

**FIVE-YEAR  
COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN**

**of the**

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD  
Berrien County, Michigan**



**2020-2025**

**Approved by Chikaming Township Board on January 9, 2020**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chikaming Township Park Plan that follows represents an effort to lay out a long range future for our park system and to focus on the next five years of development projects that will move us toward that goal. This vision is a continuation of the park system development that has been going on since 1970 when the Park Board was formed.

The Park Board envisions a future park system featuring greenways along the Galien River and the Lake Michigan shore connecting our existing parks, preserves, and beaches with additional protected open spaces and a system of hike and bike trails, and integrated with similar features in the county and regional park systems. Within that park system will be an expanded, fully developed Harbert Community Park at the heart of a community service center that serves as a focal point for the Township between the River Valley Senior Center and the Township Hall. This park will incorporate existing features (playground, picnic shelter, dog park, ball field, and the Carl Sandburg welcome pavilion) as well as a few new facilities which will be determined by a conceptual site planning process to take place in 2020. It will be fully accessible to all, and will be a venue for various community events.

The Galien River and Duneland Greenways will serve as perpetually preserved wildlife corridors, nesting places for migratory and year-round birds, habitat for numerous plant and animal species, and a trail system tying together and showcasing the natural bounty of Southwest Michigan. They will include the existing Chikaming Township Park and Preserve, the Harbert Road Preserve, the Township Beaches, Warren Woods and Warren Dunes State Parks, and various nature preserves and conservation easements under the stewardship of several land conservancies. New preserves will be added to these greenways as the opportunities present themselves. The Park Board seeks to improve water quality to support public health and to ensure safe, swimmable beaches by supporting efforts to educate the public on improving water quality, developing watershed planning and the preservation and restoration of wetlands.

The trail system will follow the Harbor Country Hike and Bike Trail plan which was jointly developed with other local governments in the three townships of New Buffalo, Three Oaks, and Chikaming and supported by a grant from the Pokagon Fund, a local grant-making entity financed by the Four Winds Casino. Current planning of a linear park along Red Arrow Highway between Bridgman and New Buffalo by the Berrien County Parks Department will be an integral piece of this multi-jurisdictional system.

The intent behind this plan is to preserve and make accessible for all, the abundant natural features of Chikaming Township, to provide exceptional places for recreation, play, and gatherings, and to give the people of our community facilities and opportunities for healthy outdoor exercise and activities.

For those who wish to go directly to the detailed proposals and timing for this plan, we suggest reviewing pp. 41-42, pp. 47-54, and pp.55-62.

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## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE OF PLANNING

The purpose of a five-year community parks, recreation, open space, and greenway plan is to establish policies that will achieve prudent and logical development of recreational opportunities and facilities. The plan also describes existing facilities and provides an investment program for the acquisition and development of future facilities and amenities.

An integral part of the planning process is the development of goals, objectives and projects that reflect those policies, as well as determining the feasibility and details for the near-term projects. Regular review of the Park Board's plan provides a method to examine and evaluate the township's open space and recreational needs, project fulfillment, and overall direction. This review also provides an opportunity to coordinate with other jurisdictions and with regional plans

### THEME: NATURE

The essence of our community is **the presence and closeness of nature** throughout all parts of the township. Lake Michigan dominates, not just for its attractiveness to residents and visitors alike, but for the impact it has had and continues to have on our climate, topography, vegetation, wildlife and economy. Our distance from urbanized areas has allowed much of the land to remain undeveloped, and, in some cases to return to pre-settlement conditions. However, the draw of nature brings increasing demand for development of more seasonal housing and more tourism activities. Much of our challenge is about balancing these two factors. A major thrust of our planning for the future involves finding partners and creative ways to acquire and preserve the many valuable parts of the ecosystem in our region.

It is not merely academic to consider the effects of a changing climate on our township. While the Lake Michigan ecosystem and geology are fragile and ever changing, the recent past has brought some alarming trends. Record high water levels are eroding our beaches. Higher levels of precipitation may change the water table or erode the ravines. A warming climate affects the growing conditions for some of our flora, which in turn affects the habitat of animal species that inhabit it.

It is difficult to predict what changes are long lasting and what domino effect they may have. Nevertheless it is important for the people of the township to be vigilant about these changing environmental conditions, and for the Park Board and other Township officials to be prepared to proactively respond to those changes.

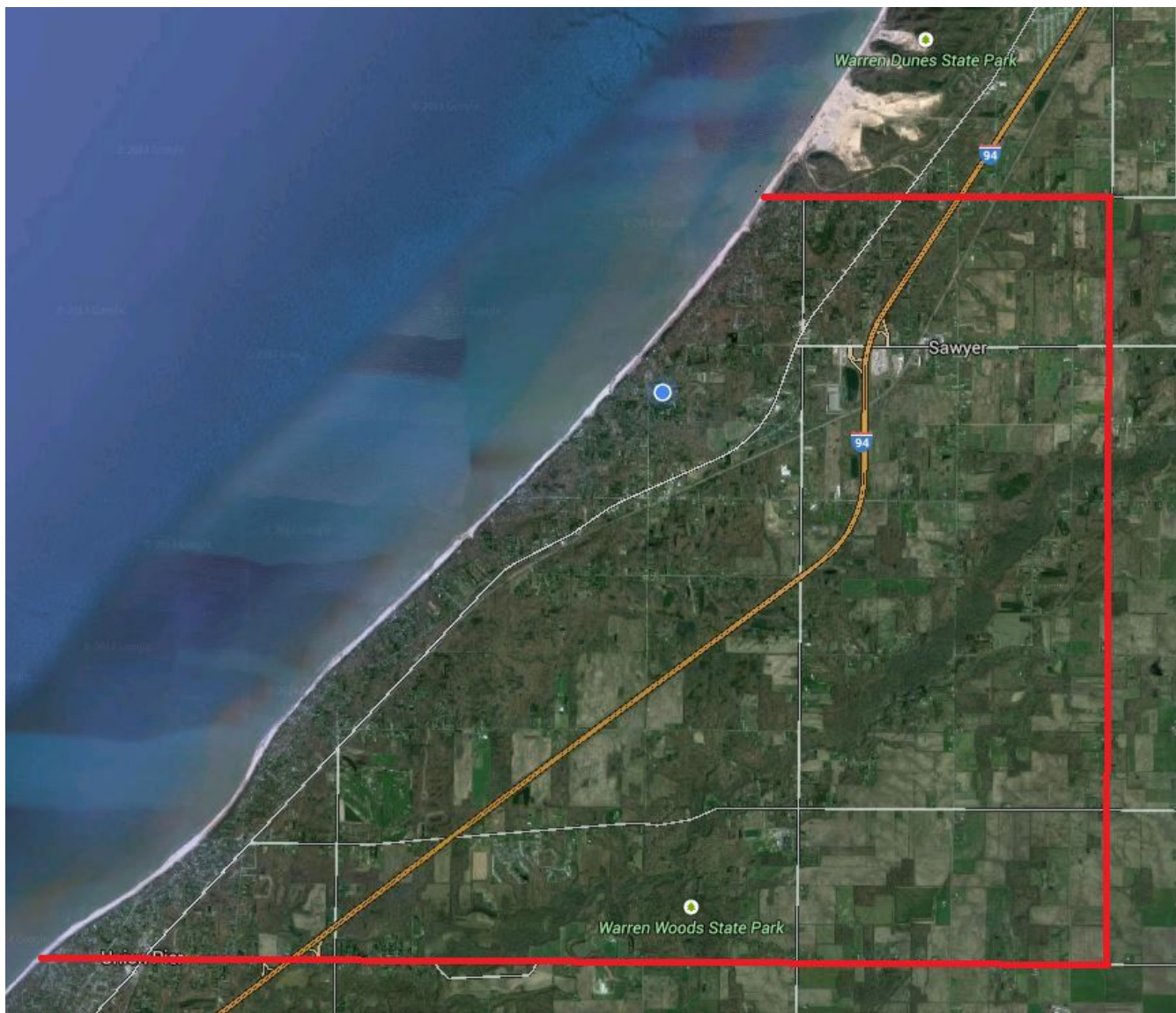
We must find ways to preserve our assets:

- to keep our beach access from washing away in what may be a new period of higher water and fiercer storms;
- to preserve the land's ability to absorb and cleanse increasing amounts of runoff;
- to protect the native vegetation from invasive species;
- and to restore both land and waterways in order to improve water quality, and reduce erosion and eliminate beach closings resulting from high E.coli levels.

In looking toward the future of the Chikaming Township Park system, we recognize the importance of **emphasizing natural elements over artificial ones, and of creating a culture of awareness, appreciation,**

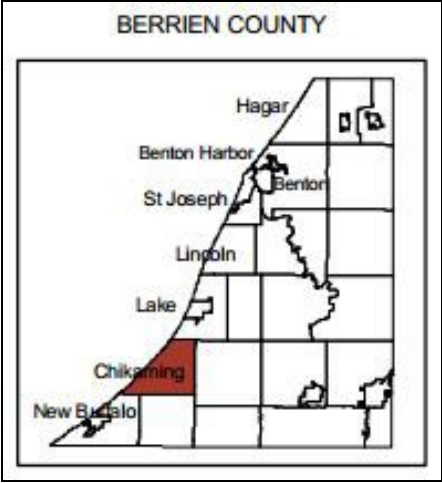


**education, and participation with nature.** The design vocabulary and the character of the park elements should consistently emphasize natural materials, forms, and patterns. Where we propose modern technology in our parks it is to help users understand and appreciate the natural forces at work and the complex interplay with the ecosystem. Where we propose play spaces and playing fields we believe that they should be designed to utilize natural elements such as native vegetation, rocks, soils, and water features. Where we propose highlighting the natural features of the parks such as ponds, ravines, prairies, wetlands, and forests, we also deem it important to educate our park visitors about them. We will preserve and protect those features at the same time that our visitors enjoy active recreation such as hiking, nature walks, birding, boating, fishing, and other pursuits.



### Chikaming Township

The satellite view of Chikaming Township above reveals the major natural features such as Lake Michigan, the Galien River Valley, and the forests and farmland that make the area so attractive, as well as the man-made ones that make it so accessible to visitors.



The locator map to the left shows Chikaming's position within Berrien County.

## THE MISSION and VISION STATEMENTS

Before the goals and objectives incorporated into this five year plan were developed, the Chikaming Township Park Board developed Vision and Mission Statements to provide an overall concept to guide development of the plan.

The **Mission Statement** describes the Park Board's purpose:

The mission of the Chikaming Township Park Board is to preserve and restore the Township's abundant natural resources for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations, through management, conservation, careful development, and acquisition.

The **Vision Statement** is a long-range view of the future park system:

The Park Board envisions an expanded and integrated system of exemplary parks, beaches, trails, greenways and preserves that highlights our bounty of natural resources, preserves and restores them as a source of community involvement and pride, and enables a healthy lifestyle for all.

The **Goals** which flow out of this vision are as follows:

- I. Improve management capabilities of the Park Board to better maintain and improve the growing number of properties under its stewardship
- II. Integrate our system of parks & preserves within the township and with neighboring jurisdictions through connecting trails and greenway corridors
- III. Develop additional active recreation facilities to complement existing assets and to promote healthy outdoor activities for a variety of ages
- IV. Actively seek and collaborate with partners to acquire and restore open space and infrastructure to preserve the natural resources of the Township
- V. Educate Chikaming residents and visitors on our unique geological and biological environment; help them know and appreciate the recreational opportunities in and around the Township; and increase awareness of hazards and safe practices.

And finally, the **Values Statement** tells how we intend to conduct our affairs

The Chikaming Township Park Board is committed to uphold the following values in the pursuit of its goals:

We are a Community of Good Neighbors:

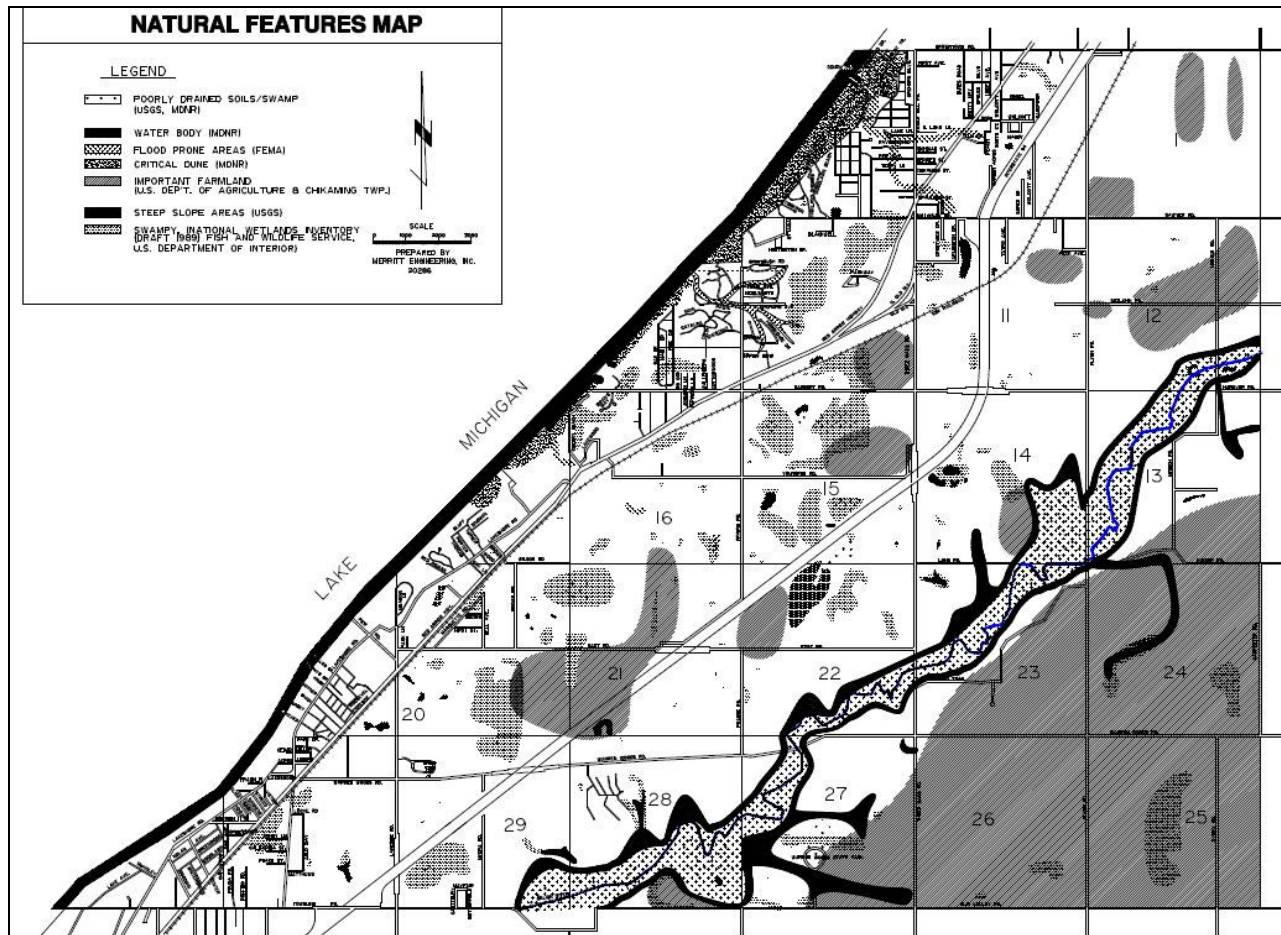
- We endeavor to follow the golden rule - to respect one another and conduct our affairs with respect for all our stakeholders.
- We seek to achieve Equal Access for all to our facilities and to our deliberations.
- We value Professionalism and excellence in what we do.
- We place the Safety of our patrons as a top priority
- We value and actively encourage Volunteerism and community involvement

## PART A. BACKGROUND

### COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

#### Natural Features

Chikaming Township is located on the southwestern side of the State of Michigan in Berrien County. Lake Michigan forms the western border and runs diagonally from northeast to southwest. Likewise, the Galien River, which drains most of the township, flows from northeast to southwest before turning to enter the lake at New Buffalo. A series of creeks flow through ravines from east to west into the lake. Three major transportation routes, also running from northeast to southwest can be seen on the map below, located between the river and the lake: the Conrail Railroad tracks, the Red Arrow Highway serving local traffic, and Interstate 94.



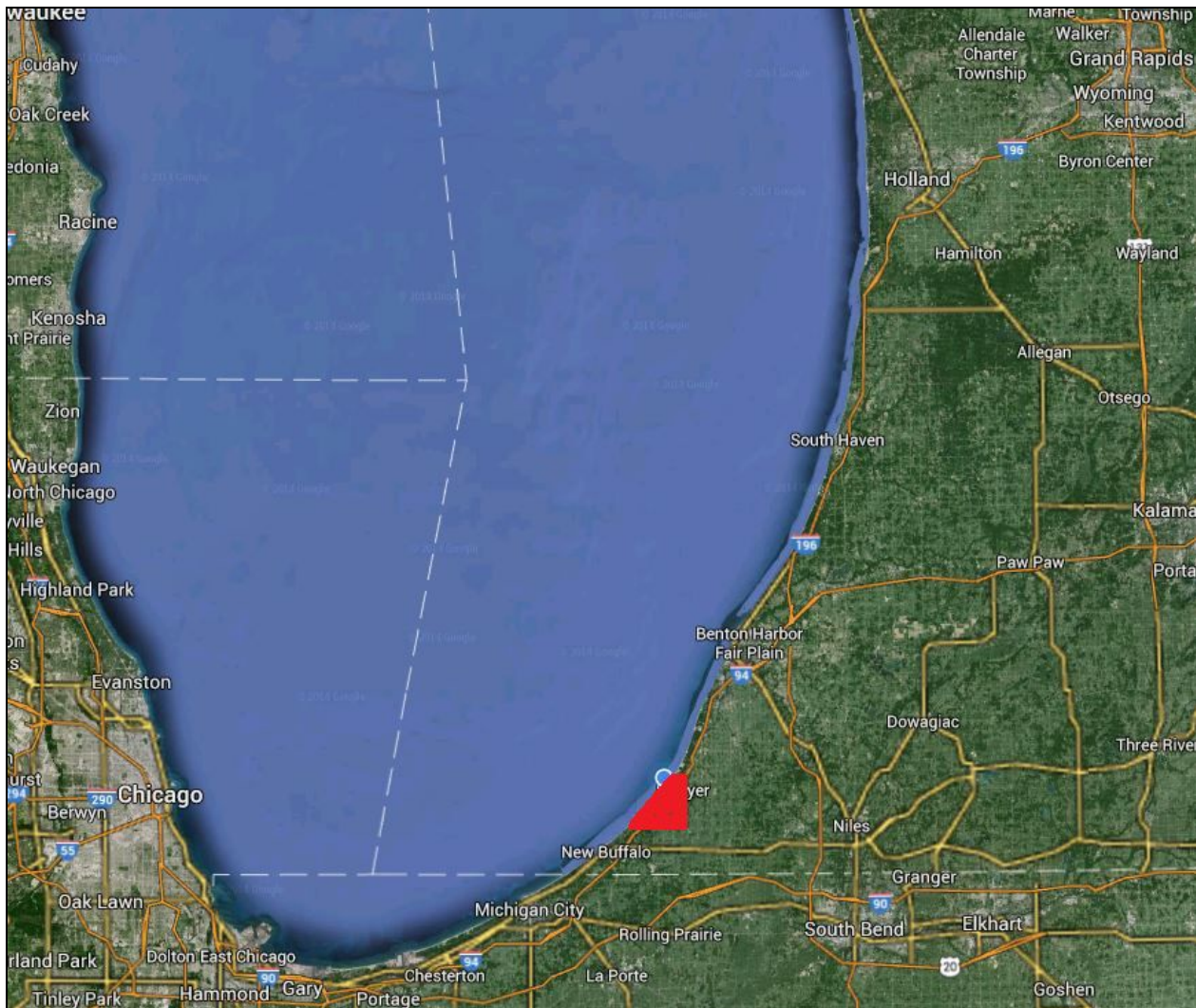
**The Natural Features of Chikaming Township** Moving from west to east, the dominant natural features include: Lake Michigan and the sandy shoreline; continuous sand dunes, which in the northern 2/3 of the township are protected critical dunes; wooded lands interspersed with homes, wetlands, and farms extending westward to I-94; and the forested river valley flanked by farmland on east and west.





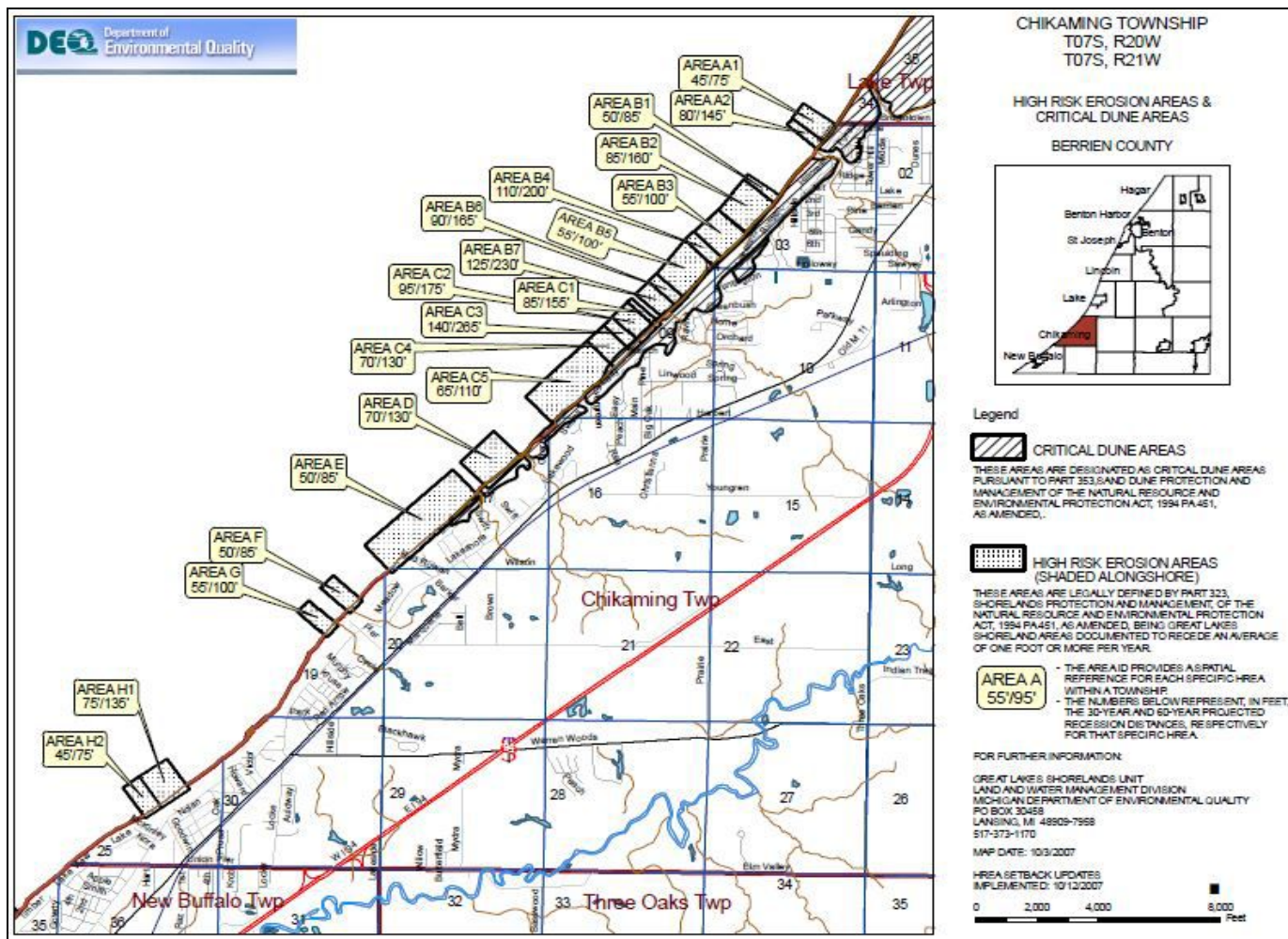


Lake Michigan is by far the strongest influence on this area of the state. The name “Chikaming” means, depending on the source, either “lake” or “at the edge of a great expanse” in the language of the Native Americans living here at the time of the first encounter with Europeans. It was clearly seen as the dominant feature in the woodlands lifestyle and economy. The lake provided the easiest transportation in the earliest days of European settlement, and made the wholesale transport of lumber to developing cities such as Chicago, the first economic driver of the region.



**Regional Setting** Chikaming Township is less than 1 ½ hours from downtown Chicago, IL, 1 ¾ hours from Grand Rapids, MI, 40 minutes from South Bend, IN, and 1 hour from Kalamazoo, MI, making the natural beauty and pristine beaches easily accessible by car and rail.

Lake Michigan exists as a result of the retreat of the last glaciers which scoured the lake bed and also deposited a variety of soils inland; and it continually shapes and reshapes the shoreline and dunes. Moisture from the lake fuels the lake effect rain and snow, and also moderates the temperatures, giving the inland areas an ideal climate for fruit cultivation. The 40 plus inches of precipitation annually have been the major factor forming streams and rivers and sculpting the land into ravines, as well as growing the crops. The winds off the lake keep supplying the beaches and dunes with new sand. And the latest economic driver, summer tourism, which has developed with the automobile age, is also a direct result of the lake and its effects – the bounteous forests, the abundant fruits, and the allure of the shore.



The above map shows the abundance of environmentally sensitive lakeshore lands in Chikaming Township.

## Man-Made Features

Like other townships created by the Northwest Ordinance, Chikaming was divided into 1 mile by 1 mile sections forming a grid pattern of rectangular land parcels and roads. Chikaming Township extends seven sections (miles) from east to west, and five sections from north to south, though cut diagonally by the lake. Most of the township's housing is clustered along the strip between Lake Michigan and the Red Arrow Highway, as are three small unincorporated settlements, Union Pier (straddling New Buffalo and Chikaming Townships), Lakeside, and Harbert. One other small settlement, Riverside, sits one mile from the southern boundary at Warren Woods Rd. and Three Oaks Rd. Sawyer, the township's largest commercial concentration, sits along Sawyer Rd. between Red Arrow Highway and Flynn Rd. east of the railroad and one mile south of the northern boundary. There are a handful of small commercial and light industrial businesses scattered along Red Arrow Highway and a few other locations in the township.

## History

Chikaming Township was originally heavily timbered in deciduous forest: the northern part ash, beech, and maple, and the southern portion white and black oak. The area was populated sparsely by various woodland Native American tribes (the Pottawatomies were in residence at the time of the arrival of the first Europeans).

The first of the French explorers to arrive were the missionaries Allouez, Marquette, and Dublou who came through in 1669, first passing the sites of Milwaukee and Chicago and then around the bottom of the lake to the mouth of the Miamis (St. Joseph) River. In 1673 Pere Marquette returned with Louis Joliet on the exploration that determined that a connection between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River system could be made along a short portage from the Chicago River. Marquette and Joliet were followed by LaSalle and Hennepin in 1679. The French did not leave a large footprint on the land in this area, but rather lived off the land and with the Native Americans. They traded and trapped, selling furs to send back to New France (eastern Canada) and Europe. After the French and Indian Wars, ca. 1760, the French were displaced in eastern Canada by the English and their activities in the Great Lakes region were curtailed.

With the founding of Fort Dearborn at Chicago in 1803, its rebuilding after the Massacre of 1812, and the subsequent rise of Chicago in the 1830's, Americans displaced the French in fur trading and then began to extract lumber from the easily accessible lands along the lake. When the Pottawatomies ceded the western portion of Berrien County in 1828, the land was opened up to Euro-Americans. The first such settler in Chikaming was Luman Northrup, who built a cabin and a sawmill. The portage between the Chicago River and the Mississippi system was opened up by a canal in 1848, creating a major growth in industry and shipping at the southern end of Lake Michigan. Between 1859 and 1871, as many as 5,000 cords of wood a year were shipped from Chikaming to Chicago. Piers and railroad spurs were constructed at Union Pier, Wilkinson (Lakeside), Greenbush (Harbert) and Sawyer to transport lumber. The population grew from 310 in 1860 to 993 in 1870. After the Chicago fire in 1871, lumbering along the Michigan shore went into full force attempting to rebuild that city of 300,000, and continued to be the major economic activity until World War I. By then most of the township lands had been cleared.

In the 1920s, lumbering gave way to the tourism industry, primarily from Chicago, but also from cities in Indiana and Ohio as well. The completion in 1922 of the West Michigan Pike extending from the Indiana state line to Mackinaw City brought ever increasing numbers of automobile travelers to the area. It was designated one of the first state trunk lines (M-11) in 1917, as part of the Dixie Highway in 1923, and incorporated into the nation's first federal highway system as US-31 in 1926. Straightened and realigned over the years, it is also known as the Red Arrow and the Blue Star Memorial Highways. Completion of the I-94/I-96/US-31 freeways helped keep this industry vibrant throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and up until today, with a pause during the great depression and World War II. Today's demographics and man-made environment reflect the maturation of the tourism industry.

## **A Snapshot of Our Population**

### **Seasonal Visitors**

Because of its appealing natural features and open spaces, and its proximity to major Midwestern cities, the Township (indeed all three townships of the Southwest corner of Michigan, referred to as Harbor Country, and the entire west coast of Michigan) is a major summer travel destination.

In 2010 there were 3100 persons living year-round in the township, but on peak summer weekends the population of Chikaming Township grows almost 3 1/2 times, to over 10,000, putting a strain on the infrastructure, particularly in the lake communities, but also providing a major economic stimulus. Businesses are overwhelmingly seasonal and vacation oriented, including restaurants, art galleries, antique shops, boutiques, wineries and breweries, property care and management, and so on. During most of the rest of the year the Township returns to its more leisurely pace and dispersed population. A handful of businesses provide year-round employment of a few hundred jobs, while most residents are employed elsewhere, become temporarily unemployed, or are retired. Farming is a major land use (almost half of the land area), but employs a relatively small number of persons, and of course those jobs are seasonal as well.

To illustrate the evolving seasonal nature of the economy and the population, it is only necessary to look at the **housing stock characteristics**:

- **seasonal housing units have increased** from 27% (839) of the total in 1980, to 55% (2028) in 2010;
- the number of **year-round housing units saw an absolute decrease** from 2,253 to 1,649, a drop of 27% in those same 30 years.
- the **year-round population has declined from 4302 in 1980 to 3100 in 2010** (30% decrease).

### **A Changing Population**

The **demographic profile** of the township has also changed dramatically since 1980, most likely due to three factors – young families with children leaving the area; retirees moving permanently to their 2<sup>nd</sup> homes (see above); and aging of the remaining year-round population.

- **median age has increased from 35 to 54 years;**
- percentage of those **under 18 years has dropped from 31.4% to 14.0%;**
- percentage of those **over 64 has increased from 18.3% to 27.8%.**

Because of these conditions, it is necessary for us to ensure that the park system is designed to accommodate many different age groups and to respond to seasonal variations in demand.

(see Appendix A. for a more detailed look at the census data for Chikaming Township)



## **ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE PARK BOARD**

The Chikaming Township Park Board was established in 1970 by resolution of the Chikaming Township Board, Ordinance No. 126 of 1970, and exercises powers and performs duties authorized by statutes and laws of the State of Michigan under Michigan Consolidated Laws 41.421 – 41.429. There are seven Board Members elected to 4-year, non-partisan positions at the general elections in November of Presidential election years. A chairperson, secretary, and treasurer are elected by the Board each fiscal year to perform general administrative functions. The Park Board adopted new By-Laws in January, 2015.

A budget is prepared for each fiscal year (beginning in April) and submitted to the Chikaming Township Board for funding from the Township's general fund. The Park Board meets monthly. Special meetings may be called from time to time by the chairperson or any two members. All meetings comply with the Open Meetings Act, and must be posted at least 18 hours in advance. Compensation of Board Members is recommended by the Park Board and approved by the Township Board and is currently at a rate of \$45 per meeting (\$55 for the chair).

Board members personally oversee all the properties and perform some tasks utilizing volunteers as appropriate. The Park Board has no staff. Maintenance and repairs, mowing and snowplowing are performed by contract with local tradespersons. Professional services, including the recording secretary and a seasonal parking permit attendant at Cherry Beach are also performed via contract. Office staff of the township performs some clerical tasks for the Park Board. The Township currently has no adopted organization chart.



## Budgets

Budget allocations from the Township Board have been quite stable over the years. Our parks are highly valued by the citizens and township officials alike, as they provide a range of opportunities and reflect the interests and values of the populace as well as enhancing the vacation experience for our tourist industry. The tentative budget for 2020-21 reflects the priorities included in this plan.

Category	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	proposed 2020-21
salaries/wages	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,800.00	\$5,500.00	\$3,800.00
staff person						\$18,000.00
employee salary (delete this category)	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00		
clerical employee wages	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Board member per diem	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,225.00	\$4,225.00
beach and park contracts	\$28,000.00	\$28,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$17,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$22,000.00
beach security	\$0.00		\$2,200.00	\$500.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
office supplies	\$0.00		\$750.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
communication eqpt & service					\$0.00	\$700.00
mileage expenses	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
community promotion	\$700.00	\$1,400.00	\$6,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
printing & publishing	\$200.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
utilities and rent	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,400.00	\$3,300.00	\$4,000.00
legal/consultants	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$10,000.00
snow removal	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
rubbish removal			\$10,000.00	\$10,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$4,000.00
repair/maintenance	\$6,800.00	\$10,250.00	\$12,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$12,000.00
landscaping						\$2,300.00
septic services	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
signage	\$700.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$7,000.00	\$10,000.00
park construction		\$10,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,000.00
beach construction	\$5,000.00		\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
CTPP construction	\$5,000.00					
dog park construction/improvements			\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
skating rink construction	\$5,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00
CTPP bike trail construction/maintenance				\$1,000.00	\$465.00	
2018 Rec Passport grant				\$18,750.00	\$11,150.00	
2004 WHP grant expenses (delete)			\$18,750.00			
miscellaneous expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
employers FICA expense	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$800.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
employers medicare expense	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$800.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
MESC expense				\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
MParks membership						\$350.00
	\$75,000.00	\$77,250.00	\$113,100.00	\$124,550.00	\$125,440.00	\$121,175.00
year over year change		\$2,250.00	\$35,850.00	\$11,450.00	\$890.00	-\$4,265.00

## PART B: OUR ASSETS

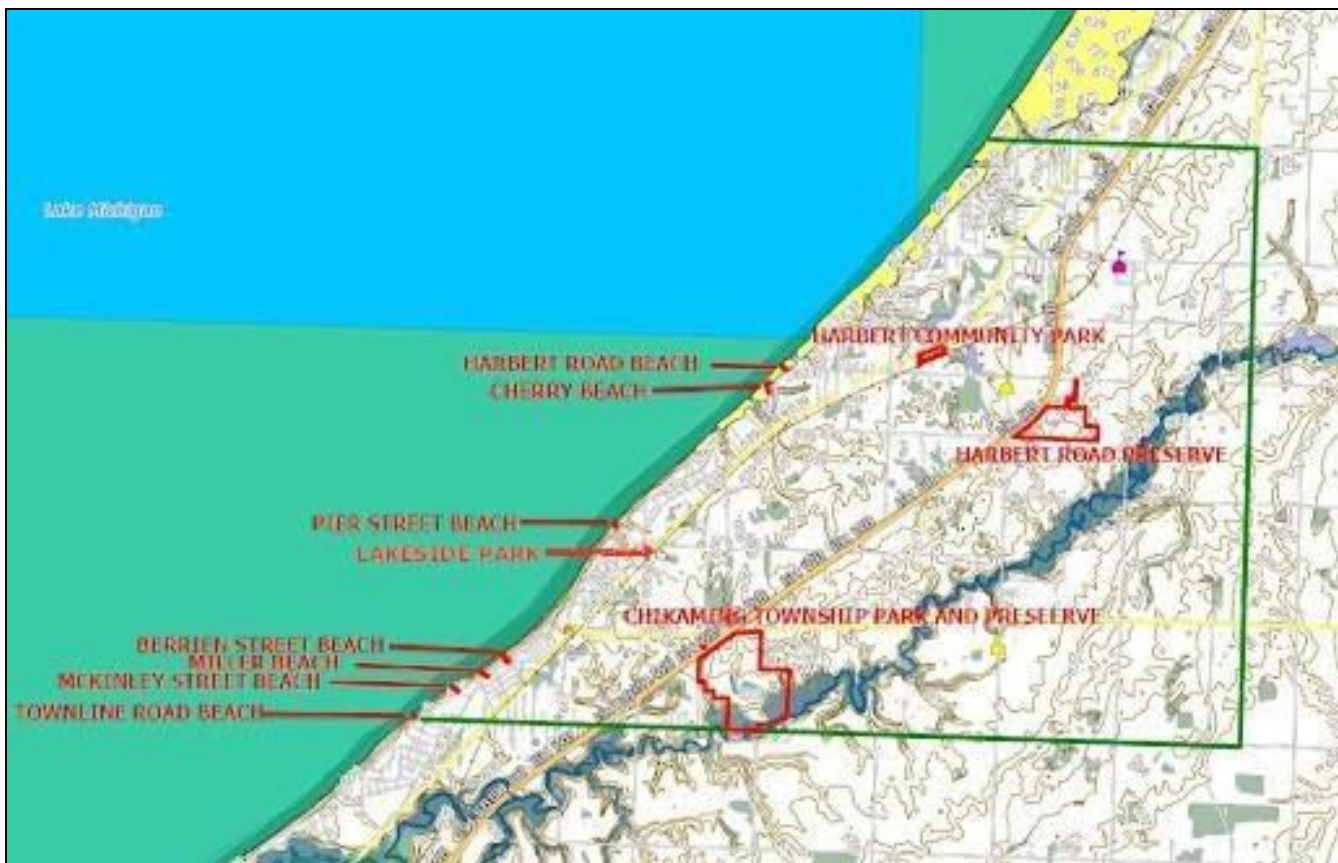
### CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP RECREATION INVENTORY

#### Properties Under the Stewardship of The Chikaming Township Park Board

The Township is steward to 5 Lake Michigan road-end beaches, situated on road right-of-way owned by the Berrien County Road Commission (Townline Rd., McKinley Rd., Miller, Berrien St., and Pier St.), and is owner/steward to 2 others (Cherry Beach and Harbert Rd. Beach). It also owns 4 park properties located further inland:

1. Harbert Community Park is located on the Red Arrow Hwy. next to the Township Hall and Public Safety Building, and is the most intensely developed for active recreation;
2. The Lakeside Parks, located at Red Arrow Highway and Pier St. are recently acquired neighborhood pocket parks that have been tended by the Lakeside Association for years;
3. Harbert Road Preserve and
4. Chikaming Township Park and Preserve are large pieces of property devoted primarily to nature appreciation.

The table on the next page provides the vital statistics, while each property is described in detail on the following pages.



CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK AND BEACH LOCATIONS

## Properties Under the Stewardship of The Chikaming Township Park Board

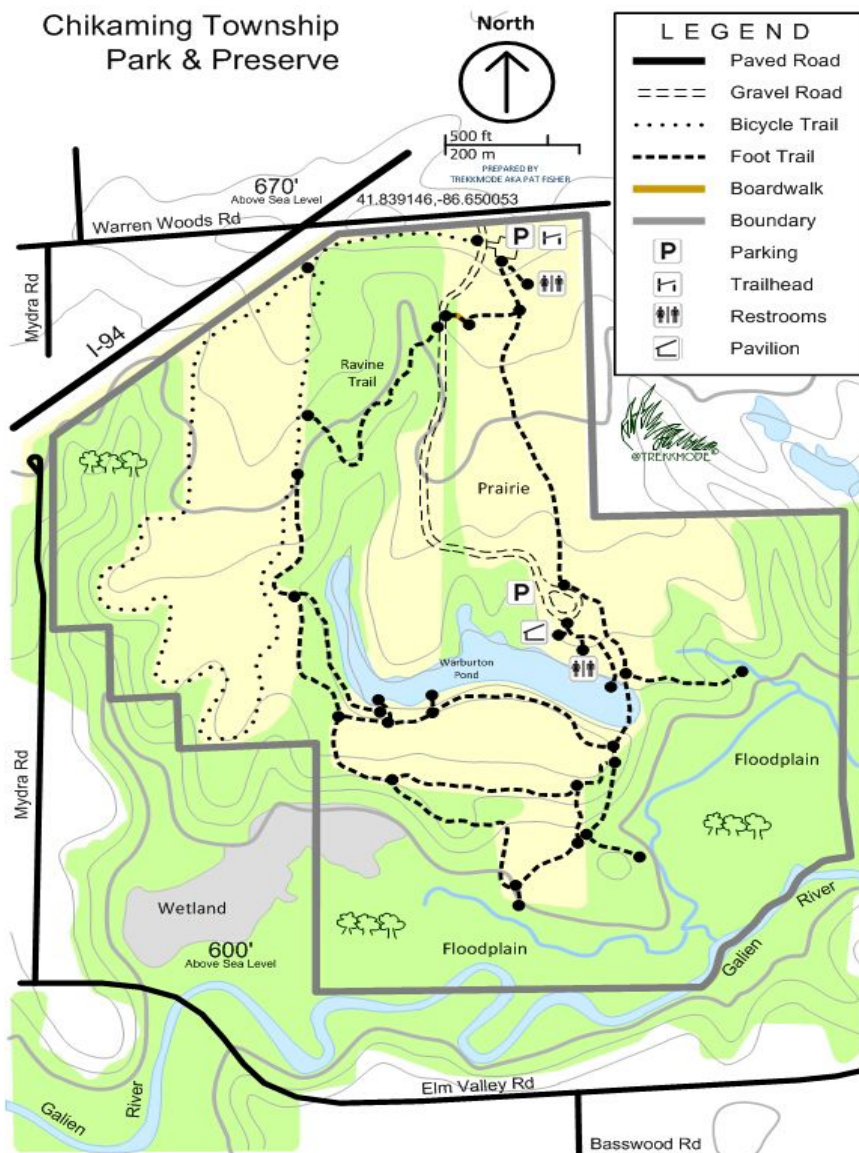
	Chikaming Twp/other local gov.	Berrien County Road Department	lake frontage	acreage	type of facility	facilities	accessibility	ADA rating	activities
<b>Parks and Preserves</b>									
Harbert Road Preserve	x		-	88.3	active preserve	p,s,t	g/ut	2	tr, pic
Chikaming Township Park and Preserve	x		-	263.2	active preserve	p,s,t,w	g/ut	3	tr,pic,f
Harbert Community Park	x		-	8.7	multi-use	p,s,t,w	g	2	multi-use
Lakeside Parks	x		-	0.6	pocket parks	s,w	g	2	
<b>Beaches</b>									
Cherry Beach	x		268'	1.9	beach	p	stairs	1	beach
Harbert Road Beach	x		66'	0.3	beach	p	stairs	1	beach
Miller St. Beach	x/S	x	110'	0.8	beach (Twp. And BCRC)		stairs	1	beach
Townline Road Beach	x/S	x	101'	unclear	beach/road-end beach (w/ NB Twp. & BCRC)	p	stairs	1	beach
McKinley St. Beach	S	R.O.W.	40'	R.O.W.	road-end beach		stairs	1	beach
Berrien St. Beach	S	R.O.W.	100'	R.O.W.	road-end beach		ut, stairs	1	beach
Pier St. Beach	S	R.O.W.	66'	R.O.W.	road-end beach		stairs	2	beach
Chikaming Township role	x = ownership; S = stewardship								
facilities	p = parking; s = shelter; t = toilet; w = water								
accessibility	g = good; ut = unpaved trails; pr = private; cons = conservation only								
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design - rated by the planning consultant									
site elements meeting standards	1 = none; 2 = some; 3 = most; 4 = all; 5 = meets principles of universal design								
activities	tr = trails; pic = picnic; f = fishing								



## Chikaming Township Park & Preserve

### Park Information

This 263-acre park and preserve is diverse and rich, providing a wide variety of ecological habitats for bird study, wildlife ecology and flower and tree identification. It was purchased and developed with Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants. These grants are now closed out (see the Recreation Grant History statement from Grants Management at the DNR, on the following page.). Its diverse natural features include woodlands, ravines, Galien River floodplain, a planted tallgrass prairie, a 5 acre lake and a reforestation project. There are currently walking and bike trails (various surfaces), viewing and fishing platforms, picnic facilities, community garden, drinking fountain, and 2 vault toilets. A network of mountain biking trails has recently been added with the help of local enthusiasts. Future plans include preservation programs, reforestation, a destination disc golf course, the Trail of Trees memorial planting, and additional low-impact recreational facilities.



Total Acreage: 263  
Acres

Service Area: Regional

Physical difficulty: Easy

Total Trails: 4.x miles

Navigation difficulty:  
Easy

Estimated Hiking Time:  
2 hrs

Usage: Low to Medium

Location: Warren Woods

Rd. just east of  
I-94/ Mydra Rd.

ADA Accessibility

Ranking: 3

2010 ADA Standards for Accessible  
Design:

Site elements meeting standards:

1 = none; 2 = some; 3 = most; 4 = all; 5  
= meets principles of universal design

Map courtesy of Pat Fisher, local hiker



### Recreation Grant History

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**Applicant**

Chikaming Township

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**Project No.** TF00-317

**Project Year:** 2000

**Project Title:** Chikaming Township Park and Preserve Acquisition

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount:** \$1,499,788.00

**Project Description:** Acquisition in fee simple of 263 acres, with 2, 800 feet of Galien River frontage, ravines, 5-acre inland lake and open fields. The purpose of the acquisition is to provide fishing, hiking, wildlife and scenic viewing, picnicking, and nature education.

---

**Project No.** TF03-137

**Project Year:** 2003

**Project Title:** Township Park and Preserve Development

**Project Status:** Closed

**Grant Amount:** \$193,200.00

Element

Access road and parking areas

Trails

Habitat Restoration

Vault Toilets

Fishing/Viewing Platform

Prairie Platform

Element

Picnic Pavilion/Site Amenities

Interpretive Signage

Gates

MNRTF Sign

**Project Description:** Development of a new park with an access road, parking areas, trails, pavilion, vault toilets, viewing/fishing platforms, landscaping, habitat restoration. This project will provide access to a 5-acre lake and 2800-foot frontage on the Galien River.



## Harbert Road Preserve

### Park Information

The Harbert Rd. Preserve contains five distinct natural communities in various successions of growth. This preserve area is diverse, providing habitats for bird study, wildlife ecology, wildflower and tree identification, walking, bike riding, or cross-country skiing in the woods. Two ponds and the wetland attract wood ducks, mallards, and blue and green herons. The preserve includes a glacial moraine. The Preserve was acquired as surplus land from the highway department after completion of I-94. Future plans include the construction of an ADA accessible boardwalk into and around the preserve.

Total Acreage: 88 acres

Service Area: Harbor Country

Physical difficulty: Easy

Total Trails: 2.5 miles

ADA Accessibility Ranking: 2

Estimated Hiking Time: 1 1/2 hours

Location: south of Harbert Road, east of I-94

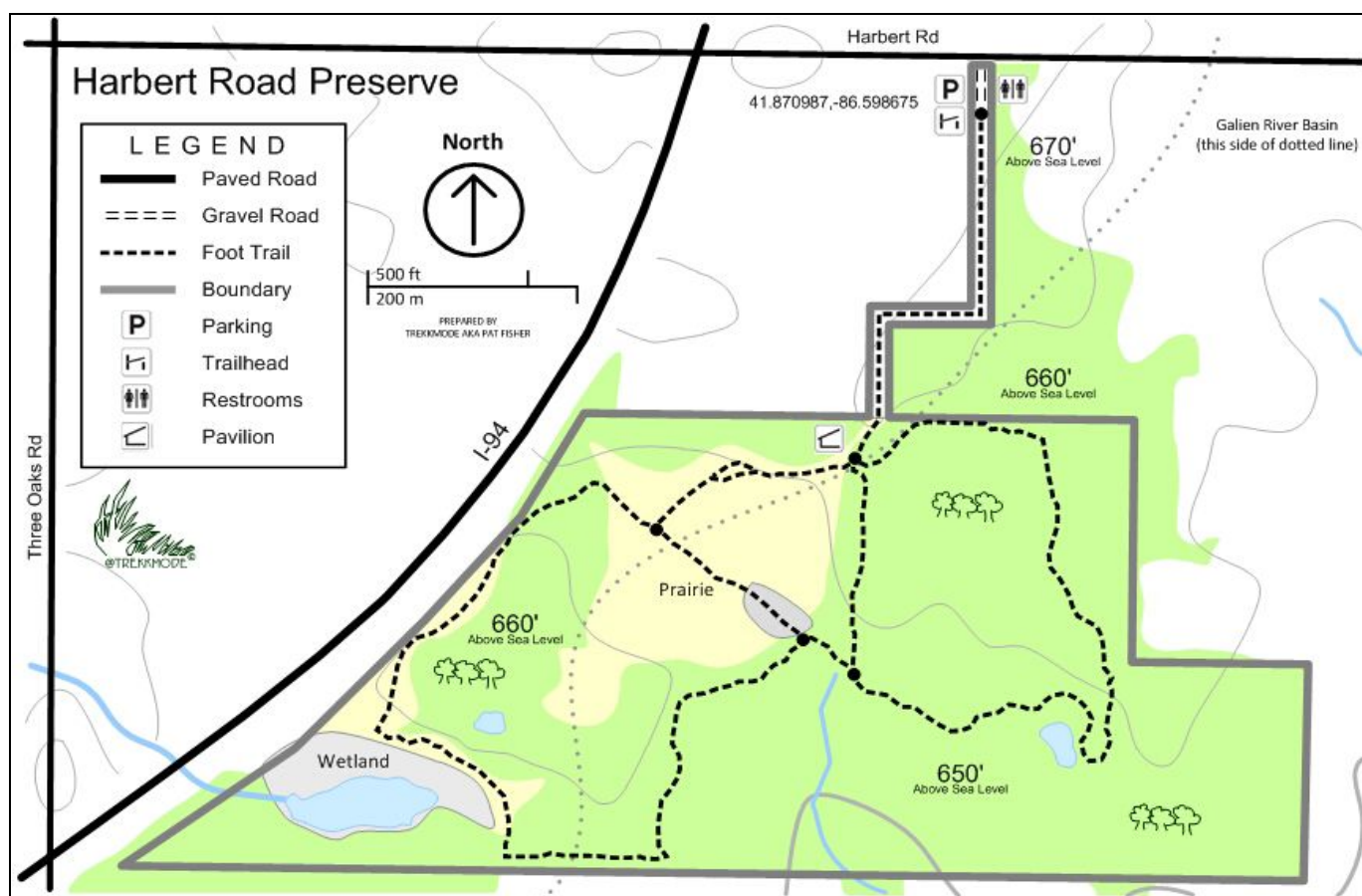
Usage: Light

Navigation difficulty: Easy

2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design:

Site elements meeting standards:

1 = none; 2 = some; 3 = most; 4 = all; 5 = meets principles of universal design

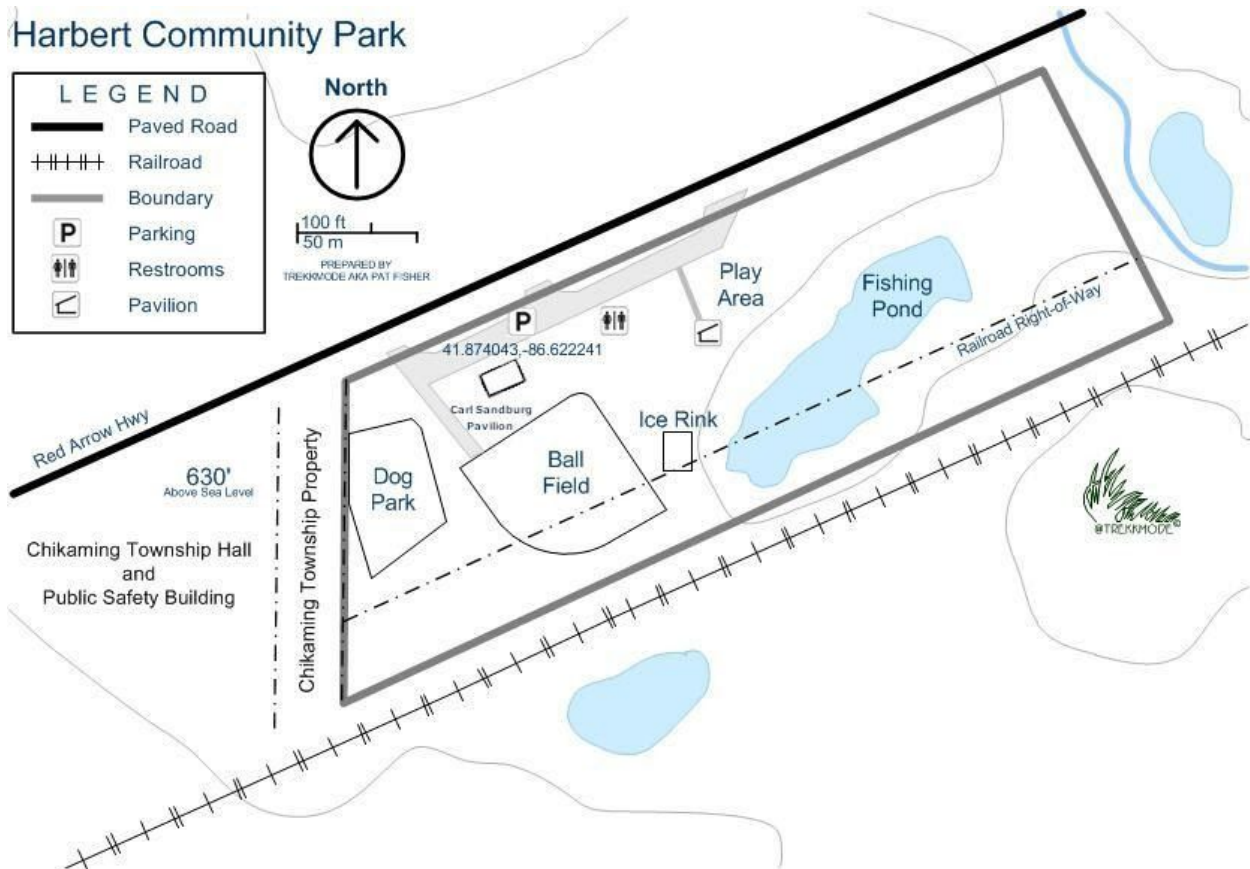


Map courtesy of Pat Fisher, local hiker

## Harbert Community Park

### Park Information

Harbert Community Park is intended for active recreation. There is a pavilion with two grills and 12 picnic tables. For the children there are four swings, a slide, a climber and a fishing pond. Also available is a regulation size Little League Baseball Field with bleachers and a concession stand and the area's newest dog park as well as an ice skating rink in the winter, convertible to beach volleyball courts in the summer. The pavilion and baseball field can be reserved by Chikaming property owners through Township Hall. Plenty of parking, a vault toilet, 2 drinking fountains, a newly created Carl Sandburg historical marker and pavilion, and an ADA accessible ramp to the picnic area complete the picture. This park is currently the location for several events in the "Celebrate Chikaming" community activities each year. It is identified as the site for more intensive recreational development in future years, including completion of the accessible ramp to the pond with a viewing platform, a modernized toilet facility and repurposing of the ball diamond into a multi-purpose facility.



Map courtesy of Pat Fisher, local hiker

Total Acreage: 8.7 Acres  
Service Area: Harbor Country  
Physical difficulty: Easy  
Total Trails: 0.5 miles

Estimated Hiking Time: 15 minutes  
Usage: Medium  
Location: Red Arrow Hwy,  
between Prairie and Old M-11  
Navigation difficulty: Easy

ADA Accessibility Ranking: 3  
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

Site elements meeting standards:

1 = none; 2 = some; 3 = most; 4 = all; 5 = meets principles of universal design

## Lakeside Parks

### Park Information

The Lakeside Parks are two triangular shaped, vest pocket parks that were added to the inventory of the Chikaming Township Park Board in 2019. They had formerly been surplus property of the County Road Department, and have traditionally been used and tended to by the Lakeside Association of neighbors. There will be, effectively, little changed with the Lakeside Parks acquisition unless requested by the association. The parks serve as neighborhood gathering spots, flower gardens, the site of neighborhood celebrations such as a Fourth of July Parade, Christmas caroling, and an Easter egg hunt, and various informal activities.



Total Acreage: 0.55 Acres  
Service Area: Harbor Country  
Physical difficulty: Easy  
Total Trails: none  
Navigation difficulty: Easy

Estimated Hiking Time: n/a  
Usage: Medium  
Location: Red Arrow Hwy,  
at intersection of Lakeside and Pier Rds.

ADA Accessibility Ranking: 3

2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

Site elements meeting standards: all but the gazebo

1 = none; 2 = some; 3 = most; 4 = all; 5 = meets principles of universal design

## The Beaches

The seven beaches stewarded by the Chikaming Township Park Board are often referred to as “road end beaches” because they are all situated at the approximate end of roads running toward the shoreline.

- Three of them, Pier Street Beach, Berrien Street Beach, and McKinley Road Beach, in fact, are situated on unused road right-of-way owned by the Berrien County Road Department, and each has been placed under the management of the Township.
- Two others, Cherry Beach and Harbert Road Beach are owned outright by the Township and accessed by road end R.O.W.
- According to the Berrien County Geographic Information System, however, each of the other two, though under management of the Park Board, is a slightly different situation:
  - Miller Beach consists of 2 parcels of land, one owned by the Berrien County Road Commission, the other by Chikaming Township;
  - Townline Road Beach is defined by an agreement between Chikaming and New Buffalo Townships, the County Road Department, and adjacent property owners. One parcel is owned outright by Chikaming Township.

**Accessibility:** All the beaches require descending a grade, and all except Berrien have a flight of steps. The upper platform at Pier St. Beach has recently been upgraded with an accessible ramp and is rated 2, while all others are rated 1 on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

### 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

Site elements meeting standards:

1 = none; 2 = some; 3 = most; 4 = all; 5 = meets principles of universal design

The **service areas** for the beaches are as follows:

- Cherry Beach: all of Chikaming Township because of the parking lot available at no charge to Township residents with a parking pass, and bikeable from the entire township
- Harbert Rd. Beach: Harbert area – walkable from downtown Harbert, and bikeable from the balance of the township
- Pier St. Beach: Lakeside area – Walkable from central Lakeside, and bikeable from the balance of the township
- Berrien St., Miller, and McKinley St. beaches: Union Pier area - walkable from central Union Pier, and bikeable from the balance of the township as well as New Buffalo Township
- Townline Rd. Beach: walkable from central Union Pier, and bikeable from the balance of New Buffalo and Chikaming Townships; jointly managed by both townships

Berrien St. Beach has a locked vehicle access gate for use by emergency and service vehicles, with control in the hands of the Township officials, and a relatively gentle grade down to the beach. Portable toilets are placed at the upper road level at Cherry Beach during the summer season. All beaches and parks are equipped with bike racks. Beaches are monitored and maintained on a regular basis, and patrolled by Township Police. Mile

markers are placed along the entire stretch of the Chikaming lakeshore to aid in emergency calls. There are no fees charged for use of the beaches.

Future plans for the beaches include a pilot project placing a 911 emergency phone at Cherry Beach, the addition of a large adjacent property and beach to Cherry Beach, and an exploration of potential design standards for stairs in response to variable and record high lake levels which have resulted in beach closures and destruction of stairs.

The aerial maps pictured on the following pages show property parcels that are owned by a government entity completely bounded by a red border, while those that are road rights-of-way are shown open ended.





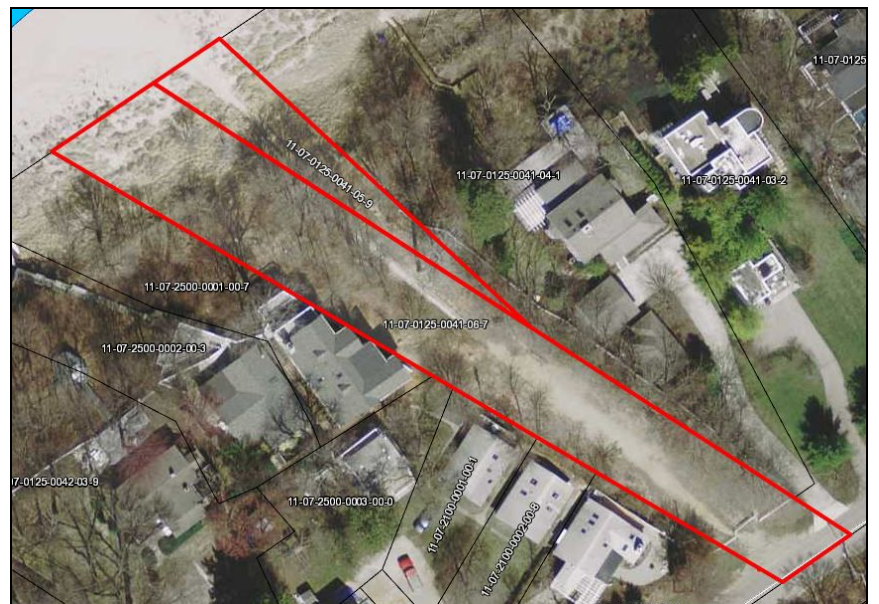
## Harbert Road Beach



## Pier Street Beach



## Cherry Beach



## Miller Beach

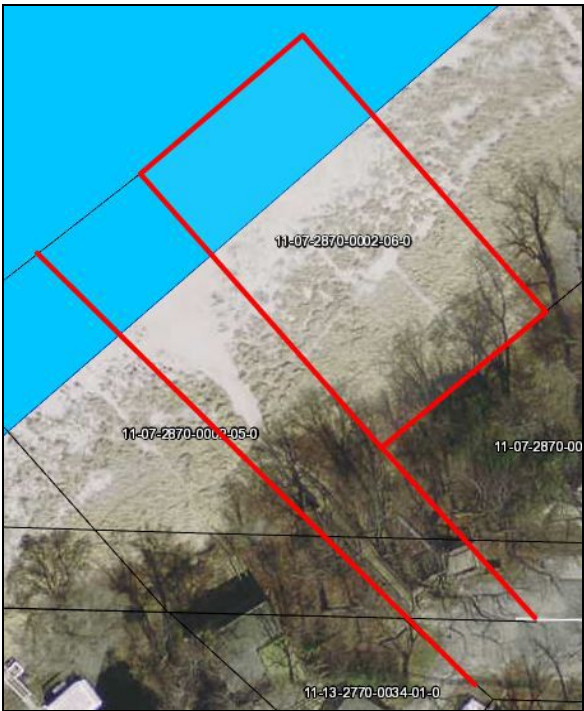




Berrien Street Beach



McKinley Street Beach



Townline Road Beach

## Other Properties and Preserves within the Township

In addition to the facilities managed by the Park Board, there are also a number of preserves and conservation easements, a State Park (Warren Woods, over 300 acres), two schools, and a private golf course located within the Township boundaries.

	State of Michigan	River Valley Schools	non-profit entity	private entity	acreage	type of facility	accessibility	activities
Within and abutting Chikaming Township								
School Grounds								
Chikaming Elementary	x					school play	g	playgrounds
RV Middle and High School	x					school play	g	fields
Other								
Warren Dunes State Park (abuts to N.)	x				988.0	multi-use	g	multi-use
Warren Woods State Park	x				314.0	active preserve	ut	tr
University of Chicago Biological Lab			x		40.0	conservation/research		lab; open
Robinson Woods Preserve - COL		x			80.4	active preserve	ut	tr
Critter Haven Preserve - COL		x			6.1	conservation	cons	open
Younger Family Preserve - COL		x			25.1	planned active preserve		open
Thompson Memorial Preserve - COL		x			49.0	planned active preserve		open
Leonard Wildlife Preserve - COL		x			108.7	planned active preserve		o4
Flynn Woods Preserve - COL		x			35.0	planned active preserve		open
Jens Jensen Preserve - COL		x			23.6	active preserve	ut	tr
Merritt Family Preserve - COL		x			35.2	planned active preserve		open
Tower Hill Woods - in process		x	x		30 +/-	active preserve	cons	tr
Pepperidge Dunes Preserve - MNA		x			20.0	conservation	ut	tr
Harbert Road open space - SWMLC					5 +/-	conservation	cons	open
Chikaming Country Club			x		151.9	golf club	g, pr	golf
private open spaces within associations and clubs								
various			x			miscellaneous	pr	various
accessibility	g = good; ut = unpaved trails; pr = private; cons = conservation only							
land conservancies	COL = Chikaming Open Lands; MNA = Michigan Nature Association; SWMLC = Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy							
activities	tr = trails; pic = picnic; f = fishing							

Three land conservancies have added 4 preserves in the last 5 years, and now steward 11 properties within the township and several more nearby, the State of Michigan owns one park/preserve within, one abutting, and one just a few miles north, and the Berrien County Parks Department has just completed a nature appreciation park at the Galien River just south of Chikaming. This interest in preserving large tracts of land attests to the valuable nature of the natural resources that are so abundant in our area.

The natural assets of Chikaming Township are a state and regional resource, used by many more than the residents of the township. This is why the Park Board is so passionate about acquiring and preserving the key greenways as stated in Goal IV. The Park Board is committed to pursuing this goal by aligning itself with other governmental units and agencies, and NGOs with similar interests. The initiative by the Berrien County Parks Department to create a linear park along Red Arrow Highway between New Buffalo and Bridgman offers an opportunity to link together many properties and jurisdictions in just such an effort.



## Properties and Preserves Outside the Township

Listed in the previous table because of its almost seamless integration immediately to the north of Chikaming Township, is Warren Dunes State Park, consisting of almost 1000 acres with a wide variety of facilities in a unique dune, beach, and woods setting. It is the most heavily utilized of all Michigan State Parks. Warren Dunes begins a stretch of large tracts of nearly continuous open space extending northward along the lake. These properties are owned by Lake Township, the City of Bridgman, Lost Dunes Golf Club, Cook Nuclear Center, Lincoln Township, and Grand Mere State Park. In addition, other nearby properties listed below provide a variety of regional and statewide opportunities for nature experiences.

	Chikaming Twp/other local gov.	Berrien County Parks Department	Berrien County Road Department	State of Michigan	River Valley Schools	non-profit entity	private entity	distance from Chikaming Township	lake frontage	acreage	type of facility	facilities	accessibility	activities
Major Parks and Preserves - immediately adjacent townships														
Grand Mere State Park & vicinity	x		x		x	x			1059.3	active preserve		ut	tr,b,f,ee	
Cook Nuclear Plant & vicinity	x					x			700.6	active preserve		g, ut	tr	
Galien River County Park		x						-	85.9	active preserve		g, ut	tr,ee	
Sima Marsh - county/COL		x			x	x		-	272.6	conservation		g	bw,ee	
Weko Beach City Park, Bridgman	x								40.4 +/-	multi-use		g	multi-use	
New Buffalo City Beach	x								n/a	multi-use		g	multi-use	
Major Parks and Preserves within 45 minutes														
Love Creek County Park		x	x					-	170.0	multi-use		g, ut	multi-use	
Fernwood Botanical Gardens					x			-	96.5	habitat specimens		g, ut	tr,ee	
Sarrett Nature Center					x			-	155.6	active preserve		g, ut	tr,ee	
Chik. Twp role	x = ownership; S = stewardship													
facilities	p = parking; s = shelter; t = toilet; w = water													
accessibility	g = good; ut = unpaved trails; pr = private; cons = conservation only													

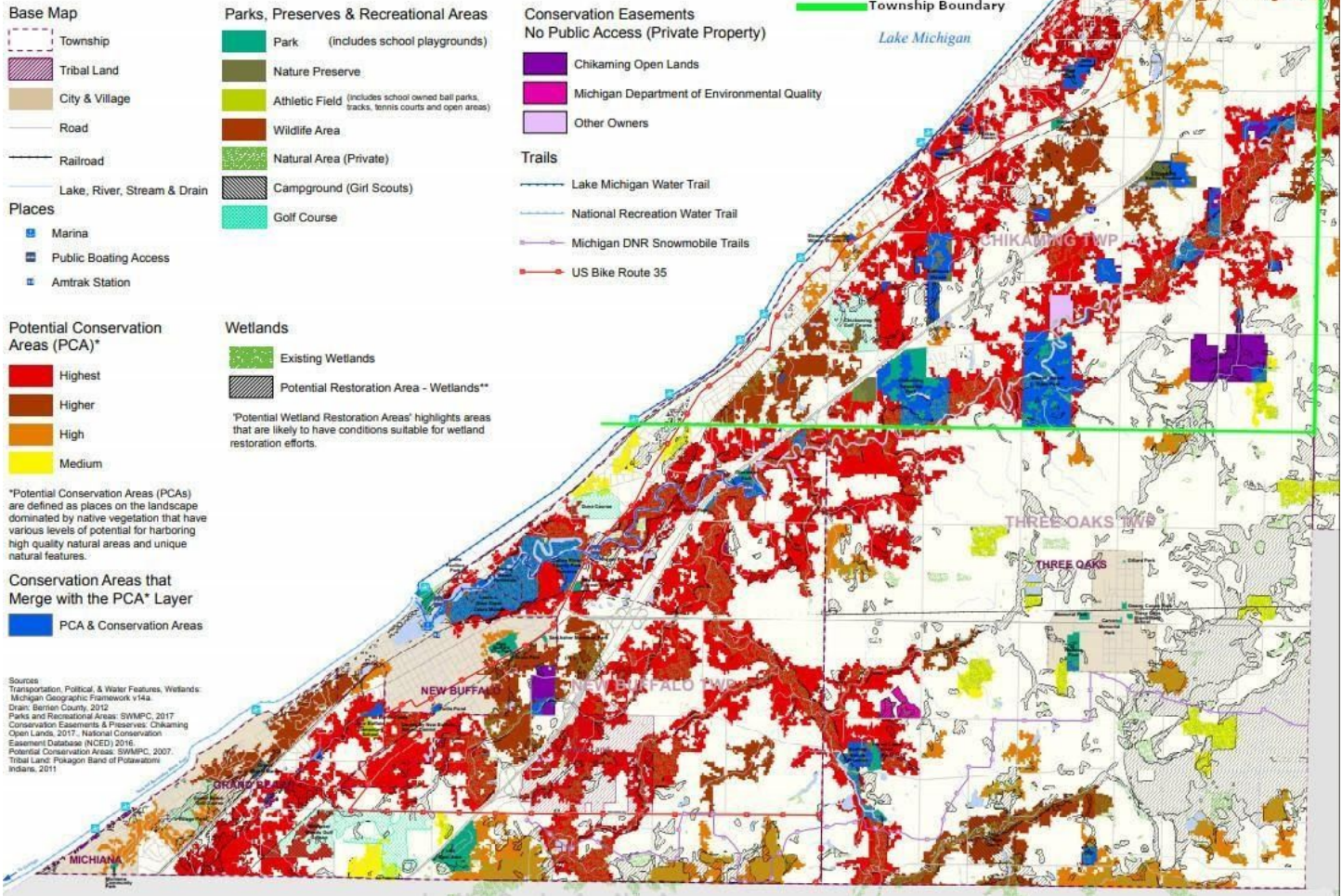


## Potential Conservation Areas

In conducting an inventory of our assets, it is important to also look at all the valuable natural resources within the township, whether or not they are under the jurisdiction of agencies involved in parks and preserves. The following maps illustrate these resources and underscore the importance of actively engaging in preservation and conservation efforts.

### Harbor Country

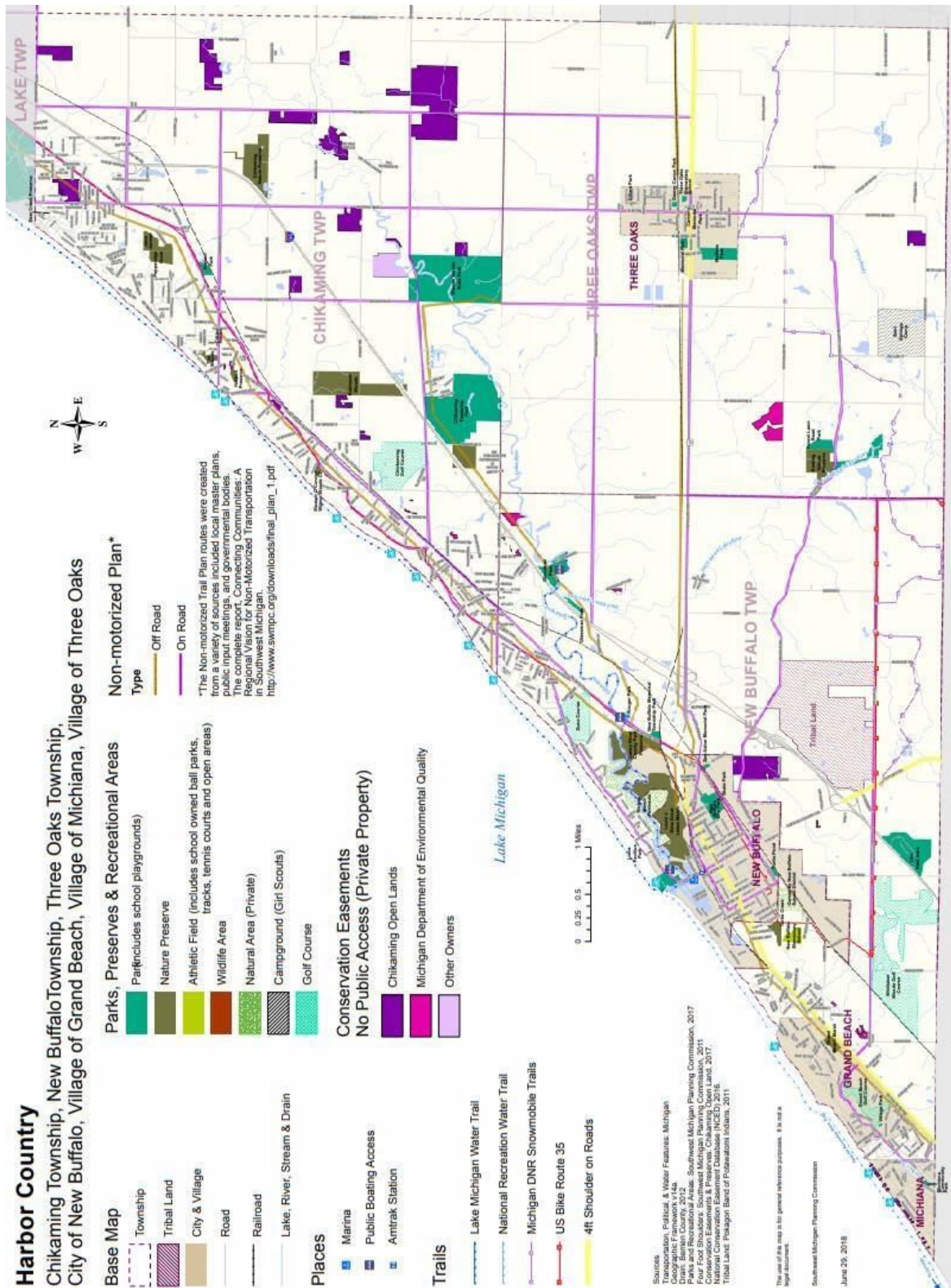
Chikaming Township, New Buffalo Township, Three Oaks Township,  
City of New Buffalo, Village of Grand Beach, Village of Michiana, Village of Three Oaks



The map above shows the potential conservation areas (PCAs) within the three townships of Harbor Country, overlaid with existing parks, preserves, and conservation easements. It illustrates the richness and diversity of the natural environment in this area, as well as the extensive efforts already made by various public and private entities to preserve it. The preservation effort is particularly notable in the Galien River Valley. Also notable is the large area identified as the highest PCA, but which is yet not protected.



# Harbor Country Recreational Lands



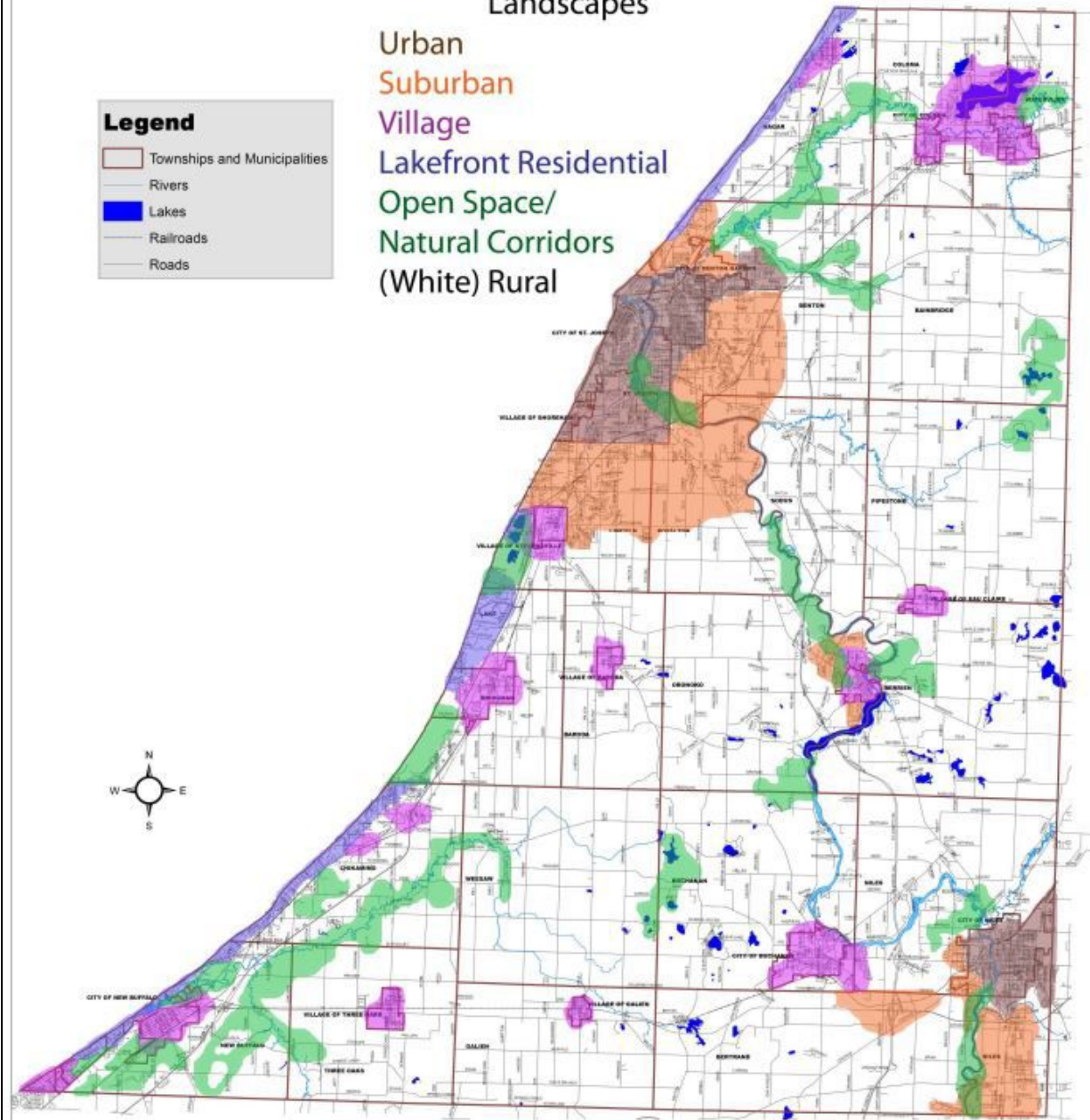
# Berrien County - Base Map

## Landscapes

Urban  
 Suburban  
 Village  
 Lakefront Residential  
 Open Space/  
 Natural Corridors  
 (White) Rural

### Legend

- Townships and Municipalities
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Railroads
- Roads



Map created for Berrien County  
 Community Development by:



Last Updated: 5/14/09

Data source: Berrien County and  
 Michigan Geographic Data Library

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

This map from the Berrien County Master Plan further emphasizes the natural corridors and open space extending through Chikaming Township and the southwestern corner of the county. The county plan identifies these as “preservation landscapes”.

## ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### **The Need for Placemaking in the Township**

Placemaking: the process of creating quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in.

#### **Need:**

- There is no identifiable place that is immediately associated with the greater Chikaming community, and which offers an opportunity to gather, mingle, celebrate, and re-create

#### **Resources:**

- Harbert Community Park, the Township Hall and the Public Safety Building are located on contiguous properties within the Harbert commercial area, and very close to the River Valley Senior Center. Some events are already held there, such as elections and some events in the Celebrate Chikaming series, including Geocaching 101, and Ice rink events.
- The Lakeside Parks, located within the long established area of downtown Lakeside have traditionally been the site of local events such as the Ice Cream Social, Christmas Caroling, Easter Egg Hunt, and 4th of July Parade, are now co-sponsored by the Chikaming Township Park Board

#### **Solutions:**

- Since 2014 the Park Board has:
  - Installed a Carl Sandburg historical marker,
  - Created an associated outdoor seating pavilion
  - Established a common design theme for the existing and new buildings within Harbert Community Park
  - Been granted stewardship of the Lakeside Parks.
- Complete the development of the Harbert Community Park with an eye to intergenerational recreational elements and activities.
  - Create a distinctive village-like design visible from the street
  - Incorporate some intimate gathering spaces and concessions
  - Develop the ball field so that it can host multiple types of events
  - Promote selected events such as pony ball, music, plays and movies in the park, and especially off-season attractors, such as a winter fest, running and/or bicycling events that can take advantage of our park facilities.
  - Investigate creation of a wall, berm, or other type of sound barrier to buffer the park from highway noise and create a distinctive unifying element
- Develop a web site which establishes the theme for the parks (and the Township) and reinforces what to expect - utilize visions of the community and facilities. The web site has been created, and will continue to be updated with current information, and improved with more features.
- Reinforce the sense of community in Lakeside by selective placement of elements in the parks such as bike racks, benches, historical plaques, map and guide signs



- Consider creating community events, such as a community walk or roadside cleanup day, that link the town centers of Union Pier, Lakeside, Harbert, and Sawyer

### **The Need for Senior fitness elements**

#### **Need:**

- Although there are hiking trails at the two preserves, these facilities are well removed from the population centers, making a vehicle necessary for a visit. Also, trails at these parks are long and isolated, and pass through wooded areas, so they do not offer a sense of security for an individual walking alone. There are no attendants on duty at any of the parks. Of the two preserves, Chikaming Township Park & Preserve offers the best accessibility to both its picnic pavilion and its prairie viewing platform, as well as higher usage. The numerous land conservancy preserves in the Township have similar conditions.

#### **Resources:**

- The Harbert Community Park is well utilized and visible from the road.
- It is also situated close to the River Valley Senior Center, one of seven county senior facilities that provides a variety of services to an area that includes all of the three townships of Harbor Country plus portions of other townships as well. Vans bring seniors to the center daily for activities as well as provide necessary transportation services to other destinations.
- Both the Harbert Rd. Preserve and the Chikaming Township Park and Preserve are endowed with beautiful natural elements and walking paths.

#### **Solutions:**

- Construct a walking path with a hard surface and self instructed exercise stations suitable to different levels of ability to serve all ages including seniors. It can be tied in to the accessible viewing/fishing deck at the pond
  - (currently being developed)
- Work with the River Valley Senior Center to provide regular trips to the Chikaming Township Park and Preserve and the Harbert Community Park.
- Provide directional signs along paths, and 911 call boxes at the preserves
  - (currently being implemented at both Preserves)

**Benefits:** Aside from offering a pleasant way for people of all ages to get some good guided outdoor exercise, the path and deck would be an excellent way for seniors to spend time with others in the community, watch children at play, feel less isolated, and find opportunities to interact.

### **Need for Better Accessibility**

**Need:** There are several deficiencies in the accessibility of the parks and beaches that need to be addressed.

- None of the beaches are easily accessible due to the slopes down the dunes. Only Berrien St. Beach is accessed by a gentle slope (though steeper than ADA standards), and it is a rough path in places.
- None of the stairways at the beaches have bright edge markings to assist those with poor eyesight.
- Some pathways at the preserves are grass covered and gentle enough for wheelchairs, but others are not on suitable terrain, including access to the ponds.

- The sidewalk ramp at the Harbert Community Park is steeper than ADA standards allow.

#### **Resources:**

- The Townline Rd. Beach has a seating platform at the top of the stairs that is next to the parking area and could easily be made accessible, but it currently has a water diversion curb in front of it, thus creating a barrier to wheelchairs and people with walking assists.
- The Berrien St. Beach has potential to be barrier free because of its sloped access.
- The prairie viewing platform at the Chikaming Park and Preserve is accessed by an ADA standard ramp,
- and the picnic shelter at the same park has a drive and parking available to bring people with limited mobility easily to it.

#### **Solutions:**

- Since 2014
  - the viewing platform at the top of the bluff at Pier St. Beach has been made accessible
  - An ADA compliant ramp to the picnic shelter has been designed for Harbert Community Park, and will be completed by November, 2019
- Change the water diversion curb at Townline Rd. Beach with a ramp to the seating platform.
- Create a ramp at Berrien St. Beach to ADA standards extending downward from the road level to the beach edge, terminating in a viewing/seating platform.
- Paint, or install visible edging on the stair edges at the beaches that is highly visible to users.
- Extend accessible paths to the existing Sandburg pavilion, the toilet, and the concession building
- Explore the addition of a boardwalk at the Harbert Road Preserve down to and into the wetlands
- Publicize the available excellent accessible features at the Chikaming Park and Preserve.
- Work with the Senior Center to provide trips to these facilities.

**Benefits:** Provide people with limited mobility and vision with greater opportunities to enjoy the beach, the park, and the preserve.

#### **Needs at the Beaches**

Our efforts at the beaches are intended to make them more usable, safe, swimmable and accessible

**The needs:** As discussed earlier, the beaches suffer from summer usage impacts when the vacation season occurs. These are **issues** that have concerned Park Board members for years, but with increased tourism in the township, they have become exacerbated.

- Rules become difficult to enforce, especially when new people are arriving each week.
- There are times when the beaches become overcrowded, frustrating patrons looking for a place for the family, and sometimes leading to such problems as:
  - Trespassing on neighboring private property and creating friction with neighbors.
  - Litter, alcohol consumption, after hours use, sanitation and noise (*all are prohibited*)
- The township police department is limited in its available resources as well.
- Additional beach property is unlikely to become available at a reasonable price or in an appropriate location, with a recent notable exception (see below).

#### **Resources:**

- There is a large public beach at Warren Dunes, that has complete facilities and is accessible

- There are interested and involved citizens who care about the conditions at the township beaches

### **Solutions:**

- A several acre property has become available adjacent to Cherry Beach. A private initiative among Chikaming residents has resulted in a fundraising campaign, the pledging of funds by the Township Board, and the submission of grant applications. A significant addition to the Township beach inventory may soon become a reality.
- Publicize other facilities available for summer activities, including the public beach at Warren Dunes, and the township's many parks and preserves.
- Develop a corps of trained volunteer beach hosts such as found at state and national park campgrounds, to monitor each beach and notify public safety officials if issues arise.
  - Have a clear set of Standard Operating Procedures strictly adhered to.
- Install highly visible sign posts or kiosks marking the public beach limits, but also identifying the beaches for people walking the beach so they can find the public access points easily.
- Utilize these markers to re-emphasize the beach rules.
- Encourage walking routes between beaches.
- Install remote beach monitoring systems with web cams, water quality monitors, weather stations, and link to the Park Board website
- Have toilets available where feasible
- Broadly publicize accurate information on ownership, rights, and jurisdictions, including a brochure required to be made available to short term renters. Also include a guide to beach rules, laws, and courteous behavior.
- Provide hardwired 911 phones
- Initiate with the Township an investigation of impact fees to support park and beach maintenance and monitoring

**Benefits:** Safer, cleaner, better behaved, less crowded beaches.

### **Acquisition needs and opportunities**

#### **Needs:**

- The Harbert Community Park could be better developed with the acquisition of additional property to allow for full utilization and maintenance of the pond and baseball field.
- The beaches need accurate information on ownership, rights, and jurisdictions
- There are many hundreds of acres of "Potential Conservation Areas" in the Township as identified by the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and others. These properties are also potential development lands, and their development would cause permanent loss of valuable habitat, wildlife corridors, and conservation quality land

#### **Opportunities:**

- Occasionally property that is valuable open space and/or conservation quality land becomes available. It is desirable to be able to purchase such property or acquire conservation easements on it in order to preserve the special open and natural features of the township and to further establish the greenways.

- The Park Board should build upon existing relationships with other organizations to create collaborative partnerships to acquire and protect valuable additions to the natural infrastructure of the Township

#### **Resources:**

- A cooperative relationship with Chikaming Open Lands, our local land conservancy, was instrumental in the township's acquisition and development of the Chikaming Park and Preserve, and it continues to be a compatible relationship.
- The Friends of Harbor Country Trails is a 501c-3 organization that is pursuing completion of the multi-jurisdictional Harbor Country Hike and Bike Trail Plan of 2010.
- The county PDR (Purchase of Development Rights) program allows for the acquisition of farmland development rights similar to a conservation easement, on property that might otherwise either suffer financial failure or be subject to development pressure.

#### **Solutions:**

- Initiate discussions with the railroad, the road commission, and perhaps the county parks department to acquire and develop a hike and bike path, incorporated into a linear park extending along Red Arrow Hwy. from New Buffalo Township north to Lake Township and Warren Dunes State Park
  - (The Berrien County Parks Department and Road Department have jointly initiated this project on a multi-jurisdictional basis. Chikaming Township has formally declared its support and is working with the County to move it forward.)
- Be prepared to work in tandem with Chikaming Open Lands, Friends of Harbor Country Trails, other land conservancies, and private and governmental organizations to leverage township resources. With resources from multiple agencies creatively brought to bear, the Chikaming Township Park Board can greatly leverage its ability to achieve its goals.

**Benefits:** More rational park development. Preservation of natural features and open space. Completion of continuous greenways. Completion of hike and bike trails.

#### **Miscellaneous Short Term Needs**

##### **Need:**

- Some trails at the Chikaming Park and Preserve lack identification markers.

##### **Solution:**

- Add signage at all trail intersections.

(This project is underway: Harbert Road Preserve signs will be installed in 2019; Chikaming Park and Preserve signage will be completed in 2020.)

---

##### **Need:**

- People watching their dogs at Harbert Community Park sit and chat while their dogs play. This is one of the most continuously used park elements and provides an excellent opportunity to create community. In inclement weather it is uncomfortable and not conducive to interaction among dog owners. A shelter was built in 2017, however the unfinished ground surface has proven to be inadequate.



**Solution:**

- A shelter was built in 2017, however the unfinished ground surface has proven to be inadequate.
  - Build a solid, raised floor for the shelter.
    - Funds are proposed for this project in the 2020-21 fiscal year budget.
- 

**Need:**

- Since the departure of Little League teams from the township, the ball diamond is used only for occasional pick-up games.

**Solution:**

- Investigate options for redesigning the facility into a flexible venue that can be easily converted for special events such as musical or dramatic presentations, movies, or other gatherings
  - Investigate whether there is adequate parking available to accommodate additional activities.
- 

**Need:**

- Because of their remoteness, the preserves are sparsely utilized.

**Solutions:**

- Publicize their features. Promote the use of the shelters for group events. Promote healthy exercise.
  - Install some interesting features related to environmental education, such as:
    - Complete the QR plaques and associated online information
    - Devise self-guided environmental education activities utilizing real world experiences at the preserves
    - Install a weather station and web cam linked to the Park Board web site
    - Install solar and wind energy generators with monitoring to show their effectiveness
    - Maintain a geo-caching project
    - Conduct regular hikes with nature guides
    - Self directed scavenger hunts
- 

**Need:**

- Because of limited resources, the Chikaming Township Park Board is not equipped to conduct extensive recreational and educational activities

**Resources:**

- The Park Board has exceptional properties to explore and utilize
- Several other organizations exist that have expertise and/or are focused on leading various activities:
  - Chikaming Open Lands
  - The Prairie Club
  - Sarrett Nature Center
  - Fernwood Botanical Gardens
  - Warren Dunes State Park
  - Friends of Harbor Country Trails
  - Berrien County Parks Department
  - Harbor Country Hikers

- Harbor Country Bikers
- The School of American Music

**Solutions:**

- Form alliances with other organizations
- Initiate partnerships with private parties, service clubs, businesses, etc
  - To provide volunteer services
  - To help fund activities

---

**Need:**

- There is limited funding available from the Township General Fund

**Solutions:**

- Actively seek grant funds for projects
- Explore with the Township Board, various sources of new funding such as:
  - Property taxes
  - A hospitality tax
  - Private donations

## **PART C: ASPIRATIONS**

The Chikaming Township Park Board is a public managing body whose mission is:

“to preserve and restore the Township's abundant natural resources for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations, through management, conservation, careful development, and acquisition.

The seven members of the Board are elected by the citizens to be the stewards of the Township's natural legacy, and at the same time they are volunteers, regularly inspecting, fixing, painting, improving, and being keepers of the land and water resources. Involved as they are in these details, it is important to occasionally step back and take a broad overview of where the Township Park system is and where it is going. This plan represents the results of such an endeavor undertaken in the fall of 2014.

### **The public input process**

The first step taken by the Chikaming Township Park Board in creating this plan was to review a multitude of information about the citizenry of the Township and the users of the parks.

A number of surveys of public attitudes toward parks and recreation have been conducted over the past 15 years. In 2004 and 2013-14, the Planning Commission conducted surveys for input to the township Master Plan process. In general, these surveys found strong support for preserving open spaces, developing hike and bike trails, and development of parks in the township. Also in 2014, an informal, open-ended question “What do you want to see in your neighborhood?” was asked of attendees at the Taste of Chikaming by the Planning Commission. Of the 35 responses, 13 of them had to do with parks and recreation, including 9 wishes for hike and/or bike trails.

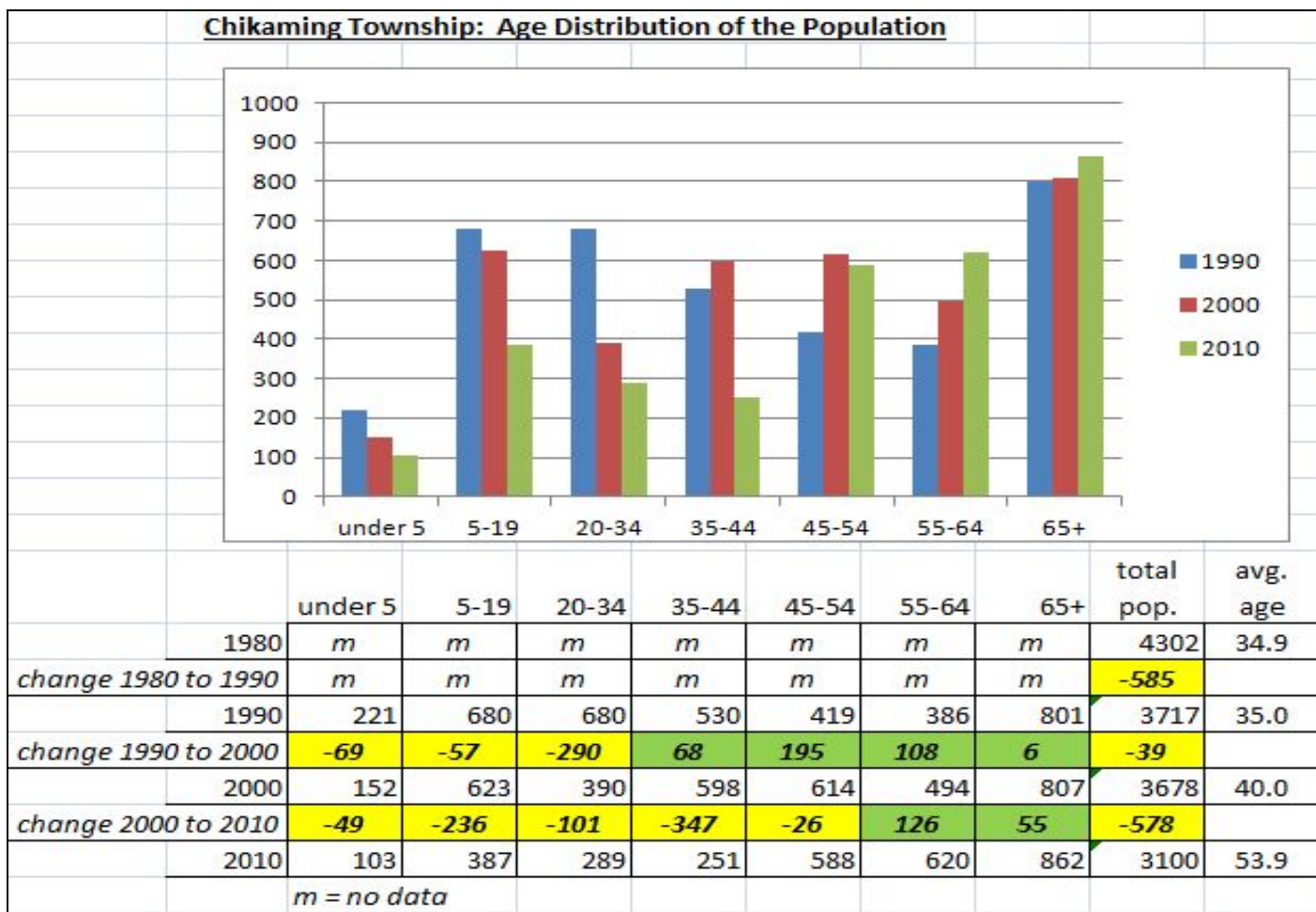
During the spring and summer of 2019, several surveys were undertaken as input for this plan. The Park Board members were initially polled with open ended questions about their priorities. Then the Township staff and members of boards and commissioned were surveyed, with some preferential questions and some open ended questions. The results of these two surveys were then used to develop a public survey that was administered both online, and using paper copies made available at the Township offices. Notices were placed on the township website and at all Township properties and public bulletin boards around the area. Over 180 responses were submitted.

Since 2013 the Park Board has regularly conducted surveys of the populace attending “A Taste of Chikaming”, and the more recent “Celebrate Chikaming” events of the township.

During the public review for this plan, conducted from November 16, 2019 to January 6, 2020, comments were collected from the public at Township Hall and at the Park Board meetings of November 25 and December 16. A public hearing was advertised on December 27, 2019, and held by the Chikaming Township Park Board on January 6, 2020. The full results of those surveys, and a transcript of the public hearing proceedings are contained in Appendix B. The final approved plan has also been sent to all the required entities.

Census data collected over time has given us a good picture of the trends in housing and population in the Township. A quick snapshot appears in the following table and chart. The detailed summaries of this information from the Census Bureau can be seen in Appendix A.

The Chikaming Township Park Board approved the plan following the public hearing at its meeting on January 6, 2020 and the Chikaming Township Board approved the plan at a special meeting held on January 9, 2020.



## The Planning Process

The second step was to begin the plan development by conducting a set of exercises similar to a Strategic Planning process in order to articulate the Board's collective Vision, Mission, and Values statements and provide an overarching framework and guidance for the development of the details of the plan. Those statements appear on page 6 of this document. They were adopted after considering several options formulated out of focused discussions with the Park Board, and individual Board Members' responses to a questionnaire. The board members individually scored the statements, and the results were used to determine the consensus. The statements helped members of the planning sub-committee and the planning consultant to understand issues, develop solutions, and develop a plan for the future. (the questionnaire results are included in Appendix C.

The process of prioritizing projects began with the previously mentioned questionnaire used to gather project ideas from individual Board members. Those ideas were evaluated and prioritized by each Board member, and then all the rankings were blended to form an averaged score for each project. The top rated projects were then grouped into like categories which became the five goals listed on page 7 and detailed on subsequent pages.



Drilling down in the hierarchy leads to the most important parts of the plan - the park elements that will be woven into the rich natural environment that exists within and around Chikaming Township. Those details will become the places where the citizens of the Township and visitors will play, meditate, exercise, gather and build community, discuss, and re-create. The places under the Park Boards stewardship will be many and varied, but the Board intends to ensure that they all have a single thing in common: excellence.

## **THE CHIKAMING PARK SYSTEM IN 20 YEARS**

*The Park Board envisions an expanded and integrated system of exemplary parks, beaches, trails, greenways and preserves, that highlights our bounty of natural resources, preserves and restores them as a source of community involvement and pride, and enables a healthy lifestyle for all.*

*– vision statement -*

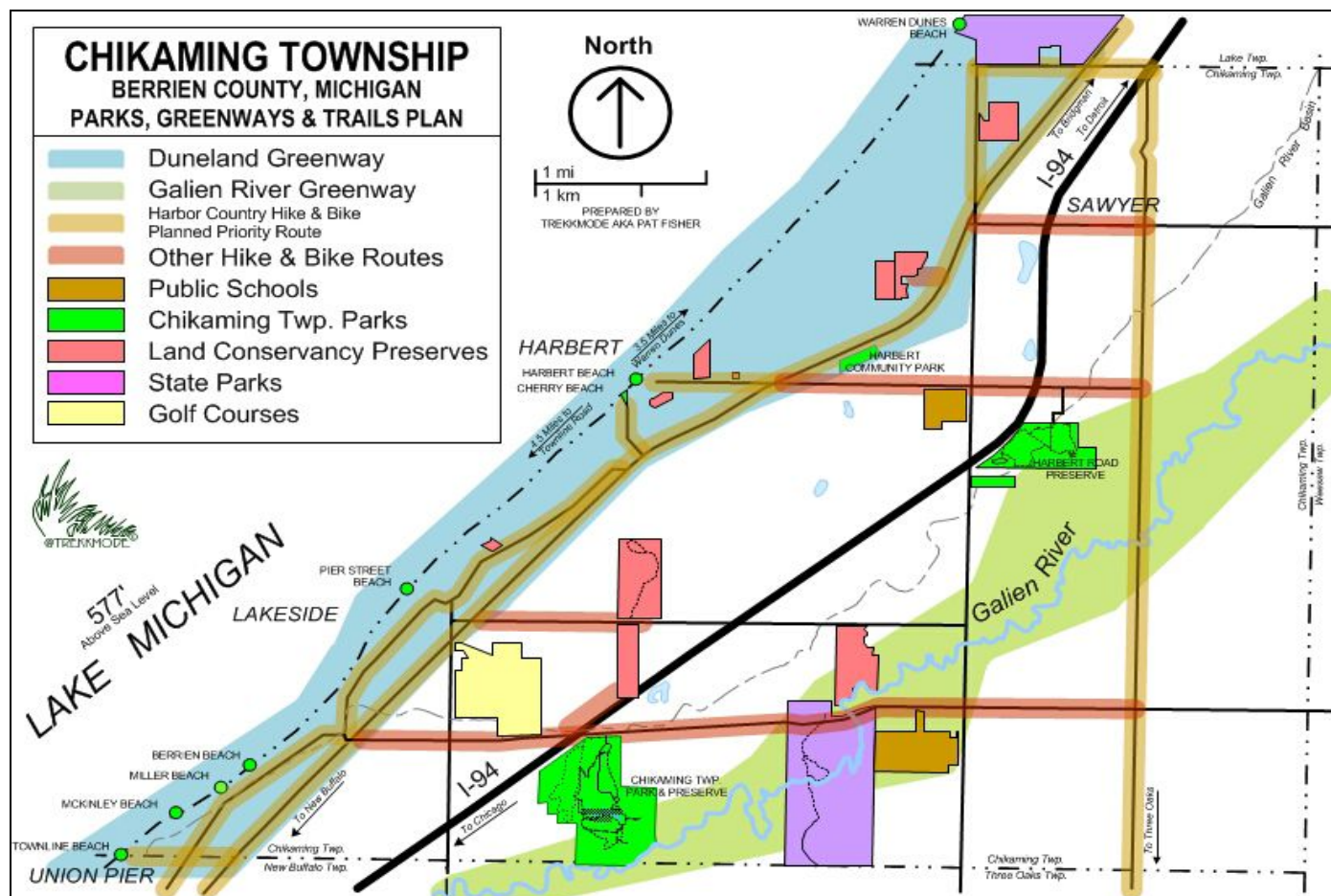
Today's parks will be refined and improved with additional trails and new park features to enhance the existing character of each property.

Expanded recreational opportunities will be undertaken in conjunction and cooperation with neighboring communities as well as the Berrien County Parks Department and Michigan DNR. New Buffalo, Three Oaks, Weesaw, and Lake Townships, Chikaming Open Lands, Friends of Harbor Country Trails, and other local non-profits, governments, and interested groups and individuals will be partners in making this a truly regional system.

All the park properties will be linked together with a hike and bike route that also serves schools, population centers, and other open spaces, and connects with regional routes to the north and south. The route will be off-road as much as possible, and embedded in a system of greenway corridors where appropriate. The Chikaming trail system will be a part of the regional Harbor Country Hike and Bike Plan, and the Friends of Harbor Country Trails will be a partner in the development and operation of the system.

In addition to the properties needed for the trails and greenways, additional acquisitions will be needed to extend the size of the Harbert Community Park, and to acquire valued open space as opportunities present themselves. Open space will be acquired with a view to establishing a connected greenway and wildlife corridor system. Beach acquisitions may also be considered if they offer an expansion opportunity for an existing beach. Chikaming Open Lands will continue to be an active partner in this effort.

With such an expansion it will be necessary to have enhanced administrative, information, and service delivery capabilities. A larger, stable, and permanent funding source for both operating and capital purposes will be needed. In future years the Park Board may need to consider a ballot proposal to ensure such an ongoing funding mechanism.



## **Aligning our Plan with Other Planning Initiatives in Berrien County**

We believe it is important for the future successful implementation of this plan, that we be in sync with other agencies and governmental units in the area. The following plans are relevant to ours and have been consulted in creating this one. Brief summaries of the connections follow.

## **The Berrien County Master Plan - Principles of Green Infrastructure**

“The following Principles of Green Infrastructure are taken from the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC). The emphasis in Green Infrastructure planning is on connecting people to green space networks. These principles shall be considered by the County during the land use decision making process:

1. Connectivity is key.
2. Context matters.
3. Green infrastructure should be grounded in sound science and land-use planning theory and practice.
4. Green infrastructure can and should function as the framework for conservation and development.
5. Green infrastructure should be planned and protected before development.
6. Green infrastructure is a critical public investment that should be funded up front.
7. Green infrastructure affords benefits to nature and people.
8. Green infrastructure respects the needs and desires of landowners and other stakeholders.
9. Green infrastructure requires making connections to activities within and beyond the community.

10. Green infrastructure requires long-term commitment.”

### **Galien River County Park**

This Park was opened in 2014. It capitalizes on the amazing marshes along the river, with a boardwalk and an elevated viewing walkway that provides spectacular views of the river valley. The development of this park, as well as the existing Sima Marsh property in the City of New Buffalo serve to emphasize the environmental treasure that we have in the Galien River and its environs. These properties anchor the lower river valley and provide important pieces in the preservation of the entire river, extending upstream past the Glassman Park property (New Buffalo Township) and to the Chikaming Township preserves at Chikaming Township Park and Preserve and the Harbert Road Preserve, as well as Warren Woods State Park.

### **The Chikaming Township Master Plan**

The Township adopted a revised Master Plan in September, 2014. Knowing that the Park Board would be revising its Plan in the coming year, the Master Plan includes the Park Plan by reference, and thus the two are essentially one and the same. Specifically though, the Master Plan adopted goals and objectives that emphasize sustainability, the value of preserving the natural environment, and the goal of implementing the key elements of the Harbor Country Hike and Bike Plan that pass through the township and connect to other non-motorized routes, both local and regional. The Master Plan also places great emphasis on the effort to create a “green corridor” along the Red Arrow Highway, particularly the ideas of a linear park and incorporating trails into the road right-of-way in a safe and rational fashion.

### **New Buffalo Township Recreation Plan**

New Buffalo Township, directly to the south of Chikaming, has a number of commonalities with this plan. Perhaps most obvious is the shared beach facility at Townline Rd. Also shared is the Galien River valley. And finally, the Red Arrow Highway is a seamless connection through the two townships and serves as the main street running through the settlements along it.

Several of the projects in the New Buffalo Township Recreation Plan have relevance and connectivity to elements of the Chikaming Township Park Plan:

#### **2014 – Glassman Park**

(situated approximately ½ mile south of Chikaming Township along the Galien River)

- Improve Glassman Road, install utility services, construct access road through Glassman Park, and create parking area
- Construct pavilion, trail network, canoe/kayak launch, office/storage building, sports fields, composting site, team-building course, fishing pier, campground, and rustic cabins
- Construct educational feature at Glassman Park

#### **2015 – Glassman Park**

- Develop nature activities and sports/recreation programs

#### **2016 – Townline Road Beach**

- Expand parking, improve signage, and construct amenities at Townline Road Beach Park

#### **2017 – Trails**

- Construct trail from Memorial Park to the Berrien County Galien River Park Preserve

### **The Harbor Country Hike & Bike Plan**

In 2008, a group of individuals from the Harbor Country area came together to form a vision for connected on-road and off-road facilities for Chikaming Township, City of New Buffalo, New Buffalo Township, Three

Oaks Township, Grand Beach, and the Village of Three Oaks. The Harbor Country Hike & Bike Trail project is a long-term comprehensive project to bring a network of interconnected non-motorized facilities to the corner of Southwest Michigan known as Harbor Country. When complete, the Hike & Bike Trail project will offer bicyclists and hikers the ability to connect between New Buffalo, Three Oaks, Sawyer, Grand Beach, Harbert, Union Pier, Michiana, and points in between using safe, convenient, attractive paths and shared access ways. <http://harborcountrytrails.org/>

The Friends of Harbor Country Trails is working to implement the Hike and Bike Plan. Currently the group is working with Chikaming Township to develop a road crossing and roadside bike path along Red Arrow Highway between North Lakeshore Rd. and Youngren Rd. They have also installed signage for bike routes along several low traffic roads in the township.

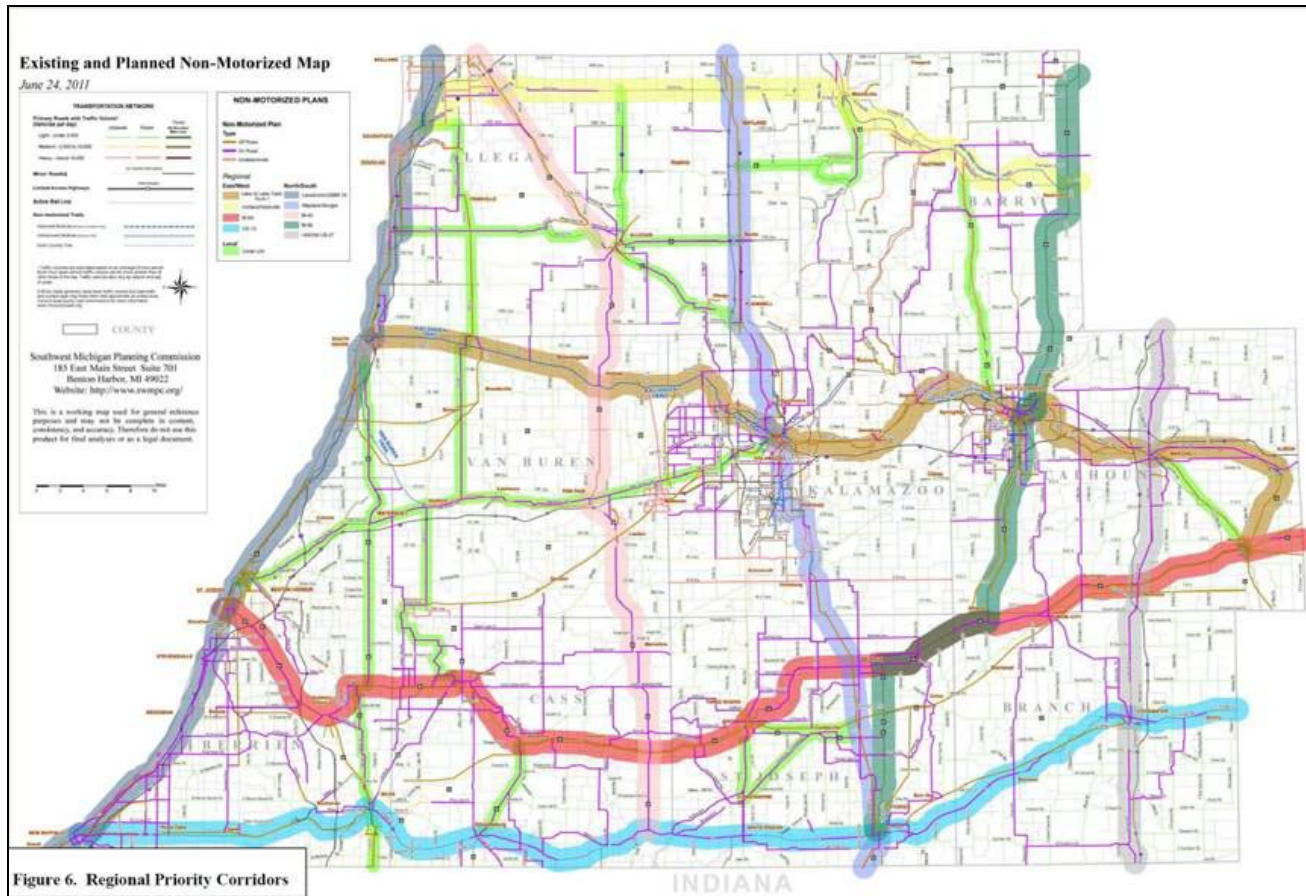
The map that follows shows the Priority Routes identified in the Harbor Country Hike and Bike Plan within Chikaming Township.





## Regional Non-Motorized Route Plans – Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

The following map summarizes the non-motorized routes that are currently envisioned for Southwest Michigan. The one that passes parallel to Lake Michigan, and the only one passing through Chikaming Township is BR 35 described in more detail below.



## Red Arrow Highway Linear Park

It can be seen from the above map that the Red Arrow Highway figures into the Regional Non-Motorized Routes Plan. The Berrien County Parks Department has begun development work on a Linear Park along the portion of that route that runs between New Buffalo and Bridgman through Chikaming Township. This planned park is in agreement with both the Township Master Plan and both the previous version and this proposed version of the Chikaming Township Park Plan. It is also consistent with the US Bike Route 35 described below.



### **US Bike Route 35**

On May 19, 2012, Adventure Cycling Association and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) held a ribbon-cutting celebration for the newly designated US Bike Route 35. USBR 35 is a mapped bicycle route intended for experienced long distance touring bicyclists. It is not a trail, and no construction is proposed related to this route. It is meant to be a mapped recommendation as the best way to ride a bicycle long distance along the Lake Michigan coast from the Indiana line to Sault Ste. Marie.

View the entire USBR 35 route here:

<https://www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/us-bicycle-route-system/usbrs-interactive-map/> And view detailed maps for the SW Michigan portion from the Indiana state line to Holland, MI here:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/USBR\\_35\\_RouteMap\\_LowerPeninsula\\_Holland\\_New\\_Buffalo\\_424792\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/USBR_35_RouteMap_LowerPeninsula_Holland_New_Buffalo_424792_7.pdf)

Michigan's U.S. Bicycle Route 35 will attract bicycle tourists from near and far, providing economic, social, and health benefits to the communities that the route intersects. Approximately 500 miles in length, the route is comprised of a network of state highways, county and local roads, and regionally significant multi-use trails. It passes through dozens of small lakefront towns, past sandy beaches, scenic and historic destinations, as well as services and cultural attractions. Within Chikaming Township USBR 35 follows Lakeshore Rd. and Red Arrow Highway. Once complete, the route will continue south through Indiana and eventually down to Mississippi.

### **Lake Michigan Water Trail**

The Lake Michigan Water Trail is a 1,638-mile water trail tracing the outline of Lake Michigan's diverse coastline and is managed and maintained by a variety of public agencies and private organizations throughout Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Developed access sites along the trail are equipped with public boat ramps or docks while carry-in sites provide entry to the water from a beach or other shoreline. It is the longest continuous- loop water trail in the world. For more information visit <http://www.lmwt.org> and [www.michiganwatertrails.org/trail.asp?ait=cv&cid=287](http://www.michiganwatertrails.org/trail.asp?ait=cv&cid=287) .

Chikaming Township is specifically part of the Harbor Country section of the Lake MI Water Trail. This 10.6 mile paddle extends from the City of New Buffalo to Warren Dunes State Park. The shoreline in this stretch has miles of sandy beaches. Berrien Street Beach and Cherry Beach are designated rest stops in Chikaming Township. Harbert Beach is also designated as an access point in Chikaming Township. View descriptions at web pages listed below: <http://www.michiganwatertrails.org/location.asp?ait=av&aid=201>  
<http://www.michiganwatertrails.org/location.asp?ait=av&aid=104>  
<http://www.michiganwatertrails.org/location.asp?ait=av&aid=103>

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

### **GOAL I. Improve management capabilities of the Park Board to better maintain and improve the growing number of properties under its stewardship**

Because of the expansionary nature of the plan, it is important to be ever-aware of the need to continually upgrade the capabilities of the Park Board. Adding facilities requires a complementary growth in the ability to manage and administer the park system.

#### **Objective 1.1:** Strengthen the leadership mechanisms of the Park Board

- Develop a manual with standard operating procedures, basic structural information, inter-agency agreements, etc.
- Work closely with the Township Board and departments, other park agencies, and land conservancies, with the goal of creating a strong and unified effort to develop our local and regional parks and open spaces into a world class system
- Continue to refine the Park Board's bylaws that define and focus the Park Board functioning
- Regularly revise and update the Park Board's Master Plan

**Objective 1.2:** Explore options for establishing a professional staff person responsible to the Park Board and assigned to manage its various functions

**Objective 1.3:** Continue to explore the powers and standing of the Park Board, and of ownership and agreements surrounding all beach sites; implement any needed changes

**Objective 1.4:** With the Township, promote environmentally sensitive development.

- Support the Township Board in developing and enacting ordinances to protect our dunes and beaches.

**Objective 1.5:** Identify and explore funding sources to assure that adequate money is available for park projects and operations in the future; develop mechanisms to pro-actively pursue funding.

**Objective 1.6:** Assure that all properties are well maintained

- Plan budgets carefully and assure that the financial resources are available to provide proper maintenance
- Acquire maintenance equipment and develop storage facilities to ensure effective and efficient care of the parks

- 

**Objective 1.7:** Implement technology improvements

- Beach and park monitoring systems with more accuracy to specific locations
  - Weather and Water conditions
  - Webcams
  - Security surveillance systems
  - Security call boxes
- Upgrade the Township web site with links to real-time lake and beach conditions and information

## **GOAL II. Integrate our system of parks & preserves within the township and with neighboring jurisdictions through connecting trails and greenway corridors**

The Park Board ranked the development of hike and bike trails as the number one priority among projects. The trails are desirable in and of themselves as recreational, transportation, and exercise facilities, but they also have advantages related to the balance of the park system:

- there is already agreement in the 3 township area of Harbor Country on a comprehensive Hike and Bike Trail Plan, and some implementation has begun;
- there is strong support among Chikaming Township residents for trail development;
- there is a strong advocacy group promoting the trail plan implementation;
- trails can create a physical connection to valuable natural areas;
- they are low impact forms of transport, both at their destinations and along their paths;
- they can tie together a system and give it a comprehensiveness that unconnected facilities cannot; and,
- they can connect our township with trails throughout the larger region.

The Township already has wildlife corridors running from NE to SW along the lakeshore and the Galien River Valley. Unfortunately, progress has brought barriers to E-W movements of wildlife in the form of I-94, the Conrail railroad R.O.W., and the Red Arrow Highway. A significant number of road kills occur annually along both of the highway routes, although the infrequency of trains means the railroad is less hazardous to animals. Our wildlife is a significant part of the natural environment that we love in Chikaming, and it is important to preserve it along with the woods and wetlands.

The total public beach frontage of the Park Board's 7 lakefront properties is less than 800 feet, while the number of summer visitors, most without dedicated beaches available to them, has been increasing dramatically every decade since 1980. The result is highly impacted small beaches for 3 months of the year, carrying a host of problems with them. Increasing the amount of public beach is impractical, if for no other reason than the high price of lakefront property. Thus, if we can find ways to make it easier and more desirable for visitors to Harbor Country to access the much larger and better equipped beach at Warren Dunes State Park, and the parks and preserves in the interior of Chikaming Township, we can relieve some of the pressure on the beaches. Such an effort can be aided by a strong marketing campaign promoting the virtues of a day in the country or a trip to a full-service beach.

### **Objective 2.1: Pro-actively develop hike and bike trails connecting to parks & preserves**

- Establish a linear park incorporating a hike and bike path, along Red Arrow Highway (Since the adoption of the 2015 Park Master Plan, the Berrien County Parks Department has promoted a multi jurisdictional linear park along Red Arrow Highway between Bridgman and New Buffalo. The concept has been warmly received, and continues toward implementation)
- Establish trails within the Galien River Valley from Elm Valley Rd. through the Harbert Rd. Preserve in cooperation with New Buffalo, Three Oaks, and Weesaw Townships, and the County Parks Department in order to connect to the linear park and Galien River County Park
- Seek to also establish linkages to the schools, and to preserves owned by land conservancies
- Actively promote the hiking and biking opportunities available in Harbor Country as an additional form of recreation

### **Objective 2.2: Establish continuous wildlife corridors through easements or acquisitions**

- Work In cooperation with Chikaming Open Lands, the MDNR, the Berrien County Parks Department, and other local, regional, state, and national governments and organizations.
- Explore the Federal Wildlife Corridor Conservation Act of 2019 for possible assistance and funding.

**Objective 2.3:** Develop informational tools to promote the use of all recreational offerings in the region



### **GOAL III. Develop additional self-directed, active recreation facilities to complement existing assets and to promote healthy outdoor activities for all ages**

**HARBERT COMMUNITY PARK:** In its overview of the park system, the Board has determined that Harbert Community Park is best situated of all the facilities in the system for active recreation facilities, however care needs to be taken so that it will not become over developed. It is easily accessible to the population concentrations along Red Arrow Highway, it is co-located with the Township Hall and very close to the River Valley Senior Center, and it already contains active recreation facilities in the baseball field and the playground, as well as a picnic pavilion, ice rink, beach volleyball courts, concession stand, and dog park, as well as the planned viewing/fishing platform at the pond.

If thoughtfully developed this park will become the centerpiece of the community. It must be noted that there are limitations to parking availability and there are environmentally sensitive areas that must be protected. Any future planning for the park should be viewed on a larger scale to include the aforementioned facilities, as well as to control the intensity of development.

**THE PRESERVES:** The two preserves are currently lightly used by the public, but also need to have some sensitive areas protected, and thus cannot withstand intensive usage. These facilities are joined in the Township by other similar facilities not owned by the Township: Warren Woods (State of Michigan); Robinson Woods, Flynn Woods, Flynn Woods, Critter Haven Preserve, The Woods Preserve, Jens Jensen Preserve, and Chris Thompson Preserve (Chikaming Open Lands); and Pepperidge Dunes (Michigan Nature Association). There are continuing efforts underway to add preserves to the inventory of Chikaming Open Lands within the Township. Warren Dunes (State of Michigan) abuts the Township on the northern border, and contains extensive beach property, some very heavily used and intensely developed, and other more remote, and also has a trail system within the wooded and dune parts of the park. The favored approach is to continue to tread lightly on the preserves, favoring activities such as hiking and birding, with a little more strenuous activities possible at Chikaming Township Park & Preserve. Acquiring additional open lands would allow low intensity activities in Chikaming Township to grow and be promoted without stressing any of them.

**THE BEACHES:** Unless the Park Board can acquire more lakefront property, more intensive development of the beaches is not desirable: they are already over utilized during the summer months. The real challenge with the beaches is how to alleviate these issues related to over popularity, rather than to attract more users.

A recent privately initiated project is underway to take advantage of a unique opportunity to purchase an available piece of property next to Cherry Beach. The Township has agreed to support this project financially, to become the owner, and to promote grant applications in order to acquire and develop it. The property includes beachfront as well as a preservation quality old growth woods and ravine.

#### **GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

- As the township moves forward, efforts need to be made to ensure accessibility to the park facilities by persons with mobility challenges.
- All development at existing parks should be geared to self directed activities not requiring programming or staffing.
- All four seasons should be addressed in park planning.

**Objective 3.1:** Improve accessibility for persons with mobility challenges at the parks and at least one beach as improvements are made.

**Objective 3.2:** Focus development of self-directed active recreation activities on Harbert Community Park, including the following proposed projects:

- Pond enhancement, including a viewing/fishing platform (this project is advancing with a MDNR Passport Grant)
- Development of an ADA compliant ramp to the picnic shelter and childrens' playground (the current ramp is too steep)
- Splash pad or other children's water play feature
- A covered walkway between the pavilion and the concession stand, to also serve as an outdoor market venue
- Add natural elements to playground
- Add multi-level parcours fitness stations to trail
- Enhanced or re-purposed Ball fields (a regulation little league field exists)

**All the following projects have been implemented since 2014**

- Outdoor ice rink (consideration is being given to adding artificial ice or cooling coils to regulate the ice temperature)
- Beach Volleyball court for summer use utilizing the ice rink surface
- A shelter at the dog park
- The Carl Sandburg Historical Marker and Pavilion with seating/conversation area
- New and existing facilities have been upgraded to a common design vocabulary

**Objective 3.3:** Place Strategic Projects at other properties

- Mountain bike trail at Chikaming Township Park & Preserve (has been implemented)
- Assess the benefits, costs, and impediments to creating a bridle path on park land
- Public toilets at beaches
- Scientific/Educational parks (Harbert Road Park and Chikaming Township Park & Preserve)
  - QR interactivity plaques and information access
  - Self-guided environmental education
  - Self guided exploratory activities
  - Solar and wind demonstration projects
  - Tied in to remote monitoring systems

**Objective 3.4:** Implement a common design vocabulary at all facilities (this is an ongoing project - as new facilities are added and older ones upgraded, they are made to comply with the established design vocabulary)

- Portals, signage, furniture, pathway treatments, shelters, trash receptacles, etc.
- Improve visibility of facilities and gently guide their use and proper environmental care
- Promote a sense of community pride and ownership

**Objective 3.5:** Coordinate development projects with neighboring jurisdictions in order to not duplicate underutilized facilities

**GOAL IV. Actively seek partners to collaborate on acquiring and restoring open space and maintaining infrastructure to preserve the natural resources of the Township**

Southwest Michigan, and Chikaming Township in particular, are blessed with two geographic advantages:

- There is an abundance of natural features that have been left relatively untouched, except for intensive logging more than a century ago, because of remoteness from urban centers
- And, the area is situated close enough to such centers to be attractive as a vacation and second home paradise.

The combination of these accidents of geography creates strong pressure to develop more land for vacation property. It is a double-edged sword that makes the area at once attractive to people and vulnerable to their presence. The Park Board is in a position to take a leadership role in preserving, restoring and protecting the natural resources of the Township.

**Objective 4.1:** Work closely with Chikaming Open Lands, County and State Park departments and other agencies in efforts to acquire and preserve more open space, especially in the identified greenways, that future generations will be able to enjoy.

**Objective 4.2:** Support the identification, preservation and restoration of wetlands that act as flood sponges, nutrient capturing and E.coli destroying areas. Refer to wetlands identified in the Landscape Wetland Functional Analysis

**Objective 4.3:** Actively support efforts to provide safe and swimmable beaches. At times beaches are closed due to contaminants in the water. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality links some beach closings with the streams flowing into Lake Michigan.

**Objective 4.4:** Support the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, The Conservation Fund, Berrien County Health Department and Chikaming Open Lands in efforts to provide watershed planning for all the creeks running into Lake Michigan to determine what would improve water quality in relationship to land uses. The focus will be on beaches that have streams flowing where there have been beach closings.

**GOAL V. Educate Chikaming residents and visitors on our unique geological and biological environment; help them know and appreciate the recreational opportunities in and around the Township; and increase awareness of environmental hazards and best safe practices.**

If we are to continue to have the exceptional natural environment that we now enjoy in Chikaming Township, the residents and visitors must be our informed partners in preserving it. Active efforts must be made to ensure that all parties appreciate and care for the legacy that has been passed to us and that we wish to pass to the next generations.

Multiple mechanisms should be used to provide this education:

- Guided hikes and bike tours
- Celebrate Chikaming events
- Self discovery opportunities such as scavenger hunts, signage with QR codes, internet links, or cell phone information numbers
- Paper brochures made available in public places and at short term rental units
- Public events with experts with specialized knowledge
- Make available Township staff or volunteers for association meetings
- Provide public media such as the newspapers, newsletters, the Harbor Country Guide, Facebook and other social media, and the Township's own web page and Facebook page, with content for publication
- Collaborate with organizations that are oriented to different content areas, such as the public safety and water departments, the nature centers, nature conservancies, conservation and outing clubs, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, MDNR, Berrien County Departments, Harbor Country Chamber, and so forth, to assist and provide expertise in our efforts
- Use local bulletin boards as well as the Park properties' bulletin boards for notices of special interest
- Rotating exhibits at the parks and some beaches
- Organize themed stewardship days

**Objective 5.1:** Educate the Chikaming community on the environment and the ecosystem that is specific to our area.

- Invasive species, countermeasures, and stewardship
- Native plants and their value
- Climate change and its impact in our area
- Environmental hazards such as plastic waste, e.coli dangers, rip tides
- Pollutants in the water supply
- Great Lakes geology
- Dune and beach habitats
- Local history with an emphasis on environmental impacts

**Objective 5.2:** Educate the Chikaming community on recreational opportunities in the area

- Collaborate with community volunteers to provide Ice skating lessons
- Offer classes on other recreational opportunities such as cross country skiing, geocaching, recreational equipment use, or disc golf
  - Offer classes in the park in good weather for the Senior Center



- In conjunction with Harbor Country Hikers, promote hiking and walking and the health benefits associated with those activities.
- Prepare a brochure and map that identifies and describes nearby recreational opportunities, including those outside Chikaming Township

**Objective 5.3:** Educate the Chikaming community on public safety in the parks and on the beaches.

- Currently The Park Board sponsors beach safety classes at the local public schools in partnership with The Great Lakes Surf and Rescue Project and will continue this effort.
- Continue the partnership with Harbor Country Hikers to offer the program “Wild Michigan” , which explains the dangers the lake can pose to the public .
- Ensure that all public beaches, parks, and preserves are posted with up to date information about lake levels, rip tides, water pollution, and any other concerns about public safety
  - Make such information available to associations, rental agents, and property owners
- Maintain real-time information on the web site and Facebook page about conditions that may pose a public health or safety hazard

## PART D. OUR AGENDA AND ASSIGNMENTS – THE 5 YEAR PROGRAM

The five year program includes 6 categories of projects:

1. **System-wide improvements** - The projects in this category are intended to make the overall functioning of the Park Board, and utilization of the Parks and Preserves more effective. If they are of a bricks and mortar nature, they do not have a single specified location, but broadly overlap and tie together the system of parks, preserves and beaches that it administers.
2. Projects specific to the **parks**.
3. Projects specific to the **preserves**.
4. Projects specific to the **beaches**.
5. **Information and Environmental Awareness** - Keeping the public informed about our unique ecosystems and their sensitivities in order to protect our residents and visitors as well as the habitats is paramount to preserving the special nature of this area. The projects in this category are intended to help our constituents understand, respect, and enjoy the natural environment, while respecting the rights of others.
6. **Explorations and Opportunities** - This category of projects consists of two types, neither of which is assigned to program years, but rather, they are included to assure that they are considered at appropriate times:
  - a. ideas that have merit but require more research and discussion
  - b. those as yet unknown ideas, acquisitions and/or projects which may present themselves in the future

The projects are grouped by the above categories and then put into a sequence of actions that represent measured steps toward the goal, based on the resources that can reasonably be expected to be brought to bear.

## SYSTEM WIDE IMPROVEMENTS AND STANDARDS

Rationale for the projects:

- Hiring a part- time, dedicated staff person for the Park Board will streamline the processes and allow the board to better manage its properties.
- Likewise, conscious efforts to develop strategic partnerships with other public and private organizations will help the Park Board leverage its resources to best advantage.
- Establishment of a dedicated funding source for the park system will afford a predictable and sufficient budget for an increased inventory of properties as well as growing public usage
- The Berrien County Park Department proposal for a Red Arrow Linear Park meets the Park Board's objectives of extending hike and bike trails, and of tying together park properties and preserves into greenway corridors.
- Technological features will help us monitor our parks (web cams, weather stations, water quality monitors), but also will give us an opportunity to show our facilities on the internet, encourage visitors, give people real-time information about our parks, and allow the presence of nature to be felt in other ways.
- Making our natural resources accessible to all will require some innovative efforts. It is a major goal, and it is especially important because of the aging of our population and the potential to attract people here in their retirement years.
- Developing a design vocabulary is a system wide project intended to make our facilities recognizable, understandable, and themed together to emphasize that the essence of Chikaming Township is its natural resources. The design vocabulary will include park furniture, fencing and gates, bike storage, trash containers, signage, entry portals, shelters, path markings and so forth – all man-made elements will be intentionally designed to reflect nature and the character of the township.

		PROGRAM YEAR								
		+ indicates continuation years or an ongoing program								
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS		2019-20 underway	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	FUTURE YEARS		
		1	2	3	4	5				
SYSTEMWIDE IMPROVEMENTS										
Hire a Park Board staff person	<i>write job description</i>	<b>budget and hire</b>	+	+	+	+	+			
Work with Township Board to develop a permanent funding source for the Park Board.	<i>initiate</i>	+	+							
Collaborate with Berrien County Parks Department on the design and implementation of the Red Arrow Hwy Linear Park	<i>discuss</i>	+	+							
Leverage Township resources by forming strategic partnerships with organizations with similar goals.	<i>ongoing exploration</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Install technological features at select locations: wi-fi; webcam; weather stations; solar and wind energy demo projects; put live data on website.	<i>ongoing exploration</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Meet ADA accessibility standards at all parks & preserves, and at least 1 beach.	<i>ongoing standard</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Implement design vocabulary when developing new facilities as well as with existing features	<i>ongoing standard</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		

## **THE PARKS**

### **HARBERT COMMUNITY PARK**

Explanation of the approach to planning and programming for this park:

Harbert Community Park is earmarked to be the most active recreation facility in the park system. It has become clear through this planning process that a number of circumstances are in play for Harbert Community Park which have an impact on that vision:

- More facilities have been suggested for the site than it can handle.
- Both space and parking facilities are limited.
- The ball field seems to be under-utilized.
- The County Parks Department, meanwhile, is working on a Linear park plan for the entire stretch of Red Arrow Highway between New Buffalo and Bridgman.
- In addition, portions of the site are environmentally sensitive, and portions encroach on the RR R.O.W. to the south.
- And finally, the Township owns a nearly vacant, 1 acre property situated between the park and the Township Center.

In response to these circumstances, the highest ranked project for HCP coming out of the ranking exercise of the Park Board was to:

***“Develop a new concept plan for the park, including adjacent Township properties, to serve as a guideline for future projects.”***

Although a concept plan was drawn up a few years ago, it was never approved, and needs to be revised to incorporate a changed vision as well as to take into account the above circumstances.

In addition, several things need to take place to properly execute a concept plan:

- The Township Board must be in agreement as to whether to include the adjacent property.
- The Park Board should have a facilitated discussion regarding the ball field, and reach a preliminary conclusion about its future use.
- The County Parks Department should be consulted regarding preliminary plans for the proposed linear park along Red Arrow Highway.

Thus, a moratorium should be placed on any non-essential development within the park until the concept plan can be completed and approved.

Therefore, the phased program specifies a limited number of items. Other possibilities will be evaluated in the concept planning project before being incorporated into the program.

The following projects which have risen from the planning input process should be considered for inclusion in the concept plan. Although all have merit, all cannot likely be implemented at this site. They are listed here along with their public support from the survey, and their ranking by the Park Board.

- |  |                   |               |
|--|-------------------|---------------|
|  | <u>Park Board</u> | <u>Survey</u> |
| • Extend accessible paths to the existing Sandburg pavilion, |                   | 3.86          |



- the toilet, and the concession building
- Hire a landscape architect or planner to develop a detailed site plan. 3.71  
Officially adopt it. Follow it.
- Add a trail with multi-level, parours style, fitness stations 3.43 28%  
in keeping with the design vocabulary.
- Create a distinctive village-like design visible from the street. 3.29
- Pickleball courts 3.14
- Create a permanent, open- air music venue or bandshell 2.71 40%
  - Survey: movies in the Park 71%
  - Survey: music in the Park 47%
- Create a wall, berm, or other type of sound barrier to buffer the park 2.57  
from highway noise and create a distinctive unifying element
- Install technological features: wi-fi; webcam; weather station 2.57 28%
- Incorporate intergenerational recreational elements and activities. 2.57
- Add natural elements to playground 2.43
- Create a market area, potentially integrated into the covered walkway 2.43 24%
- Add a solid, raised floor to the dog park shelter 2.43
- Incorporate some intimate gathering spaces and concessions 2.29 15%
  - Reading in the park
- Add edge boards to the ice rink 2.14
- Build a covered walkway between the pavilion and the concession stand

## LAKESIDE PARKS

The two existing Lakeside Parks have recently been acquired by the Park Board from the County Road Department. They have been developed and maintained over the years by the Lakeside Association, and the Park Board does not envision any more intense development for them. The Board will engage in discussions with the Lakeside Association to determine whether any additional facilities are desired, and will follow their lead for future park development. A Park system sign and bulletin board, in keeping with the design vocabulary, will be erected.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS	PROGRAM YEAR						
	+ indicates continuation years or an ongoing program						
	2019-20 underway	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	FUTURE YEARS
	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>HARBERT COMMUNITY PARK</b>							
Develop and adopt a revised concept plan for Harbert Community Park; explore feasibility of priority proposals	develop plan						
Water Refill Station		install					
complete the walkway and pond platform;	grant application	construction					
Install wi-fi at Harbert Community Park			install				
Modernize the toilet facility	explore	design & budget	grant application	construct			
Re-purpose the ball field so that it can host multiple types of events			devise necessary structures	construct			
Create a sledding/slip&slide hill in the Park		locate on concept plan		construct			
Other development growing out of the concept planning - programmed but unspecified.			detail plan	grant application	construct		
Provide movies and/or music in the Park		explore		find partners, initiate program	+	+	
<b>LAKESIDE PARKS</b>							
Install a CTPB Park Identification sign and bulletin board; work with the Lakeside association to define any further improvements	install						
Water Refill Station		install					

## THE NATURE PRESERVES

The Chikaming Township Park and Preserve, and the Harbert Road Preserve are intended to provide more peaceful contact with the natural environment than the parks or beaches afford. The properties are large, with walking and bike trails winding through a wide variety of ecosystems. The projects for these preserves are meant to build awareness of these assets and to enable more people to safely utilize the facilities without unduly impacting the environment.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS	PROGRAM YEAR						
	+ indicates continuation years or an ongoing program						
	2019-20 underway	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	FUTURE YEARS
	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>PRESERVES</b>							
Safe biking and walking trails within parks & preserves	<b>install signage</b>	+					
Get expert advice on pond health to determine options, including a solar fountain to aerate and reduce duckweed (3.14 ranking), and stocking the ponds with fish (2.86 ranking)		<b>consult</b>	<i>plan</i>	implement			
Get expert advice on invasive species control; provide training for volunteers; create an ongoing stewardship program			<b>consult &amp; train</b>	+	+	+	+
Develop a destination, disk golf course at CTPP			<i>plan</i>	<b>install</b>			
Build ADA compliant boardwalks in Harbert Road Preserve.				<i>explore</i>	<i>grant application</i>	<b>construct</b>	
Re-introduce native fowl to the prairies					<i>explore</i>	<b>implement</b>	
Provide water to the shelters at the preserves						<i>explore</i>	<b>X</b>
Continue to encourage pollinator plants to grow in the prairies of CTPP	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Continue to execute the maintenance plan for Chikaming Township Park and Preserve, especially the prairie ecosystem	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

## THE BEACHES

The 7 beaches under the Park Board stewardship experience extensive usage during the summers and continuous efforts are necessary to accommodate the usage and alleviate the impact on those beaches. In addition, Lake Michigan water levels fluctuate widely and storms wreak damage on stairs and other facilities along the beach. Beach projects are designed to respond to these issues and to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all beach users.

		PROGRAM YEAR						
		+ indicates continuation years or an ongoing program						
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS		2019-20 underway	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	FUTURE YEARS
		1	2	3	4	5		
<b>BEACHES</b>								
Test out hardwired 911 phones at Cherry Beach	installed							
Cherry Beach expansion and dune preservation project.	raise local funds; detail plan; purchase							
Beach stair edge markings and Identification signage	launched	+						
Collaborate with New Buffalo Township and Berrien County Roads to provide ADA compliant accessibility to the Townline Rd. Beach upper seating platform	construct							
Explore strategies to reduce damage to stairs and beach closings due to variable Lake Michigan water levels, including sand retention and dune preservation and restoration; implement	hire engineer; grant application		implement					
explore the feasibility of establishing off-site parking for beaches				explore				
Design and install QR interactivity plaques and information access for beach safety and weather information						explore	X	
Continue to monitor and improve oversight of beach usage through ambassadors	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	

## Education and Awareness

Education is a new goal in this plan. A few projects have been initiated and will be continued, but the plan envisions a more comprehensive and coordinated program of both print and digital information, as well as a handful of targeted public information activities. The Online Information Program and Printed Information Program content is detailed below, to supplement the line items in the program.

### Public Information Programs - Online, Print, and Public News Media

- Utilize online and printed resources, the Park Board web site, social media and news sources, and partnerships with other organizations, to keep the public informed about:
  - Health and safety hazards at beaches and parks 4.57
  - The available and accessible features at the preserves. 4.14
  - Accurate information on ownership, rights, jurisdictions, beach rules, laws, and acceptable behavior. 4.14
  - Links to weather conditions at beaches and parks
  - Environmental awareness and safety 4.29
- Provide printed information: 4.43
  - to property owners and rental agencies. 4.14
  - in public areas and vacation rentals
- Create a map and brochure describing all nearby recreational opportunities 3.43
- Publicize other facilities that are available for summer activities, in particular, beaches with parking and handicap access for visitors. 3.14
- Continue to create and market community, year-round activities in our Parks and Preserves 3.43

		PROGRAM YEAR								
		+ indicates continuation years or an ongoing program								
PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS		2019-20 underway	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	FUTURE YEARS		
		1	2	3	4	5				
INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS										
Support community volunteers to provide Ice skating lessons	launch	+	+	+	+	+	+			
Partner with Harbor Country Hikers, to promote hiking and walking in the parks	launched	+	+	+	+	+	+			
Online Information Program		define & initiate	+	+	+	+	+			
Printed Information Program		define & initiate	+	+	+	+	+			
Create rotating exhibits at the parks and some beaches on safety, history, and the environment.			develop	+	+	+	+			
Coordinate and create bike tour events with partner organizations.			launch	+	+	+	+			
Develop self guided explorations in Parks on environment and other topics, using QR codes & brochures.				develop & install QR plaques						
Continue beach safety class at local schools.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			
Continue program "Wild Michigan" to educate public on dangers of Lake Michigan	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			
Post information on Park bulletin boards and other community bulletin boards	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			
Continue to create and market community, year-round activities in our Parks and Preserves	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			



## Explorations and Opportunities

The greenways and hike & bike trails are regional projects that will take a major effort. We intend to be a motive force in pushing these projects forward in cooperation with our neighboring units of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the people of Harbor Country. Other projects in the list have been suggested by the public input process and from other sources, but have yet to be explored in detail. In addition, other opportunities may make themselves known, and the Park Board must keep its vision open to possibilities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS	PROGRAM YEAR						
	+ indicates continuation years or an ongoing program						
	2019-20 underway	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	FUTURE YEARS
	1	2	3	4	5		
<b>EXPLORATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES</b>							
Explore creating a ramp to ADA standards at Berrien St. Beach, extending downward from the road level to the beach edge	explore						
Explore the feasibility of remote beach and park monitoring systems for safety, security, and public information			explore				X
Public Swimming Pool					explore		X
Community Center					explore		X
Indoor recreation facility					explore		X
Add artificial ice or cooling coils to regulate the ice temperature of the rink					explore		X
Acquire property or easements from RR to allow development behind the pond and ball field at HCP					explore		X
Plan and develop hike and bike trails connecting the parks and regional System, in collaboration with other agencies	ongoing exploration	+	+	+	+	+	+
Acquire greenway open space and wildlife corridors, in collaboration with other agencies	ongoing exploration	+	+	+	+	+	+

# APPENDIX A

## CENSUS DATA

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - 2010 U.S. Census – Male & Female

Subject	Michigan				Berrien County, Michigan				Chikaming township, Berrien County, Michigan			
	Total	Male		Female	Total	Male		Female	Total	Male		Female
		Estimate	Margin of Error			Estimate	Margin of Error			Estimate	Margin of Error	
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		Block Group 1, Census Tract 112, Berrien County, Michigan	Block Group 2, Census Tract 112, Berrien County, Michigan	Block Group 3, Census Tract 112, Berrien County, Michigan	Block Group 4, Census Tract 112, Berrien County, Michigan
		1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	507	915	771	907
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	246	449	371	457
Under 5 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	13	17	22
5 to 9 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	11	9	14
10 to 14 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	13	20	7	25
15 to 17 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9	19	8	16
18 and 19 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	6	7	6
20 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	9	5	7
21 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	3	3	3
22 to 24 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9	16	8	12
25 to 29 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	13	9	15
30 to 34 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	11	11	11
35 to 39 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8	15	8	19
40 to 44 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	16	15	15	28
45 to 49 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17	41	30	37
50 to 54 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	28	53	32	55
55 to 59 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14	40	40	36
60 and 61 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14	17	19	25
62 to 64 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17	28	28	17
65 and 66 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17	14	16	14
67 to 69 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	20	25	27
70 to 74 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	27	27	30
75 to 79 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11	22	20	16
80 to 84 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	25	19	12
85 years and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	11	8	10

		Block Group 1, Census Tract 112, Berrien County, Michigan	Block Group 2, Census Tract 112, Berrien County, Michigan	Block Group 3, Census Tract 112, Berrien County, Michigan	Block Group 4, Census Tract 112, Berrien County, Michigan
		1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
80 to 84 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	25	19	12
85 years and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	11	8	10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	261	466	400	450
Under 5 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	13	9	10
5 to 9 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8	12	11	21
10 to 14 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	13	24	13	11
15 to 17 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	13	21	13	13
18 and 19 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	9	6	9
20 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	3	0	2
21 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	2	3	6
22 to 24 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	8	7	7
25 to 29 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10	12	6	9
30 to 34 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9	7	8	10
35 to 39 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	14	12	19
40 to 44 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	21	19	13	22
45 to 49 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15	36	39	51
50 to 54 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	21	40	38	55
55 to 59 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	29	46	50	49
60 and 61 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15	17	16	23
62 to 64 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14	27	23	16
65 and 66 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8	20	22	11
67 to 69 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	31	29	22
70 to 74 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	13	21	20	30
75 to 79 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10	32	30	21
80 to 84 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14	32	17	14
85 years and over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	20	15	19

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.



<b>Households by Type</b>		
Total	1,471	100.0%
Households with 1 Person	487	33.1%
Households with 2+ People	984	66.9%
Family Households	899	61.1%
Husband-wife Families	763	51.9%
With Own Children	161	10.9%
Other Family (No Spouse Present)	136	9.2%
With Own Children	62	4.2%
Nonfamily Households	85	5.8%
All Households with Children	257	17.5%
Multigenerational Households	39	2.7%
Unmarried Partner Households	80	5.4%
Male-female	54	3.7%
Same-sex	26	1.8%
Average Household Size	2.11	
<b>Family Households by Size</b>		
Total	899	100.0%
2 People	559	62.2%
3 People	162	18.0%
4 People	100	11.1%
5 People	47	5.2%
6 People	22	2.4%
7+ People	9	1.0%
Average Family Size	2.66	
<b>Nonfamily Households by Size</b>		
Total	572	100.0%
1 Person	487	85.1%
2 People	82	14.3%
3 People	3	0.5%
4 People	0	0.0%
5 People	0	0.0%
6 People	0	0.0%
7+ People	0	0.0%
Average Nonfamily Size	1.15	
<b>Population by Relationship and Household Type</b>		
Total	3,100	100.0%
In Households	3,100	100.0%
In Family Households	2,440	78.7%
Householder	899	29.0%
Spouse	763	24.6%
Child	670	21.6%
Other relative	63	2.0%
Nonrelative	45	1.5%
In Nonfamily Households	660	21.3%
In Group Quarters	0	0.0%
Institutionalized Population	0	0.0%
Noninstitutionalized Population	0	0.0%
<b>Data Note:</b> Households with children include any households with people under age 18, related or not. Multigenerational households are families with 3 or more parent-child relationships. Unmarried partner households are usually classified as nonfamily households unless there is another member of the household related to th		



<b>Population Summary</b>	
2000 Total Population	3,678
2010 Total Population	3,100
2012 Total Population	3,118
2012 Group Quarters	0
2017 Total Population	3,132
2012-2017 Annual Rate	0.09%
<b>Household Summary</b>	
2000 Households	1,646
2000 Average Household Size	2.23
2010 Households	1,471
2010 Average Household Size	2.11
2012 Households	1,477
2012 Average Household Size	2.11
2017 Households	1,492
2017 Average Household Size	2.10
2012-2017 Annual Rate	0.20%
2010 Families	899
2010 Average Family Size	2.66
2012 Families	901
2012 Average Family Size	2.66
2017 Families	899
2017 Average Family Size	2.67
2012-2017 Annual Rate	-0.04%
<b>Housing Unit Summary</b>	
2000 Housing Units	3,473
Owner Occupied Housing Units	41.6%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	5.8%
Vacant Housing Units	52.6%
2010 Housing Units	3,677
Owner Occupied Housing Units	35.1%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	4.9%
Vacant Housing Units	60.0%
2012 Housing Units	3,685
Owner Occupied Housing Units	34.9%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	5.2%
Vacant Housing Units	59.9%
2017 Housing Units	3,629
Owner Occupied Housing Units	35.7%
Renter Occupied Housing Units	5.4%
Vacant Housing Units	58.9%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	
2012	\$43,461
2017	\$51,870
<b>Median Home Value</b>	
2012	\$210,924
2017	\$214,696
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	
2012	\$26,722
2017	\$30,245
<b>Median Age</b>	
2010	53.9
2012	54.6
2017	56.2

**Notes:** Household population includes persons not residing in group quarters. Average Household Size is the household population divided by total households. Persons in families include the householder and persons related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. Per Capita Income represents the income received by all persons aged 15 years and over divided by the total population.

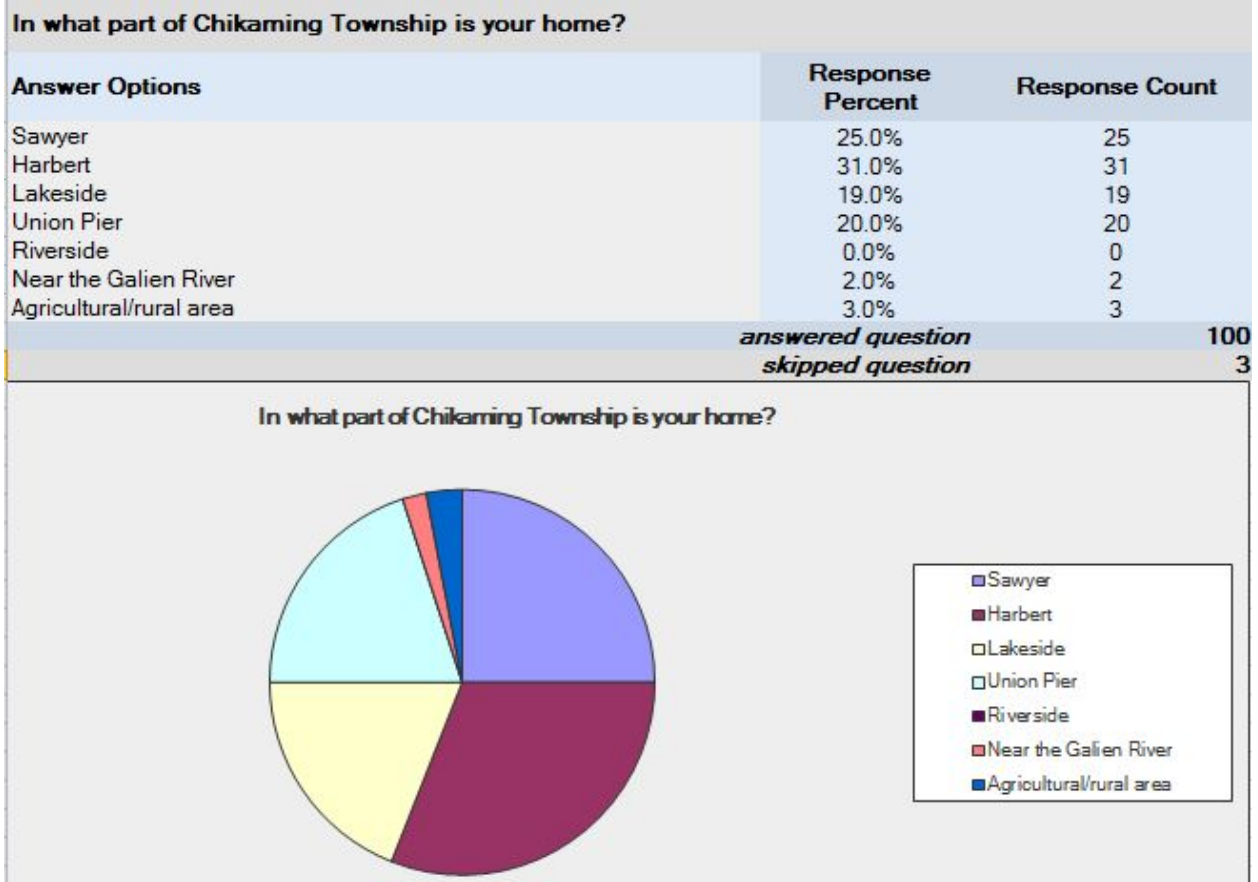
**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2012 and 2017. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography.

	2000	2010	Annual Rate
Population	3,678	3,100	-1.70%
Households	1,646	1,471	-1.12%
Housing Units	3,473	3,677	0.57%
<b>Population by Race</b>			
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	
Total	3,100	100.0%	
Population Reporting One Race	3,059	98.7%	
White	2,947	95.1%	
Black	65	2.1%	
American Indian	14	0.5%	
Asian	21	0.7%	
Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	
Some Other Race	12	0.4%	
Population Reporting Two or More Races	41	1.3%	
Total Hispanic Population	58	1.9%	
<b>Population by Sex</b>			
Male	1,523	49.1%	
Female	1,577	50.9%	
<b>Population by Age</b>			
Total	3,100	100.0%	
Age 0 - 4	103	3.3%	
Age 5 - 9	93	3.0%	
Age 10 - 14	126	4.1%	
Age 15 - 19	168	5.4%	
Age 20 - 24	129	4.2%	
Age 25 - 29	81	2.6%	
Age 30 - 34	79	2.5%	
Age 35 - 39	102	3.3%	
Age 40 - 44	149	4.8%	
Age 45 - 49	266	8.6%	
Age 50 - 54	322	10.4%	
Age 55 - 59	304	9.8%	
Age 60 - 64	316	10.2%	
Age 65 - 69	295	9.5%	
Age 70 - 74	175	5.6%	
Age 75 - 79	162	5.2%	
Age 80 - 84	138	4.5%	
Age 85+	92	3.0%	
Age 18+	2,666	86.0%	
Age 65+	862	27.8%	
<b>Median Age by Sex and Race/Hispanic Origin</b>			
Total Population	53.9		
Male	52.9		
Female	55.1		
White Alone	54.1		
Black Alone	65.8		
American Indian Alone	32.5		
Asian Alone	48.8		
Pacific Islander Alone	0.0		
Some Other Race Alone	27.5		
Two or More Races	28.8		
Hispanic Population	25.0		
<b>Data Note:</b> Hispanic population can be of any race. Census 2010 medians are computed from reported data distributions.			
<b>Source:</b> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography.			

## APPENDIX B

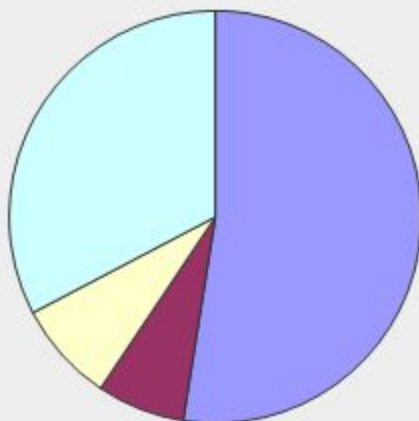
### SURVEY RESULTS

#### 1 - PLANNING COMMISSION SURVEY RESULTS



How much of each year do you live in Chikaming Township?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Year around resident (occasional time away for	52.5%	53
Go away for extended periods (more than three weeks	6.9%	7
Come to Chikaming Township for extended periods	7.9%	8
Come to Chikaming Township for brief periods	32.7%	33
answered question		101
skipped question		2

### How much of each year do you live in Chikaming Township?

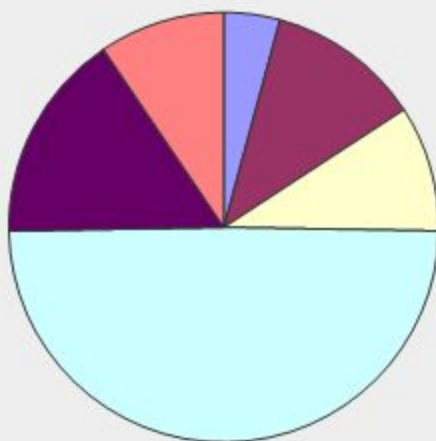


- ☒ Year around resident (occasional time away for periods less than three weeks)
- ☒ Go away for extended periods (more than three weeks at a time)
- ☒ Come to Chikaming Township for extended periods (more than three weeks at a time)
- ☒ Come to Chikaming Township for brief periods (weekends and up to three weeks at a time)

### How long have you had a home in Chikaming Township?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
less than one year	4.0%	4
1 to 5 years	11.0%	11
5 to 10 years	9.0%	9
10 to 30 years	47.0%	47
30 to 50 years	15.0%	15
more than 50 years	9.0%	9
<b>answered question</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

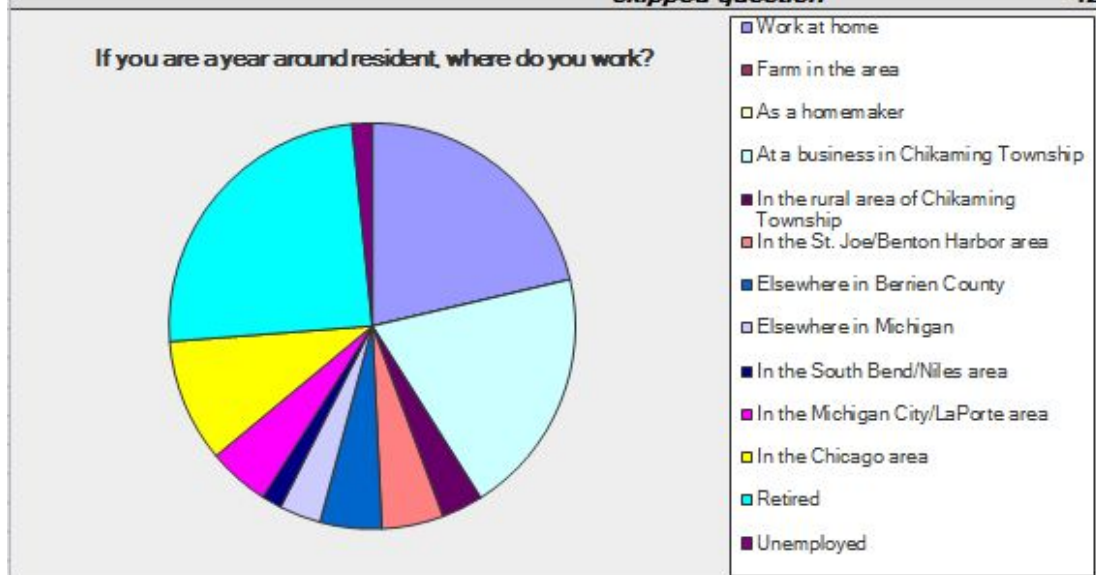
### How long have you had a home in Chikaming Township?



- ☒ less than one year
- ☒ 1 to 5 years
- ☒ 5 to 10 years
- ☒ 10 to 30 years
- ☒ 30 to 50 years
- ☒ more than 50 years

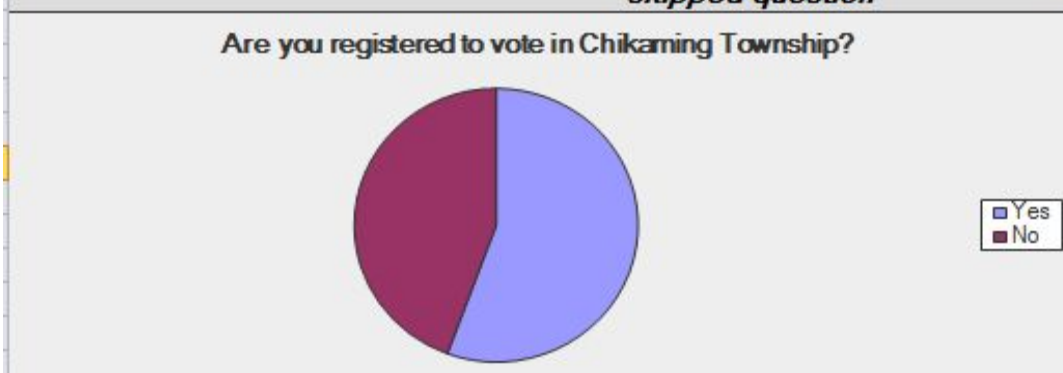


Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Work at home	21.3%	13
Farm in the area	0.0%	0
As a homemaker	0.0%	0
At a business in Chikaming Township	19.7%	12
In the rural area of Chikaming Township	3.3%	2
In the St. Joe/Benton Harbor area	4.9%	3
Elsewhere in Berrien County	4.9%	3
Elsewhere in Michigan	3.3%	2
In the South Bend/Niles area	1.6%	1
In the Michigan City/LaPorte area	4.9%	3
In the Chicago area	9.8%	6
Retired	24.6%	15
Unemployed	1.6%	1
<b>answered question</b>		<b>61</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>42</b>

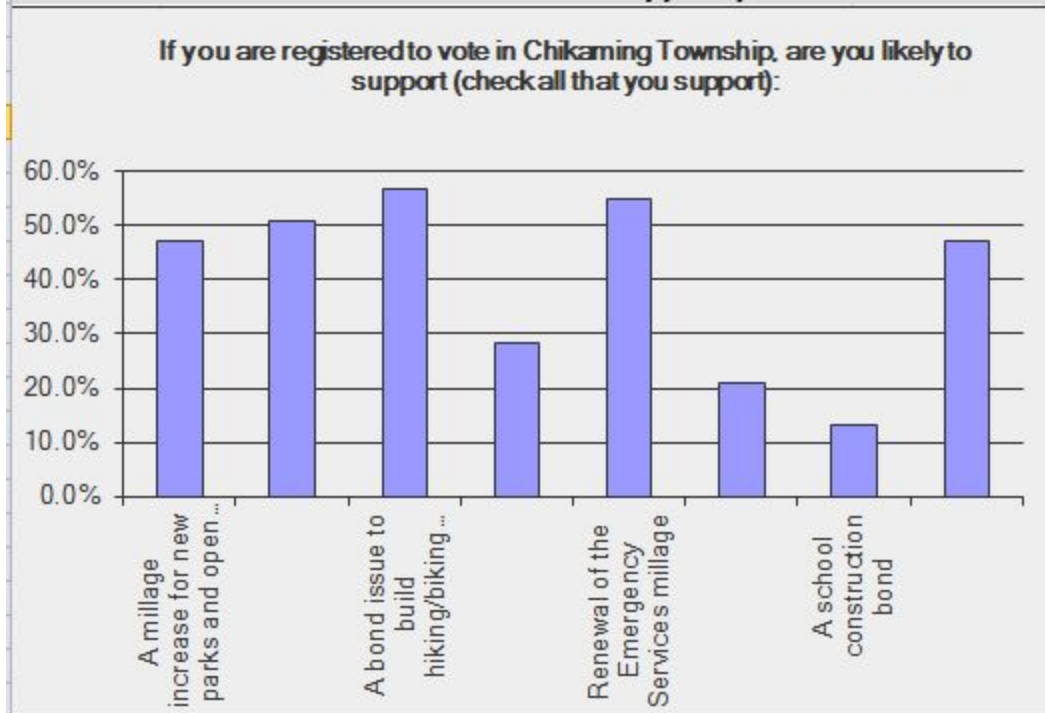


#### Are you registered to vote in Chikaming Township?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	55.6%	55
No	44.4%	44
<b>answered question</b>		<b>99</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>4</b>



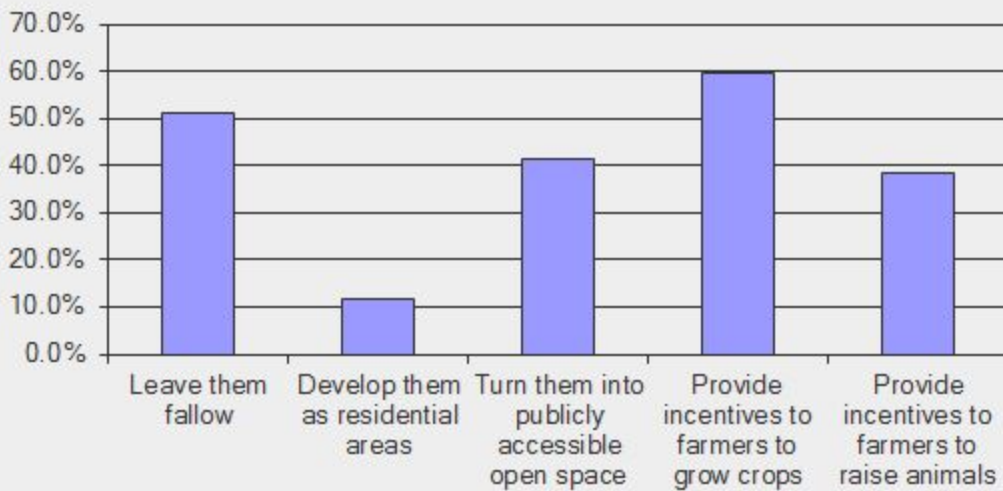
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
A millage increase for new parks and open space	47.2%	25
Tax abatements to attract new jobs	50.9%	27
A bond issue to build hiking/biking trails	56.6%	30
A bond issue to develop a business park	28.3%	15
Renewal of the Emergency Services millage	54.7%	29
A new school operating Millage	20.8%	11
A school construction bond	13.2%	7
A new millage for road repairs and/or maintenance	47.2%	25
<b>answered question</b>		<b>53</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>50</b>



**What do you think should happen with unused agricultural lands in the Township? (check all that you agree with)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Leave them fallow	51.1%	48
Develop them as residential areas	11.7%	11
Turn them into publicly accessible open space	41.5%	39
Provide incentives to farmers to grow crops	59.6%	56
Provide incentives to farmers to raise animals	38.3%	36
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>94</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>9</b>

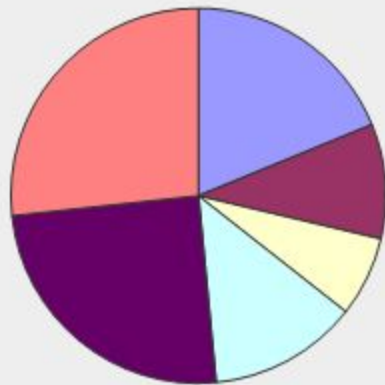
**What do you think should happen with unused agricultural lands in the Township? (check all that you agree with)**



**A recent engineering study suggests that it is both effective and feasible to consider safety and traffic calming measures such as traffic circles, speed zones**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, definitely	18.8%	19
Yes, but with some concerns	9.9%	10
Not sure	6.9%	7
Maybe in some cases	12.9%	13
Definitely not	24.8%	25
I would like the opportunity to consider the data and proposals in more detail at a public forum	26.7%	27
<b>answered question</b>		<b>101</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>2</b>

**A recent engineering study suggests that it is both effective and feasible to consider safety and traffic calming measures such as traffic circles, speed zones or reduced lanes along the Red Arrow Highway. Do you think this is a good idea?**

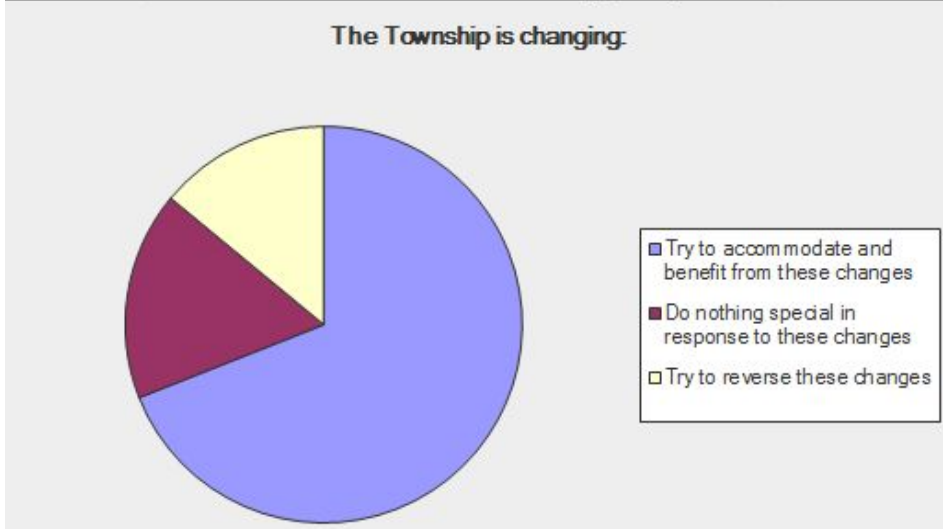


- ☐ Yes, definitely
- ☐ Yes, but with some concerns
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ Maybe in some cases
- ☐ Definitely not
- ☐ I would like the opportunity to consider the data and proposals in more detail at a public forum



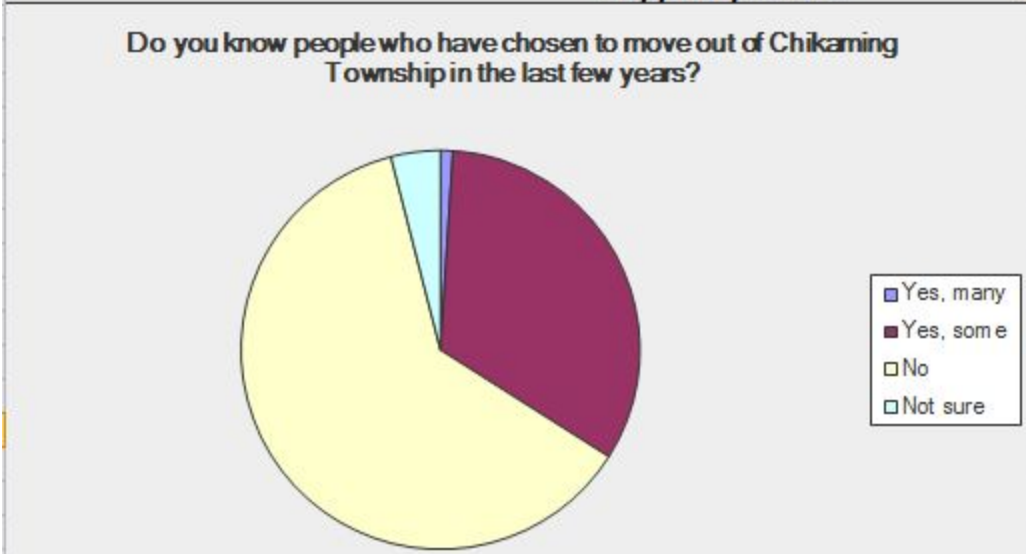
**The Township is changing:** Chikaming Township's population has fallen by 17% in the last 10 years. There are 759 fewer people under 55 years of

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Try to accommodate and benefit from these changes	69.0%	69
Do nothing special in response to these changes	17.0%	17
Try to reverse these changes	14.0%	14
<b>answered question</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>



**Do you know people who have chosen to move out of Chikaming Township in the last few years?**

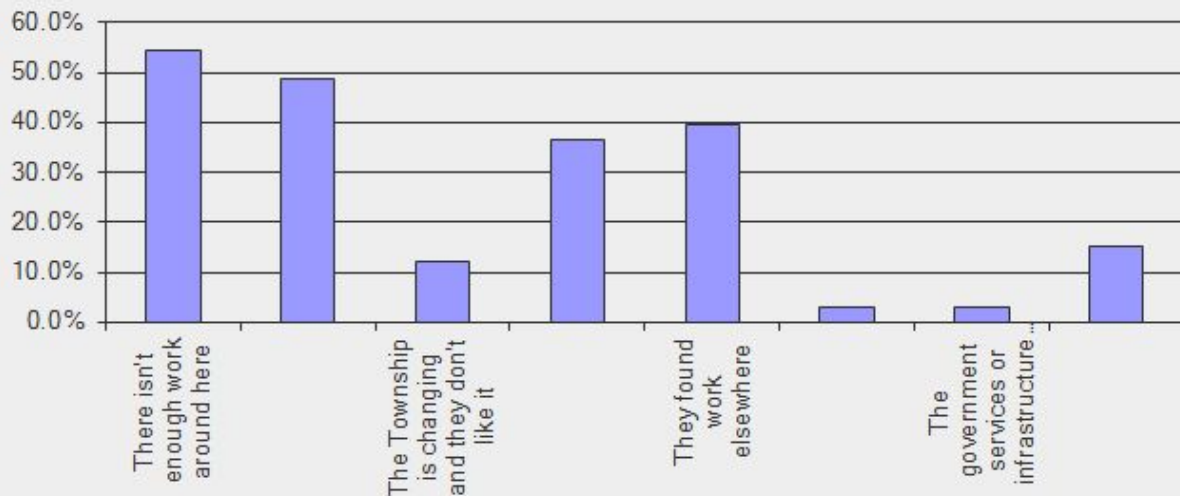
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, many	1.0%	1
Yes, some	33.0%	33
No	62.0%	62
Not sure	4.0%	4
<b>answered question</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>



If you answered yes to the previous question, why do you think they moved? Check as many answers as you think apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
There isn't enough work around here	54.5%	18
Housing is too expensive	48.5%	16
The Township is changing and they don't like it	12.1%	4
They retired elsewhere	36.4%	12
They found work elsewhere	39.4%	13
They wanted to find better schools	3.0%	1
The government services or infrastructure are inadequate here	3.0%	1
They needed to find an assisted living arrangement	15.2%	5
Other (please specify)		5
<b>answered question</b>		<b>33</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>70</b>

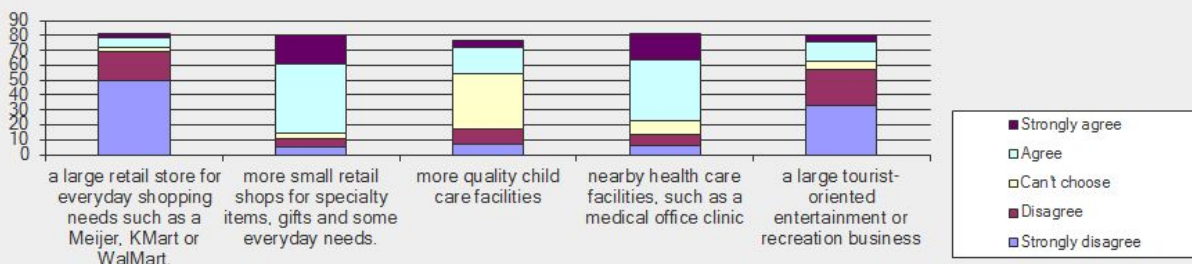
If you answered yes to the previous question, why do you think they moved? Check as many answers as you think apply.



Do you think that Chikaming Township should encourage the following types of development?

Answer Options	Strongly agree	Agree	Can't choose	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Response Count
a large retail store for everyday shopping needs such as Meijer, KMart or WalMart.	3	6	3	19	50	81
more small retail shops for specialty items, gifts and more quality child care facilities	19	47	3	6	5	80
nearby health care facilities, such as a medical office	5	18	37	10	7	77
a large tourist-oriented entertainment or recreation business	17	41	10	7	6	81
a large tourist-oriented entertainment or recreation business	4	13	6	24	33	80
<b>answered question</b>						<b>83</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>20</b>

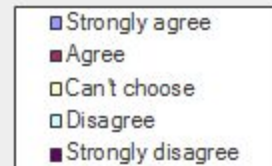
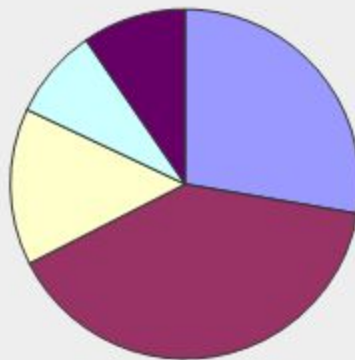
Do you think that Chikaming Township should encourage the following types of development?



**Chikaming Township should take steps to attract employers to locate in the Township.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	27.7%	23
Agree	39.8%	33
Can't choose	14.5%	12
Disagree	8.4%	7
Strongly disagree	9.6%	8
<b>answered question</b>		<b>83</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>20</b>

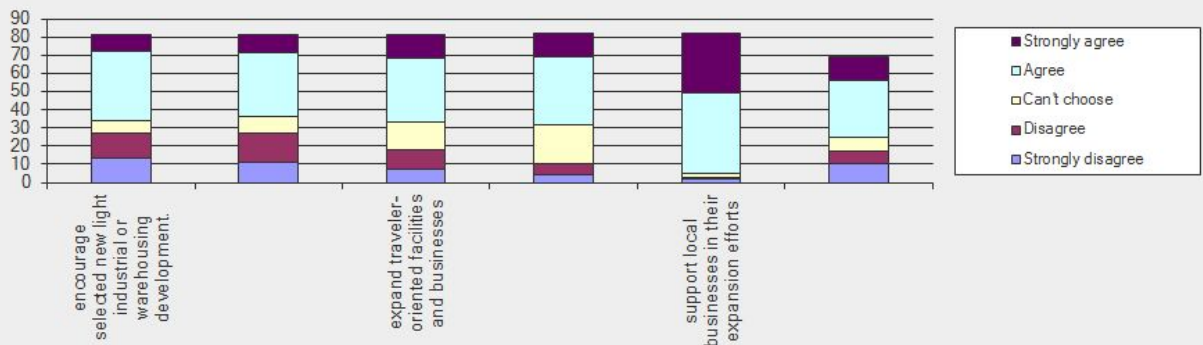
**Chikaming Township should take steps to attract employers to locate in the Township.**



**In order to provide more local jobs, several measures are available to the Township. Please indicate your degree of support for each of the following:**

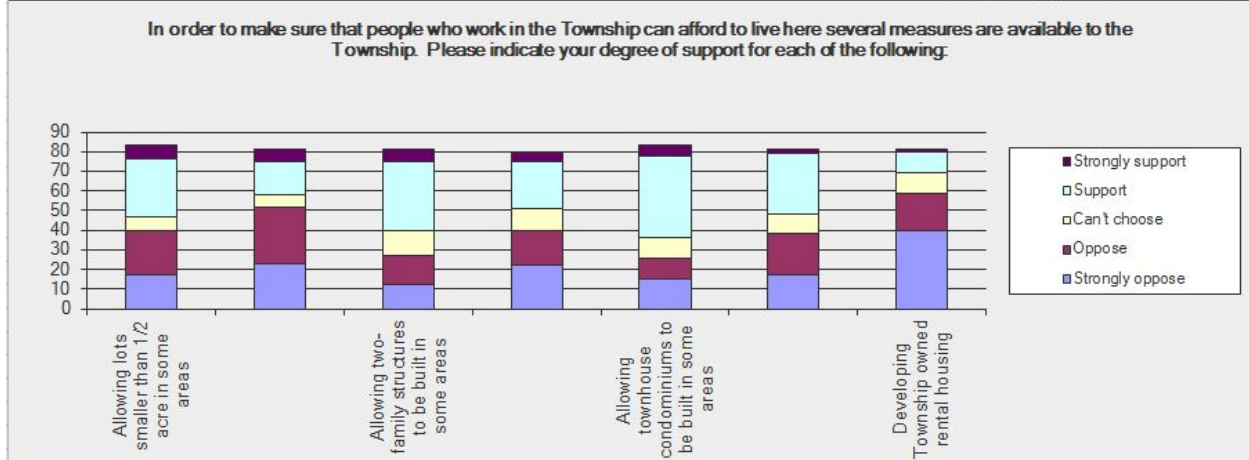
Answer Options	Strongly agree	Agree	Can't choose	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Response Count
encourage selected new light industrial or	9	38	7	14	13	81
encourage new office and commercial buildings	10	35	9	16	11	81
expand traveler-oriented facilities and businesses	13	35	15	11	7	81
seek a continuing care retirement center to locate in	13	37	22	6	4	82
support local businesses in their expansion efforts	33	44	2	1	2	82
Use tax dollars to support development of commercial	13	31	8	7	10	69
Other (please specify)						7
<b>answered question</b>						<b>83</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>20</b>

**In order to provide more local jobs, several measures are available to the Township. Please indicate your degree of support for each of the following:**



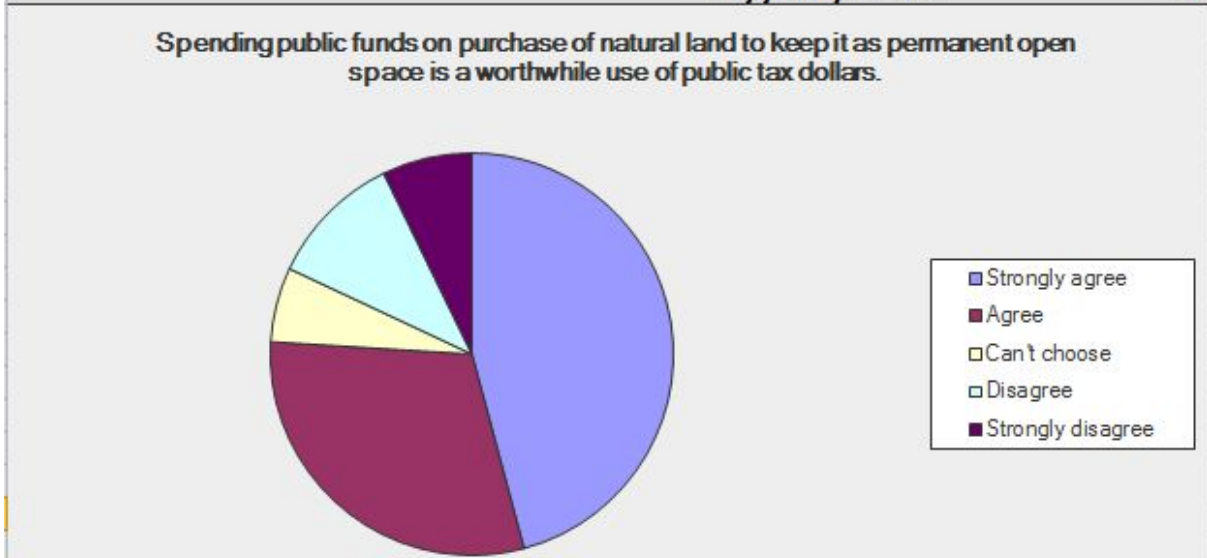


In order to make sure that people who work in the Township can afford to live here several measures are available to the Township. Please indicate your degree of support for each of the following:						
Answer Options	Strongly support	Support	Can't choose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Response Count
Allowing lots smaller than 1/2 acre in some areas	7	29	7	23	17	83
Allowing two houses to be built on one lot in some	6	17	6	29	23	81
Allowing two-family structures to be built in some areas	6	35	13	15	12	81
Allowing manufactured housing to be built in some	5	24	11	18	22	80
Allowing townhouse condominiums to be built in some	5	42	10	11	15	83
Allowing apartment buildings to be built in some areas	2	31	10	21	17	81
Developing Township owned rental housing	1	11	10	19	40	81
Other (please specify)						5
<b>answered question</b>						<b>83</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>20</b>



**Spending public funds on purchase of natural land to keep it as permanent open space is a worthwhile use of public tax dollars.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	45.8%	38
Agree	30.1%	25
Can't choose	6.0%	5
Disagree	10.8%	9
Strongly disagree	7.2%	6
<b>answered question</b>		<b>83</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>20</b>

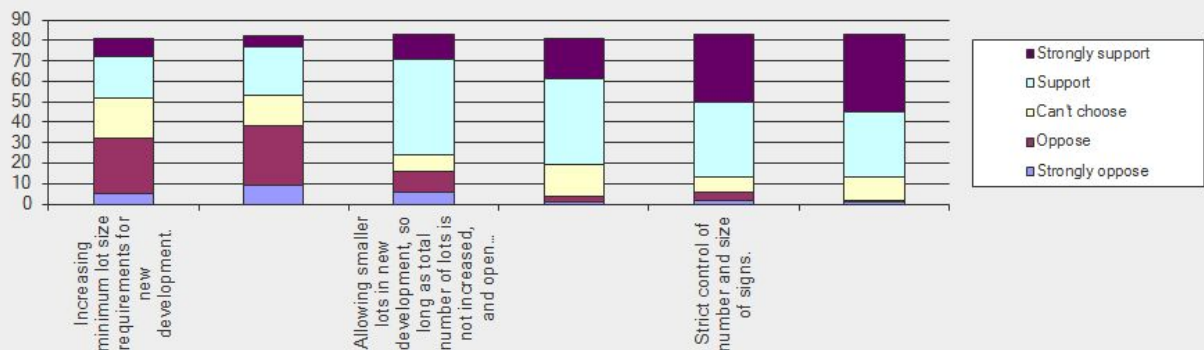




A variety of regulatory tools are available to manage the type and design of new development. Please indicate your views regarding use of the following techniques in Chikaming Township.

Answer Options	Strongly support	Support	Can't choose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Response Count
Increasing minimum lot size requirements for new development.	9	20	20	27	5	81
Reducing lot size requirements to help make housing	5	24	15	29	9	82
Allowing smaller lots in new development, so long as	12	47	8	10	6	83
Higher quality landscape screening of new	20	42	15	3	1	81
Strict control of number and size of signs.	33	37	7	4	2	83
Better controls on light pollution (glaring lights).	38	32	11	1	1	83
<b>answered question</b>						<b>83</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>20</b>

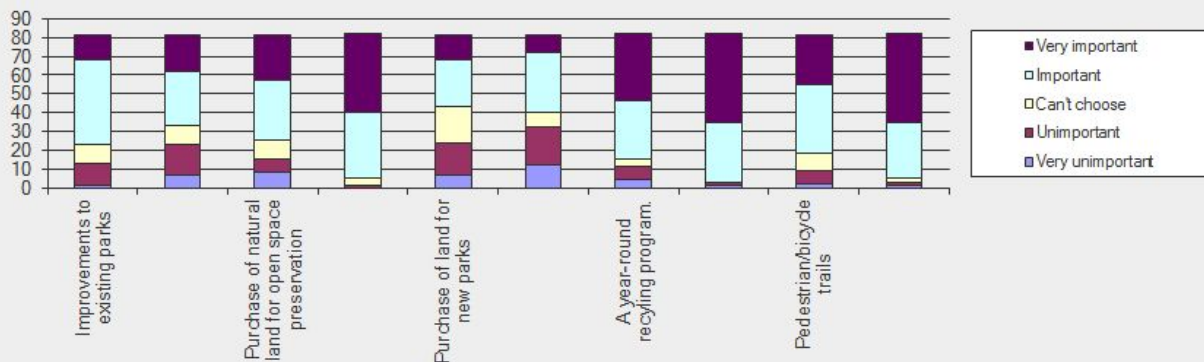
A variety of regulatory tools are available to manage the type and design of new development. Please indicate your views regarding use of the following techniques in Chikaming Township.



How important are each of the following types of public facilities and services to you?

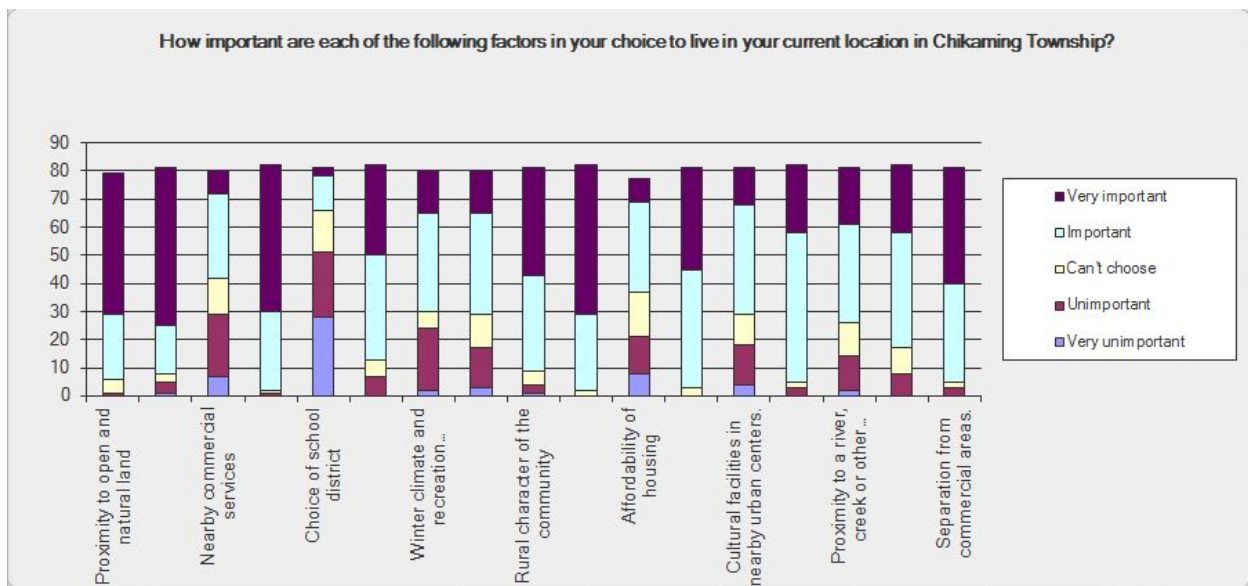
Answer Options	Very important	Important	Can't choose	Unimportant	Very unimportant	Response Count
Improvements to existing parks	13	45	10	12	1	81
Library	19	29	10	16	7	81
Purchase of natural land for open space	24	32	10	7	8	81
Fire protection	42	35	4	1	0	82
Purchase of land for new parks	13	25	19	17	7	81
Transit/shuttle service to urban centers or	9	32	8	20	12	81
A year-round recycling program.	36	31	4	7	4	82
Emergency medical services.	47	32	0	2	1	82
Pedestrian/bicycle trails	26	37	9	7	2	81
Police protection services	47	30	2	2	1	82
<b>answered question</b>						<b>82</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>21</b>

How important are each of the following types of public facilities and services to you?

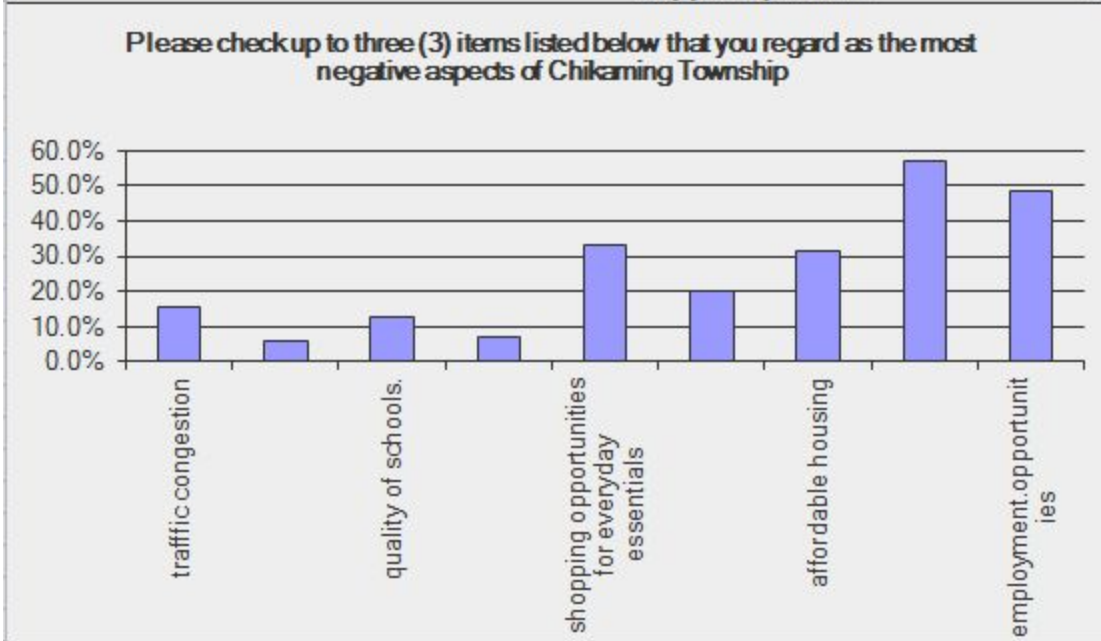


# How important are each of the following factors in your choice to live in your current location in Chikaming Township?

Answer Options	Very important	Important	Can't choose	Unimportant	Very unimportant	Response Count
Proximity to open and natural land	50	23	5	1	0	79
Proximity to Lake Michigan	56	17	3	4	1	81
Nearby commercial services	8	30	13	22	7	80
Small-town character of the area.	52	28	1	1	0	82
Choice of school district	3	12	15	23	28	81
Summer climate and water recreation opportunities	32	37	6	7	0	82
Winter climate and recreation opportunities	15	35	6	22	2	80
Nearby farmland.	15	36	12	14	3	80
Rural character of the community	38	34	5	3	1	81
Absence of crime	53	27	2	0	0	82
Affordability of housing	8	32	16	13	8	77
Absence of traffic congestion	36	42	3	0	0	81
Cultural facilities in nearby urban centers.	13	39	11	14	4	81
Neighborhood friendliness and interaction	24	53	2	3	0	82
Proximity to a river, creek or other natural feature, other	20	35	12	12	2	81
Seclusion from neighbors	24	41	9	8	0	82
Separation from commercial areas.	41	35	2	3	0	81
<i>answered question</i>						82
<i>skipped question</i>						21



Please check up to three (3) items listed below that you regard as the most negative aspects of Chikaming Township		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
traffic congestion	15.7%	11
parks and recreation facilities	5.7%	4
quality of schools.	12.9%	9
emergency services	7.1%	5
shopping opportunities for everyday essentials	32.9%	23
cultural facilities	20.0%	14
affordable housing	31.4%	22
health care facilities.	57.1%	40
employment opportunities	48.6%	34
Other (please specify)		18
<b>answered question</b>		<b>70</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>33</b>





## 2 - WHAT I WANT IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY, AUGUST, 2014





### 3 - TASTE OF CHIKAMING PARK BOARD SURVEY

	priority #1	priority #2	priority #3	priority #4	priority #5	Total	Average Rating
hike and bike trails connecting the parks and other places in the Township	5	1	1	0	1	8	4.13
acquire green infrastructure	4	2	1	0	1	8	4
wildlife corridors	3	3	0	2	0	8	3.88
higher tech features - maintenance equipment, solar and wind demo projects, self monitoring beaches w/webcams - weather station - live data on website	3	2	2	0	1	8	3.75
pond enhancement	2	3	2	1	0	8	3.75
outdoor man-made ice rink/pond	3	2	2	0	1	8	3.75
mountain bike trail at Chikaming Park & Preserve	2	3	1	1	1	8	3.5
sprinkle park	2	1	4	1	0	8	3.5
ballfields	3	0	3	2	0	8	3.5
toilets at beaches	2	3	0	1	2	8	3.25
scientific parks	2	2	2	0	2	8	3.25
trails with parcours	3	0	1	1	3	8	2.88
horseback riding	0	1	4	1	2	8	2.5
remote parking at beaches	0	2	2	1	3	8	2.38
swimmin' hole	2	0	0	1	4	7	2.29
ropes course	0	2	2	0	4	8	2.25
fitness center (indoor and/or outdoor)	0	0	2	3	3	8	1.88
destination water feature	0	0	2	3	3	8	1.88
multi-purpose field at Chikaming Park & Preserve	0	0	1	4	3	8	1.75
petting farm	0	1	1	1	5	8	1.75
public golf course	0	0	0	1	7	8	1.13

question	1 - Why become member?	2 - Hope to accomplish?	3 - Purpose of Park Board
key words	community xxxx	responsible choices	maintain xxx
	good parks	positive changes	keep safe
	continuity of understanding	protect beaches & lake access	sense of community
	protect beaches from legal action	encourage volunteer work	physical movement
	give back	get people involved	celebrate life together
	enhance pristine environment	maintenance	enjoy the beauty
	experience xx	improved capacity	improvement of spaces xx
	keep natural area in good condition	complet H. park	volunteer dedication
		maintain Q. of life	leadership & integrity x
		good stewardship	preserve
		improve natural features quality	develop
		improve wildlife habitat	see draft by-laws
		improved facilities	strive for excellence
		environmental education	connection to nature & resources
		year-round rec. areas & events	
		expand park lands	
		achieve high standards & practices	
	4 - Remembered for?	5 - Project interest	6 - Who do we serve?
	trustworthy	protective status for beaches	citizens and visitors xx
	honest	park & land become showcase	nature lovers
	work in concert with others	mountain bike trail @ P&P	blue collar workers @ lunch
	ensure public access	beach cleanups	rental companies
	service	sprinkle park	beaches 5-10% residents
	sprinkle park	ballfields	whoever is attracted
	team	multi-purpose field @ P&P	should be seniors & youth
	better than when we came	Harbert Park xx	see draft by-laws
	enduring organization	beaches	taxpayers and guests
	raising the bar	preserves	
		acquire green infrastructure	
	community enrichment	positive impact	
	positive involvement	quality improvement	
		improve web site	
		environmental education	

<u>7 - Value provided?</u>	<u>8 - Why people choose our parks</u>	<u>9 - Future park system</u>
watchful eye	natural and quiet beauty xx	better maintenance
safety	beauty xxxxx	free programs
beautification	free	winter activities
future growth	little police presence	look like areas that are loved for their inherent nature and
promote Harbor Country	pristine	a "Pure Michigan" commercial
bring people together xx	exercise xx	full functioning park system
family activities	rest & relax xx	5 times current size
celebrate passages	time with others	public golf course
fish & canoe	unique	horseback riding
support economy xx	valuable natural resources	scientific parks
access to natur	sunchine & fresh air	self monitoring beaches
increase property values	recreation	high-tech equipment doing maint.
Q. of life	become one with nature xx	safe green and wildlife corridors
board - consensus among diversity	appreciate & learn about nature	bike trails
maintain and improve portfolio	clean & sandy	community fitness center
enriched quality of life	no sharks	
<u>10 - Future organization</u>	<u>11 - Values</u>	<u>12 - Priorities</u>
bylaws	respect xxx	work together
30-40% increase to budget	golden rule xxx	respect of the community
SOPs	efficient payment of vendors	fiscally responsible
less interference from supervisor	safe and free beaches	beautification
full-time manager/maintenance xx	win/win/win...	acquisition xx
preservation of natural state	professional	bring people to visit
good to great	integrity	protection of beaches
safe and beautiful	wholesome	organized maintenance
sound conservation practices	positive themes	H. park improvements xx
improved environmental quality	education	protect lakeshore
organized maintenance	rapid response	enhance preserves' delicate balance
		environmental education
committed volunteer board		model Park Board
excellence on all levels		see new by-laws purpose
	<u>13 - Grant priorities</u>	
	defray cost of improvements	
	Harbert Park	
	other Twp. Land developed	
	sprinkle park	
	pond enhancement xx	
	combine private, Pokagon, sweat equity	
	green/blue belt acquisitions	
	Sandburg memorial	

## Taste of Chikaming Survey - August 2013 - Sample Size: 42

### How many are in your household?

1	6
2	25
3	10
4	1
5	1

### If children, ages

21,23  
16  
16  
5  
2  
18, 16  
13  
9mos.  
16

### Where is your primary residence (circle one)?

Chikaming Township	28
Outside Chikaming Township	10
Outside Berrien County	4

### How much time do you spend annually in Chikaming Township (circle one)?

All year	26
6-12 months	2
3-6 months	5
1-3 months	4
under 1 month	1

### What recreational activities do you enjoy (check as many as apply)?

Going to the beach, swimming	33
Basketball	2
Fishing from a pier or shore	5
Canoeing/kayaking in the lake or rivers	13
Baseball/softball	1
Ice skating	10
Cross country skiing	8
Walking, jogging	30
Hiking, trekking	19

### What recreational activities do you enjoy (check as many as apply)?

Bird watching	15
Studies of natural sciences	8
Gardening	19
Other	see below

Biking, bicycling 3  
1 (all below)

Animal rescue, ballroom dancing, baking, driving, golf, relaxing, boating, music, reading

### Which of the following outdoor activities does your household enjoy (involving more than one household member)

(check as many as apply)

Picnicking, barbecues	25	basketball	3
Nature walks/hikes	24	volleyball	2
Rock/fossil hunting	5	playgrounds	2
Fishing	5	hockey	0
Attending concerts	22	dog play	6
Attending craft, art fairs	22	Frisbee golf	2

### Other outdoor activities (please specify):

Informal group outdoor recreation (circle all that apply):

Baseball	2	Biking	3
Softball	2	Skiing	1
		Soccer	1

I would like to see the following events/activities at Harbert Community Park:  
(check all that apply)

Community gatherings, like the Taste	32
Interest gatherings: flea markets and themed swaps, arts and craft shows	18
Annual Dog Show	9
Special Tournaments	3
Small Concerts, Music	21
Walking Club	3
Summer Camp for Kids	10
Other	see below

Hikes thru parks  
 Refrigerated ice rink; par-cours  
 Good ice rink  
 Jogging; bicycling events  
 Cat shows

I would like to see the following the park amenities:  
(check all that apply)

Landscaped park with walking trails, park seating	24
Improved, enlarged playground area	7
kids' splash park	9
Basketball playing area	4
Improved pond/wooded areas for sitting, bird watching	14
Fishing pier or platform	4
More parking spaces	5
New pavilion for special events	6
Reunion/wedding area	5
Adult games area – shuffle board, etc.	5
Multi-purpose field turf	3
Other	see below

Biking, bike trails, public pool



**The Park Board is reviewing current and future use of Harbert Community Park.**

Please Indicate your preferences by circling whether you agree/disagree to the following statements.

*Would you support replacing the current baseball field with a modernized facility including multi-purpose field turf, pavilion seating and improved concession and toilet facilities. This expansion would allow for outdoor concerts, public events, outdoor meetings, arts and craft fairs, farmer's markets, wedding receptions/events ? (check one)*

strongly agree	14
somewhat agree	7
neutral	13
disagree	2
strongly disagree	3

*Would you support replacing the baseball field an open field for general recreational activities such as recreational soccer, baseball, softball, Frisbee, football? (check one)*

strongly agree	7
somewhat agree	7
neutral	18
disagree	2
strongly disagree	2

*Would you support totally replacing the current baseball field with a pavilion and open space for outdoor concerts, public events, outdoor meetings, art and craft fairs, farmer's markets, wedding receptions/special events? (check one)*

strongly agree	9
somewhat agree	4
neutral	14
somewhat disagree	5
strongly disagree	3

The Park Board has received a proposal for a Historical Marker to commemorate Carl Sandburg at Harbert Community Park. Would you support this effort? (check one)

Yes	28
No	3

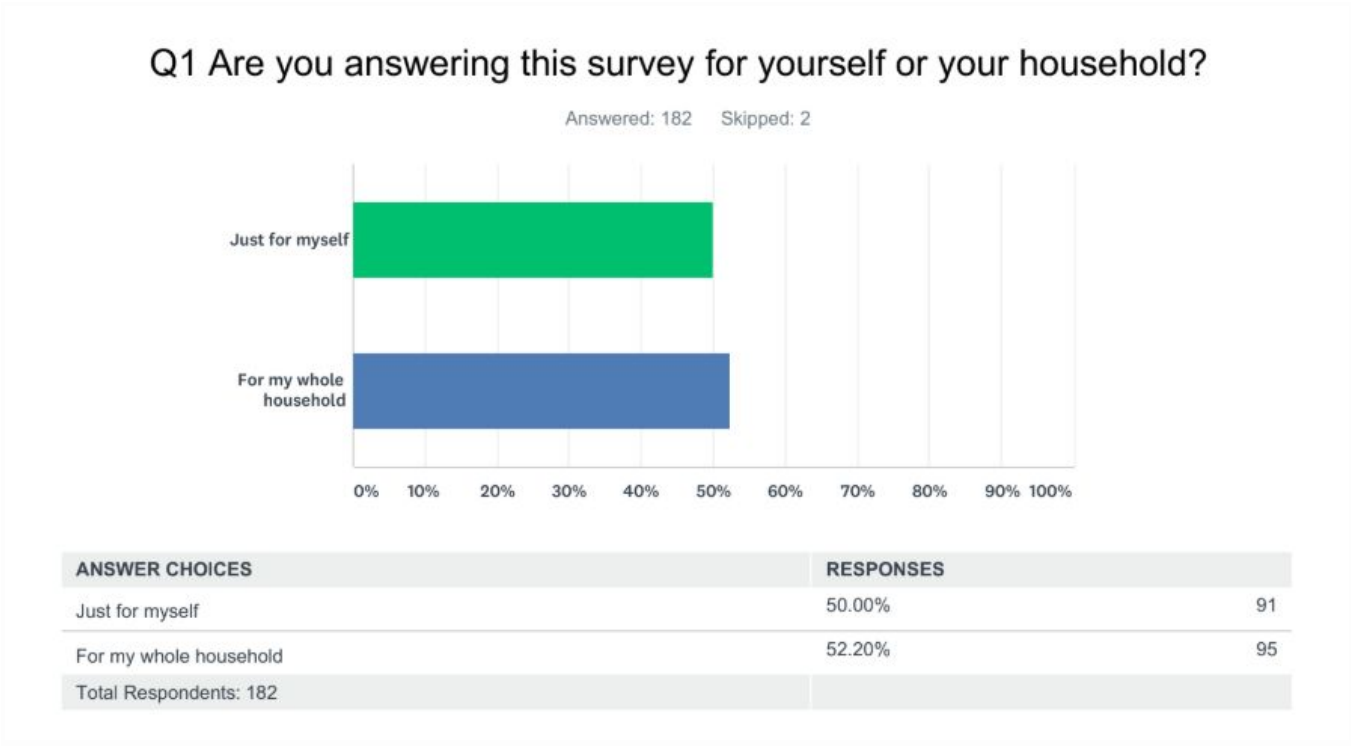
Would you be interested in participating in a Chikaming Parks "Vision for the Future" Open discussion workshop?

Yes	14
No	18

In my opinion the needs of the community can best be served by making the following improvements to Harbert Community Park:

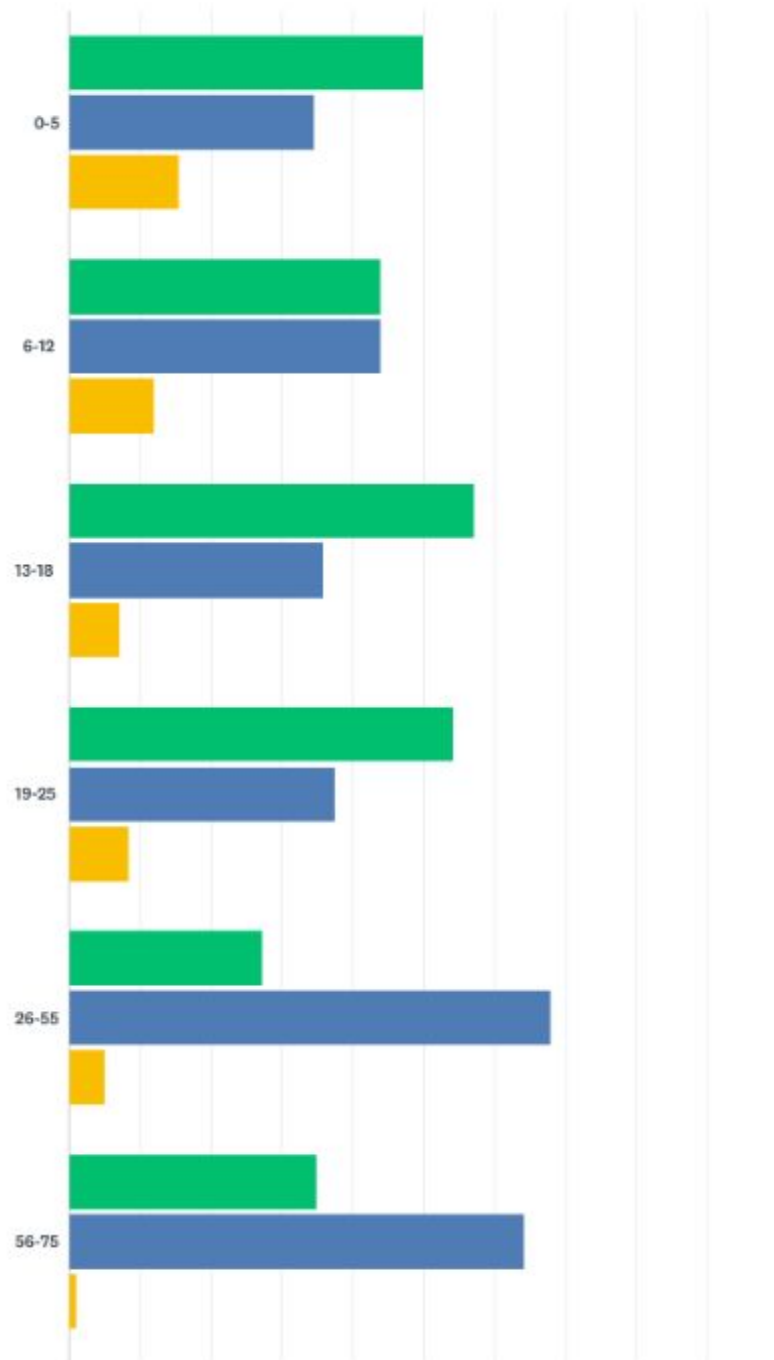
- *Making it more well-known; more appealing for general sports besides baseball and softball*
- *Rather than replacing the present park, make sure it is kept clean and encourage unstructured baseball and other games; Build a new facility for fairs, reunions, etc.*
- *Activities for the entire family*
- *Bring together the several neighborhood associations to an orientation and planning (and social) event – including Prairie Club; Distributed Chikaming Park and Planning vision updates; schedule walks along creeks*
- *Play the Chikaming Township Theme song more often*
- *Improve the path around the pond; put in a small concession stand – coffee, cool drinks, charcoal starter, etc. – ice cream? (this could bring in more cash for park improvements also)*
- *Anything at all would greatly improve this park. It should be a shining jewel in our Township, just like WWPP;*
- *Haunted Forest at P&P for Halloween*

4- CHIKAMING PARK BOARD MASTER PLAN SURVEY 2020-2025

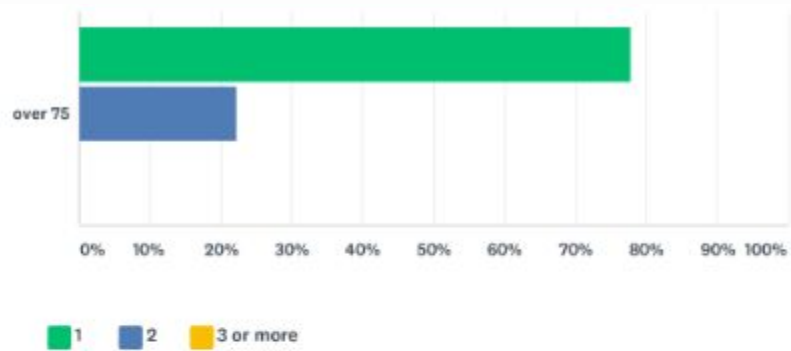


## Q2 How many people in each age group below live in your household?

Answered: 182 Skipped: 2



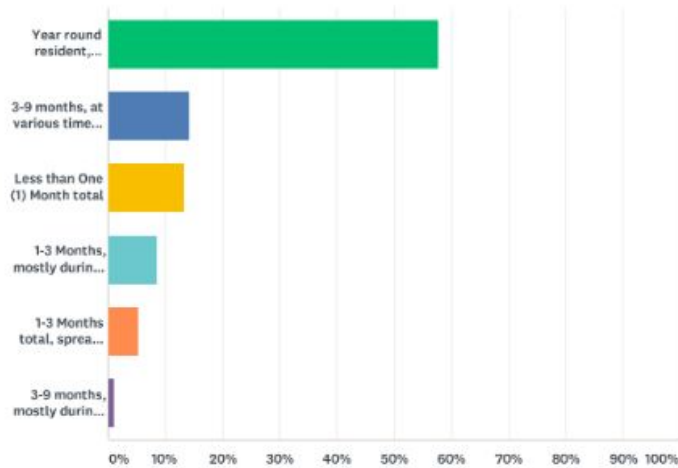




	1	2	3 OR MORE	TOTAL
0-5	50.00% 13	34.62% 9	15.38% 4	26
6-12	44.00% 11	44.00% 11	12.00% 3	25
13-18	57.14% 8	35.71% 5	7.14% 1	14
19-25	54.17% 13	37.50% 9	8.33% 2	24
26-55	27.16% 22	67.90% 55	4.94% 4	81
56-75	34.91% 37	64.15% 68	0.94% 1	106
over 75	77.78% 14	22.22% 4	0.00% 0	18

### Q3 In the past year, which statement describes how much time you spent in residence in Chikaming Township?

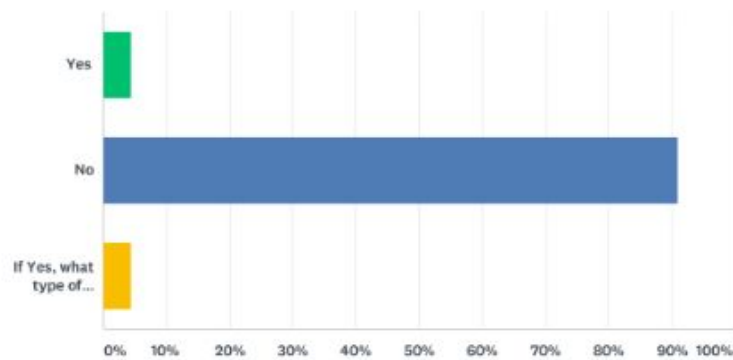
Answered: 175 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Year round resident, except brief trips away from home	57.71%	101
3-9 months, at various times throughout the year	14.29%	25
Less than One (1) Month total	13.14%	23
1-3 Months, mostly during the summer vacation season	8.57%	15
1-3 Months total, spread through out the year	5.14%	9
3-9 months, mostly during the off season	1.14%	2
Total Respondents: 175		

### Q4 Do any of the members of your household have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)

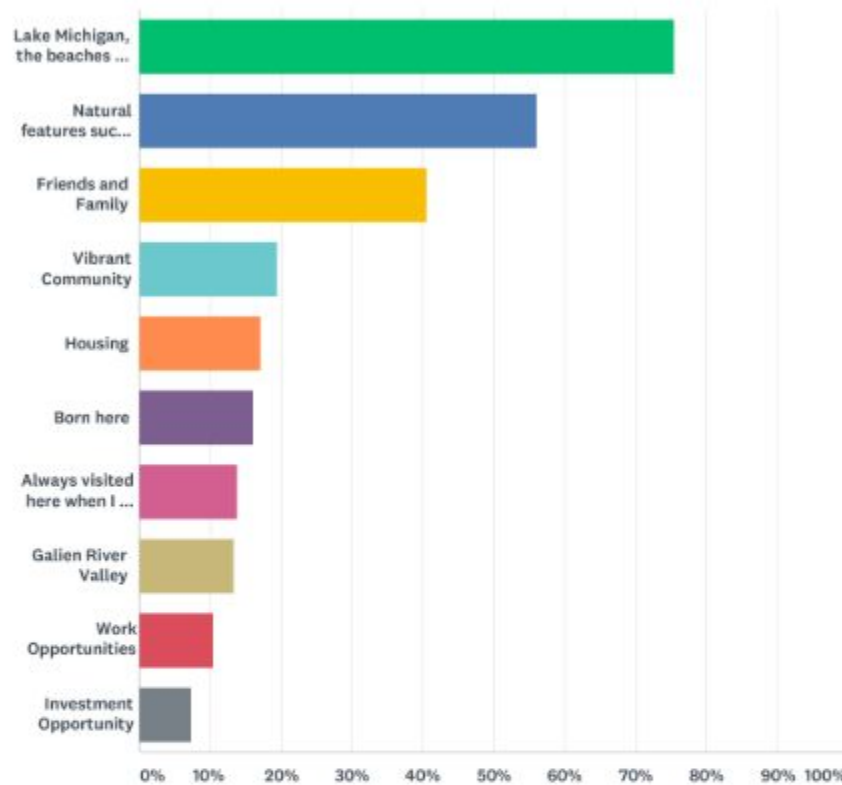
Answered: 179 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	4.47%	8
No	91.06%	163
If Yes, what type of accommodation is needed to serve the person(s) in your family so they can enjoy our Parks or Preserves?	4.47%	8
TOTAL		179

## Q5 What is/are the primary reason(s) you choose to live in or visit Chikaming Township (check all that apply)

Answered: 180 Skipped: 4

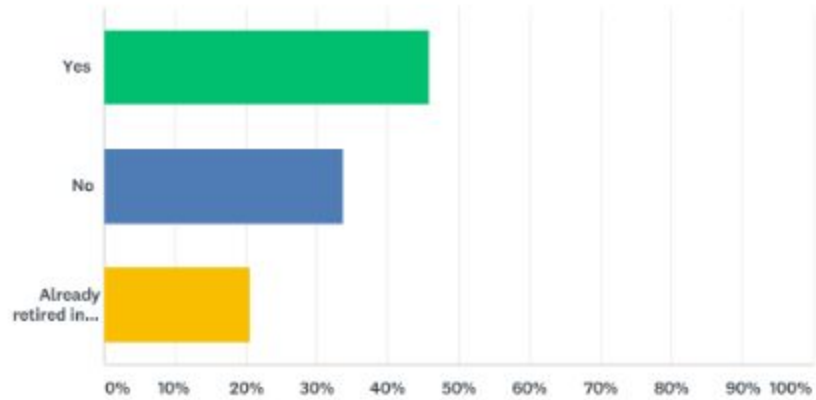


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Lake Michigan, the beaches and dunes	75.56%	136
Natural features such as woods, ravines, wetlands and open spaces	56.11%	101
Friends and Family	40.56%	73
Vibrant Community	19.44%	35
Housing	17.22%	31
Born here	16.11%	29
Always visited here when I was growing up	13.89%	25
Galien River Valley	13.33%	24
Work Opportunities	10.56%	19
Investment Opportunity	7.22%	13

Total Respondents: 180

## Q6 Do you plan on retiring in Chikaming Township?

Answered: 181 Skipped: 3

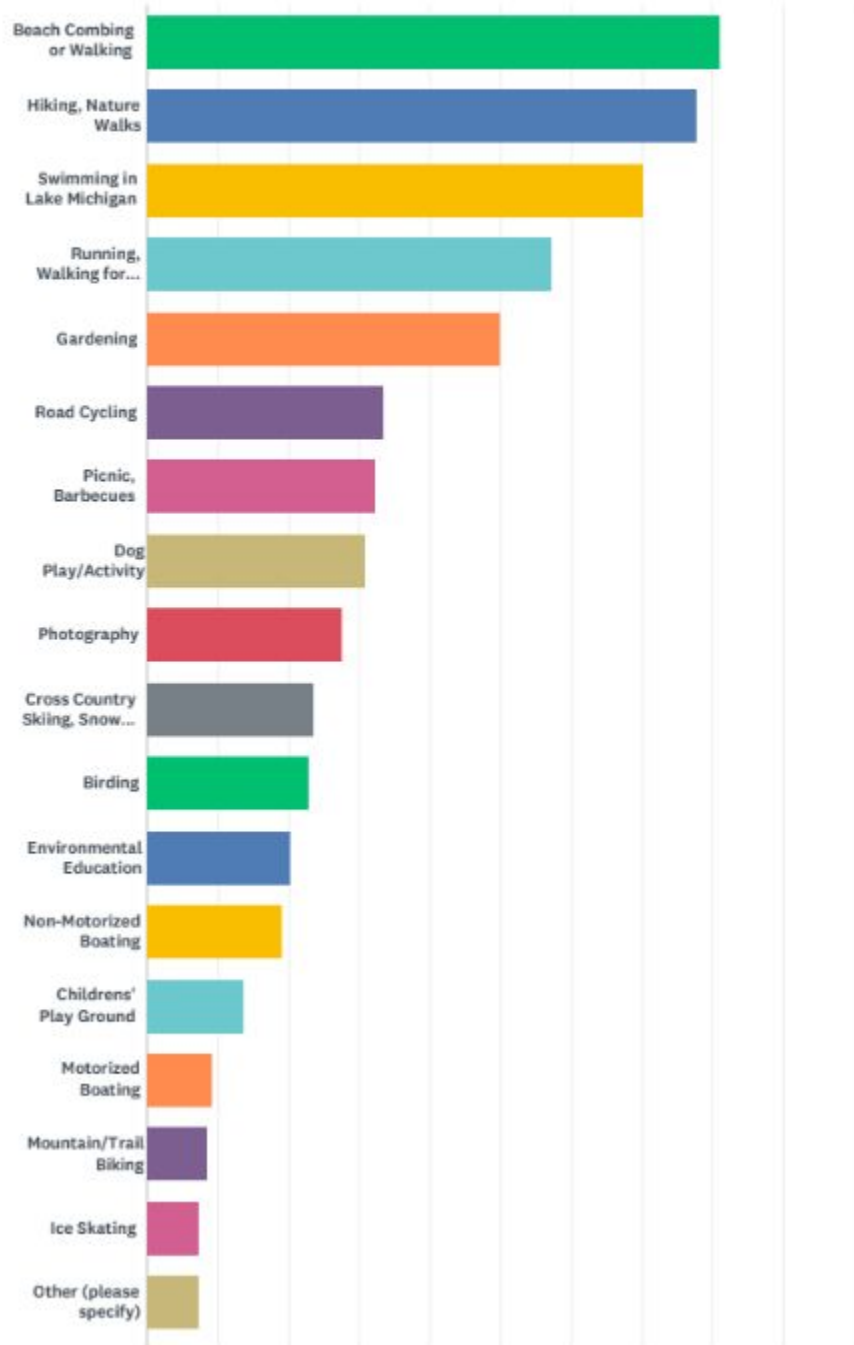


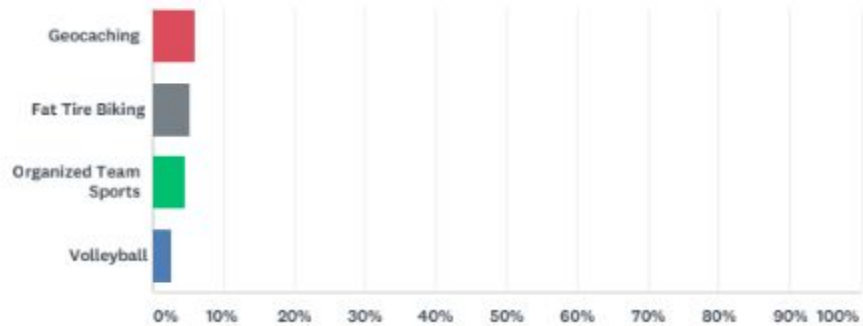
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	45.86%	83
No	33.70%	61
Already retired in Chikaming Township	20.44%	37
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>181</b>



**Q7 Of the outdoor activities presently available in Chikaming Township, which ones do you do you enjoy? (check all that apply)**

Answered: 152 Skipped: 32

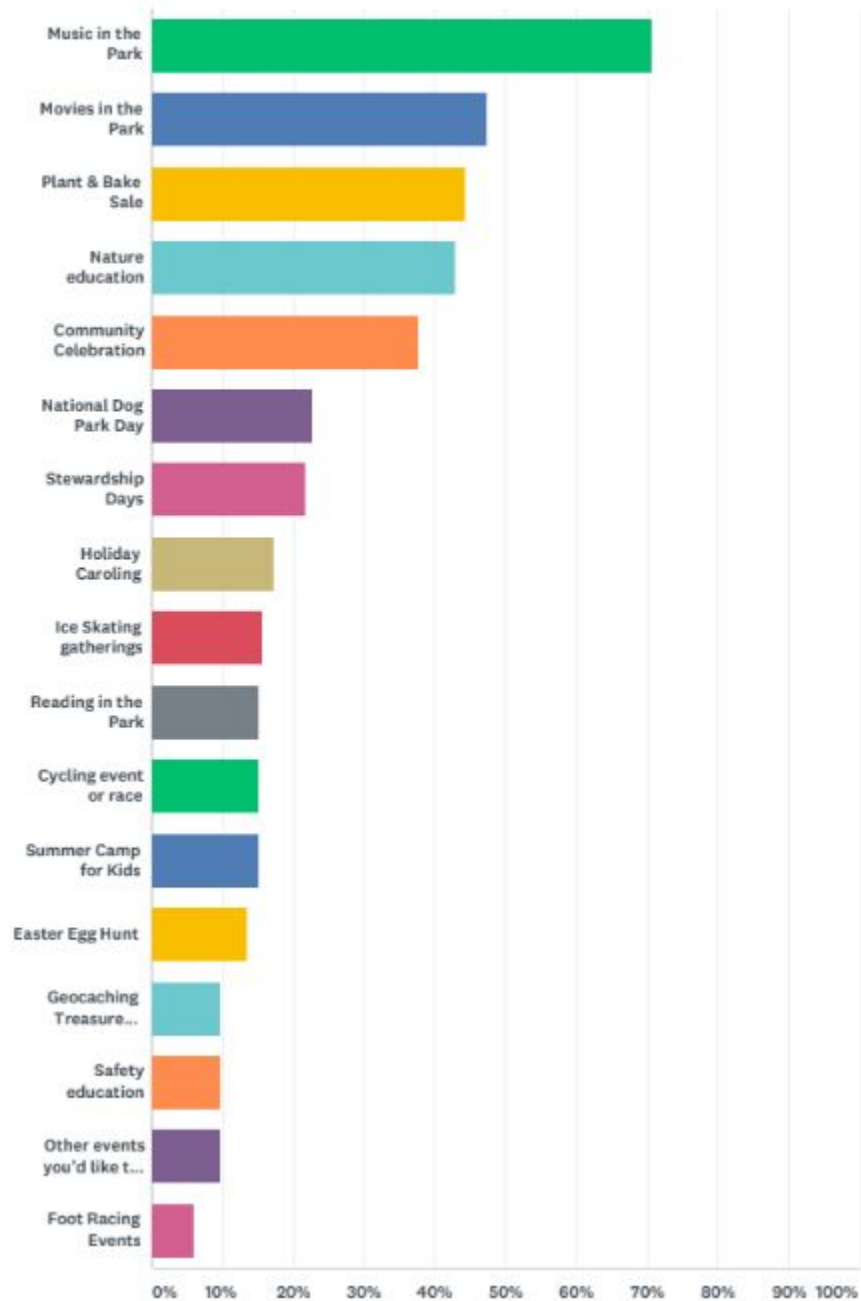




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Beach Combing or Walking	80.92%	123
Hiking, Nature Walks	77.63%	118
Swimming in Lake Michigan	70.39%	107
Running, Walking for Exercise	57.24%	87
Gardening	50.00%	76
Road Cycling	33.55%	51
Picnic, Barbecues	32.24%	49
Dog Play/Activity	30.92%	47
Photography	27.63%	42
Cross Country Skiing, Snow Shoeing	23.68%	36
Birding	23.03%	35
Environmental Education	20.39%	31
Non-Motorized Boating	19.08%	29
Childrens' Play Ground	13.82%	21
Motorized Boating	9.21%	14
Mountain/Trail Biking	8.55%	13
Ice Skating	7.24%	11
Other (please specify)	7.24%	11
Geocaching	5.92%	9
Fat Tire Biking	5.26%	8
Organized Team Sports	4.61%	7
Volleyball	2.63%	4
Total Respondents: 152		

## Q8 What Celebrate Chikaming activities or events would you participate in throughout the year?

Answered: 133 Skipped: 51

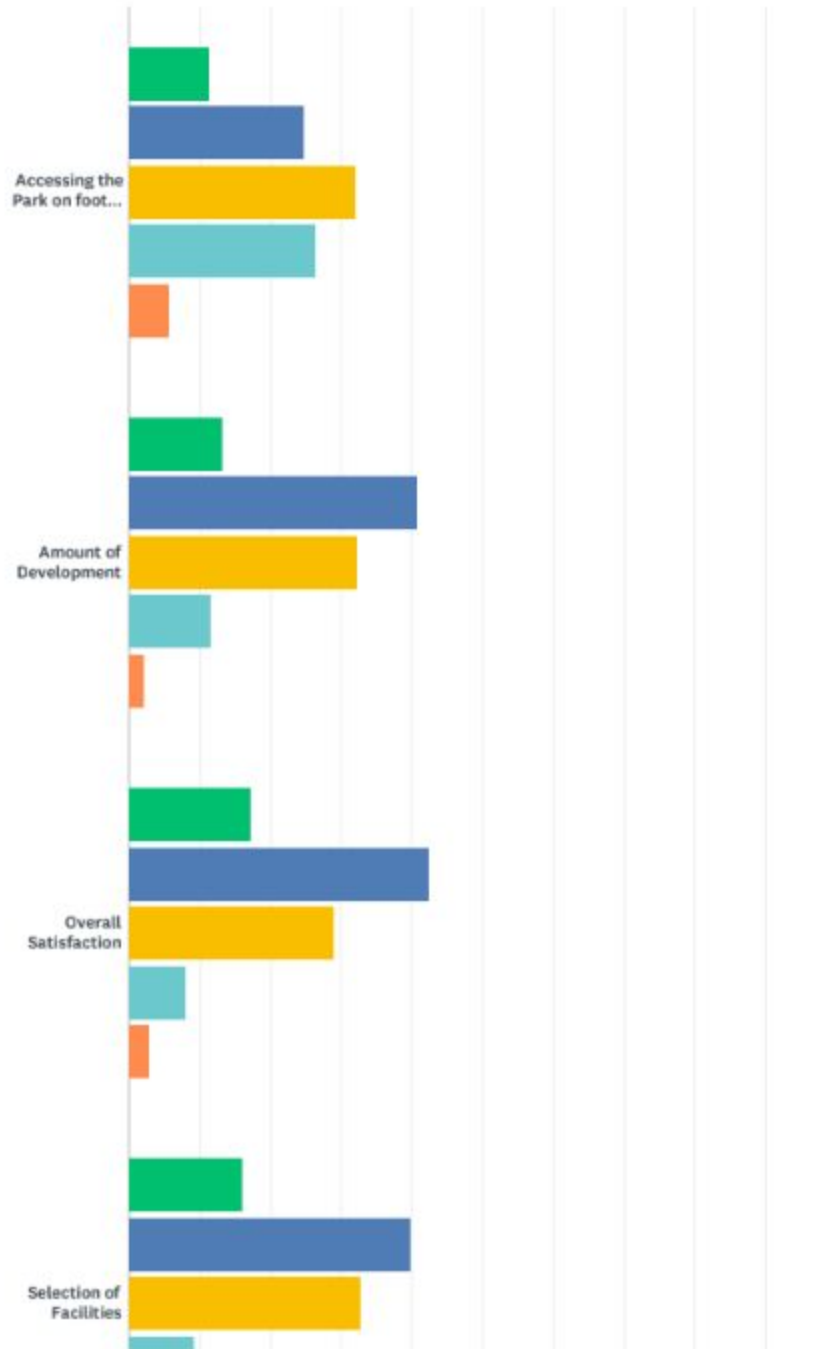


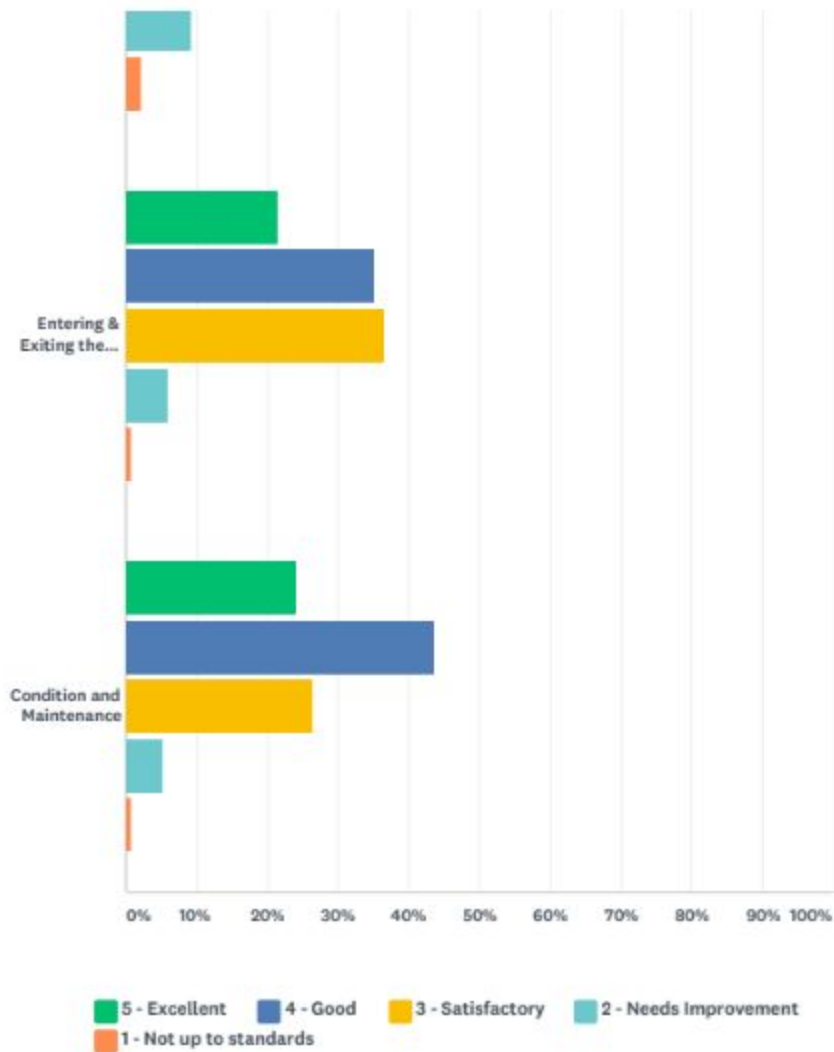
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Music in the Park	70.68%	94
Movies in the Park	47.37%	63
Plant & Bake Sale	44.36%	59
Nature education	42.86%	57
Community Celebration	37.59%	50
National Dog Park Day	22.56%	30
Stewardship Days	21.80%	29
Holiday Caroling	17.29%	23
Ice Skating gatherings	15.79%	21
Reading in the Park	15.04%	20
Cycling event or race	15.04%	20
Summer Camp for Kids	15.04%	20
Easter Egg Hunt	13.53%	18
Geocaching Treasure Hunting	9.77%	13
Safety education	9.77%	13
Other events you'd like to see (please specify)	9.77%	13
Foot Racing Events	6.02%	8
Total Respondents: 133		



**Q9 Please rate HARBERT COMMUNITY PARK (on Red Arrow Highway next to the Township Center), on a scale of 1-5 as described below:**

Answered: 136 Skipped: 48

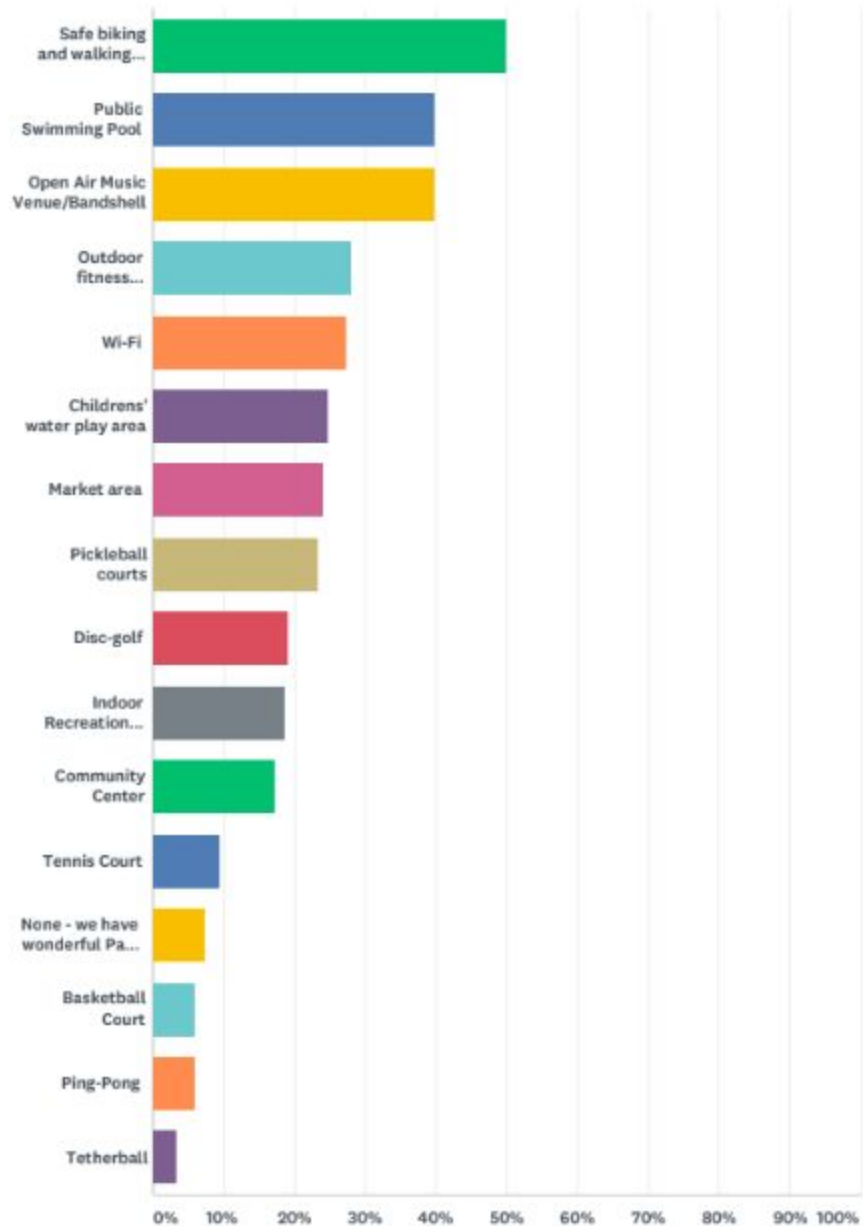




	5 - EXCELLENT	4 - GOOD	3 - SATISFACTORY	2 - NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	1 - NOT UP TO STANDARDS	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Accessing the Park on foot or bicycle	11.20% 14	24.80% 31	32.00% 40	26.40% 33	5.60% 7	125	1.94
Amount of Development	13.08% 17	40.77% 53	32.31% 42	11.54% 15	2.31% 3	130	1.89
Overall Satisfaction	17.16% 23	42.54% 57	29.10% 39	8.21% 11	2.99% 4	134	1.86
Selection of Facilities	16.03% 21	39.69% 52	32.82% 43	9.16% 12	2.29% 3	131	1.86
Entering & Exiting the Parking Lot on Red Arrow Highway by Vehicle	21.64% 29	35.07% 47	36.57% 49	5.97% 8	0.75% 1	134	1.79
Condition and Maintenance	24.06% 32	43.61% 58	26.32% 35	5.26% 7	0.75% 1	133	1.77

**Q10 Which of the following facilities would you like the Park Board to consider adding to our Parks or Preserves? (check as many as you wish)**

Answered: 150 Skipped: 34



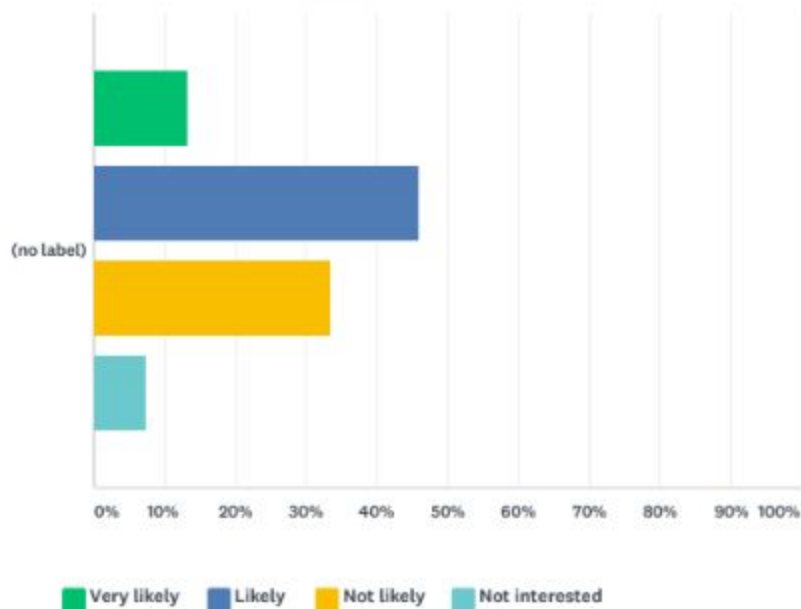
ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Safe biking and walking trails	50.00%	75
Public Swimming Pool	40.00%	60
Open Air Music Venue/Bandshell	40.00%	60
Outdoor fitness training	28.00%	42
Wi-Fi	27.33%	41
Childrens' water play area	24.67%	37
Market area	24.00%	36
Pickleball courts	23.33%	35
Disc-golf	19.33%	29
Indoor Recreation Facility	18.67%	28
Community Center	17.33%	26
Tennis Court	9.33%	14
None - we have wonderful Park facilities already	7.33%	11
Basketball Court	6.00%	9
Ping-Pong	6.00%	9
Tetherball	3.33%	5
Total Respondents: 150		

### Q11 How likely are you to attend educational programs on nature and the environment offered by the Township Parks?

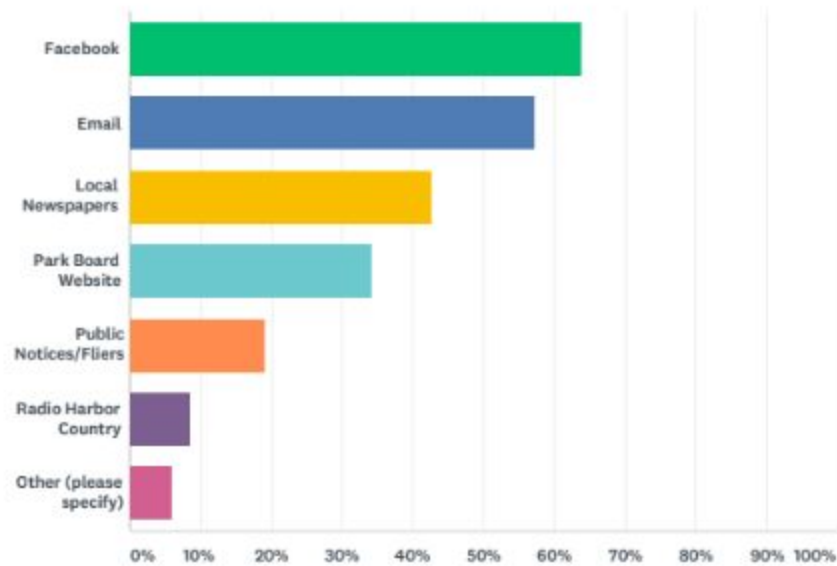
Answered: 152 Skipped: 32



	VERY LIKELY	LIKELY	NOT LIKELY	NOT INTERESTED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	13.16%	46.05%	33.55%	7.24%	152	2.35
	20	70	51	11		

## Q12 Program announcements - how can we best inform you and your family of education programs we are conducting?

Answered: 152 Skipped: 32

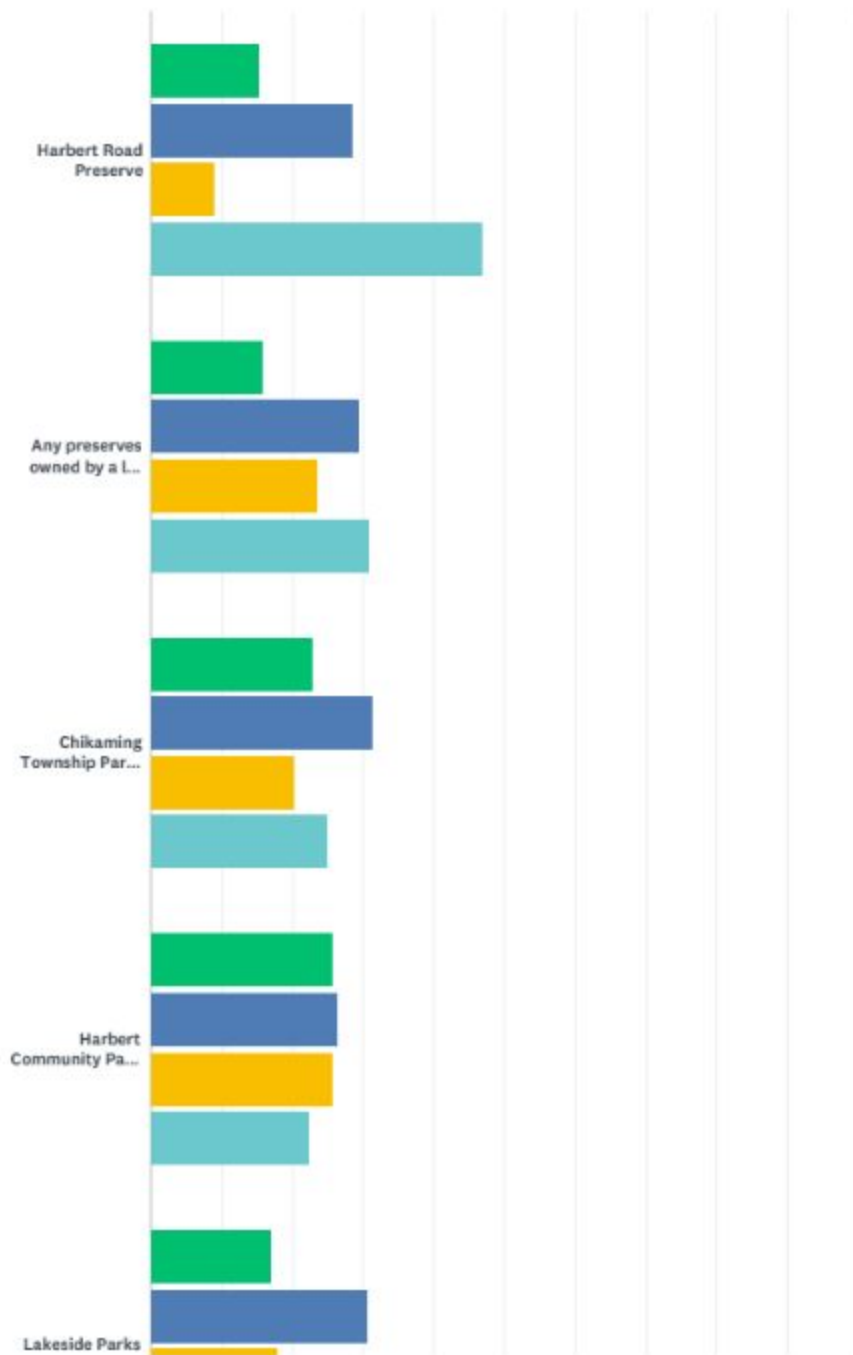


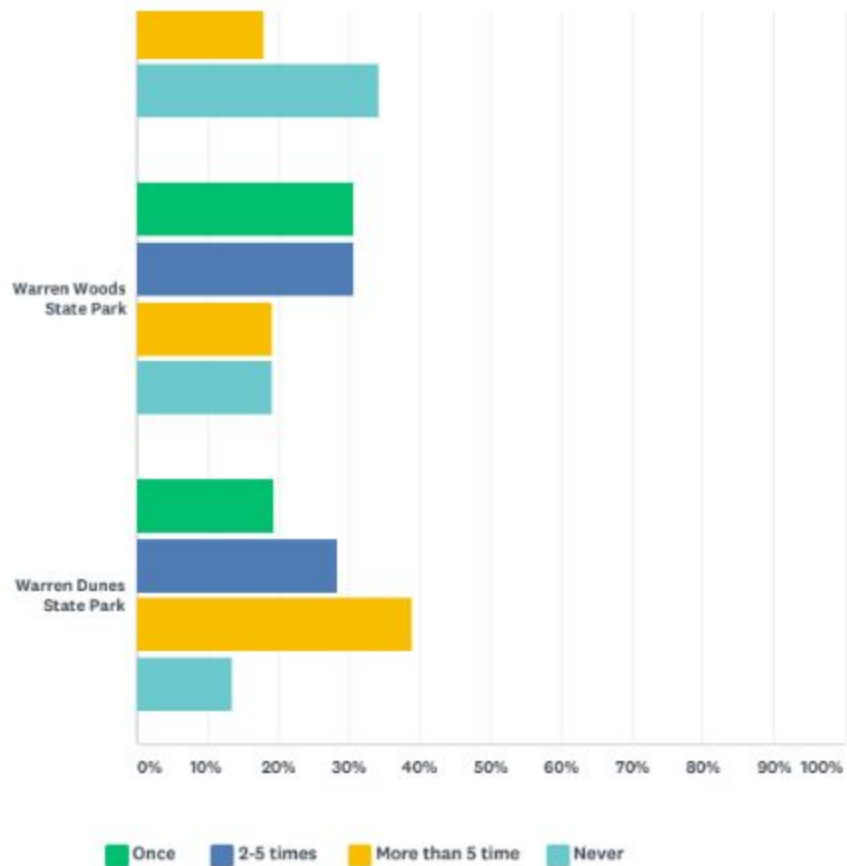
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Facebook	63.82%	97
Email	57.24%	87
Local Newspapers	42.76%	65
Park Board Website	34.21%	52
Public Notices/Fliers	19.08%	29
Radio Harbor Country	8.55%	13
Other (please specify)	5.92%	9
Total Respondents: 152		



# Q13 Over the past 12 months how often did you visit each of the following PARKS or PRESERVES?

Answered: 154 Skipped: 30

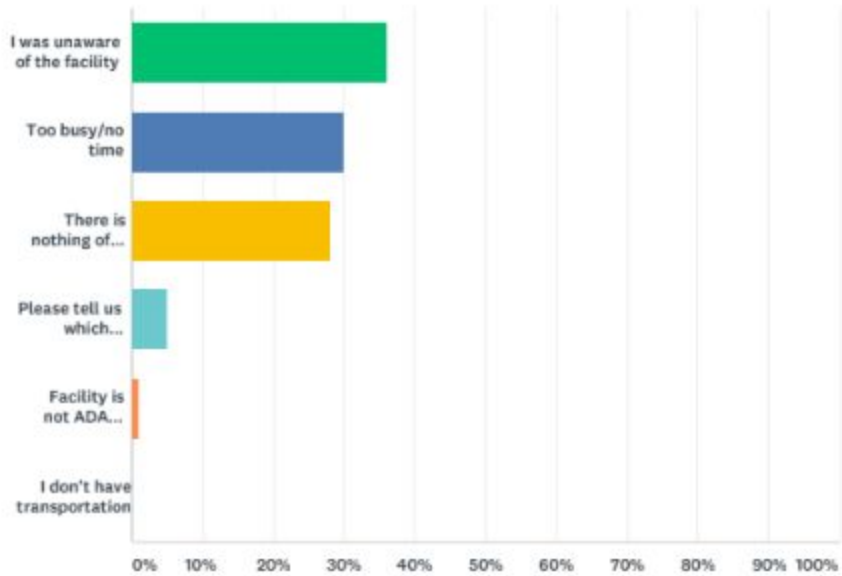




	ONCE	2-5 TIMES	MORE THAN 5 TIME	NEVER	TOTAL
Harbert Road Preserve	15.38% 22	28.67% 41	9.09% 13	46.85% 67	143
Any preserves owned by a land conservancy such as Chikaming Open Lands	15.83% 22	29.50% 41	23.74% 33	30.94% 43	139
Chikaming Township Park and Preserve	23.08% 33	31.47% 45	20.28% 29	25.17% 36	143
Harbert Community Park, on Red Arrow Highway	25.68% 38	26.35% 39	25.68% 38	22.30% 33	148
Lakeside Parks	17.02% 16	30.85% 29	18.09% 17	34.04% 32	94
Warren Woods State Park	30.82% 45	30.82% 45	19.18% 28	19.18% 28	146
Warren Dunes State Park	19.46% 29	28.19% 42	38.93% 58	13.42% 20	149

**Q14 If you answered "Never" to any of the PARKS or Preserves in the above question, could you please tell us why?**

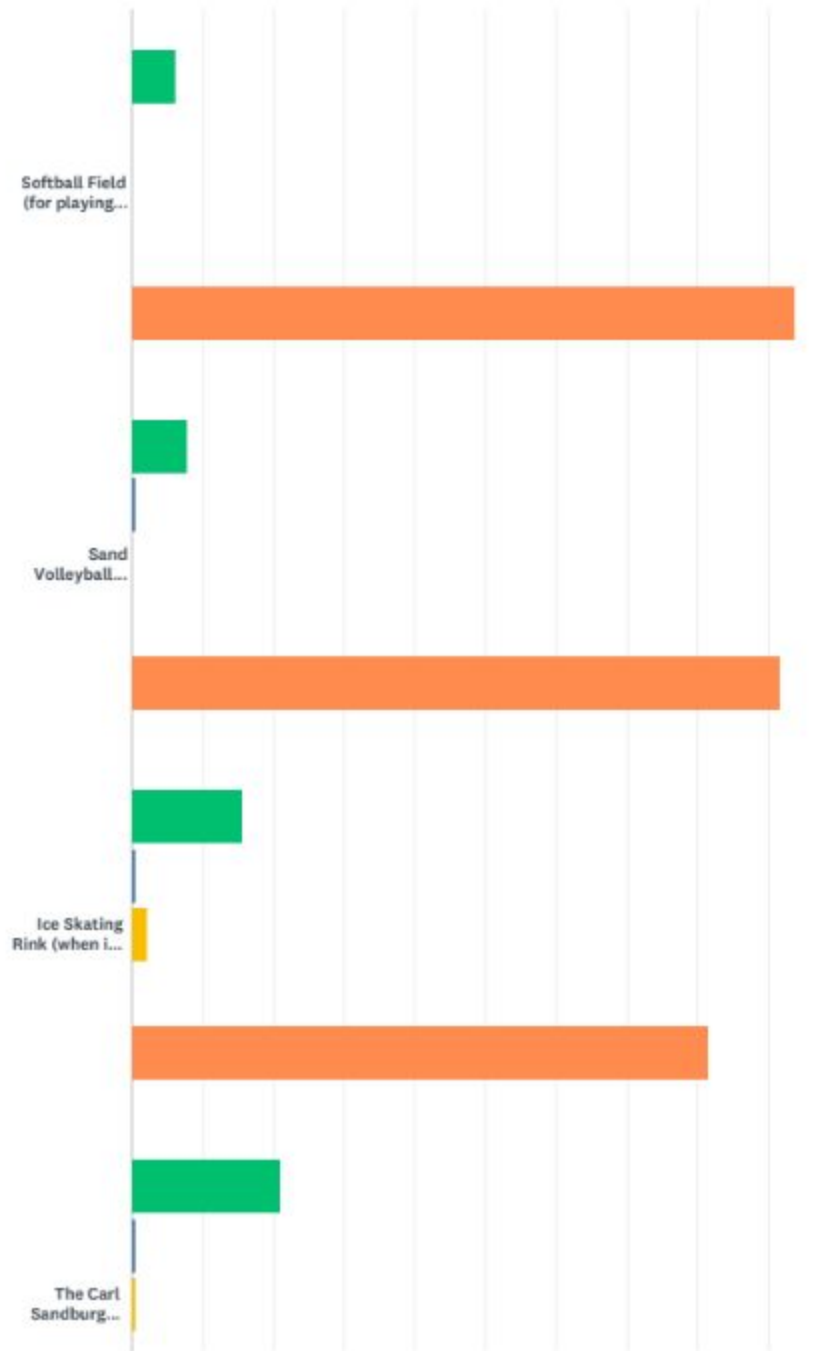
Answered: 100 Skipped: 84

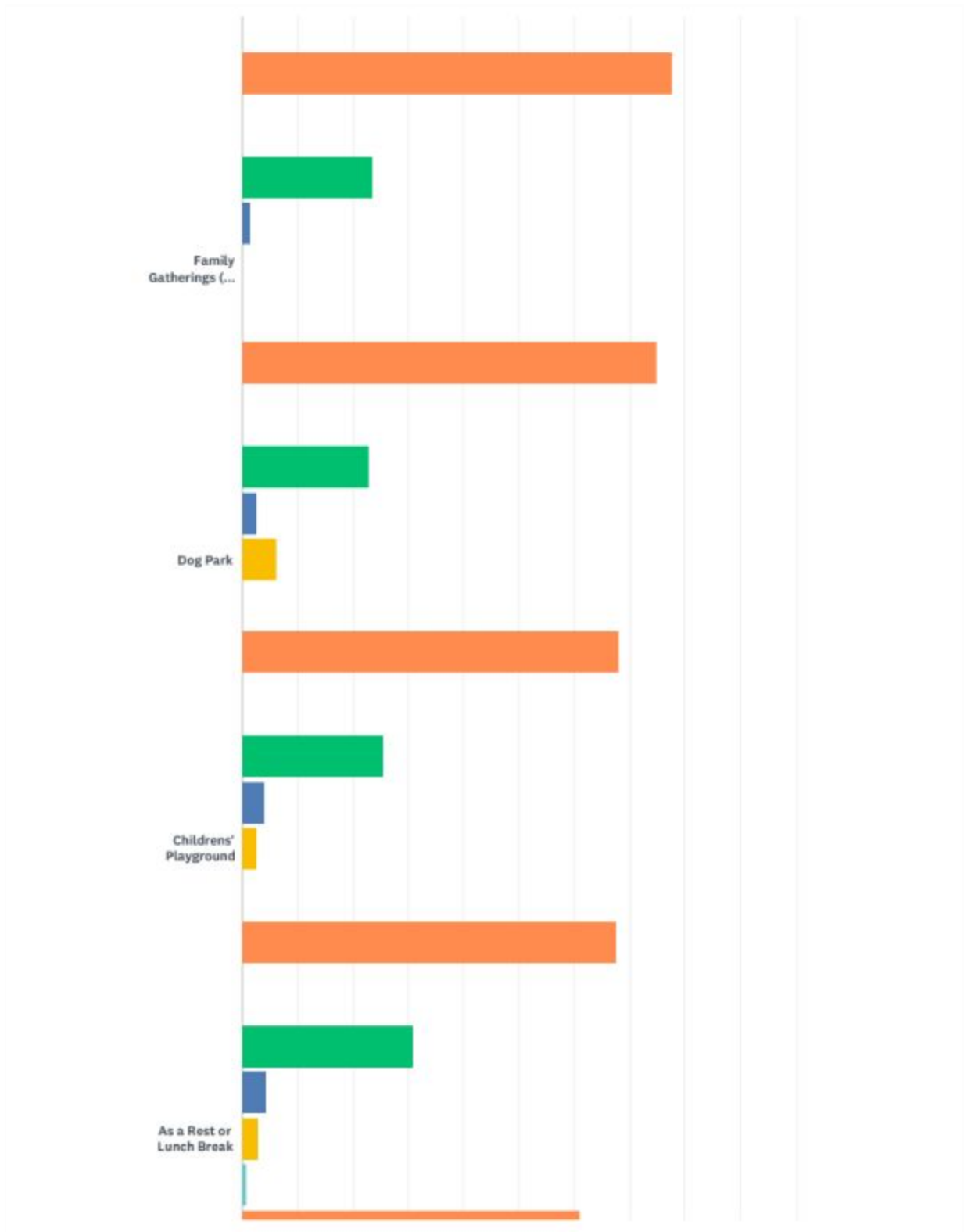


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I was unaware of the facility	36.00%	36
Too busy/no time	30.00%	30
There is nothing of interest to me there	28.00%	28
Please tell us which facility(s) you are referring to	5.00%	5
Facility is not ADA compliant	1.00%	1
I don't have transportation	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

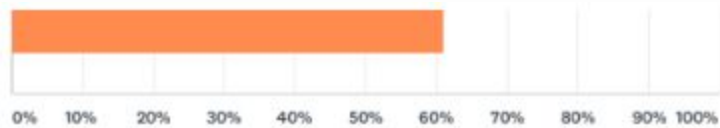
**Q15 Over the past 12 months, how many times have you used one or more of the following features at HARBERT COMMUNITY PARK?**

Answered: 149 Skipped: 35







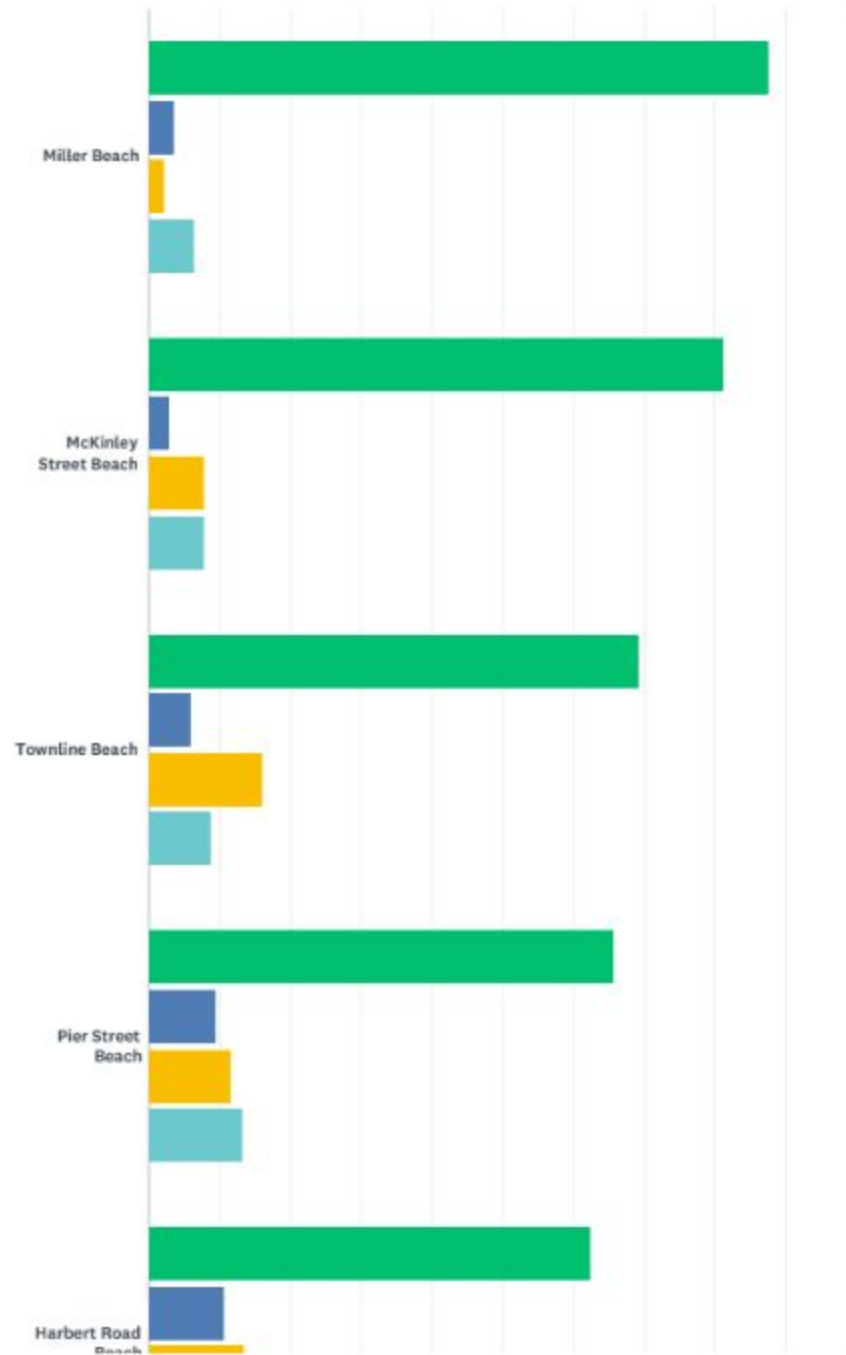


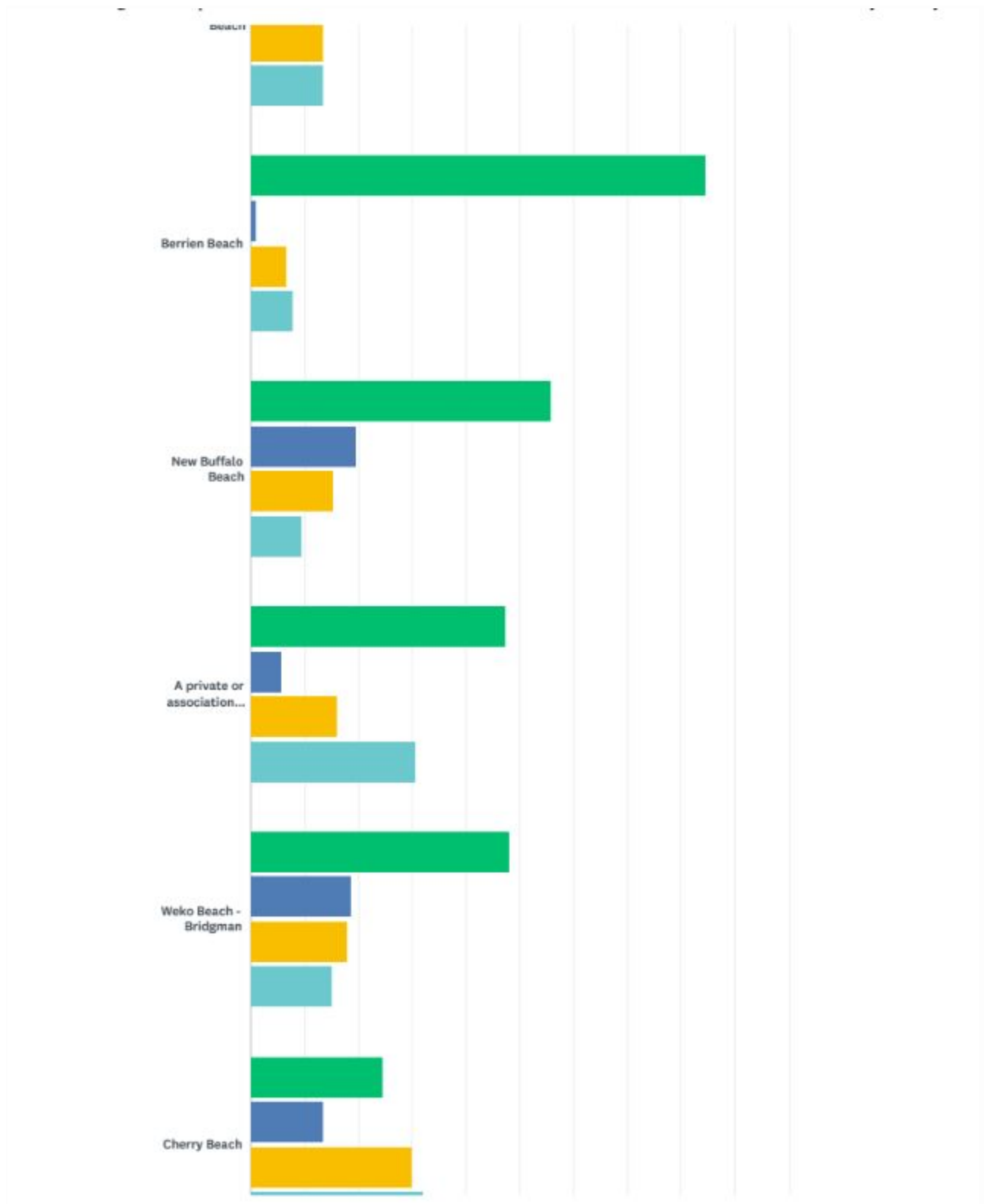
■ A few times
 ■ Monthly
 ■ Weekly
 ■ Daily
 ■ Never

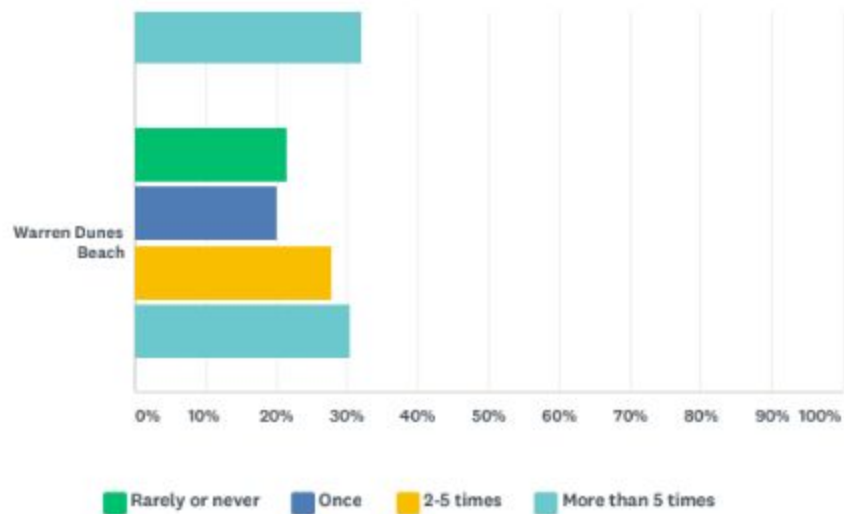
	A FEW TIMES	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	DAILY	NEVER	TOTAL
Softball Field (for playing ball or any field sport)	6.34% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	93.66% 133	142
Sand Volleyball Courts (when in season)	7.75% 11	0.70% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	91.55% 130	142
Ice Skating Rink (when in season)	15.71% 22	0.71% 1	2.14% 3	0.00% 0	81.43% 114	140
The Carl Sandburg Welcome Pavilion	20.86% 29	0.72% 1	0.72% 1	0.00% 0	77.70% 108	139
Family Gatherings (at the Pavilion or elsewhere)	23.57% 33	1.43% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	75.00% 105	140
Dog Park	22.76% 33	2.76% 4	6.21% 9	0.00% 0	68.28% 99	145
Childrens' Playground	25.52% 37	4.14% 6	2.76% 4	0.00% 0	67.59% 98	145
As a Rest or Lunch Break	30.88% 42	4.41% 6	2.94% 4	0.74% 1	61.03% 83	136

Q16 Over the past 12 months how often did you visit each of the following BEACHES?

Answered: 154 Skipped: 30



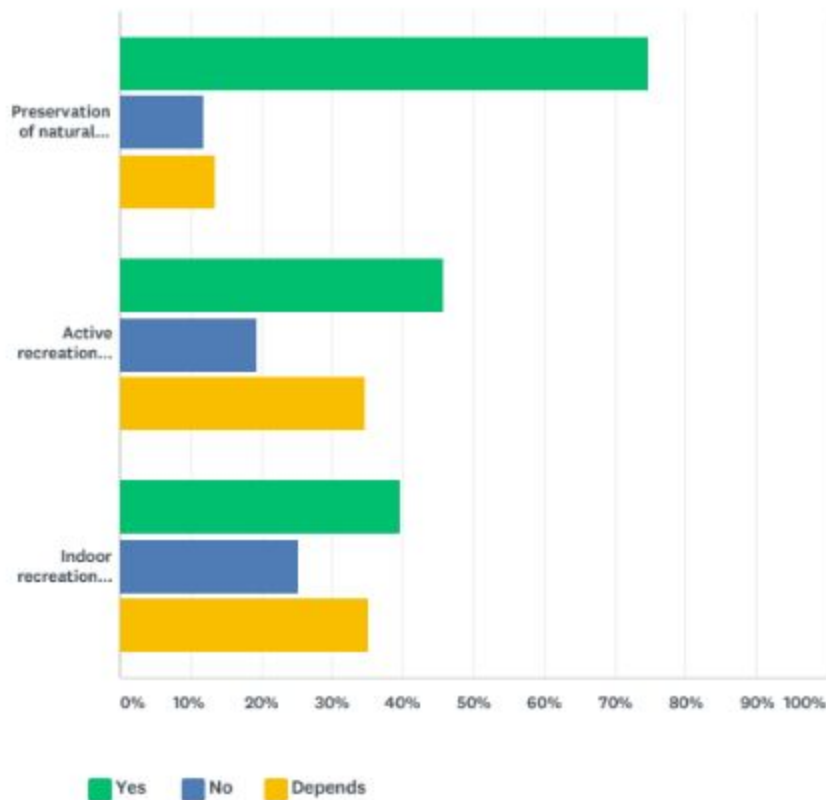




	RARELY OR NEVER	ONCE	2-5 TIMES	MORE THAN 5 TIMES	TOTAL
Miller Beach	87.59% 120	3.65% 5	2.19% 3	6.57% 9	137
McKinley Street Beach	81.16% 112	2.90% 4	7.97% 11	7.97% 11	138
Townline Beach	69.34% 95	5.84% 8	16.06% 22	8.76% 12	137
Pier Street Beach	65.69% 90	9.49% 13	11.68% 16	13.14% 18	137
Harbert Road Beach	62.41% 88	10.64% 15	13.48% 19	13.48% 19	141
Berrien Beach	84.62% 77	1.10% 1	6.59% 6	7.69% 7	91
New Buffalo Beach	55.80% 77	19.57% 27	15.22% 21	9.42% 13	138
A private or association beach	47.55% 68	5.59% 8	16.08% 23	30.77% 44	143
Weko Beach - Bridgman	48.20% 67	18.71% 26	17.99% 25	15.11% 21	139
Cherry Beach	24.49% 36	13.61% 20	29.93% 44	31.97% 47	147
Warren Dunes Beach	21.53% 31	20.14% 29	27.78% 40	30.56% 44	144

## Q17 Do you think Chikaming Township should make an effort to acquire more properties in the future for:

Answered: 146 Skipped: 38

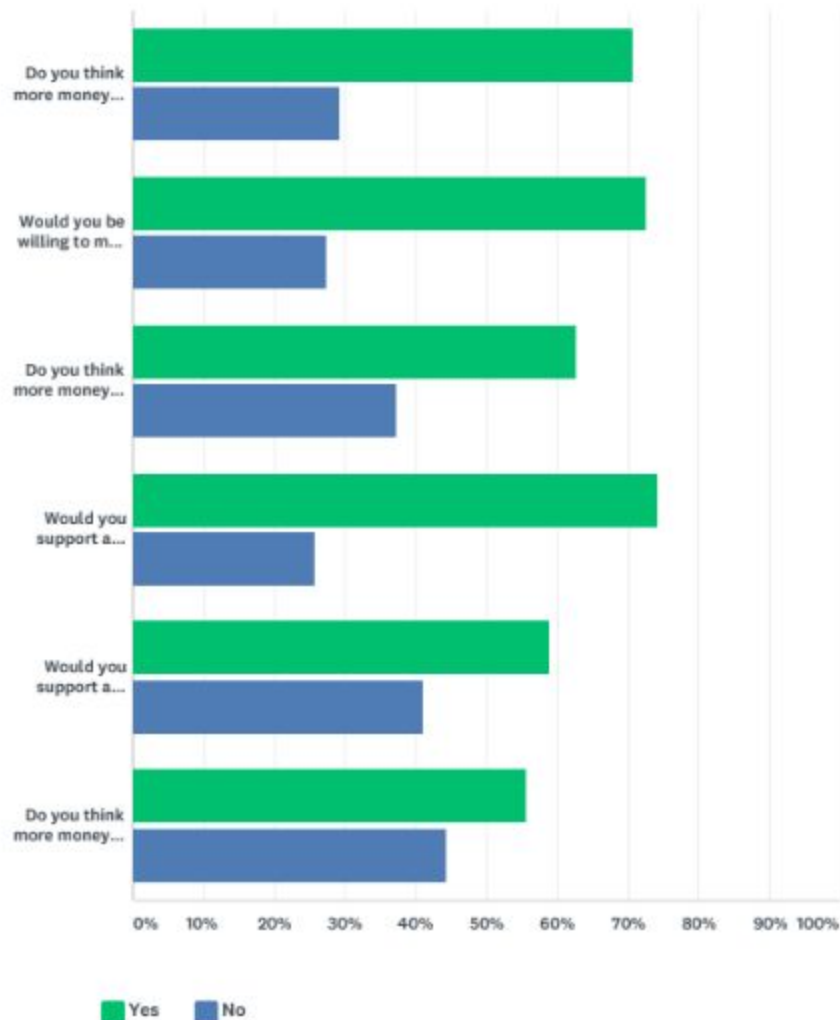


	YES	NO	DEPENDS	TOTAL
Preservation of natural features	74.65% 106	11.97% 17	13.38% 19	142
Active recreation facilities	45.83% 66	19.44% 28	34.72% 50	144
Indoor recreation facilities and/or a community building	39.44% 56	25.35% 36	35.21% 50	142



**Q18 FINANCES:** For 2019, Chikaming Township has allocated \$116,000 from the general fund for Park Maintenance and Operations. The Park Board has no independent funding, and much of the work of keeping our parks, preserves and beaches beautiful is done by the Park Board and volunteers from the community. Grants are sought as much as possible for any new projects. Please respond to the following questions about funding the Parks, Preserves and Beaches.

Answered: 141 Skipped: 43

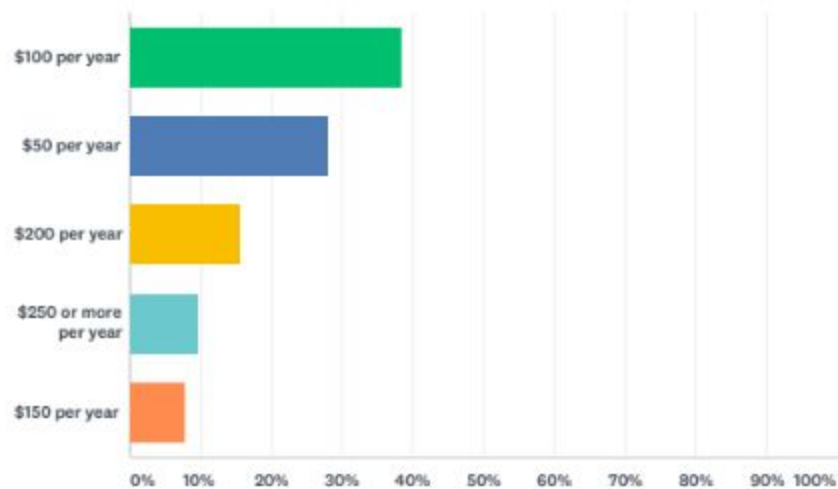


	YES	NO	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE

Do you think more money should be sought for IMPROVEMENTS to the existing properties?	70.71% 99	29.29% 41	140	1.29
Would you be willing to make tax deductible donations for individual projects of the Park Board in the future?	72.59% 98	27.41% 37	135	1.27
Do you think more money should be sought for ACQUISITION of properties?	62.77% 86	37.23% 51	137	1.37
Would you support a public Bond Issue (repayable from property taxes) for Park Board projects?	74.34% 84	25.66% 29	113	1.26
Would you support a property tax increase earmarked to fund Park Board activities?	58.91% 76	41.09% 53	129	1.41
Do you think more money should be sought to hire a PARK MANAGER?	55.64% 74	44.36% 59	133	1.44

**Q19 If you answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, How much additional property tax (or tax deductible donations) would you be willing to pay to fund more robust Park Board projects?**

Answered: 114 Skipped: 70



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
\$100 per year	38.60% 44
\$50 per year	28.07% 32
\$200 per year	15.79% 18
\$250 or more per year	9.65% 11
\$150 per year	7.89% 9
TOTAL	114

**Q20 Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about Chikaming Township and its Parks, Preserves and Beaches that we failed to ask?**

Answered: 53 Skipped: 131

## 5 - COMPOSITE RANKING OF PROJECTS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

OVERALL RANK	CATEGORY	PROJECT	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
1	EDUCATION	–Continue beach safety class at local schools.	5
2	UNSPEC.	–Safe biking and walking trails	4.86
3	EDUCATION	–Continue program “Wild Michigan” to educate public on dangers of Lake Michigan	4.86
4	EDUCATION	–Maintain real time information on Township web sites on health and safety hazards at beaches and parks	4.57
5	HCP	–Develop a concept plan for the park, including adjacent Township properties to serve as a guideline for projects.	4.43
6	UNSPEC.	–Disc-golf	4.43
7	SYSTEM WIDE	–Develop a permanent funding source for the Park Board.	4.43
8	EDUCATION	–Provide information on links to weather conditions at beaches and parks to property owners and rental agencies.	4.43
9	SYSTEM WIDE	–Hire a Park Board administrative person, part-time.	4.29
10	SYSTEM WIDE	–Hire a part-time Park Board facilities manager.	4.29
11	EDUCATION	–Create self guided explorations in Parks on environment and other topics with QR codes & brochures.	4.29
12	EDUCATION	–Post safety and other information on social media and news sources.	4.29
13	EDUCATION	–Partner with Harbor Country Hikers, to promote hiking and walking in the parks.	4.17
14	HCP	–Modernize the toilet facility.	4.14
15	PRESERVES	–Publicize the available and accessible features at the preserves.	4.14
16	SYSTEM WIDE	–Meet ADA accessibility standards at all parks & preserves, and at least 1 beach.	4.14
17	SYSTEM WIDE	–Plan and develop hike and bike trails connecting the parks and regional system.	4.14
18	BEACHES	–Broadly publicize accurate information on ownership, rights, and jurisdictions, beach rules, laws, and acceptable behavior.	4.14
19	EDUCATION	–Partner with other organizations to provide information on safety and environmental awareness.	4.14
20	EDUCATION	–Provide informational brochures on public safety and resources in public areas and vacation rentals	4.14
21	HCP	–Continue upgrading to a common design vocabulary	4
22	PRESERVES	–Implement design vocabulary with existing features	4
23	SYSTEM WIDE	–Leverage township resources by forming strategic partnerships with other organizations with similar goals.	4
24	BEACHES	–Implement CTPB design vocabulary when existing features are replaced or renovated.	4
25	HCP	–Build an ADA compliant ramp to the picnic shelter and childrens’ playground.	3.86
26	HCP	–Extend accessible paths to the existing Sandburg pavilion, the toilet, and the concession building	3.86

27	BEACHES	–Make the Townline Rd. Beach seating platform ADA accessible.	3.86
28	BEACHES	–Initiate with the Township an investigation of impact fees to support park and beach maintenance and monitoring.	3.86
29	EDUCATION	–Post information on Park bulletin boards and other community bulletin boards.	3.86
30	HCP	–Hire a landscape architect or planner to develop a detailed site plan. Officially adopt it. Follow it.	3.71
31	PRESERVES	–Develop a destination, disk (frisbee) golf course	3.71
32	PRESERVES	–Create a 3 year development plan to encourage pollinator plants to grow in the prairies of CTPP	3.71
33	EDUCATION	–Organize themed stewardship days in parks.	3.71
34	PRESERVES	–Design and install QR interactivity plaques and information access	3.57
35	HCP	–Add a trail with multi-level, parcours style, fitness stations in keeping with the design vocabulary.	3.43
36	UNSPEC.	–Create and market community, year-round activities in our Parks and Preserve.	3.43
37	PRESERVES	–Create bike tour events with partner organizations.	3.43
38	PRESERVES	–Create an on going stewardship program with volunteers to manage the invasive species in our preserves	3.43
39	PRESERVES	–Re-introduce native fowl, such as Bob Whites and Pheasant, to the prairies	3.43
40	BEACHES	–Create a ramp to ADA standards at Berrien St. Beach, extending downward from the road level to the beach edge.	3.43
41	BEACHES	–Provide hardwired 911 phones at all beaches.	3.43
42	EDUCATION	–Create a map and brochure describing all nearby recreational opportunities	3.43
43	HCP	–Create a distinctive village-like design visible from the street.	3.29
44	PRESERVES	–Build ADA compliant boardwalks in Harbert Road Preserve.	3.29
45	SYSTEM WIDE	–Acquire greenway open space and wildlife corridors.	3.29
46	BEACHES	–Install remote beach monitoring systems for safety, security, and public information.	3.29
47	BEACHES	–Develop a corps of trained volunteer beach hosts to monitor each beach.	3.29
48	EDUCATION	–Create rotating exhibits at the parks and some beaches on safety and the environment.	3.29
49	EDUCATION	–Have Park Board members and volunteers available for community meetings	3.29
50	HCP	–Work with the Senior Center to bring seniors to the park for activities or relaxation.	3.14
51	UNSPEC.	–Install technological features at select locations: wi-fi; webcam; weather station; solar and wind energy demo projects; put live data on website.	3.14
52	UNSPEC.	–Pickleball courts	3.14



53	UNSPEC.	–Continue offering a variety of Celebrate Chikaming events.	3.14
54	PRESERVES	–Install a Solar powered fountain at Chikaming Township Park & Preserve to aerate the pond and reduce duck weed.	3.14
55	BEACHES	–Publicize other facilities that are available for summer activities.	3.14
56	HCP	–Re-purpose the ball field so that it can host multiple types of events	3
57	PRESERVES	–Provide water to the shelters at the preserves	3
58	BEACHES	–Install toilets or portalets at beaches where practical.	3
59	HCP	–Collaborate with community volunteers to provide Ice skating lessons	2.86
60	UNSPEC.	–Public Swimming Pool	2.86
61	UNSPEC.	–Outdoor fitness training	2.86
62	PRESERVES	–Hire an invasive species control expert to provide education and guidance.	2.86
63	PRESERVES	–Stock the pond at CTPP with fish.	2.86
64	SYSTEM WIDE	–Co-ordinate trips to parks with River Valley Senior Center.	2.86
65	EDUCATION	–Offer classes in the park in good weather for the Senior Center	2.86
66	HCP	–Create an open air music venue or bandshell	2.71
67	HCP	–Create a wall, berm, or other type of sound barrier to buffer the park from highway noise and create a distinctive unifying element	2.57
68	HCP	–Install technological features: wi-fi; webcam; weather station; live data on website.	2.57
69	HCP	–Incorporate intergenerational recreational elements and activities.	2.57
70	UNSPEC.	–Community Center	2.57
71	UNSPEC.	–Offer classes on recreational opportunities.	2.5
72	HCP	–Add natural elements to playground	2.43
73	HCP	–Add artificial ice or cooling coils to regulate the ice temperature of the rink	2.43
74	HCP	–Create a market area, potentially integrated into the covered walkway	2.43
75	HCP	–Add a solid, raised floor to the dog park shelter	2.43
76	UNSPEC.	–Indoor Recreation Facility	2.43
77	PRESERVES	–Hire a pond consultant.	2.43
78	HCP	–Incorporate some intimate gathering spaces and concessions	2.29
79	EDUCATION	–Partner with interested group to offer exhibits and tours utilizing solar/wind demo projects.	2.29
80	HCP	–Add edge boards to the ice rink	2.14
81	SYSTEM WIDE	–Develop a shuttle transport system.	2.14
82	HCP	–Add a splash pad or other childrens’ water play feature	2
83	HCP	–Acquire property or easements from RR to allow development behind the pond and ball field.	2



84	UNSPEC.	–Ping-Pong	2
85	UNSPEC.	–Basketball Court	1.86
86	UNSPEC.	–Tetherball	1.71
87	UNSPEC.	–Tennis Court	1.43
88	HCP	–Build a covered walkway between the pavilion and the concession stand	1.14

## APPENDIX C

### PUBLIC HEARING & FINAL APPROVAL 1 - PUBLIC NOTICE

AFFP  
PUBLIC HEARING 5 Year Plan

#### Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN }  
COUNTY OF BERRIEN }

SS

PUBLIC HEARING

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

at 13535 Red Arrow Highway Harbert, MI

Sara Parsons, being duly sworn, says:

That she is A Customer Service Rep of the Harbor Country News, a Weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in New Buffalo, Berrien County, Michigan ; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the

December 26, 2019

During the Regular Park Board meeting on January 6th starting at 6:30- 8:30 p.m. there will be a PUBLIC HEARING to receive comments to the proposed Five Year Plan of the Park Board. The proposed five year plan can be view on-line, [www.chikamingtownship.org](http://www.chikamingtownship.org) as well as a hard copy is available at the Township during regular business hours. All comments and suggestions need to be received on or before the 6th of January in person or by email; [dhall-kayler@chikamingtownship.org](mailto:dhall-kayler@chikamingtownship.org).

#### PUBLIC HEARING

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

at 13535 Red Arrow Highway Harbert, MI

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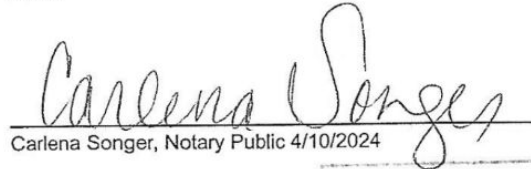
Publisher's Fee: \$ 59.46

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

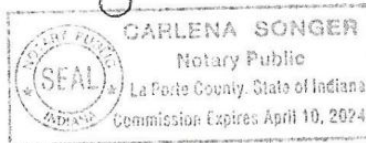
SIGNED:



Subscribed to and sworn to me this 26th day of December 2019.



Carlena Songer, Notary Public 4/10/2024



60053278 61098231 269-469-4416

Kim Livengood  
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP  
PO BOX 40  
13535 RED ARROW HWY.  
HARBERT, MI 49115

## 2 – MINUTES OF THE January 6, 2020 Meeting



Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting, Monday, January 6, 2020	
<p><b>Chikaming Township Park Board</b> <b>Proposed Minutes - Regular Meeting</b></p> <p>Monday, January 6, 2020 6:30 p.m. Chikaming Township Hall 13535 Red Arrow Hwy Harbert, MI 49115</p>	
MINUTES	INDEX to MINUTES
<p>The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Members present: Deborah Hall-Kayler, Jill Underhill, Arthur Anderson, Joseph Reed, Kathy Sellers (via teleconference from Bonita Springs, FL) and Shelly Taylor were present. Janet Schrader was absent.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Roll Call</p>
<p>Approval of the meeting's agenda.</p> <p>Hall reordered some items on the agenda. The Public Hearing was moved up to the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Moved by Anderson, seconded by Taylor, to approve the meeting agenda as amended.</b></p> <p><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA APPROVED</b></p>
<p>There were no public comments at this time.</p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
<p>The regular meeting was adjourned and the public meeting was opened at 6:41 p.m.</p> <p>Anderson came forth to speak on behalf of the 5-Year Plan Steering committee. He shared a powerpoint presentation highlighting the major updates to the new plan. Anderson noted that the goals are the same as the previous plan though they have been reordered based on relevance and an education focused goal has been added.</p> <p>There were no public comments.</p>	<p><b>Public Hearing</b></p>

The public hearing was closed at 6:44 p.m. and the board resumed their regular meeting.	
<p>Motion to approve preceding regular and special meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>Moved by Sellers, seconded by Anderson, to approve the minutes of the December 2nd regular meeting.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>Moved by Sellers, seconded by Anderson, to approve the minutes of the December 14th special meeting.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>Moved by Sellers, seconded by Anderson, to approve the minutes of the December 16th regular meeting.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p>MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES</p> <p>MINUTES APPROVED</p>
Sellers presented the treasurer's report. She explained the current financial situation around the Harbert Community Park project and specified how the reimbursements will take place for the grant funding. Sellers stated that there is approximately \$24,065.02 remaining for the fiscal year.	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>
<p>Anderson thanked Tom Hackely for his work on the 5-year plan.</p> <p>Anderson was thanked for his efforts to improve the meeting process with Robert's Rules of Order.</p>	<b>Acknowledgements</b>
Hall shared information regarding two ordinance changes from the township. A discussion about fireworks on public property followed.	<b>Correspondence</b>
<p><b>Harbert Beach</b> – The beach access is currently closed.</p> <p><b>Cherry Beach</b> – There was nothing additional to report.</p> <p><b>Berrien Beach</b> – Underhill had nothing additional to report.</p> <p><b>Miller Beach</b> – There was nothing additional to report.</p> <p><b>McKinley Beach</b> – There was nothing additional to report.</p> <p><b>Townline Beach</b> – Anderson had nothing additional to report.</p> <p><b>Pier St. Beach</b> – Sellers reported that the access remains closed.</p> <p><b>Chikaming Park and Preserve on Warren Woods Rd.</b> – There was nothing additional to report.</p> <p><b>Harbert Rd. Park and Preserve</b> – Hall had nothing additional to report.</p> <p><b>Harbert Community Park</b> – There was nothing additional to report.</p>	Beach/ Park Reports
<p>Hall shared the 5 amendments that had been made to the 5-year Master Plan draft.</p> <p><b>Moved by Reed, seconded by Anderson, to approve the 5 year plan as drafted by the steering committee, including these suggestions: number of acres of public space in Bridgman, water refilling stations for parks,</b></p>	Old Business

<p>recreation facilities, U.S. bike route 35 and Lake Michigan water trails, a more succinct version of the 5 yr. plan; which are approved by the steering committee at the public hearing on Monday, January 6, 2020.</p> <p>Roll call vote as follows:  <b>Anderson - Aye, Hall - Aye, Reed - Aye, Sellers - Aye, Taylor - Aye, Underhill - Aye.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p>The human resources committee is now Anderson, Sellers, and Taylor.</p>	
<p>The board then discussed the use of personal tools for park board responsibilities. Underhill had allowed use of a tool for a park board project and it broke.</p> <p><b>Moved by Anderson, seconded by Sellers, to reimburse Unerhill for her sander at an amount not to exceed \$90.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Underhill abstained from the vote.</b></p> <p>It was then discussed if the park board should purchase, and be responsible for their own tools.</p> <p>Hall will ask the insurance company if the park board has any liability risk if they purchase their own tools.</p> <p><b>Moved by Anderson, seconded by Taylor, that the board will draft a policy on use of tools to be submitted to the township board.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p>Anderson reported on the Spring Farm dam inspection.</p> <p>Taylor reported on the ice rink. She informed the board that when there are freezing temps in the forecast water will be added to the rink. Taylor propose that the board consider paying Josh Higgins to work in the concession stand on Fridays and Saturdays while the rink is open.</p> <p><b>Moved by Hall, seconded by Anderson, to approve Taylor's proposal to utilize Josh Higgins to work in the concession stand at a total cost not to exceed \$500.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p>New Business</p>
<p>Higgins informed the board that they already maintain some tools such as a pressure washer.</p> <p>Alan Kayler suggested a tool policy, labeling tools and ensuring liability is not an issue.</p> <p>Anderson and Underhill formed a tools committee.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>



Moved by Hall, seconded by Taylor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 P.M. CARRIED	ADJOURNED
Monday, February 24 , at 6:30 P.M.	NEXT MEETING

**3 – FINAL APPROVAL – Chikaming Township Supervisor or Clerk Signature:**

Chikaming Park Board's Five Year Recreation Plan contained within the entirety of this document was approved by the Chikaming Township Board on January 9, 2020.

This declaration is hereby officially certified by the following signature of Chikaming Township's Supervisor or Clerk in the following signature:

*DAVID A. BUNTE - Supervisor*

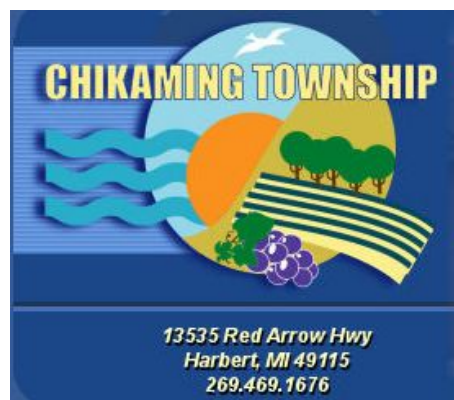
**Printed Name & Title**

*[Signature]*

**Signature of Chikaming Township Supervisor or Clerk**

*1-9-2020*

**Date**



**TOWNSHIP BOARD (269) 469-1676**

Supervisor DAVID BUNTE [dbunte@chikamingtownship.org](mailto:dbunte@chikamingtownship.org)  
Clerk PAULA DUDIAK, [pdudiak@chikamingtownship.org](mailto:pdudiak@chikamingtownship.org)  
Treasurer LIZ RETTIG, [lrettig@chikamingtownship.org](mailto:lrettig@chikamingtownship.org)  
Trustee BILL MARSKE, [bmarske@chikamingtownship.org](mailto:bmarske@chikamingtownship.org)  
Trustee RICH SULLIVAN, [rsullivan@chikamingtownship.org](mailto:rsullivan@chikamingtownship.org)

**PARK BOARD (269) 359-1117**

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