/2023 8:54 PM
165	Accessibility and open availability	5/14/2023 8:51 PM
166	The ability to mold your activities to fit your family	5/14/2023 8:50 PM
167	Our diverse seasons and variety of terrain.	5/14/2023 8:49 PM
168	It's all pretty much right out my door.	5/14/2023 8:48 PM
169	That it is possible to have large open spaces to the public for ATV,UTV, motor cross bikes and snow mobiles. Used to live in WI. That does not exists there.	5/14/2023 8:47 PM
170	Quality of facility	5/14/2023 8:44 PM
171	Access, tourism, and not being over taken with solar panels	5/14/2023 8:44 PM
172	Exercise, family time	5/14/2023 8:43 PM
173	Playgrounds, basketball courts outside for basketball only, hiking.	5/14/2023 8:41 PM
174	The ability to spend our short, good weather seasons outdoors.	5/14/2023 8:40 PM
175	Riding from my residence to these areas	5/14/2023 8:40 PM
176	Trails, availability of land for recreating	5/14/2023 8:36 PM
177	Pickleball courts, always full! Thanks to sands township for all their help with this!	5/14/2023 8:35 PM
178	It's important because it helps support the small businesses in the UP	5/14/2023 8:34 PM
179	The ability to ride snowmobiles for several months of the year	5/14/2023 8:34 PM
180	The time spent with family and friends	5/14/2023 8:29 PM
181	Getting outdoors	5/14/2023 8:26 PM
182	Pickleball courts	5/14/2023 8:23 PM
183	health benefits, fun, safe, exercise, nature, peace and quiet	5/14/2023 8:20 PM
184	Freedom to venture, explore and ride trails	5/14/2023 8:04 PM
185	Blueberry ridge	5/14/2023 6:20 PM
186	Outdoors, relaxing, free	5/14/2023 5:47 PM
187	Public access to trails and facilities	5/14/2023 5:11 PM
188	They're very well maintained and easy with kids	5/14/2023 3:55 PM
189	Plenty of room to not feel crowded	5/14/2023 2:24 PM



Sands Township Recreation Survey

190	Access to trails!	5/14/2023 1:19 PM
191	Safety. Able to go alone skiing and able to take my kids to a safe park.	5/14/2023 8:41 AM
192	The more options the better	5/14/2023 8:11 AM
193	I really appreciate the playground at Sands because it has things for small kids and big kids to play on!	5/13/2023 11:49 PM
194	Availability	5/13/2023 10:29 PM
195	Physical exercise, And seeing people socially.	5/13/2023 8:30 PM
196	Access to trails and water	5/13/2023 7:30 PM
197	More children activities	5/13/2023 6:09 PM
198	The public land that is available.	5/13/2023 5:31 PM
199	Everything about it	5/13/2023 5:09 PM
200	No industry, lots of forest	5/13/2023 4:24 PM
201	Diversity, space	5/13/2023 4:00 PM
202	The opportunity to be out in nature enjoying fresh air	5/13/2023 2:29 PM
203	Glad to see for places to go but nothing enough to get them there technology took over so it takes a lot for people to take the time out of there day	5/13/2023 2:29 PM
204	VARIETY, SPACE, AVAILABILITY, COMMUNITY, OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY, NEIGHBORS WE MAY NOT SEE OTHERWISE	5/13/2023 2:19 PM
205	Walk	5/13/2023 2:04 PM
206	Kid friendly!	5/13/2023 1:16 PM
207	Use of trails along with toddler and older kid play areas	5/13/2023 12:44 PM
208	Nature, accessibility, cleanliness.	5/13/2023 12:27 PM
209	Not seeing many people, clean areas, and the quiet	5/13/2023 10:17 AM
210	Natural settings and availability.....not commercialized and over "citified" with amenities to appease non local visitors. Keep it simple and UP pure.	5/13/2023 9:10 AM
211	Plenty of space, clean, not crowded	5/13/2023 8:30 AM
212	Being able to get outdoors, get our kids outside in places that are clean and kept up	5/13/2023 7:55 AM
213	The more the merrier!	5/13/2023 7:39 AM
214	Taking advantage of being outside ever season is critical to good mental health in our region.	5/12/2023 11:12 PM
215	Convenience and upkeep	5/12/2023 9:35 PM
216	Free, clean, safe,	5/12/2023 9:25 PM
217	The variety	5/12/2023 8:09 PM
218	Inclusivity (including abilities and ages), safety	5/12/2023 7:50 PM
219	deversity	5/12/2023 4:58 PM
220	Extremely high	5/12/2023 1:52 PM
221	Variety	5/12/2023 1:05 PM
222	Access! Dog friendly. Safe place for young kids to play.	5/12/2023 11:20 AM
223	Ease of access / Multi Use Trails	5/12/2023 10:57 AM
224	Ability to have family friendly activities.	5/12/2023 10:45 AM
225	Well maintained, ease of access, low/minimal cost and ease of paying (yearly fees vs each	5/12/2023 10:40 AM

Sands Township Recreation Survey

	time). Valuing all age appropriate,	
226	Having the opportunity to enjoy racing at Sands Speedway and the many trails for riding any season.	5/12/2023 10:00 AM
227	Being outdoors and not crowded	5/12/2023 9:30 AM
228	The cleanliness and beauty of nature around us	5/12/2023 8:54 AM
229	How close they are to home.	5/12/2023 8:06 AM
230	Ample outdoor space, areas to enjoy doing so. Accessibility.	5/12/2023 7:49 AM
231	Safty for all ages to enjoy the outdoors	5/12/2023 7:39 AM
232	Nearby	5/12/2023 6:03 AM
233	Options	5/11/2023 10:29 PM
234	Not crowded, easy access, well maintained	5/11/2023 10:11 PM
235	Easy access	5/11/2023 4:20 PM
236	A place for families to gather and enjoy the simple pleasures of the outdoors and community.	5/11/2023 2:38 PM
237	Would love a community garden	5/11/2023 12:57 PM
238	Accessibility, variety.	5/11/2023 12:27 PM
239	The beauty	5/11/2023 12:22 PM
240	Being able to get out of the house and enjoy the outdoors with my kids is very important. Camping and sports are the two biggest parts of our lives.	5/11/2023 12:16 PM
241	Kid friendly, not lots of restrictions (cross country ski trails) and clean	5/11/2023 11:41 AM
242	I value the wilderness with maintained trail access. I love that we live in an unspoiled area of marquette county with township restrictions on lot size which allow for a controlled amount of residents. Centering commercial zoning close to 490 and 553 enables services but keeps our home properties free from traffic and noise pollution as well as other pollutants that impact the forest and wildlife.	5/11/2023 11:36 AM
243	Trail systems, paved bike paths	5/11/2023 10:34 AM
244	Close to home and availability	5/11/2023 9:22 AM
245	Close by , open space, moderate amount of other people around, natural environment	5/11/2023 9:07 AM
246	Great playgrounds, accessible hiking, ice rink	5/11/2023 7:01 AM
247	The beauty, distance from my house, opportunities.	5/10/2023 9:52 PM
248	Safety and quality of equipment or trails.	5/10/2023 7:56 PM
249	Variety and accessibility	5/10/2023 7:39 PM
250	Well kept trails and easy access	5/10/2023 7:30 PM
251	Clean areas and things for kids and families to do	5/10/2023 6:45 PM
252	Recreating in nature	5/10/2023 5:31 PM
253	Ease of access, proximity, indoor facilities are great for kids in winter?	5/10/2023 5:28 PM
254	Orv trails, nature	5/10/2023 4:58 PM
255	Nothing	5/10/2023 4:15 PM
256	Accessibility- public land that is taken care of to use	5/10/2023 3:58 PM
257	Easy access. Beautiful maintained trails and courts	5/10/2023 3:39 PM
258	Everything	5/10/2023 2:39 PM
259	The trail system on CCI property for motorcycle riding	5/10/2023 1:52 PM



### Sands Township Recreation Survey

260	Quality, availability, cleanliness	5/10/2023 10:36 AM
261	Easy access, kid friendly, nature based	5/10/2023 8:24 AM
262	Interesting history, beauty of natural surroundings, maintained facilities or access	5/10/2023 7:24 AM
263	All year round access	5/10/2023 7:09 AM
264	Free, outdoors	5/10/2023 6:30 AM
265	It's super convenient to have an updated playground in good repair so close to home.	5/10/2023 2:30 AM
266	Safe places to go with my small children.	5/10/2023 2:12 AM
267	The lack of crowded places.	5/9/2023 9:21 PM
268	Dirt bike single track is my most valued recreational opportunity. It is the main reason I live in this township.	5/9/2023 9:10 PM
269	Having a safe clean place to go and play with my children	5/9/2023 9:08 PM
270	Available trails	5/9/2023 7:24 PM
271	Well maintained, close to home	5/9/2023 6:21 PM
272	Cost, accessibility, diversity of opportunities for age ranges.	5/9/2023 5:36 PM
273	well maintained and safe areas	5/9/2023 4:41 PM
274	Easy access to trail systems	5/9/2023 3:28 PM
275	Access for utv and snowmobile. Access through chocolay township in the summer months	5/9/2023 3:19 PM
276	Clean, updated, we'll maintained and in good working order, enough Pickleball courts for playing, area for kids to play	5/9/2023 1:23 PM
277	Having them right out our back door/accessible.	5/9/2023 1:21 PM
278	Variety. Indoor and outdoor	5/9/2023 1:11 PM
279	Clean, newer equipment	5/9/2023 12:50 PM
280	Good stuff	5/9/2023 12:44 PM
281	Year round public access for all to enjoy	5/9/2023 12:41 PM
282	Safe walking trails, easy access	5/9/2023 12:37 PM
283	Large size and cooperative joint use	5/9/2023 12:28 PM
284	Free	5/9/2023 12:27 PM
285	Everything	5/9/2023 12:19 PM

### Q7 What park or recreation sites would you like to improve and how?

Answered: 235 Skipped: 78

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	More hiking - no biking trails.	7/1/2023 9:55 PM
2	We are happy with the opportunities we now have.	6/30/2023 12:40 PM
3	The park near the township hall is great. More seating would be nice.	6/28/2023 6:29 PM
4	Mountain biking trails and horse back trails.	6/28/2023 12:50 PM
5	Camp grounds that are year around.	6/28/2023 9:46 AM

21 / 40

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

6	Keep all lights functional in lighted ski loop.	6/27/2023 8:07 PM
7	Not sure	6/27/2023 6:14 PM
8	Add more indoor and outdoor pickleball courts, add more paved or hard pack bike/walking trails not on roads	6/26/2023 2:22 PM
9	Trail networks, camping areas, hiking trails, canoeing	6/7/2023 10:47 PM
10	More and permanent pickleball courts	6/7/2023 6:05 AM
11	Campground	5/29/2023 7:04 PM
12	STRAWBERRY LAKE, AREA TRAIL ACCESS FOR MOUNTAIN/FAT BIKING	5/24/2023 3:07 PM
13	Our community is in need of an indoor sports complex to be used mainly during the winter.	5/24/2023 8:22 AM
14	some opportunities for mountain biking.	5/23/2023 11:24 AM
15	It's pretty good.	5/23/2023 10:11 AM
16	All good	5/22/2023 11:53 AM
17	More information on Strawberry Lake.	5/21/2023 10:53 PM
18	Unsure	5/21/2023 8:19 PM
19	I'd like to see that gun range come to fruition.	5/20/2023 1:08 PM
20	If there was an area of Blueberry Ridge that was dog-friendly during the winter months, I would snowshoe there frequently.	5/20/2023 1:00 PM
21	None. I think Sands township does a great job with our recreation sites.	5/20/2023 12:54 PM
22	Playground could have some ideas that are in better shape. New basketball hoops.	5/20/2023 9:10 AM
23	Bigger and better of course	5/19/2023 9:43 PM
24	I've never heard of Strawberry Lake: maybe make these places more known so we can enjoy them.	5/19/2023 9:00 PM
25	We've been very happy with your playground	5/19/2023 8:52 PM
26	Not sure	5/19/2023 7:39 PM
27	Blueberry Ridge is excellent. No change. Need to visit the others more to know	5/19/2023 5:57 PM
28	I feel you all do a great job on up keep.	5/19/2023 4:06 PM
29	Better bathrooms at Blueberry Ridge. Also a few benches along the trail.	5/19/2023 3:24 PM
30	Love for more loops to be lit at blueberry	5/19/2023 10:38 AM
31	Fitness/exercise trails, dog park, make everything nice matching colors so it is attractive	5/18/2023 10:39 PM
32	The Sands Park is great, but could use some different types of equipment for different types of play. Also the pavilion would be really good to rent if it had a bathroom	5/18/2023 9:33 PM
33	I would like to know more about the usage rules of each trail system.	5/18/2023 8:56 PM
34	More grooming at Blueberry Ridge	5/18/2023 7:57 PM
35	Any	5/18/2023 7:20 PM
36	Sands township park play scape is rather small	5/18/2023 5:23 PM
37	I would like to have more horse trails put in and would love trails the quality of the blueberry trails. More people will travel to horse trails with more miles of riding.	5/18/2023 3:44 PM
38	I dislike that the Strawberry Lake access is gated until May 1st and closes at the end of September when the lake itself, being a designated Type D trout lake, is open to fishing from the last Saturday in April until October 31st.	5/18/2023 3:05 PM
39	Bike trails. There are no defined bike or e-bike trails or connecting corridors. There should be safe bike path / routes from: IN SANDS TOWNSHIP 1 KI Sawyer along Kelly Drive to M-553	5/18/2023 1:44 PM

22 / 40

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

	then North to Crossroads - side paved roads and or utilities right of way could be used. IN CONJUNCTION WITH FORSYTH TOWNSHIP 2 KI Sawyer along M-94 to M-553 then North to Gwinn.	
40	All	5/18/2023 1:11 PM
41	None	5/18/2023 4:17 AM
42	None	5/18/2023 12:10 AM
43	Unsure	5/17/2023 11:46 PM
44	More playground equipment and indoor winter opportunities	5/17/2023 10:28 PM
45	I would love to see the park continue growing	5/17/2023 6:48 PM
46	The wood chips are so sharp!!	5/17/2023 6:48 PM
47	There are a few that need updates so I can't pick just one	5/17/2023 11:37 AM
48	Not sure	5/17/2023 11:10 AM
49	I'd love to see a community garden.	5/17/2023 9:54 AM
50	Nothing	5/17/2023 8:38 AM
51	Sands township Park - upgrade equipment? Larger pavilion for gatherings. Soccer field	5/17/2023 8:20 AM
52	Skate park for older kids	5/17/2023 6:45 AM
53	More pickleball courts	5/17/2023 6:28 AM
54	?	5/17/2023 6:13 AM
55	The indoor gym is a vital asset for young kids in coldest months. It would be nice to have open gym times or at least available time slots. Currently the gym is tied up nearly 100% of the time. Please consider more space and/or a different scheduling strategy.	5/17/2023 12:12 AM
56	Park, keep adding to it	5/16/2023 10:26 PM
57	A field or rec for teens	5/16/2023 10:15 PM
58	Chocolay kids park with a splash pad, fence in for safety, parents of multiple children.	5/16/2023 9:56 PM
59	Nothing at Sands Township. Chocolay could use some updates	5/16/2023 9:21 PM
60	More indoor and outdoor pickleball courts	5/16/2023 9:05 PM
61	I think the park is great as is. Maybe just a few updates to keep adequate for usage.	5/16/2023 7:51 PM
62	Like the ski trails as they are.	5/16/2023 7:28 PM
63	Just keep the plains open to the public	5/16/2023 7:18 PM
64	A fence completely around the playground equipment.	5/16/2023 4:49 PM
65	More equipment at the crossroads park for the kids!	5/16/2023 4:02 PM
66	Resurface pickleball courts . Add more courts. Largest growing sport in the US	5/16/2023 3:49 PM
67	I think they're pretty good	5/16/2023 3:30 PM
68	Like to see more activity for kid to do/climb on at the park by themselves	5/16/2023 2:49 PM
69	Sands speedway sure could use a new layer of asphalt.	5/16/2023 2:48 PM
70	none	5/16/2023 1:09 PM
71	Park, just keep updated and safe, new bathroom	5/16/2023 12:59 PM
72	Sands. Better pickleball courts	5/16/2023 10:08 AM
73	-	5/16/2023 7:54 AM
74	Pavilion area - make a pickleball park	5/16/2023 7:50 AM

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

75	More access for mountain biking.	5/16/2023 6:43 AM
76	Bathroom at the playground, not just an outhouse	5/16/2023 5:03 AM
77	Snowshoe trails, bike path	5/16/2023 4:25 AM
78	It would be great to add a Covered Pavilion for outdoor weddings and parties at the Townhall	5/15/2023 10:46 PM
79	Pickleball courts. Resurface damaged ones and more of them. Pickleball is quickly growing. More people playing.	5/15/2023 8:55 PM
80	Idk but I'm wondering if a martial arts school could have regular gym time to train if not part of sands township?	5/15/2023 7:41 PM
81	Blueberry ridge could have even more to offer in the summer. Maybe Singlettrack mountain biking.	5/15/2023 7:33 PM
82	There aren't many places for little ones to play, so any playground equipment	5/15/2023 7:01 PM
83	Pickleball courts. More locations around the county. Larger/more courts	5/15/2023 5:59 PM
84	None. It's great.	5/15/2023 5:55 PM
85	No improvements needed	5/15/2023 4:41 PM
86	Sands Township park by increasing parking. The increase in pickleball popularity is pushing out people using the playground and basketball courts outside.	5/15/2023 4:33 PM
87	Maybe the option of a bathroom on the father back trauma at Blueberry Ridge	5/15/2023 3:49 PM
88	All of the parks	5/15/2023 3:34 PM
89	Sands Kids Park. It's a lot of fun now but perhaps a few more, unique pieces of equipment or structures.	5/15/2023 3:27 PM
90	Pickle ball courts.	5/15/2023 2:39 PM
91	More welcoming at pickleball. People are mean there	5/15/2023 2:37 PM
92	N/a	5/15/2023 1:58 PM
93	Currently I don't see anything that needs to be improved.	5/15/2023 1:49 PM
94	More places to ride utv	5/15/2023 1:47 PM
95	Strawberry lake - fill it back up and plant more fish for the kids	5/15/2023 1:24 PM
96	The trails for not only snowmobiles but for or/atv	5/15/2023 1:08 PM
97	Better maps and signs for ORV and snowmobile trails. So they have their own dedicated areas.	5/15/2023 12:55 PM
98	No comments	5/15/2023 12:21 PM
99	Couple more play structures for kids.	5/15/2023 12:08 PM
100	Sands township playground area.	5/15/2023 11:55 AM
101	Maybe add some signage for Strawberry lake, don't know what the picnic situation is there, maybe a picnic table or two. Is it a swmmable lake?	5/15/2023 11:22 AM
102	Atv/utv and snowmobile trails, access, allowance, ability to ride side of road to reach trail.	5/15/2023 8:40 AM
103	.	5/15/2023 8:04 AM
104	Sands speedway and orv trails	5/15/2023 7:34 AM
105	Sands Park.	5/15/2023 7:24 AM
106	Fence around pickleball courts	5/15/2023 6:59 AM
107	Sands plains, sand speedway	5/15/2023 6:56 AM
108	Perhaps an all season indoor facility. With pickleball courts.	5/15/2023 6:32 AM



### Sands Township Recreation Survey

109	Sands speedway. So many cool ideas are canceled, or dialed back. It's unfortunate.	5/15/2023 5:57 AM
110	At this point, I don't have any real improvements. We have access to anything we don't have in Sands, in Marquette. Keep it up.	5/15/2023 5:55 AM
111	None, I like what you have.	5/15/2023 5:01 AM
112	Na	5/15/2023 4:26 AM
113	Dedicated pickleball courts with permanent nets and lined for PB would be great	5/15/2023 3:02 AM
114	More friendly to the ATV, Jeep, snowmobile, and racing communities	5/14/2023 11:28 PM
115	It would be great if sands township could establish an indoor pickleball facility.	5/14/2023 11:09 PM
116	Great all around in my opinion. Basketball courts are excellent, tennis courts are in great shape, and the park looks fun for kids as well. Do not see much if any need for improvement	5/14/2023 10:54 PM
117	Orv areas, clearing and signage	5/14/2023 10:40 PM
118	Sands dirtbiking	5/14/2023 10:38 PM
119	No improvements needed	5/14/2023 10:09 PM
120	More playgrounds for younger children 1-3 year olds	5/14/2023 10:03 PM
121	Allow those to get out and enjoy without hinderence	5/14/2023 10:00 PM
122	Resurfacing of current Pickleball courts, addition of more courts.	5/14/2023 9:47 PM
123	I don't feel like we really need anymore parks or recreation sites as public land is free to use	5/14/2023 9:44 PM
124	The motorized rec in the sands	5/14/2023 9:40 PM
125	Sands speedway race flexibility and ORV usage	5/14/2023 9:37 PM
126	It would be great to see Blueberry Ridge have a designated pedal bike/mountain bike trail.	5/14/2023 9:21 PM
127	Blueberry ridge: open one of the trails for skiing with dogs, or snowshoeing with dogs	5/14/2023 9:20 PM
128	Open up ORV and ATV trails nobody cares about parks other ORV parks	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
129	Some trail maintenance in the summer and winter would be great	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
130	Better signage for visitors	5/14/2023 9:05 PM
131	More motorized trails	5/14/2023 9:03 PM
132	REAL pickle ball courts	5/14/2023 9:03 PM
133	Sands ORV access	5/14/2023 8:56 PM
134	Sands Plains trailheads and markers	5/14/2023 8:54 PM
135	Not sure	5/14/2023 8:54 PM
136	Build pickle ball courts	5/14/2023 8:51 PM
137	Shooting range	5/14/2023 8:50 PM
138	Adding biking to Blueberry ridge	5/14/2023 8:49 PM
139	More pickleball courts. A bike path that connects to the iron ore heritage trail.	5/14/2023 8:48 PM
140	Access to Goose lake.	5/14/2023 8:47 PM
141	Crossroads park, a few more slides and ways to play on the courts instead of pickle ball. Ski trails should get single track trails	5/14/2023 8:44 PM
142	Kayaking	5/14/2023 8:41 PM
143	Sands plains and other trail networks for orv. Bicycles have taken over mqt County, leaving the old orv trails deemed pedal bike trails...	5/14/2023 8:40 PM
144	Na	5/14/2023 8:40 PM

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

145	I wish we had a safe bike path from crossroads to Marquette.	5/14/2023 8:37 PM
146	More pickleball courts, indoor courts would be a dream! But, more outdoor Courts would be nice	5/14/2023 8:35 PM
147	Trails	5/14/2023 8:34 PM
148	Other	5/14/2023 8:34 PM
149	Every one . More things for the youth of our community. Our kids don't need the tv and gaming systems they need the outdoors and memories with friends	5/14/2023 8:29 PM
150	Mountain biking	5/14/2023 8:26 PM
151	Add dedicated pickleball courts	5/14/2023 8:23 PM
152	Sands- added courts	5/14/2023 8:23 PM
153	n/a	5/14/2023 8:20 PM
154	Other	5/14/2023 8:04 PM
155	Tennis courts, add lights for playing after dark	5/14/2023 5:47 PM
156	It's impossible to play tennis anymore as the pickle ball players always seem to be using the courts. It would be nice to have more mountain bike trails. Wish there was safer bike paths for kids to ride from the neighborhoods to the park/gas station/blueberry. It's dangerous for kids to cross and dangerous for them to bike on the shoulder with all the traffic and the odd shaped intersection.	5/14/2023 5:11 PM
157	Can't think of any	5/14/2023 3:55 PM
158	More playground equipment	5/14/2023 8:41 AM
159	.	5/14/2023 8:11 AM
160	?	5/13/2023 10:29 PM
161	The courts they use for pickleball and basketball need some attention. Roots from trees near by making the black top a safety hazard.	5/13/2023 8:30 PM
162	Maybe some singlettrack biking at Blueberry	5/13/2023 7:30 PM
163	Township park	5/13/2023 6:09 PM
164	I would like the land to stay public	5/13/2023 5:31 PM
165	More playground equipment for the kuds	5/13/2023 5:09 PM
166	Strawberry lake, turn into airbnb	5/13/2023 4:24 PM
167	Dog park	5/13/2023 4:00 PM
168	Strawberry Lake; add a boardwalk for easier access to the lake.	5/13/2023 2:29 PM
169	None	5/13/2023 2:29 PM
170	INCREASED EVENT ACCESSIBILITY & DESIGNATED PARKING SPACE FOR PERSONS VERY YOUNG (STROLLERS), OLD AGED &/OR DISABLED (WHEELCHAIRS, ASSISTANCE DEVICES OR PERSONS)	5/13/2023 2:19 PM
171	Sands	5/13/2023 2:04 PM
172	None that I can think of	5/13/2023 12:44 PM
173	I didn't know strawberry lake was public access.	5/13/2023 12:27 PM
174	Less smelly facilities	5/13/2023 10:17 AM
175	To obtain larger areas of preserved wildlife areas... we don't always need "parks" or "sites" to enjoy the beauty many of us are here for. No more development that takes all that away. Light pollution is already taking away even twp residents northern lights experience.	5/13/2023 9:10 AM
176	Strawberry lake: more water and fish. Bigger parking area. Hiking trails. Park by township hall:	5/13/2023 8:30 AM



# Sands Township Recreation Survey

	more land, more parking, flowers and plants.	
177	N/A	5/13/2023 7:55 AM
178	Not sure	5/13/2023 7:39 AM
179	Since pickleball is growing in popularity I think having more courts would be very beneficial.	5/12/2023 11:12 PM
180	More winter trails. More lighted trails for skiing at blueberry. More playground features.	5/12/2023 9:25 PM
181	I think more shade the kids parks	5/12/2023 8:09 PM
182	Sands township park Additional playground equipment (possibly the addition of an natural outdoor play space) The possibility of an ice rink or ice trail at blueberry	5/12/2023 7:50 PM
183	play grounds and strawberrylake	5/12/2023 4:58 PM
184	None	5/12/2023 1:52 PM
185	Playground for all ages and abilities	5/12/2023 11:20 AM
186	I would love to see a biking section added to Blueberry ridge or in a similar area. I feel as though Mountain Bike trails in the sands / crossroads area would see alot of use.	5/12/2023 10:57 AM
187	Unsure	5/12/2023 10:45 AM
188	The summer access to trails. There are often down logs and long grass on trails.	5/12/2023 10:40 AM
189	Sands township should have a camp ground.	5/12/2023 10:00 AM
190	None	5/12/2023 9:30 AM
191	I haven't been able to enjoy them enough to make any suitable suggestions	5/12/2023 8:54 AM
192	Bigger park	5/12/2023 8:16 AM
193	Play ground, have nice grass.	5/12/2023 8:06 AM
194	Strawberry lake area accessibility and ease of use. Area ammenities for the lake. Camping space for visitors with access to atv and sxs trails. There is a lack of that in area.	5/12/2023 7:49 AM
195	Location is key. Everything is at the crossroads. Nothing in the outer areas	5/12/2023 7:39 AM
196	Ice skating rink	5/12/2023 6:03 AM
197	?	5/11/2023 10:29 PM
198	I'd like to know more about the roads and paths around strawberry lake. I don't see any "no trespassing" signs but im not certain they are for public access.	5/11/2023 10:11 PM
199	I didn't even know about Strawberry Lake until this survey. Increased viability or promotion of the parks available in our area would be great. Education-enrichment nights to get folks plugged into the community and the parks.	5/11/2023 2:38 PM
200	Parks for families and picnic area.	5/11/2023 12:57 PM
201	I would like to see more open areas for baseball, football or soccer.	5/11/2023 12:16 PM
202	Revoking Sands Speedway permitting would enable that piece of property to be used for a higher use more in fitting with it's surroundings. It is an eye and ear sore and is detrimental to the forest surrounding it. It lowers property values significantly as well. Making this change could be controversial with a minority of the population in Sands Toenship but it would be applauded by the majority stake holders in the township. There are other areas that are well suited to this type of use.	5/11/2023 11:36 AM
203	Strawberry Lake Road improvement and parking. make it larger for large picnic gatherings like family reunions or company picnics	5/11/2023 9:22 AM
204	Open grass field/park type area for sports and leisure, ice skating area, clean up illegal dumping on sands plains	5/11/2023 9:07 AM
205	Playground- updated equipment with more variety	5/11/2023 7:01 AM
206	Maybe some sort of outdoor exercise equipment at the playground?	5/10/2023 7:56 PM

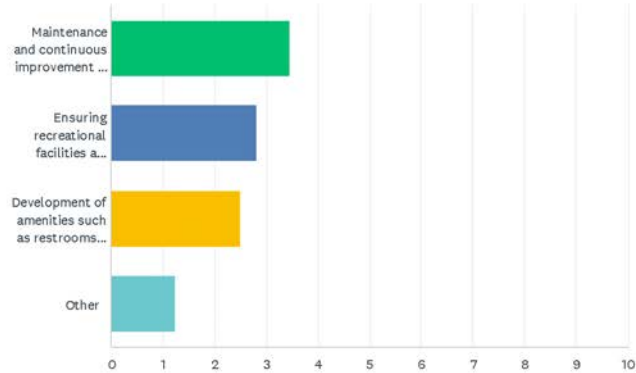
# Sands Township Recreation Survey

207	My focus would be on additional rex activities: hike/bike trails	5/10/2023 7:39 PM
208	Better restrooms at the park	5/10/2023 6:45 PM
209	I'd like to see a community garden (similar to what Marquette has at Park Cemetery & Presque Isle) at the Sands township park or Strawberry Lake or anywhere else that would be appropriate.	5/10/2023 5:31 PM
210	The indoor gym... can it be open to residents for kids to play basketball for daytime hours? Or a few hours a week set aside. We can't even schedule time when we try because of the pickleball schedule	5/10/2023 5:28 PM
211	More seating at the park	5/10/2023 4:58 PM
212	None	5/10/2023 4:15 PM
213	I think sands township does a great job!	5/10/2023 3:58 PM
214	More tennis/Pickleball courts	5/10/2023 3:39 PM
215	Camping or swimming lakes	5/10/2023 2:51 PM
216	No solar farm in sands plains!	5/10/2023 1:52 PM
217	Strawberry Lake, really poor access.	5/10/2023 10:36 AM
218	I would love for there to be a community garden in the Sands Township area...idealy close to the crossroads area	5/10/2023 7:24 AM
219	N/A	5/10/2023 7:09 AM
220	More trails	5/10/2023 6:30 AM
221	I would love a better shade around the Sands Playground. In the summer the playground gets too hot. Maybe some trees could be planted strategically to create a little more shade like Lion's Park in Trowbridge Park. Also, I wish the bathroom was better and had a sink to wash hands. Better bathroom facilities with a diaper changing station too.	5/10/2023 2:12 AM
222	None	5/9/2023 10:21 PM
223	Do not let the solar farm be built in the plains. It will ruin recreational opportunities. Less hunting, less riding, less wildlife, less blueberries.	5/9/2023 9:10 PM
224	More tennis courts	5/9/2023 9:08 PM
225	I would love single track mountain biking at blueberry	5/9/2023 6:21 PM
226	Would love to have a swimming pool or water park.	5/9/2023 5:36 PM
227	NA	5/9/2023 4:41 PM
228	More Pickleball courts both indoor and out, baseball field and outdoor ice rink would be cool for the community too	5/9/2023 1:23 PM
229	Keeping atv trails connected and accessible. Not everyone wants to fat tire bike/pedal bike.	5/9/2023 1:21 PM
230	More opportunities for teens	5/9/2023 1:11 PM
231	Shared Indoor turf location, off leash dog grounds, safe bike route to the parks	5/9/2023 12:41 PM
232	I have never been to strawberry lake and really don't know much about it or where it is. Is this a lake for swimming? Maybe better signage or promotion?	5/9/2023 12:37 PM
233	All! Can't have too much of a good thing or better maintenance. I would like better understanding that the sites are for everyone to use	5/9/2023 12:28 PM
234	Walking trails	5/9/2023 12:27 PM
235	All is pretty good	5/9/2023 12:19 PM

# Sands Township Recreation Survey

## Q8 What should be a priority when addressing Sands Township's Recreation Plan? (1: Highest priority, 2: Moderate Priority, 3: Lowest Priority)

Answered: 297 Skipped: 16



	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Maintenance and continuous improvement of facilities and parks	56.57% 168	33.00% 98	9.76% 29	0.67% 2	297	3.45
Ensuring recreational facilities are accessible to all residents	25.59% 76	34.68% 103	36.03% 107	3.70% 11	297	2.82
Development of amenities such as restrooms, night lighting and electricity	13.47% 40	30.64% 91	47.47% 141	8.42% 25	297	2.49
Other	4.38% 13	1.68% 5	6.73% 20	87.21% 259	297	1.23

## Q9 If you listed other in question 6 please provide your priority when addressing the township's recreation opportunities.

Answered: 79 Skipped: 234

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We went out to Strawberry some years ago, but will check it out again. Would it be possible to put in a nature trail around it?	6/30/2023 12:40 PM
2	Creating new spaces and buildings for additional use!	6/28/2023 11:01 AM
3	PROVIDE BETTER MAPS TO TRAILS IN TWP	5/24/2023 3:07 PM

# Sands Township Recreation Survey

4	Ok	5/19/2023 9:43 PM
5	NA	5/19/2023 7:39 PM
6	N/A	5/19/2023 5:57 PM
7	Bike trails/dog friendly bike and ski trails	5/18/2023 10:53 PM
8	N/A	5/18/2023 7:20 PM
9	I think that we need more horse trails	5/18/2023 3:44 PM
10	New recreation opportunities (shooting range would be an example)	5/17/2023 11:46 PM
11	I didn't	5/17/2023 11:37 AM
12	More lighting and restrooms	5/17/2023 11:10 AM
13	A camp ground	5/17/2023 6:13 AM
14	More indoor and outdoor pickleball courts	5/16/2023 9:05 PM
15	Sands plains	5/16/2023 7:18 PM
16	NA	5/16/2023 4:49 PM
17	Na	5/16/2023 3:49 PM
18	Na	5/16/2023 2:49 PM
19	Pickleball park - newly designed, not just updating the current site	5/16/2023 7:50 AM
20	Maybe additional tennis court so more availability.	5/15/2023 5:55 PM
21	Parking and additional basketball courts outside	5/15/2023 4:33 PM
22	Pickleball courts, need more	5/15/2023 3:34 PM
23	Your noise ordinances have to be addressed for some to properly enjoy what they like to do.	5/15/2023 1:49 PM
24	NA	5/15/2023 1:24 PM
25	Trails signs	5/15/2023 1:08 PM
26	ASAP	5/15/2023 12:55 PM
27	Recognizing there are other forms of recreation in the area other than the parks	5/15/2023 8:40 AM
28	.	5/15/2023 8:04 AM
29	.	5/15/2023 5:57 AM
30	.	5/15/2023 5:01 AM
31	N/A	5/15/2023 4:26 AM
32	More friendly to the ATV, Jeep, snowmobile, and racing communities	5/14/2023 11:28 PM
33	Na	5/14/2023 10:09 PM
34	Working towards a more multi use trail system	5/14/2023 10:03 PM
35	Improvement of ORV Trails and access to them	5/14/2023 9:54 PM
36	1	5/14/2023 9:45 PM
37	ORV trails need to be reopened, bike trails are useless to most of the residents in the U.P.	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
38	Open the doors to more motor sports events and trail maintenance. It's probably the largest activity with the highest percentage of participants of all activities in sands township.	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
39	N/a	5/14/2023 9:05 PM
40	Orv access	5/14/2023 9:03 PM
41	Keeping trails open for atvs	5/14/2023 8:54 PM

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

42	Skatepark	5/14/2023 8:49 PM
43	Bike path from crossroads to Marquette	5/14/2023 8:37 PM
44	N/a	5/14/2023 8:34 PM
45	The ability to ride snowmobiles and atvs on my property without fear of violations of vague ordinances	5/14/2023 8:34 PM
46	Develop imprive motorized atv trailhead	5/14/2023 8:04 PM
47	There's a shortage of soccer fields in the area; it would be nice to have our own in our township!	5/14/2023 5:11 PM
48	N/A	5/14/2023 3:55 PM
49	.	5/14/2023 8:11 AM
50	No	5/13/2023 10:29 PM
51	Don't allow solar farm, let sands stay wild	5/13/2023 4:24 PM
52	Strawberry Lake should just be monitored by cameras no need to pay for caretaker	5/13/2023 2:29 PM
53	MORE VARIETY: SOFTBALL, SOCCER, PEDAL BIKE, WINTER SPORTS VENUES	5/13/2023 2:19 PM
54	na	5/13/2023 12:27 PM
55	Responsible development... the reason many people enjoy sands twp is the availability of natural surroundings... not expansionist no green space or light polution... driving by the transfer station at night is irritating.	5/13/2023 9:10 AM
56	N/A	5/13/2023 7:55 AM
57	None	5/13/2023 7:39 AM
58	multipurpose play field	5/12/2023 4:58 PM
59	N/A	5/12/2023 10:45 AM
60	Add new learning activities. Example would be tree identification, plant ID, ect	5/12/2023 7:39 AM
61	None	5/12/2023 6:03 AM
62	?	5/11/2023 10:29 PM
63	Community events	5/11/2023 2:38 PM
64	I don't know what question 6 said	5/11/2023 12:57 PM
65	Zoning that lines up with the unspoiled natural beauty in Sands. As a realtor, I understand the value that is added when zoning is appropriate. I also see how improper zoning detracts from a community. We need to preserve and change some current zoning	5/11/2023 11:36 AM
66	N/A	5/11/2023 9:22 AM
67	Support for trending popular activities like orv, mountain biking, ice skating, soccer, lacrosse	5/11/2023 9:07 AM
68	Na	5/10/2023 4:58 PM
69	More racing	5/10/2023 2:51 PM
70	Need a target range	5/10/2023 10:36 AM
71	Community Garden	5/10/2023 7:24 AM
72	N/A	5/10/2023 7:09 AM
73	More shade at playground.	5/10/2023 2:12 AM
74	Off-road motorcycling	5/9/2023 10:21 PM
75	na	5/9/2023 4:41 PM

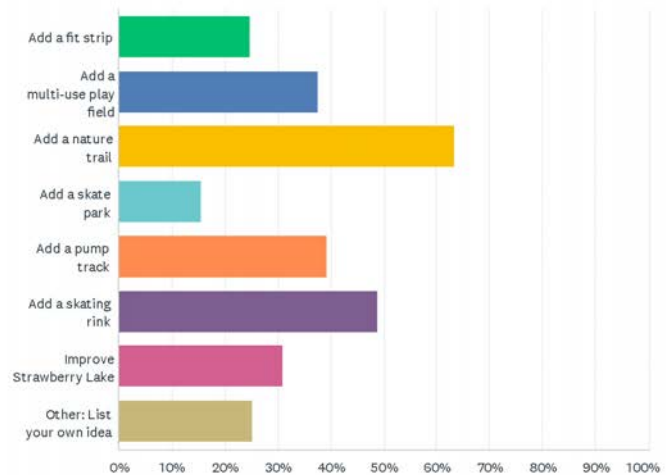
31 / 40

### Sands Township Recreation Survey

76	More outdoor Pickleball courts, Colorado had awesome outdoor courts	5/9/2023 1:23 PM
77	New opportunities for teens	5/9/2023 1:11 PM
78	Expansion of other types of parks such as dog park, safe bike paths to these parks, and indoor turf facility due to long winters	5/9/2023 12:41 PM
79	All is good	5/9/2023 12:19 PM

**Q10 Please select all the parks and recreation projects you would like to see happen within Sands Township.**

Answered: 291 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Add a fit strip	24.74%	72
Add a multi-use play field	37.46%	109
Add a nature trail	63.23%	184
Add a skate park	15.46%	45
Add a pump track	39.18%	114
Add a skating rink	48.80%	142
Improve Strawberry Lake	30.93%	90
Other: List your own idea	25.09%	73
Total Respondents: 291		

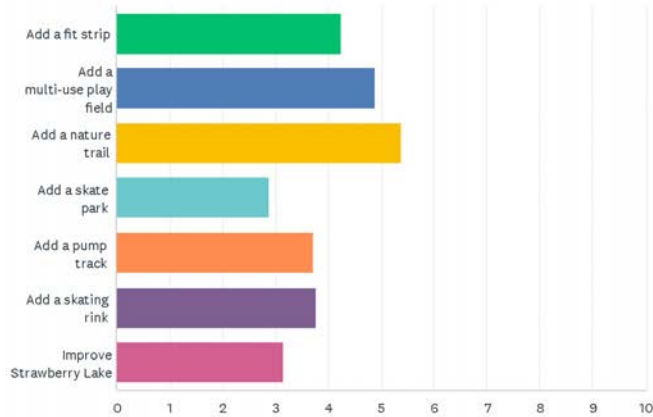
32 / 40



# Sands Township Recreation Survey

Q11 Please rank your top priority parks and recreation projects within the township. (1=highest priority, 7=lowest priority)

Answered: 300 Skipped: 13

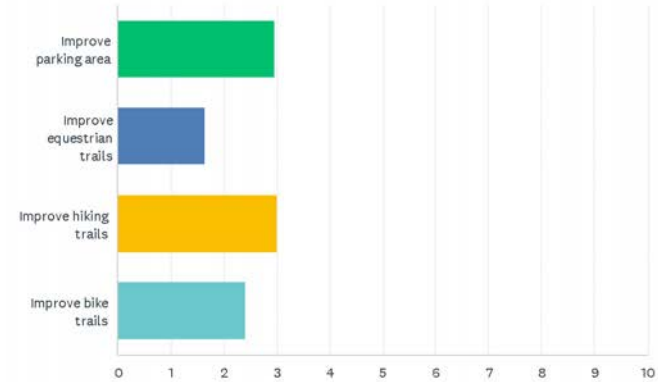


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
Add a fit strip	15.67% 47	16.00% 48	15.33% 46	14.33% 43	17.00% 51	11.33% 34	10.33% 31	300	4.24
Add a multi-use play field	18.00% 54	21.33% 64	21.00% 63	21.67% 65	10.33% 31	4.67% 14	3.00% 9	300	4.89
Add a nature trail	27.67% 83	27.00% 81	20.67% 62	11.00% 33	8.67% 26	3.00% 9	2.00% 6	300	5.37
Add a skate park	3.33% 10	4.00% 12	6.67% 20	18.67% 56	18.00% 54	29.00% 87	20.33% 61	300	2.88
Add a pump track	15.00% 45	10.33% 31	9.67% 29	9.33% 28	22.00% 66	18.00% 54	15.67% 47	300	3.70
Add a skating rink	11.00% 33	12.67% 38	14.67% 44	14.00% 42	12.00% 36	23.67% 71	12.00% 36	300	3.78
Improve Strawberry Lake	9.33% 28	8.67% 26	12.00% 36	11.00% 33	12.00% 36	10.33% 31	36.67% 110	300	3.15

Q12 Please rank your Strawberry Lake site improvement priorities.

Answered: 256 Skipped: 57

# Sands Township Recreation Survey



	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Improve parking area	37.11% 95	27.34% 70	30.08% 77	5.47% 14	256	2.96
Improve equestrian trails	3.52% 9	15.23% 39	22.66% 58	58.59% 150	256	1.64
Improve hiking trails	37.11% 95	33.59% 86	21.88% 56	7.42% 19	256	3.00
Improve bike trails	22.27% 57	23.83% 61	25.39% 65	28.52% 73	256	2.40

Q13 Please provide any additional comments regarding your parks and recreation priorities here:

Answered: 102 Skipped: 211

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	How about a garden area?	6/28/2023 6:29 PM
2	Make them pet friendly also.	6/28/2023 9:46 AM
3	A splash pad would be cool	6/27/2023 6:21 PM
4	Camping	5/29/2023 7:04 PM
5	Multi-use field would be outstanding!	5/24/2023 8:22 AM
6	Just my preference but I'd like to see less motorized use. ( although snowmobiles are ok)	5/23/2023 10:11 AM
7	Need more promotional info on all facilities	5/21/2023 10:53 PM
8	I think adding a disc golf course would be a great idea.	5/19/2023 7:39 PM
9	Lighting in parking areas minimum and a basic pit toilet are most important. Not interested in any projects that would pave anything. Just more dirt trails	5/19/2023 5:57 PM

# Sands Township Recreation Survey

10	Maybe add a dog park or disc golf course	5/18/2023 10:39 PM
11	N/A	5/18/2023 7:20 PM
12	There are many walking trails and bike trails all over Marquette county. I think we need to focus on more what there isn't enough of. And improve what we already have	5/18/2023 3:44 PM
13	Open the gate to the Strawberry Lake access site on the last Saturday in April and close it after October 31st to align with the season dates for Type D designated trout lakes.	5/18/2023 3:05 PM
14	Safe bike corridors.	5/18/2023 1:44 PM
15	Don't have any	5/17/2023 11:37 AM
16	I'm not sure some of these questions are going to be answered as intended on the survey. I think it's a bit cumbersome with all of the arrows required to move the topics up or down based on order of priority. A simple choice of 1-4 on each would provide better ranking.	5/17/2023 9:54 AM
17	Online reservation system for indoor pickleball	5/17/2023 6:28 AM
18	A camp ground	5/17/2023 6:13 AM
19	Sands township park is the best park in the area!	5/17/2023 5:04 AM
20	Multi use field	5/16/2023 10:15 PM
21	Splash pad for kids	5/16/2023 9:56 PM
22	Keep the plains open to off-road	5/16/2023 7:18 PM
23	More pickleball opportunities	5/16/2023 3:49 PM
24	I think it's going well	5/16/2023 3:30 PM
25	N/a	5/16/2023 2:49 PM
26	I'm not hopeful....if the garbage pickup service is any indication.	5/16/2023 6:43 AM
27	Snowshoe trails, bike path	5/16/2023 4:25 AM
28	Add an outdoor area, Pavillion and BBQ area for weddings, graduation partiez and other parties.	5/15/2023 10:46 PM
29	Disc golf	5/15/2023 10:09 PM
30	I know Pickleball has become very popular but it has become difficult to access the tennis courts with all the reservations. It seems like many from out of Sands township are also allowed to use the facilities and that makes it even more difficult.	5/15/2023 5:55 PM
31	The park needs to be expanded. Everything the park provides is great but I feel that the large volume of pickleball players during the day is driving other people wanting to use the park out.	5/15/2023 4:33 PM
32	Pickle ball courts. You have a good start. Resurfacing and fencing would go a long way.	5/15/2023 2:39 PM
33	Should build an off Road park for jeeps and buggies	5/15/2023 1:49 PM
34	I'm really good with what was listed. Thanks for providing a survey for residents to give feed back on	5/15/2023 1:24 PM
35	More ATV and orv trails	5/15/2023 1:08 PM
36	More bike trails would be awesome	5/15/2023 12:21 PM
37	It would be great to have biking trails. Would not then have to travel so far from home to take the kids.	5/15/2023 11:55 AM
38	None	5/15/2023 8:40 AM
39	Promote motorsports	5/15/2023 8:04 AM
40	Need more access to orv trails	5/15/2023 7:34 AM
41	.	5/15/2023 5:57 AM

35 / 40

# Sands Township Recreation Survey

42	.	5/15/2023 5:01 AM
43	N/A	5/15/2023 4:26 AM
44	Thank you!	5/14/2023 10:54 PM
45	To embrace all outdoor sports motorized and non motorized.	5/14/2023 10:40 PM
46	Lots of money spent on these things only to be vandalized later. Fixing the roads would be better.	5/14/2023 10:09 PM
47	Include a dog park with water access	5/14/2023 10:03 PM
48	Improve parking access to the ORV trails	5/14/2023 9:54 PM
49	It seems you are turning a blind eye to power sports which fuels this community. It's a shame that motorcycles and atv/utv's are left out. One of the biggest privately owned businesses in sands caters to this community of off-road enthusiasts and pays taxes in the township. Might want to think about leveling the playing field here when it comes to spending tax payers money	5/14/2023 9:44 PM
50	Please cater to motorsports enthusiasm more	5/14/2023 9:37 PM
51	Nobody cares about parks the only recreation people want are ORV / ATV trails	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
52	More attention to motor sports. This survey seems strictly about things that don't involve a motor when we have a greater following for activities that include snowmobiles, dirt bikes, four wheelers and side by sides. Why not improve some of the trail network for these. Or better yet don't destroy a good portion of them with solar panels.	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
53	Add real pickle ball courts	5/14/2023 9:03 PM
54	None	5/14/2023 8:54 PM
55	Pickle ball courts	5/14/2023 8:51 PM
56	Sands is a great place. Lots of opportunities in the quiet sports areas and lots of woods to expand them.	5/14/2023 8:49 PM
57	Kayaking at Strawberry Lake	5/14/2023 8:41 PM
58	Bike path to Marquette city	5/14/2023 8:37 PM
59	Outdoor lighting for pickleball courts	5/14/2023 8:35 PM
60	NA	5/14/2023 8:34 PM
61	The upper peninsula and more specifically sands is known thought the Midwest for it's year round off road motorized trails. Look into other townships that have capitalized on this and how it impacts the economy. Only sands based restaurant has stayed open for food past it's listed early closing time on several occasions due to the amount of people coming in to dine.	5/14/2023 8:04 PM
62	Soccer fields and ice rink that are lighted would be amazing!!!	5/14/2023 5:11 PM
63	N/a	5/14/2023 3:55 PM
64	.	5/14/2023 8:11 AM
65	None	5/13/2023 10:29 PM
66	Pickleball has become so popular, I would just like to see the courts in good condition.	5/13/2023 8:30 PM
67	.	5/13/2023 4:24 PM
68	Roller rink just no place for kids to hang like the old dayz. Thanks for the survey we have a beautiful township	5/13/2023 2:29 PM
69	PROVIDE HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE ENTERTAINMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL AGES, ABILITIES, YEAR-ROUND AND NEAR HOME	5/13/2023 2:19 PM
70	Splash pad for kids and toddler friendly.	5/13/2023 12:44 PM
71	We love Sands Township. Great place to live. We appreciate everything our officials do to make this a good place to live and raise a family.	5/13/2023 8:30 AM

36 / 40

## Sands Township Recreation Survey

72	N/A	5/13/2023 7:55 AM
73	None	5/13/2023 7:39 AM
74	Unfamiliar with strawberry lake and have lived here for 6 years. Better publicity might help highlight this.	5/12/2023 9:25 PM
75	N/A	5/12/2023 10:45 AM
76	None	5/12/2023 6:03 AM
77	I'd love a map to be mailed or digitally distributed to township residents detailing what public lands are available for dog walking, snow shoeing, and bird watching. Also, I know this is selfish, but please don't advertise our rec opportunities to people outside the township. Our tax dollars fund these resources, and we should not have to fight mobs of people who don't live here for access. It's really so perfect right now - I can almost always find a spot to be alone with my thoughts, I'd love to keep our hidden gems hidden from people outside sands township.	5/11/2023 10:11 PM
78	Please add a community garden	5/11/2023 12:57 PM
79	Improve access, more groomed trails. Improve zoning to keep wild areas in great shape. More retail services like a grocery store at the crossroads would keep that revenue in the township.	5/11/2023 11:36 AM
80	Looking forward to future additions and improvements	5/11/2023 9:22 AM
81	What about a gun range?	5/10/2023 9:52 PM
82	Add a splash pad!	5/10/2023 6:45 PM
83	Na	5/10/2023 4:58 PM
84	A campground at strawberry lake would be nice	5/10/2023 3:45 PM
85	Thank you for maintaining our beautiful township	5/10/2023 3:39 PM
86	Need a swimming beach	5/10/2023 2:51 PM
87	Make Strawberry Lake fishable!	5/10/2023 10:36 AM
88	I've lived in Sands for 27 years (birth +) and then in Marquette for 5 years. I've never heard of Strawberry Lake. Or that there were equestrian trails. Marketing/promotion is clearly a need.	5/10/2023 8:15 AM
89	Community garden 😊	5/10/2023 7:24 AM
90	N/A	5/10/2023 7:09 AM
91	Bicycling is a billion dollar industry and Marquette county is becoming a focal point for Midwest mountain/trail biking.	5/10/2023 6:30 AM
92	Please plant more trees near the Sands Playground. We love it but my kids burn in the sun in the winter and this may not cost that much for some trees to be planted strategically. Thank u!	5/10/2023 2:12 AM
93	Please keep motorsports in the township	5/9/2023 10:21 PM
94	No solar farm!	5/9/2023 9:10 PM
95	Would love to have some sort of pool or Waterpark available	5/9/2023 5:36 PM
96	NA	5/9/2023 4:41 PM
97	A community pool would be amazing	5/9/2023 1:11 PM
98	Dog park	5/9/2023 12:57 PM
99	Addition of a dog park and indoor turf (could be rented out or for township resident use (pass?)).	5/9/2023 12:41 PM
100	Focus on multi-use. We need to share our trails & spaces. Bikes are taking over many areas and excluding other uses, particularly horses!	5/9/2023 12:28 PM
101	Hi	5/9/2023 12:27 PM
102	All is good	5/9/2023 12:19 PM

37 / 40

## Sands Township Recreation Survey

## Q14 Would you like to be contacted regarding upcoming public meetings or workshops? (Please provide email address)

Answered: 93 Skipped: 220

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	jlferris06@charter.net	6/30/2023 12:40 PM
2	No	6/28/2023 6:29 PM
3	toddvv@mac.com	6/26/2023 2:22 PM
4	Karendutz@outlook.com	6/15/2023 8:47 AM
5	Yes. Sicotteroy@yahoo.com	5/23/2023 7:02 PM
6	fran.darling12@gmail.com	5/21/2023 10:53 PM
7	emstrazz@gmail.com	5/20/2023 1:00 PM
8	No thank you.	5/20/2023 9:10 AM
9	Mlajoie86@hotmail.com	5/18/2023 8:56 PM
10	No	5/18/2023 7:20 PM
11	No	5/18/2023 5:23 PM
12	Jessiedux@gmail.com	5/18/2023 3:44 PM
13	No	5/18/2023 1:11 PM
14	Fisher.Nathan.jess@gmail.com	5/17/2023 6:48 PM
15	No	5/17/2023 3:00 PM
16	No	5/17/2023 11:37 AM
17	Laurie.a.eagle@gmail.com	5/17/2023 11:10 AM
18	usaroadwarrior@gmail.com	5/17/2023 9:54 AM
19	No	5/17/2023 8:38 AM
20	upracer@yahoo.com	5/17/2023 6:13 AM
21	Cmnelson04@charter.net	5/17/2023 12:12 AM
22	No thank you	5/16/2023 7:28 PM
23	Yes	5/16/2023 7:18 PM
24	No thanks	5/16/2023 3:30 PM
25	No	5/16/2023 2:49 PM
26	No	5/16/2023 2:48 PM
27	meganbronstein@gmail.com	5/16/2023 12:59 PM
28	ACsundance@aol.com	5/16/2023 4:25 AM
29	No	5/15/2023 10:46 PM
30	No	5/15/2023 4:33 PM
31	No	5/15/2023 3:34 PM

38 / 40



## Sands Township Recreation Survey

32	c12dad@gmail.com	5/15/2023 2:39 PM
33	jon@jgoods.org	5/15/2023 1:24 PM
34	No	5/15/2023 1:08 PM
35	No	5/15/2023 12:21 PM
36	No	5/15/2023 8:40 AM
37	No	5/15/2023 8:04 AM
38	.	5/15/2023 5:57 AM
39	No	5/15/2023 5:01 AM
40	N/A	5/15/2023 4:26 AM
41	The808motorsports@outlook.com	5/14/2023 10:38 PM
42	Na	5/14/2023 10:09 PM
43	Callmyhandymanfirst@gmail.com	5/14/2023 10:00 PM
44	No	5/14/2023 9:44 PM
45	No	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
46	Camcr250@gmail.com	5/14/2023 9:15 PM
47	No	5/14/2023 9:05 PM
48	Joeyp1021@hotmail.com	5/14/2023 8:54 PM
49	Pamfjeldheim@hotmail.com	5/14/2023 8:48 PM
50	no	5/14/2023 8:47 PM
51	No	5/14/2023 8:34 PM
52	keroussin@yahoo.com	5/14/2023 8:04 PM
53	Not at this time	5/14/2023 3:55 PM
54	No	5/14/2023 8:11 AM
55	No	5/13/2023 10:29 PM
56	Tolson@nmu.edu	5/13/2023 8:30 PM
57	No thanks	5/13/2023 5:31 PM
58	No	5/13/2023 4:24 PM
59	No	5/13/2023 2:29 PM
60	bob_t05@hotmail.com	5/13/2023 12:27 PM
61	No	5/13/2023 7:55 AM
62	No	5/13/2023 7:39 AM
63	bobboatman@aol.com	5/12/2023 4:58 PM
64	N/A	5/12/2023 10:45 AM
65	ecprovencher@gmail.com	5/12/2023 10:40 AM
66	No	5/11/2023 10:29 PM
67	Yes, rachelpomeroy1013@gmail.com	5/11/2023 10:11 PM
68	Tammysavolainen@gmail.com	5/11/2023 12:27 PM
69	Yes pattynofa18@gmail.com	5/11/2023 11:36 AM

39 / 40

## Sands Township Recreation Survey

70	No thanks	5/11/2023 9:22 AM
71	jason_lacosse@yahoo.com	5/11/2023 9:07 AM
72	Bvgp0808@yahoo.com	5/10/2023 6:45 PM
73	sketchum@gmail.com	5/10/2023 5:31 PM
74	slamere25@hotmail.com	5/10/2023 4:58 PM
75	karenwares@gmail.com	5/10/2023 3:45 PM
76	amandamelka@gmail.com	5/10/2023 3:39 PM
77	mattjewell21@gmail.com	5/10/2023 2:51 PM
78	Bbernard250@gmail.com	5/10/2023 1:52 PM
79	Not at this time.	5/10/2023 10:36 AM
80	No	5/10/2023 8:24 AM
81	No	5/10/2023 7:24 AM
82	No thank you	5/10/2023 7:09 AM
83	Sure! mollyjphoto@gmail.com	5/10/2023 2:30 AM
84	bsheltro@gmail.com	5/9/2023 10:21 PM
85	Yonkerj3@gmail.com	5/9/2023 9:21 PM
86	No thank you.	5/9/2023 9:10 PM
87	No	5/9/2023 4:41 PM
88	Sure, I'm Rich Storms wfe, Cami. camianna@yahoo.com	5/9/2023 1:23 PM
89	No	5/9/2023 1:11 PM
90	kjgdesign@gmail.com	5/9/2023 12:41 PM
91	Javendt@gmail.com	5/9/2023 12:28 PM
92	No	5/9/2023 12:27 PM
93	bunmuth@yahoo.com	5/9/2023 12:19 PM

40 / 40

# B

## APPENDIX B GRANT HISTORY

Project Number: #TF1061  
Park/ Facility: Strawberry Lake  
Project Year: 1985  
Project Description: Application was withdrawn.

Grant Amount: \$0  
Project Status: Closed

Project Number: #26-01644  
Park/ Facility: Sands Township Park  
Project Year: 2005  
Project Description: To update and develop basketball and tennis courts, an updated playground, resurfacing of parking lot, and vault toilet facilities.

Grant Amount: \$95,500  
Project Status: Complete

### OTHER GRANT HISTORY

Sands Township partnered with the DNR to lease a portion of the property at one of the park's trailheads to develop an accessible warming shelter with restrooms.

In 2013 an \$83,700 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant was awarded to the township to fund the warming hut and was later paired with a \$20,000 DNR Partnership Match Grant. The ski club and local individuals, organizations and businesses donated the remaining funds needed to meet the total figure of \$190,000. The installation was complete in 2016.

# C

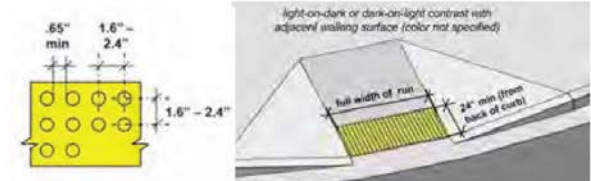
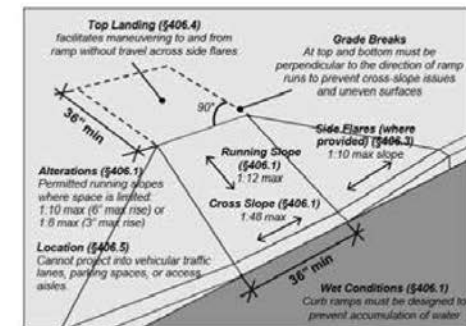
## APPENDIX C UNIVERSAL ACCESS DESIGN GUIDELINES

### GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

#### Michigan DNR Guidelines

##### ACCESSIBLE TRAILS

- WALKWAYS WITHIN A SITE - minimum 6 foot width and slopes under 2%
- MULTI-USE TRAIL - 8 feet, with slopes under 2%, wider width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass
- REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM - at least 10 feet wide, with 1-foot buffers on either side, with slopes under 2%
- SURFACE TREATMENT - unitary surface (ex. concrete, boardwalk or asphalt, crushed aggregate/screenings that have been "stabilized" or natural soils enhanced with soil stabilizers)
- TRANSITIONS - plates between trail and pedestrian bridges, decks, etc.
- INTERSECTIONS - contrasting color treatment and textured surface treatments such as brushed concrete at intersections or interpretive stations to cue people who have vision impairments that there is something to pay attention to at that spot
- Close to level cross slopes (side to side) and very gentle running slopes, no steep sections, larger (greater than 60"X60") level areas at all turns and intersections
- Thoughtfully laid out on the site to maximize the experience with minimal difficulty
- AMENITIES - All should be accessible including: benches, restrooms (port-a-johns), drinking fountains, etc.



Quick reference of minimum requirements for accessible spaces. The 2010 American with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design Guidelines provide a comprehensive resource. [https://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards\\_index.htm](https://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm)

- Clear width is 36" min for most accessible routes
- Surfaces: 1/4" max change, slopes less than 5%, firm and stable
- Head Clearance: 80" high and as wide as the route
- Clear Space: min 30" wide by 48" deep located at element
- Viewing: clear from 32"-51" height
- Maneuvering space: 60"x60" min and level, at entries and places for change of direction
- Transferable height: 17"-19" with transfer supports
- Knee Clearance: 27" high by 30" wide by 25" deep
- Table tops, counters, and rail heights: max 34" high
- Reach range: 48" max height forward and 15" min low side
- Operation: operating mechanism that is operable with one hand and does not require tight pinch/grasp/wrist twist to open



## GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

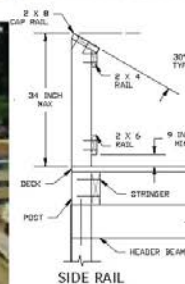
- BEACH**
- Routes over the beach and into the water, can be portable/temporary matting if it needs to be taken in and out for beach cleaning/dragging or in the off season
  - Wide enough for side by side walking/passing
  - At beach route end have an accessible area at the waters edge large enough to park multiple chairs while the owners are in the water
  - With a transfer system at the waters edge so people can get down to the ground level and into the water.



TRANSFER STATION

### FISHING DOCK + VIEWING DECK

- More than 25% of the rails are lowered in various locations or no rails at all with only an edge treatment to prevent roll off
- Sitting benches (all with backs and arm rests) scattered about so anglers can choose to sit or stand to fish
- Tackle box stands next to one bench end (not both) leaving one end clear space for sitting side by side with someone in a wheelchair
- A variety of fish landing cutaways strategically placed
- A variety of accessible opportunities—over-water fishing, shore fishing, in-water fishing, etc.
- Transition plates between access route and deck/pier



- CAMPING**
- Accessible surface on all sites, including rustic sites
  - Larger spaces to accommodate side lifts on campers and vehicles
  - Accessible tables, grills (15" minimum, 34" maximum height), and fire rings on all sites
  - Centrally located restrooms on easy routes from each site



## GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

### SKIING + SLEDDING HILL

- Accessible route to top (no steps), possibly using a "magic carpet" lift
- Level surface for sled mounting at hill top
- If staffed, provide ATV transport or have policy that allows personal ATV use
- Transfer at hill bottom to help transfer down to sled and back up into chair/walker



<https://www.movingmountainsap.org/>

### SPORT COURTS + FIELDS

- Routes to both sides of all fields and courts, not just end zones
- Accessible seating spaces both ground level and elevated if risers/bleachers are provided
- Accessible seating spaces scattered throughout all viewing areas and levels with companion seating on both sides of the space
- All lowered service windows at all concession areas
- Wider gate openings into court areas (tennis, bocce, basketball) and skate parks to accommodate wider sports wheelchairs
- Routes to both horseshoe pits and along both sides of the route between pits
- Level routes onto bocce courts with sitting benches at both ends



MAGIC CARPET LIFT



## GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

### PLAYGROUNDS

- Has both ramp and transfer access to all play components
- Ramps to every “getting on spot” or “sit/stand & do it spot” of every play component
- Transfer system from the ground up to the main deck located near the exits of slides and climbers furthest from the ramp onto the structure
- Only unitary safety surface such as poured-in-place or rubber tiles NOT any loose fill materials likes shredded rubber, wood chips, engineered wood fiber, or any other non-unitary surface material
- On deck transfer platform at the entry point of every slide
- On deck transfer platform with one open transfer side and one side with transfer steps to every entry/exit point of every climber, so kids climbing up can get down to the deck to move to another component, as they may have left an assistive device at the ground
- A good variety of things to manipulate that make noise or music, have high contrast/bright colors, games that two kids can play (to foster social interaction), Braille and sign language panels to teach awareness, easy to operate with just one hand with a whole fist (does not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate)
- Different high contrast colors for decks versus transfers so kids with low vision can perceive a change in level
- Play panels are located at heights so they can be used from a seated position or standing







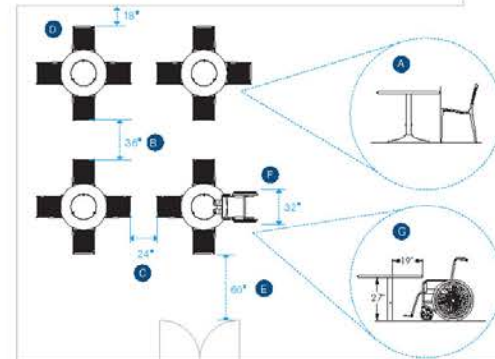
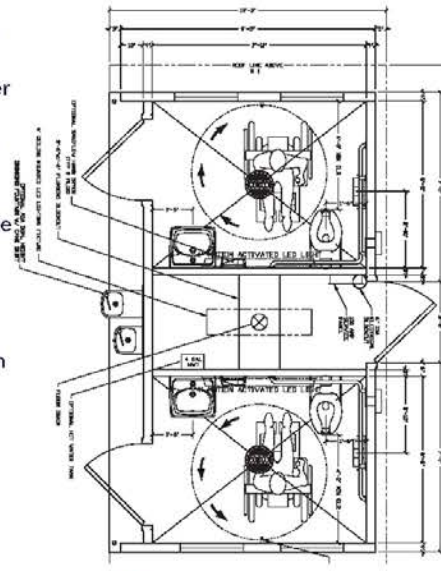
## GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING ADA COMPLIANT AND UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

### RESTROOMS

- More than the minimum number of accessible units
- Multiple unisex/single user toilet rooms/units so opposite sex care givers can assist; also good for parents of young children of the opposite sex so kids aren't sent alone into the multi-user restroom
- Thoughtfully located near areas of activity such as play areas, beaches, fishing piers, etc.
- Accessible door pulls and water faucet handles
- All accessible port-a-johns, again big enough for individual use or care giver/parental assistance.

### PICNIC AREAS + ELEMENTS

- All tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc. are accessible
- All located on accessible routes
- Level routes onto pavilions with no changes of level from path to pavilion surface
- Wider routes and clear space with firm surface around all elements so someone with mobility limits can easily move around the element (table, grill, etc.)
- A variety of table styles, some with clear sitting space on the side, some with extended table tops on the end
- Some fixed tables to ensure they remain accessible (not moved off into a grassy or sandy area, etc.)
- Clear space all around each element so people can approach and use the grill, fire ring, etc. from the front, back and either side
- Grills you can lower/raise the cooking surface with one hand
- Raised fire building surfaces so you can place wood without leaning too far over from a standing or seated position



- A. Distances referenced here assume the front edge of a chair lines up with the edge of a table top.
- B. Allow a minimum of 36" between seat backs to permit wheelchair access between tables.
- C. Allow a minimum of 24" between seat backs to provide a walkway between tables.
- D. Allow a minimum of 18" between a seat back and a wall or edge to permit access to all seats.
- E. Allow a minimum of 60" between a seat back and a table's edge to allow for easy egress.
- F. Please refer to ADA guidelines and local codes to determine the number of wheelchair accessible seating spaces needed in a seating group. It is recommended that a minimum of 32" in width be provided to accommodate a wheelchair at a table.
- G. The minimum height and depth clearances necessary to accommodate a wheelchair at a table are 27" and 19", respectively.

