

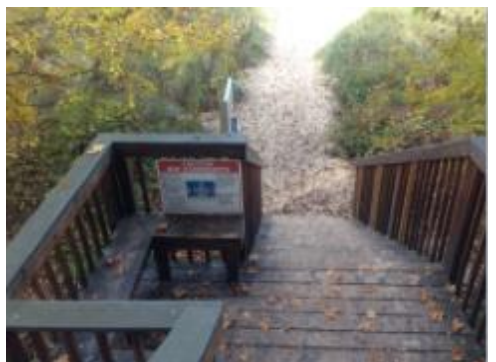
**FIVE-YEAR
COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN**

of the

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

2015-2020

Approved by Chikaming Township Board on February 26th, 2015



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 feature a walking trail with exercise stations, a childrens' water feature, an improved showcase Little League ball field, beach volleyball courts, a pond fishing and viewing platform, a covered walkway/community gathering place, and a winter ice rink, in addition to the existing playground, picnic pavilion and dog park. 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.

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary	p. 2
Purpose of Planning	p. 4
Theme: Nature	p. 4
The Mission and Vision Statements	p. 6

PART A: BACKGROUND

Community Description	p. 7
Administrative Structure of the Park Board	p.13

PART B. OUR ASSETS

Chikaming Township Recreation Inventory	p.15
Chikaming Township Park & Preserve	
Harbert Rd. Preserve	
Harbert Community Park	
The Beaches	
Assessment of Needs and Opportunities	P.29

PART C. ASPIRATIONS

The Public Input Process	p.34
The Planning Process	p.35
The Chikaming Township Park System in 20 Years	p.36
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	p.42
I. Develop Additional Active Recreation Facilities to Complement Existing Assets and To Promote Healthy Outdoor Activities for A Variety of Ages	
II. Actively seek to acquire and restore open space and infrastructure to preserve the natural resources of the Township	
III. Integrate Our System of Parks & Preserves within The Township and With Neighboring Jurisdictions through Connecting Trails and Greenway Corridors	
IV. Expand Administrative, Informational, and Service Delivery Capabilities	

PART D. OUR AGENDA AND ASSIGNMENTS: THE 5 YEAR PROGRAM

Summary	p.47
System wide Improvements	p.48
Harbert Community Park	p.50
The Preserves	p.51
The Beaches	p.52
Year 1 (2015-16) Program and Budget	p.53

Appendices:

Appendix A – Census Data	p.54
Appendix B – Survey Results	p.59
Appendix C – Public Hearing	p.79

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.

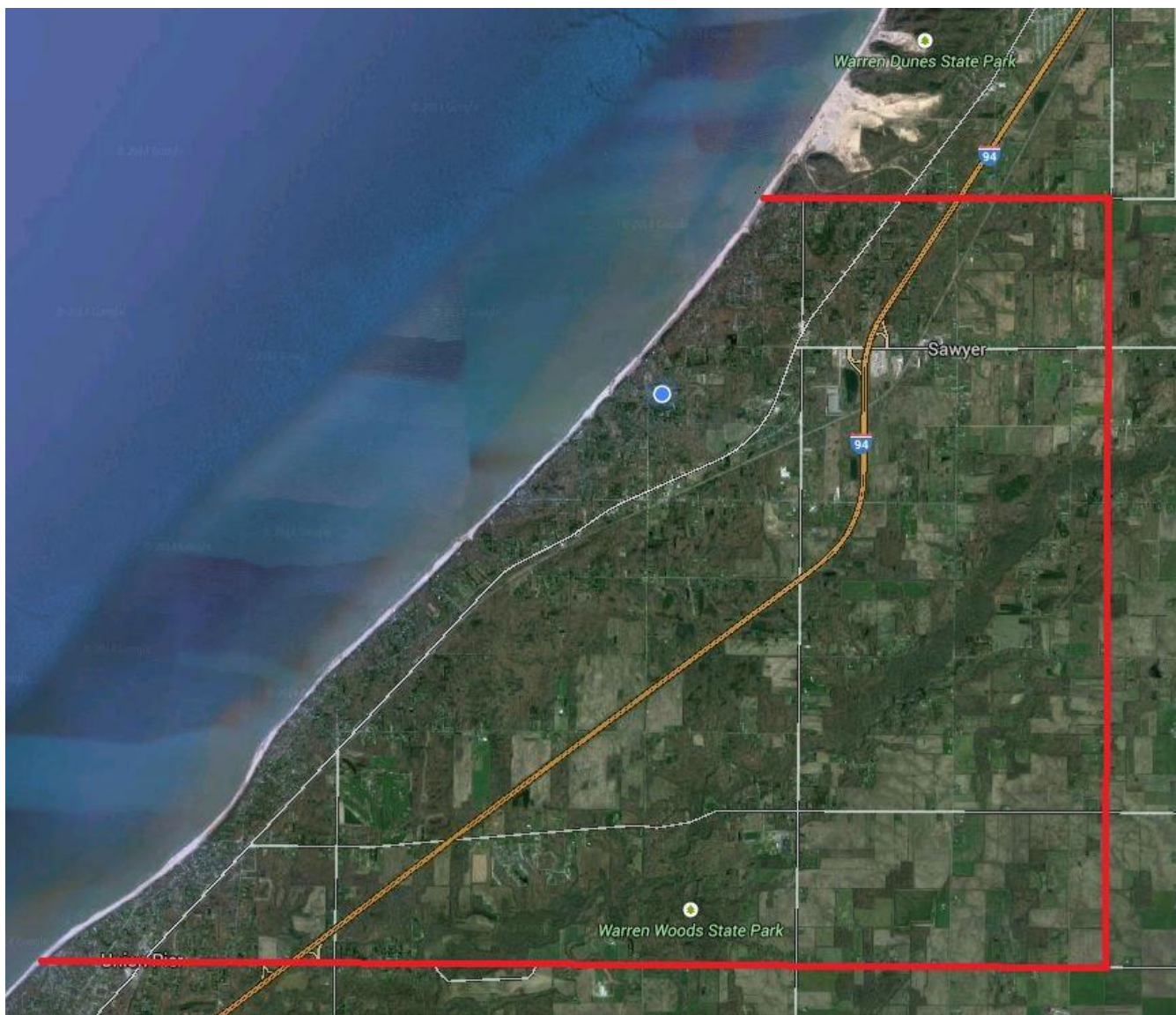
An integral part of the planning process is the development of goals, objectives and projects that reflect those policies, as well as determining the feasibility and details for the near-term projects. Regular review of the Park Board's plan provides a method to examine and evaluate the township's open 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.

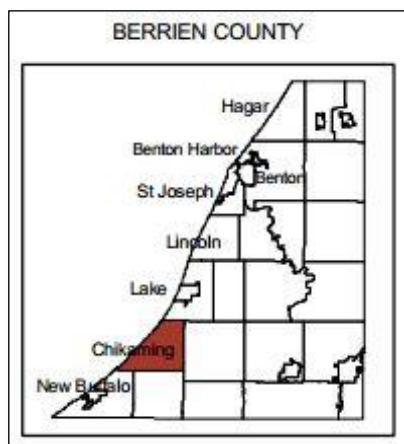
Besides preserving and acquiring land, restoration of both land and waterways is also critically important for improving water quality and eliminating beach closings resulting from high E.coli levels. Wetland restoration improves native habitat, reduces flooding and creates natural filters that capture E.coli that contaminates the watershed tributaries that flow into Lake Michigan.

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. Develop additional active recreation facilities to complement existing assets and to promote healthy outdoor activities for a variety of ages
- II. Actively seek to acquire and restore open space and infrastructure to preserve the natural resources of the Township
- III. Integrate our system of parks & preserves within the township and with neighboring jurisdictions through connecting trails and greenway corridors
- IV. Expand administrative, informational, and service delivery capabilities

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:

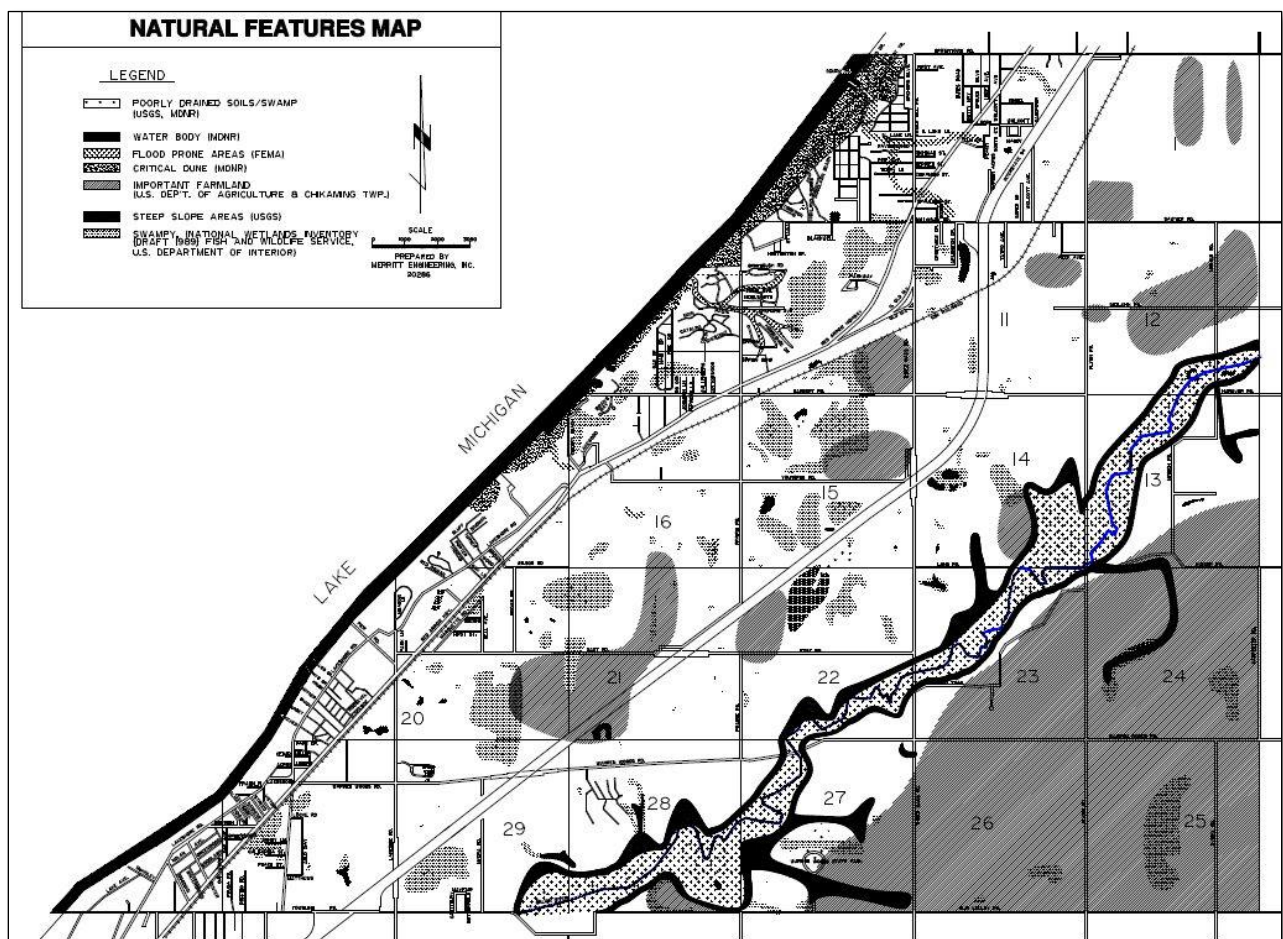
- We are a **Community of Good Neighbors**: we respect one another and conduct our affairs with respect for all our stakeholders.
- We strive for **Equal Access for all** to our facilities and to our deliberations.
- We value **Professionalism** and excellence in what we do.
- We place the **Safety** of our patrons at the top of our priority list.
- We value and actively encourage **Volunteerism** and community involvement
- When in doubt, the **Golden Rule** prevails.

PART A. BACKGROUND

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

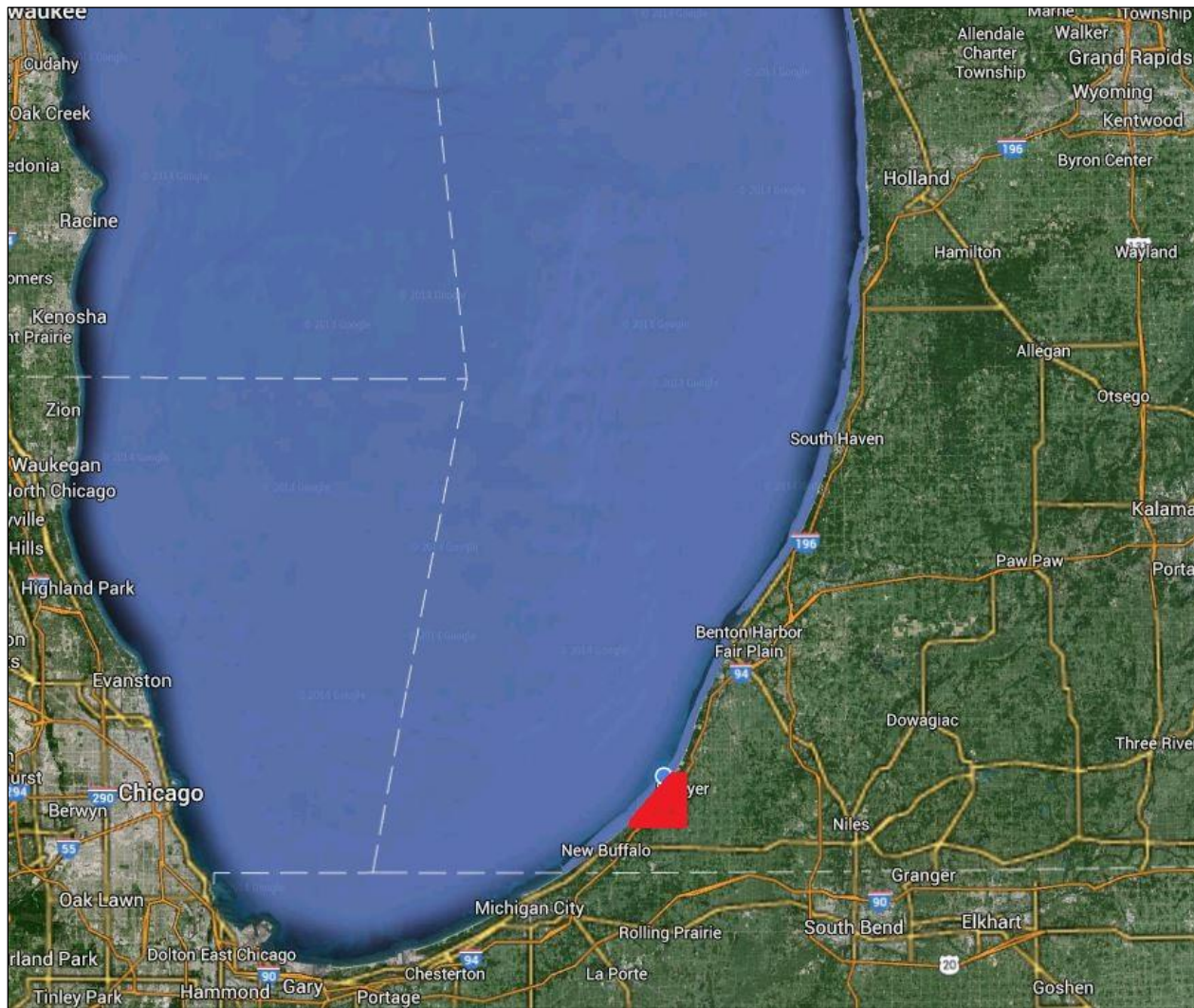
Natural Features

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.



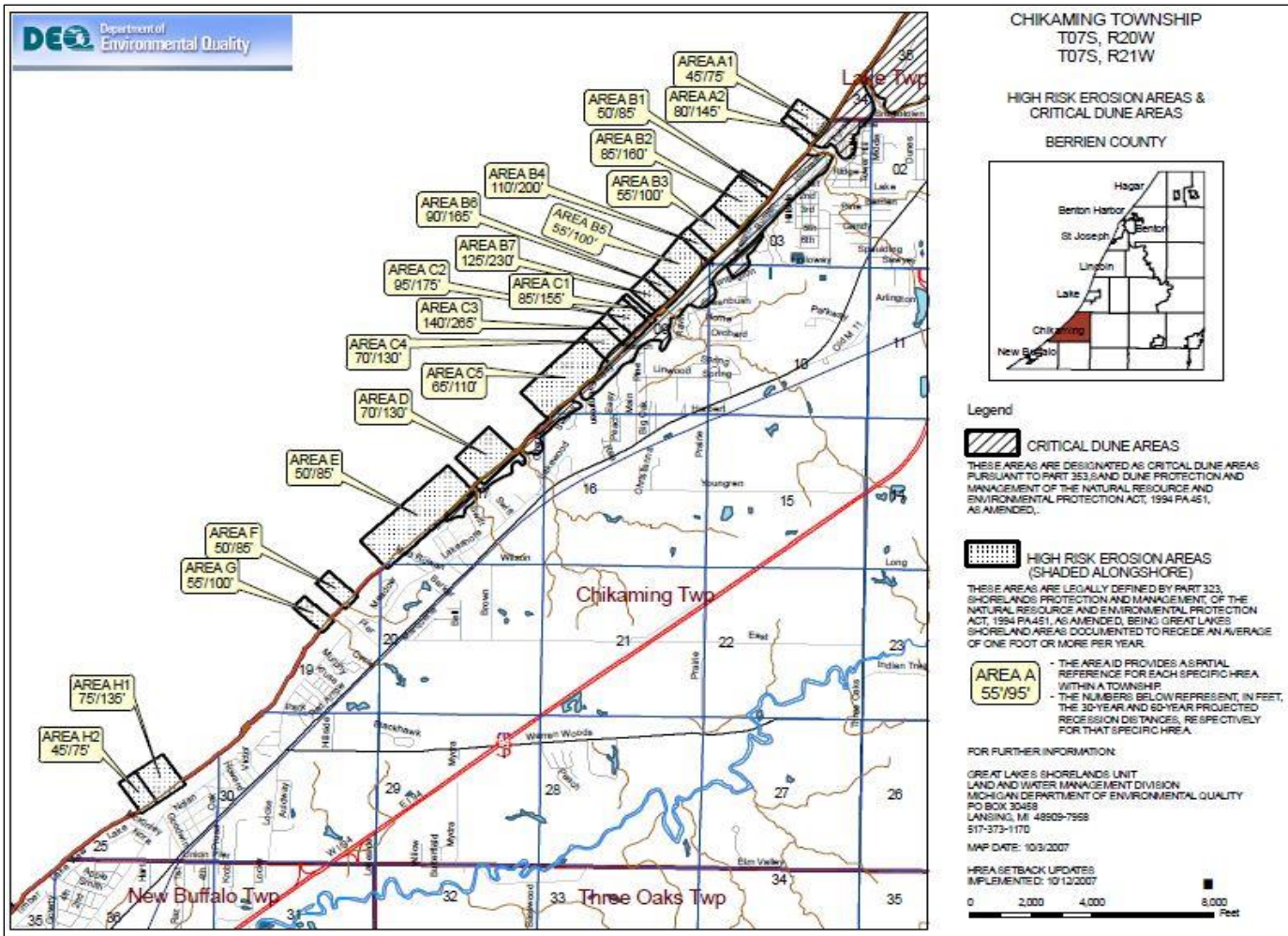
The Natural Features of Chikaming Township Moving from west to east, the dominant natural features include: Lake Michigan and the sandy shoreline; continuous sand dunes, which in the northern 2/3 of the township are protected critical dunes; wooded lands interspersed with homes, wetlands, and farms extending 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 20th 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 2nd 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, with an annual meeting in April. 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 \$40 per meeting (\$50 for officers).

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 2015-16 reflects the priorities included in this plan.

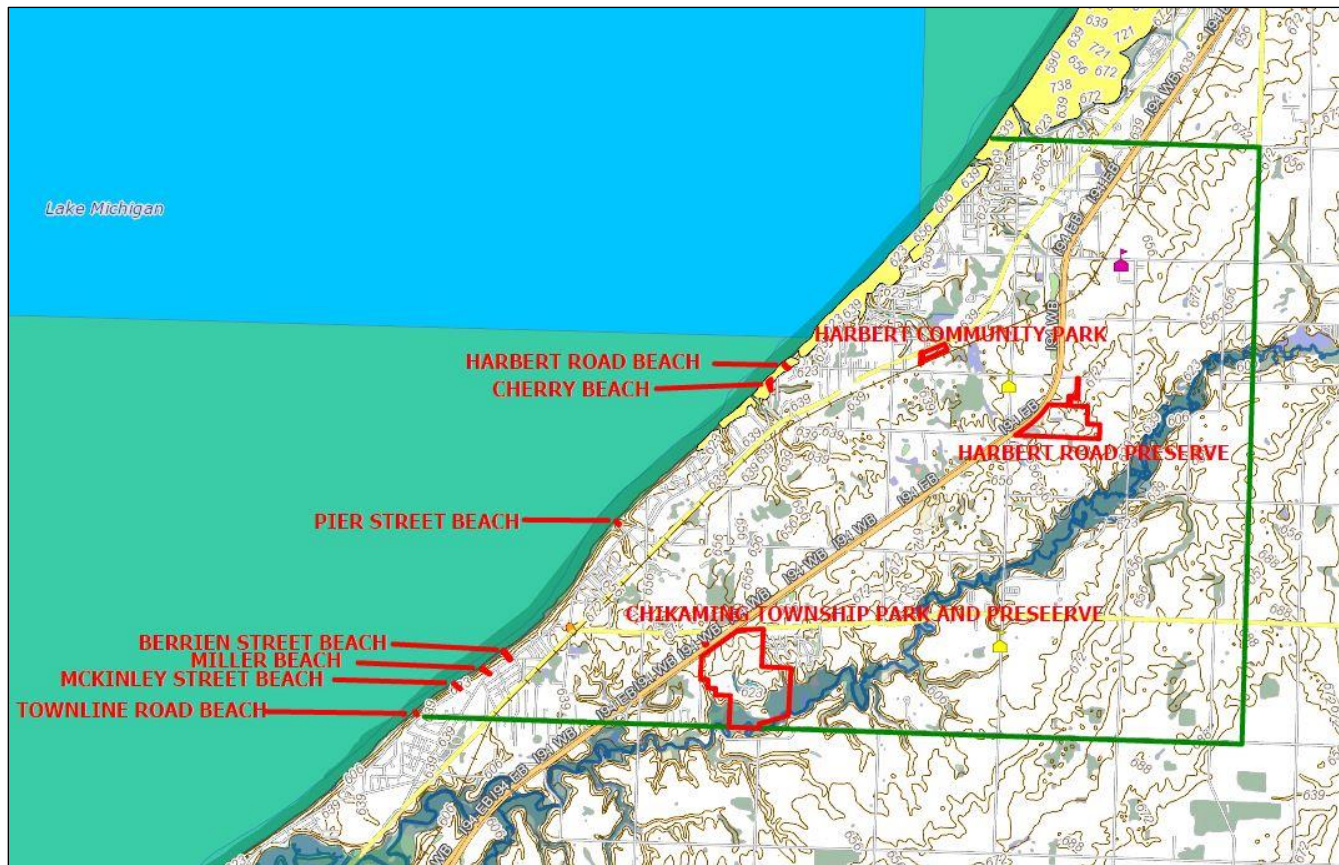
	budget 2009-10	budget 2010-11	budget 2011-12	budget 2012-13	budget 20013-14	amended budget 2014-15	approved budget 2015-16
salaries/wages	6,600	6,250	13,000	12,000	12,000	6,000	3,000
clerical	not itemized until 2015-2016 budget year						2,000
board per diem	not itemized until 2015-2016 budget year						3,500
beach & park contracts	10,000	10,000	10,000	11,000	11,000	12,000	16,000
snow	not itemized until 2015-2016 budget year						5,000
printing & publishing	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	200
community promotion	not itemized until 2015-2016 budget year						700
miscellaneous	250	250	250	250	250	500	
repair & maint. contracts	12,000	20,400	24,100	24,100	24,100	32,700	6,800
rubbish	not itemized until 2015-2016 budget year						12,000
septic	not itemized until 2015-2016 budget year						1,000
signs	not itemized until 2015-2016 budget year						700
construction	5,750	4,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,000	10,000
ice rink	not itemized until 2015-2016 budget year						5,000
utilities	not itemized until 2015-2016 budget year						2,500
beach & park security	10,000	folded into police department after 2009-2010 budget year					0
general operations	13,250	16,950	17,875	17,875	17,850	12,000	0
consultants & legal	500	500	1,000	1,000	1,300	15,300	6,000
payroll taxes, WC/P/H/L	650	650	275	300	300	300	600
TOTAL	60,000	60,000	75,000	75,025	75,300	86,800	75,000

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 3 park properties located further inland: 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. Harbert Road Preserve and 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

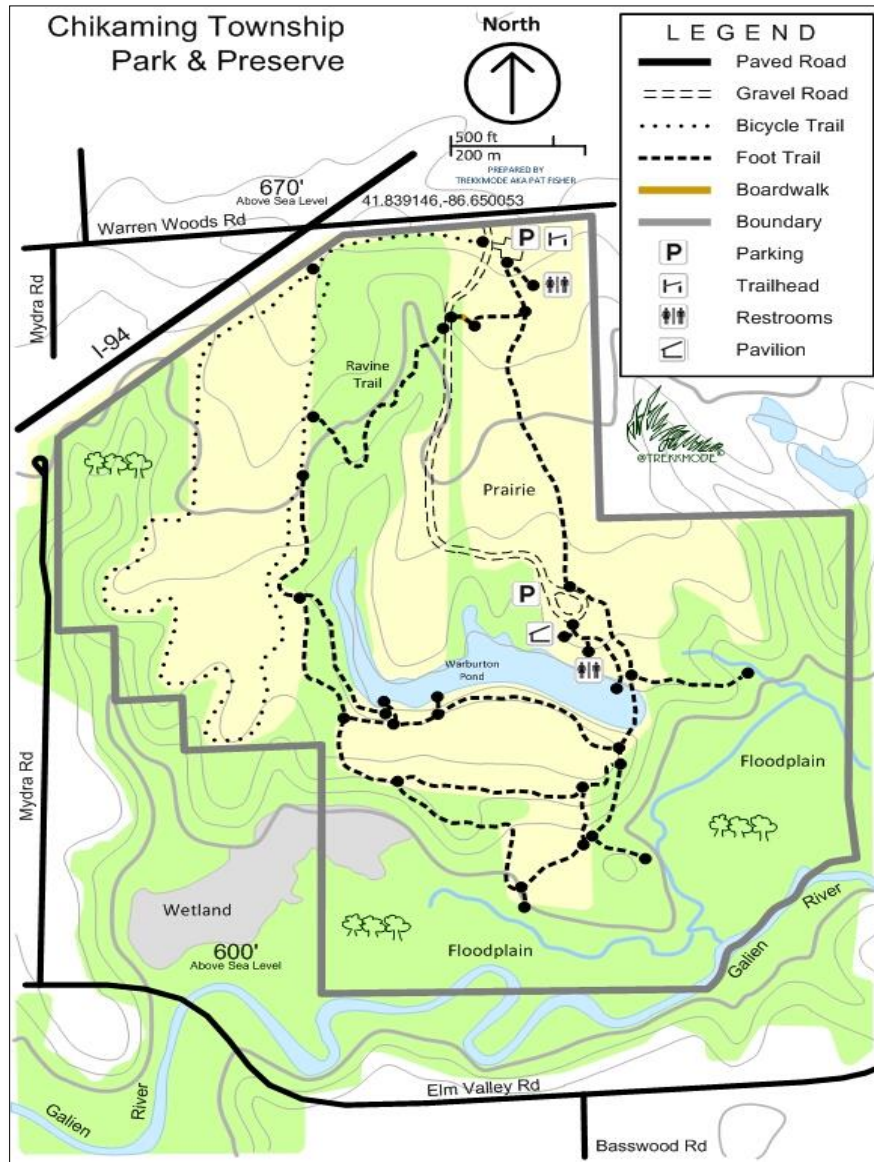
Properties Under the Stewardship of The Chikaming Township Park Board

	Chikaming Twp. role	Berrien County Road Commission	lake frontage	acreage	type of facility	facilities	accessibility	ADA 2010 rating	activities
Parks and Preserves									
Harbert Road Preserve	x	-	88.3	active preserve	p,s,t,b	g/ut	2	tr, pic	
Chikaming Township Park and Preserve	x	-	263.2	active preserve	p,s,t,w,b	g/ut	3	tr,pic,f,	
Harbert Community Park	x	-	8.7	multi-use recreation	p,s,t,w,b	g/steep	2	multi-use	
Beaches									
Cherry Beach	x		268'	1.9	beach	p,w,t,b	st	1	beach
Harbert Road Beach	x		66'	0.3	beach	rp,b	st	1	beach
Miller Beach	x/S	x	110'	0.8	beach (Twp. And BCRC)	b	st	1	beach
Townline Road Beach	x/S	x	101'	0.9	beach/road-end beach (w/ NB Twp. & BCRC)	rp,b	st	1	beach
McKinley St. Beach	S	R.O.W.	40'	R.O.W.	road-end beach	b	st	1	beach
Berrien St. Beach	S	R.O.W.	100'	R.O.W.	road-end beach	rp,b	ut, st	1	beach
Pier St. Beach	S	R.O.W.	66'	R.O.W.	road-end beach	rp,b	st	1	beach
Chikaming Township role	x = ownership; S = stewardship								
facilities	p = parking; rp = road parking; s = shelter; t = toilet; w = water; b = bike rack								
accessibility	g = good; ut = unpaved trails; st = stairs; pr = private; cons = conservation only								
2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design									
site elements meet standards (rated by the planning consultant)	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 MNRTF 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. Future plans include preservation programs, reforestation, 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

Applicant

Chikaming Township

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 was acquired as surplus land from the Highway department after completion of I-94.

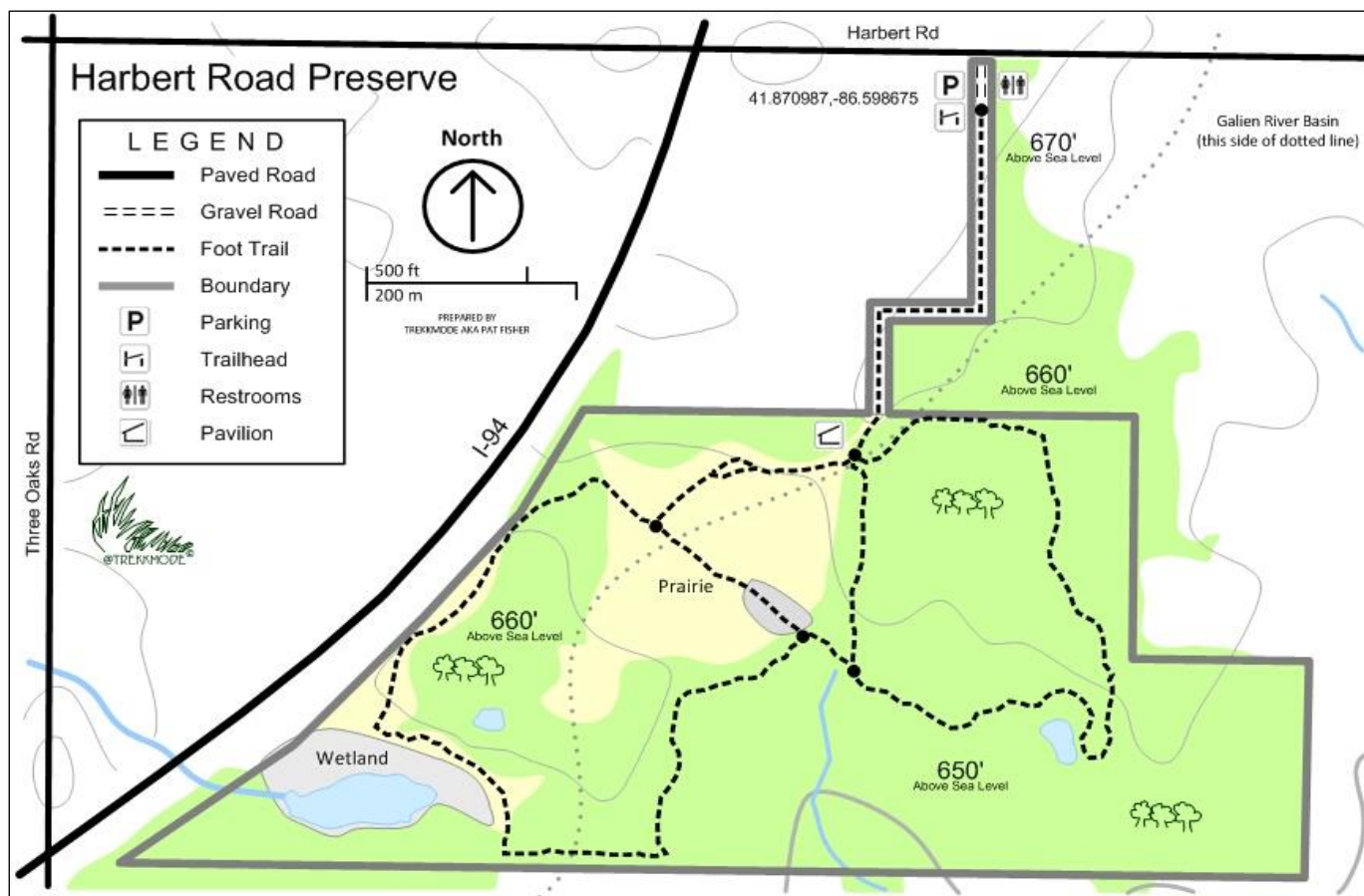
Total Acreage: 88 acres
Service Area: Harbor Country
Physical difficulty: Easy
Total Trails: 2.5 miles
ADA Accessibility Ranking: 2

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

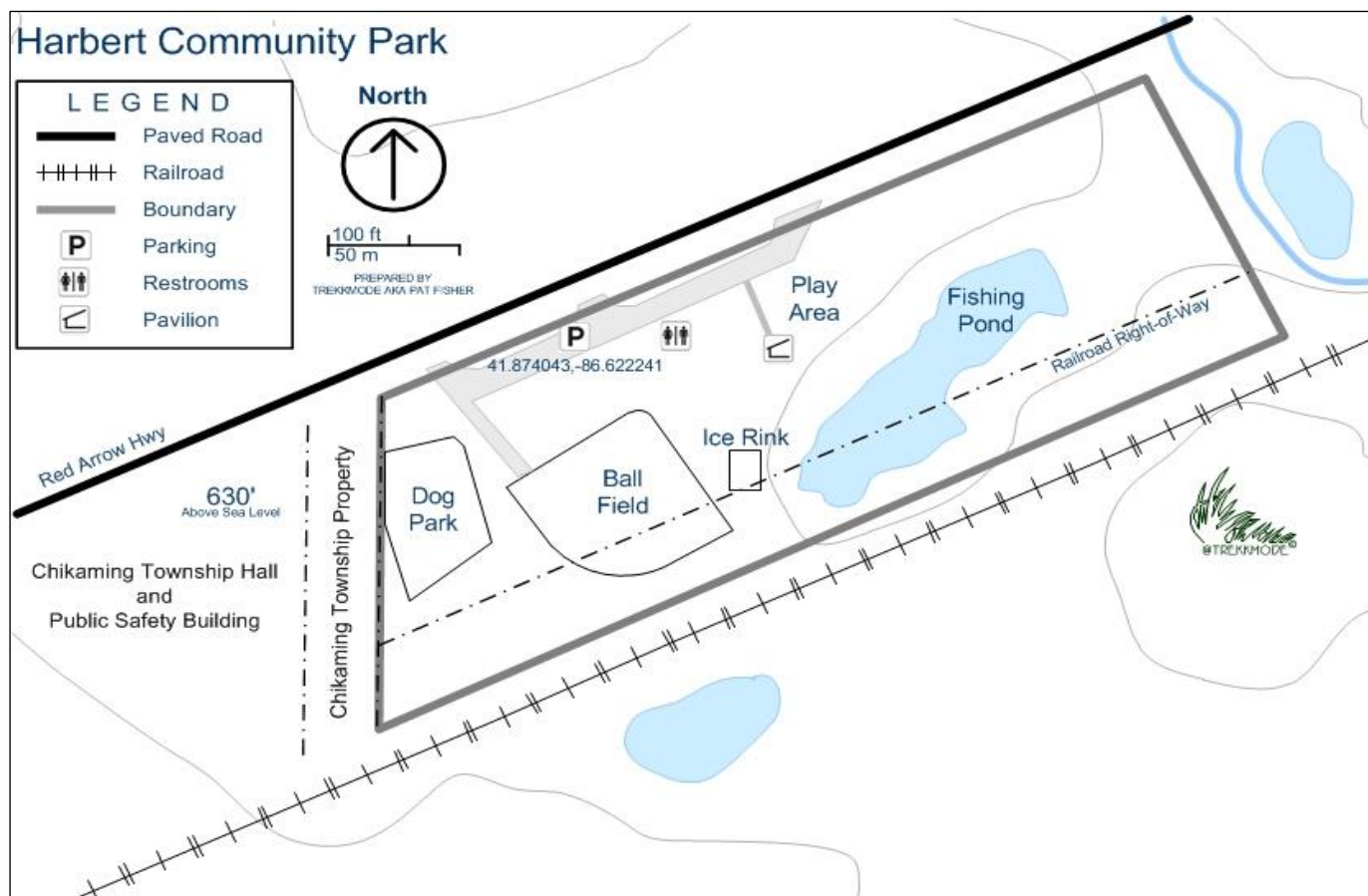


Map courtesy of Pat Fisher, local hiker

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. The pavilion and baseball field can be reserved by Chikaming property owners through Township Hall. Plenty of parking, a vault toilet, 2 drinking fountains, and a newly created walking path spread with wood chips complete the picture. This park is currently the location for the "Taste of Chikaming" community festival held in summer each year. It is identified as the site for more intensive recreational development in future years.



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

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, in fact, are situated on unused road right-of-way owned by the Berrien County Road Commission, and each has been placed under the management of the Township. Those beaches are **Pier Street Beach**, **Berrien Street Beach**, and **McKinley Road Beach**.

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 Commission, 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. As a result, they are all 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

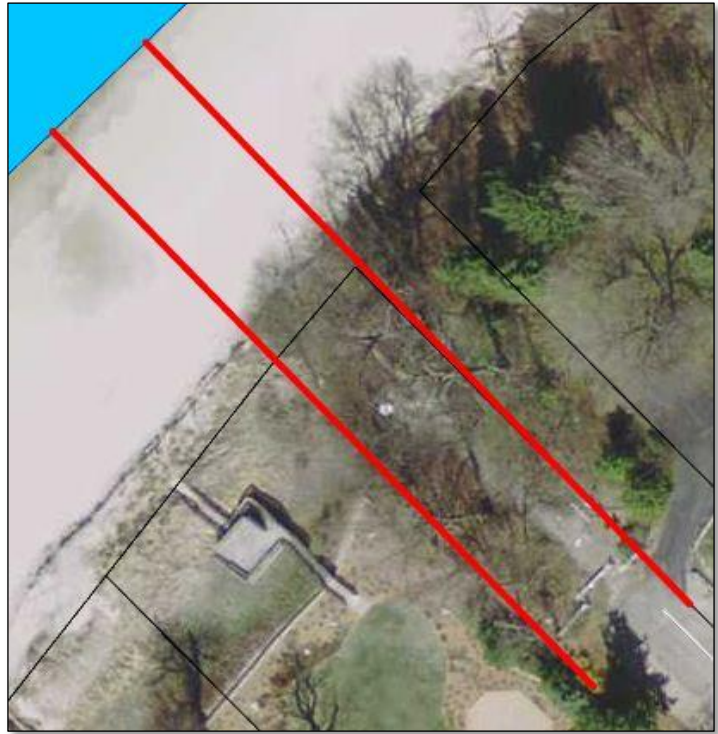
Townline Rd. Beach: walkable from central Union Pier, and bikeable from the balance of the New Buffalo and Chikaming Townships; jointly managed by both townships

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.

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 St. Beach



Cherry Beach



Miller Beach



Berrien St. Beach



McKinley St. Beach



Townline Road Beach
 parkboard@chikamingparkboard.org

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	distance from Chikaming Township	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				abuts	988.0	multi-use	g	multi-use
Warren Woods State Park	x					314.0	active preserve	ut	trails
University Of Chicago Biological Lab				x		40.0	conservation/science		open
Robinson Woods Preserve - COL			x			80.0	active preserve	ut	trails
Flynn Woods - COL		x				35.0	active preserve	ut	trails
Wilson Woods - COL		x				5.0	conservation	cons	open
Critter Haven Preserve - COL			x			3.0	conservation	cons	open
The Woods Preserve - COL			x			10.0	conservation	cons	open
Tower Hill Woods - in process			x	x		30 +/-	active preserve	cons	trails
The Trails - in process - COL			x			23.0	active preserve	ut	trails
Pepperidge Dunes Preserve - MNA			x			20.0	conservation	ut	trails
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 Assn.; SWMLC = Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy								

Three land conservancies steward nine 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 II. The Park Board is committed to pursuing this goal by aligning itself with other governmental units and agencies, and NGOs with similar interests.

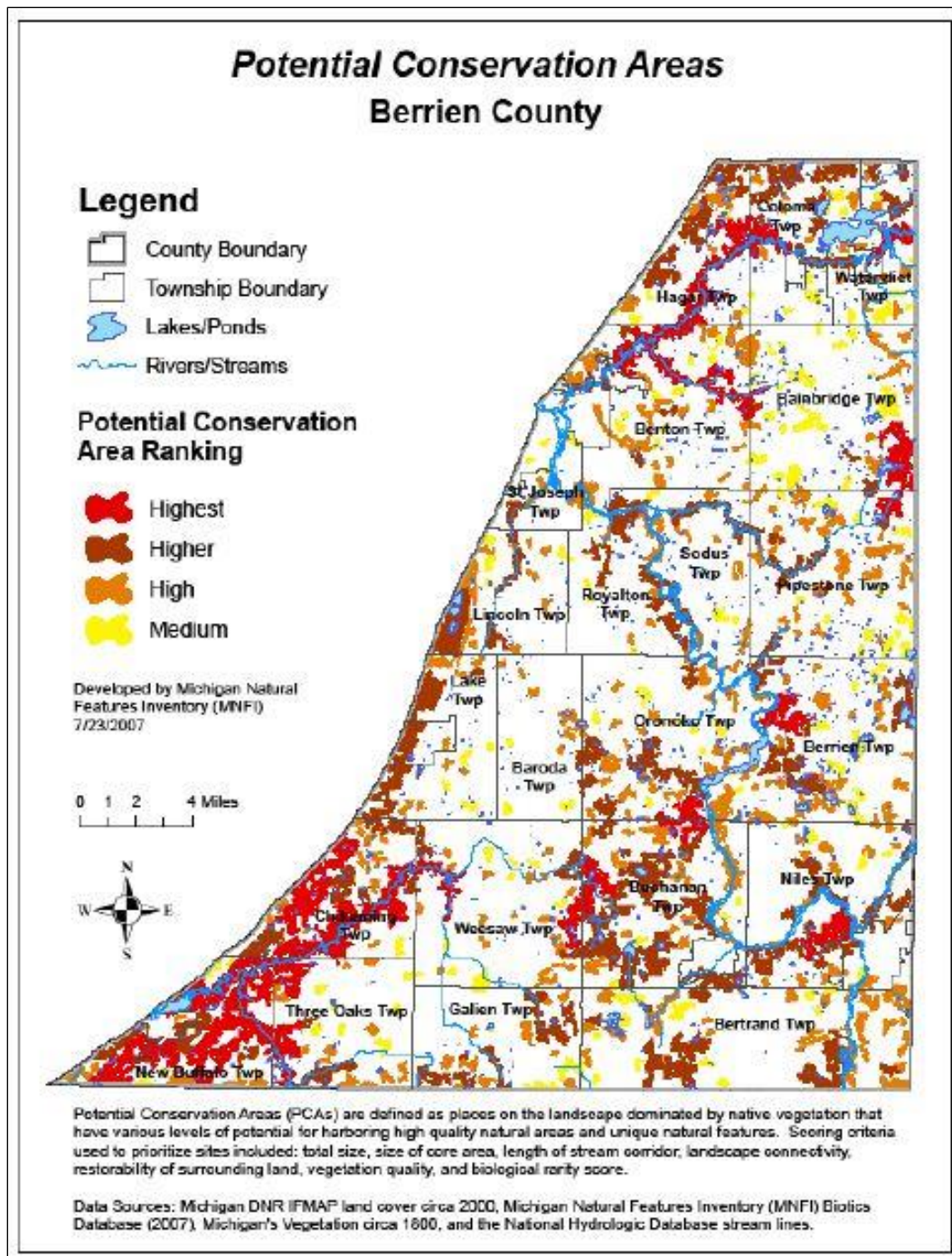
Properties and Preserves Outside the Township

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.

	Benien County Parks Department	State of Michigan	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	9	yes	1059.3	active preserve	p,s,t,w	ut	tr,b,f,ee	
Cook Nuclear Plant & vicinity			x	6	yes	700.6	controlled preserve	p,s,t,w	g, ut	tr	
Galien River County Park	x			2	-	85.9	active preserve	p,s,t	g, ut	tr,ee	
New Buffalo City Beach				5	yes	n/a	multi-use	p,s,t,w	g	multi-use	
Sima Marsh -COL	x		x	5	-	156.0	conservation			bw,ee	
Grand Beach Marsh - COL			x	7	-	11.0	active preserve				
Weko Beach City Park, Bridgman				5	yes	400 +/-	multi-use	p,s,t,w	g	multi-use	
Major Parks and Preserves within 45 minutes											
Love Creek County Park	x			25	-	170.0	multi-use	p,s,t,w	g, ut	multi-use	
Fernwood Botanical Gardens			x	20	-	96.5	habitat specimens	p,s,t,w	g, ut	tr,ee	
Sarrett Nature Center			x	22	-	155.6	active preserve	p,s,t,w	g, ut	tr,ee	
Wilson Woods - COL			x			5.0	conservation				
Dayton Wet Prairie - COL			x	7		40.0	conservation, science				
Burns Prairie - COL			x			12.0	active preserve				
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.



This map of Potential Conservation Areas in Berrien County, developed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory and included in the Berrien County Master Plan, illustrates the clustering of the highest valued conservation areas in Chikaming, Three Oaks, and New Buffalo Townships along the Galien River and the dune area. These resources have regional and statewide value that should be preserved.

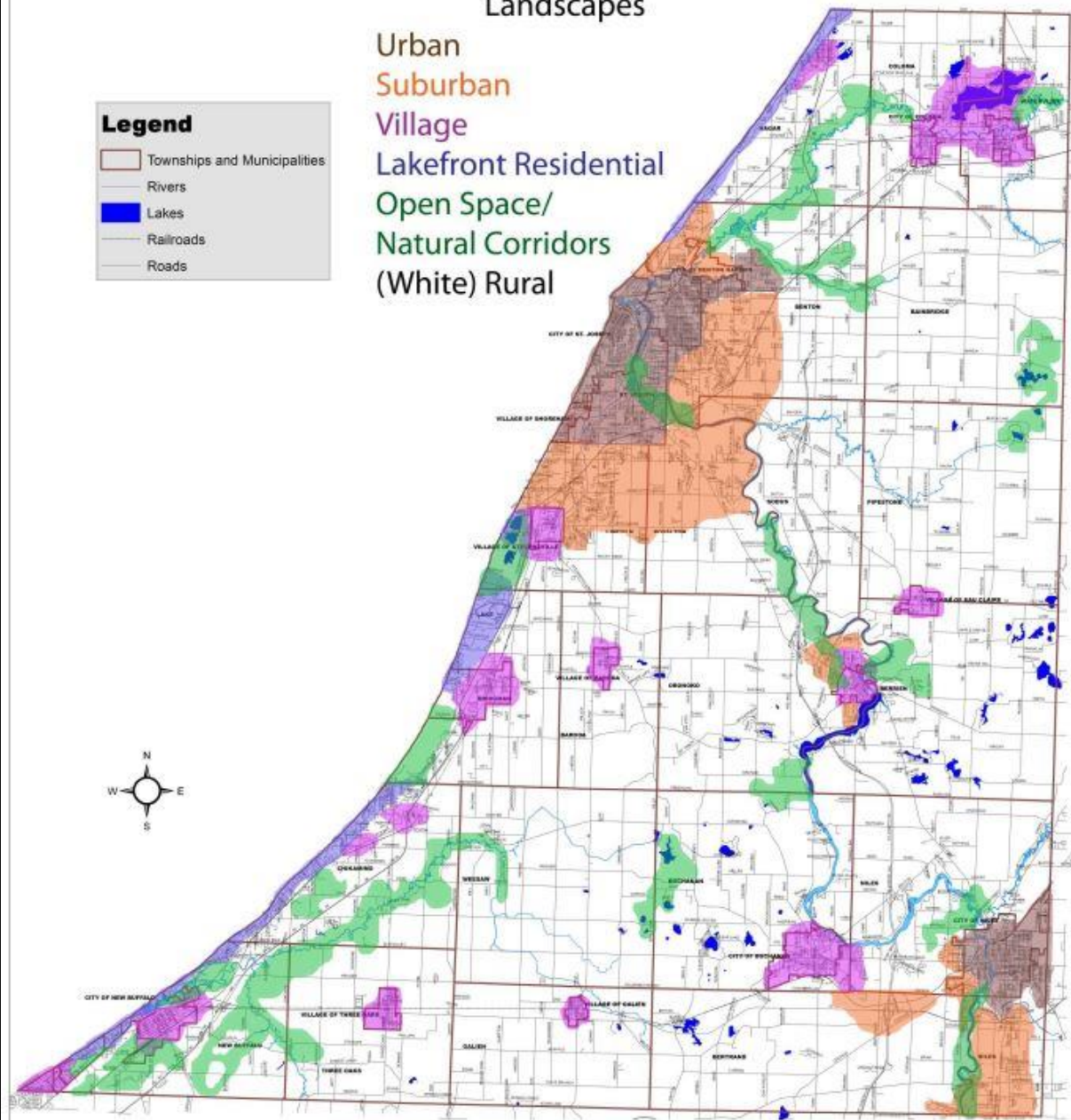
Berrien County - Base Map

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

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

Resource:

- 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 the Taste of Chikaming which coincides with The Umbrellas of Harbert fundraising event of the Harbert Business Association, located across the road.

Solutions:

- Complete the development of the 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 little league exhibition games and tournaments, and especially think about off-season attractors, such as a winter fest, running and/or bicycling events that can take advantage of our park facilities.
- 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 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.

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.

Solutions:

- A walking path with a hard surface and self instructed exercise stations suitable to different levels of ability would serve all ages including seniors. Recently a path has been developed at the Harbert Community Park using wood chips. This should be replaced when feasible with a hard surface and 6-8 exercise stations constructed along its length. It can be tied in to an accessible viewing/fishing deck at the pond.
- Work with the River Valley Senior Center to provide regular trips to the Chikaming Township Park and Preserve and the Harbert Community Park.

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 available to bring people with limited mobility easily to it.

Solutions:

- 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 the stair edges at the beaches to be highly visible to users.
- Design and build a new ramp to ADA standards at the Harbert Community Park.
- 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 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.

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:

- 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 web site
- Have toilets available at every beach

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

Opportunities:

- There are two wooded parcels of land for sale adjacent to the River Valley Senior Center to the north, encompassing a lake and small pond. They could be turned into a very nice park with minimal impact projects such as a shelter, paths, and a deck at the lake.
- There is a 10 acre surplus Township property on Three Oaks Rd. just south of I-94 that was intended for use by the Park Board, which could be developed as a park, connected to the Harbert Rd, Preserve, or could be traded or sold.
- 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.

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
- Be prepared to work in tandem with Chikaming Open Lands, Friends of Harbor Country Trails, and other land conservancies to leverage township resources.

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.
-

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.

Solution:

- Build a rain shelter with seating.
-

Need:

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

Solution:

- Find a donor/sponsor and matching grants to turn the facility into a venue that will be suitable for tourney and exhibition play, as well as other events. Promote its use.
-

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

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 10 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.

In 2013 and 2014, the Park Board conducted surveys of the populace attending “A Taste of Chikaming”, the annual gathering of the township held in August.

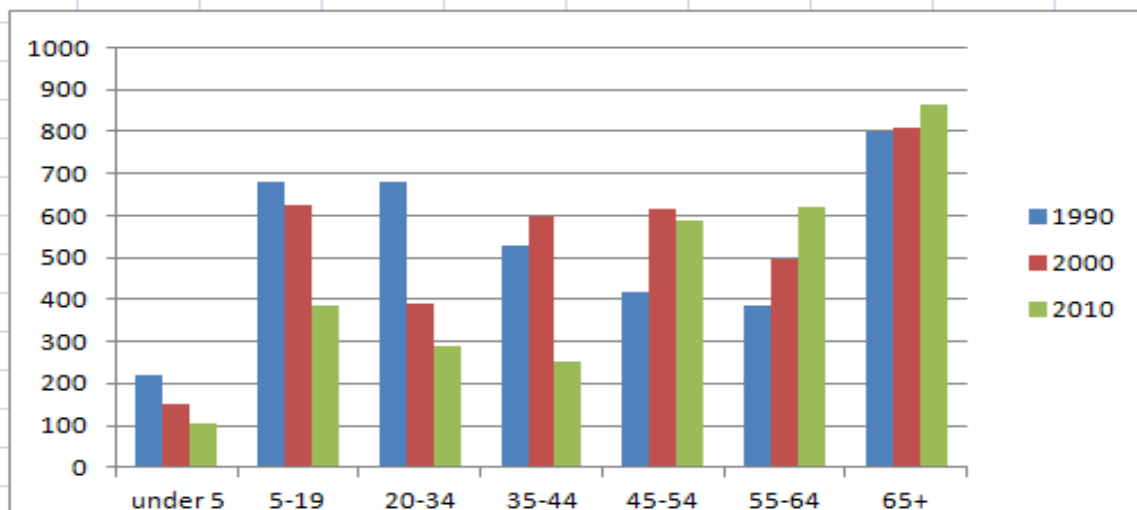
Finally, during the public review for this plan, conducted from January 30, 2014 to February 28, 2014, an on-line survey similar to that used to develop the priorities of the Park Board, was publicized and promoted. A public hearing was advertised on January 30, 2015, and held by the Chikaming Township Park Board on February 23, 2015. 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.

Finally, during the public review for this plan, conducted from January 30, 2014 to February 28, 2014, an on-line survey similar to that used to develop the priorities of the Park Board, was publicized and promoted. A public hearing was advertised on January 30, 2015, and held by the Chikaming Township Park Board on February 23, 2015. The full results of those surveys, and a transcript of the public hearing proceedings can be seen in Appendice C of this document.

The Chikaming Township Park Board approved the plan following the public hearing at its meeting on February 23, and the Chikaming Township Board approved the plan at a special meeting held on February 26, 2015.

Chikaming Township: Age Distribution of the Population



	under 5	5-19	20-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	total pop.	avg. age
1980	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	4302	34.9
change 1980 to 1990	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	-585	
1990	221	680	680	530	419	386	801	3717	35.0
change 1990 to 2000	-69	-57	-290	68	195	108	6	-39	
2000	152	623	390	598	614	494	807	3678	40.0
change 2000 to 2010	-49	-236	-101	-347	-26	126	55	-578	
2010	103	387	289	251	588	620	862	3100	53.9
	m = no data								

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 four goals listed below 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 -

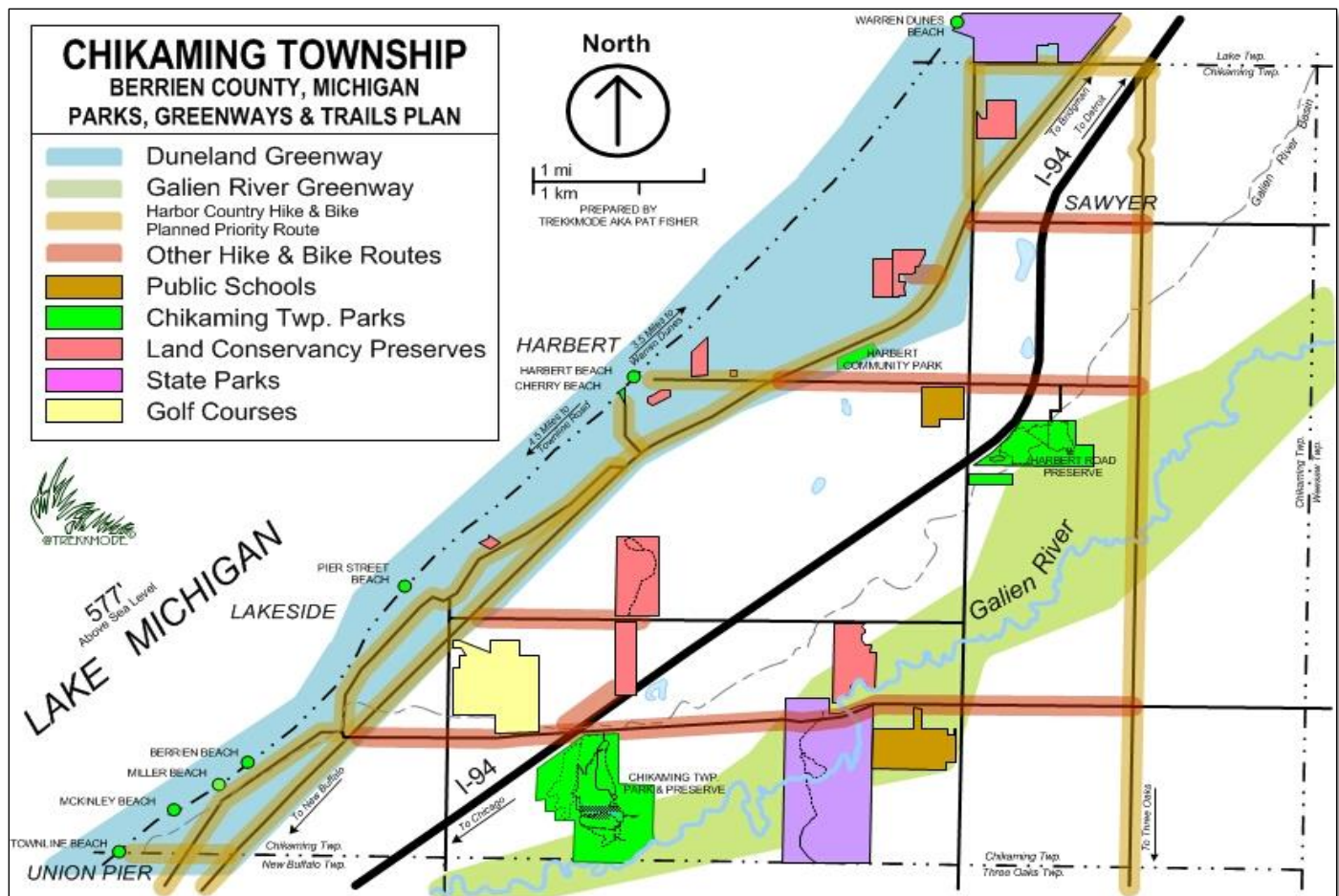
Today's parks will be refined and improved with additional trails and new park features to enhance the existing character of each property.

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 and Friends of Harbor Country Trails 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.



The Chikaming Trail and Greenway System in 20 Years

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/>

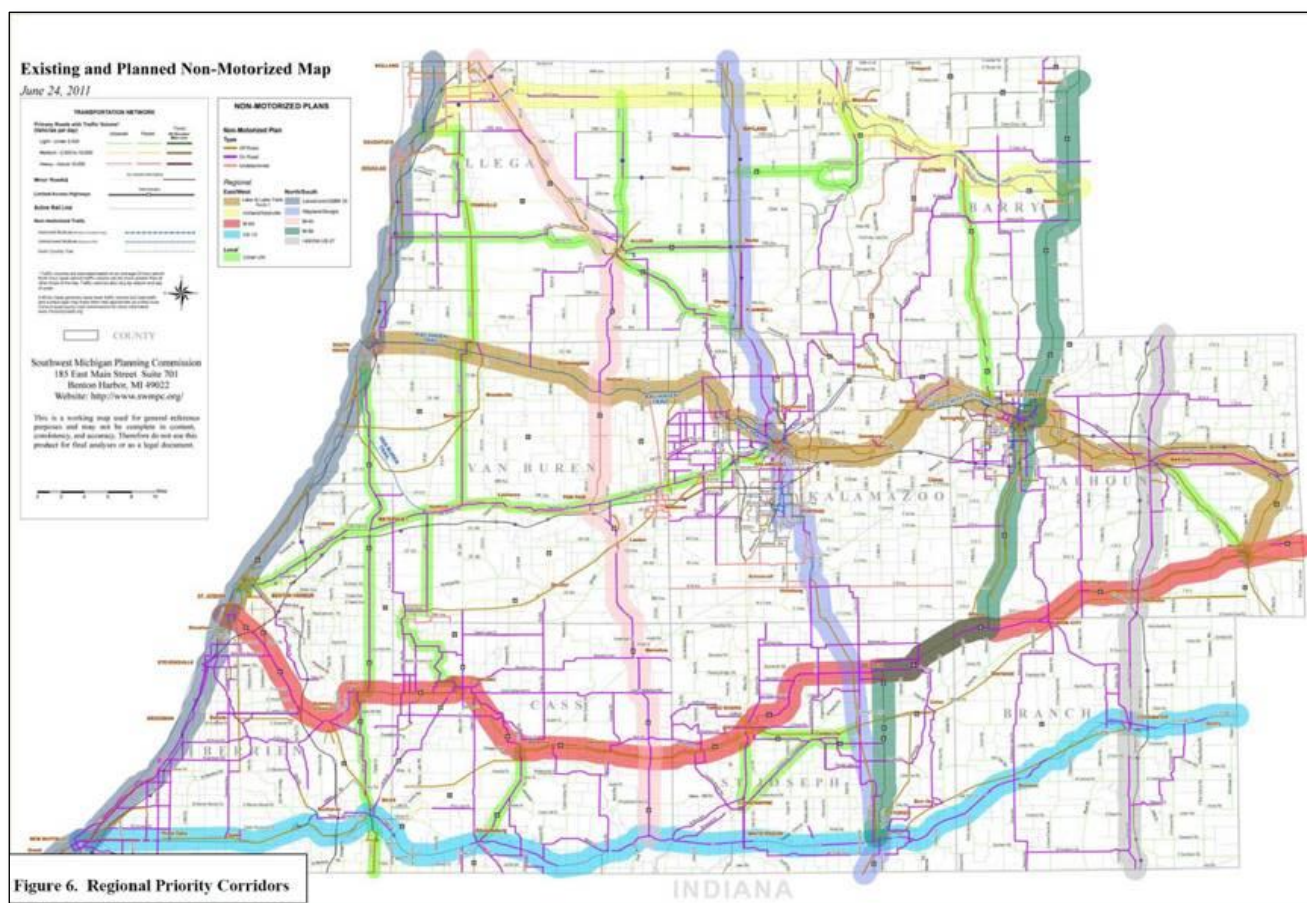
The Friends of Harbor Country Trails is working to implement the Hike and Bike Plan. Currently the group is working with Chikaming Township to develop a road crossing and roadside bike path along Red Arrow Highway between North Lakeshore Rd. and Youngren Rd. They have also installed signage for bike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



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 <http://biketouringroutes.com/section.php?sectionid=5>

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

When completed, the Lake Michigan Water Trail will offer safe, legal and adequate access around the entire 1,200 mile long lakeshore of America's Greatest Lake, Lake Michigan. The Lake Michigan Water Trail will be the longest continuous- loop water trail in the world. In 2011, 75 miles (from Chicago to New Buffalo) was designated as the Lake Michigan Water Trail National Recreation Trail by the National Parks Service. Both Indiana and Wisconsin have completed detailed inventories for access to Lake Michigan in support of trail development. Southwest Michigan completed an inventory in 2012 and continues to update it with new access sites. For more information visit <http://www.lmwt.org> and www.michiganwatertrails.org.

Chikaming Township is specifically part of the Harbor Country section of the Lake MI Water Trail. <http://www.michiganwatertrails.org/trail.asp?ait=cv&cid=287>

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. There are 2 road end beaches that make nice rest stops for a picnic and the Cherry Street Access site has bathrooms. Warren Dunes has 260 foot tall dune formations with spectacular views. The park is open year round and offers camping, six miles of hiking trails and 1,952 acres of recreational opportunity.

Harbert Beach is designated as an access point in Chikaming Township.

<http://www.michiganwatertrails.org/location.asp?ait=av&aid=201>

Berrien Street Beach and Cherry Beach are rest stops in Chikaming Township

<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. Develop additional active recreation facilities to complement existing assets and to promote healthy outdoor activities for a variety of ages

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 to be intensely 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, concession stand, and dog park. There is ample space to add facilities, and there are not environmentally sensitive areas that need to be protected, although the pond is in need of restorative work. Because of the adjacent Township Hall and nearby Senior Center, this park is ideally suited to public events and gatherings, and can easily be developed as the centerpiece of the community.

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 and spill over on to neighboring private property, create policing issues, generate trash, and overtax the facilities. The challenge with the beaches is how to alleviate these issues of over popularity, rather than make them more attractive.

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 two other similar facilities not owned by the Township: Warren Woods (State of Michigan) and Robinson Woods (Chikaming Open Lands), and there are 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.

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 A: Improve accessibility for persons with mobility challenges at the parks and at least one beach as improvements are made. (#1 priority, 4.4 score)

Objective B: Focus development of active recreation activities on Harbert Community Park, including the following priority projects:

- a) Outdoor, man-made ice rink/pond (#4-t priority, 3.75 score)
- b) Pond enhancement, including a viewing/fishing platform (#4-t priority, 3.75 score)
- c) Splash pad (#7-t priority, 3.5 score)
- d) Add natural elements to playground
- e) Add multi-level parcours fitness stations to trail (#12 priority, 2.88 score)
- f) Ball fields (#7-t priority, 3.5 score)
- g) Beach Volleyball court
- h) A shelter at the dog park
- i) A covered walkway between the pavilion and the concession stand

Objective C: Place Strategic Projects at other properties

- a) Mountain bike trail at Chikaming Township Park & Preserve (**#7-t priority, 3.5 score**)
- b) Assess the benefits, costs, and impediments to creating a bridle path on park land
- c) Public toilets at beaches (**#10-t priority, 3.25 score**)
- d) Scientific parks (Harbert Road Park and Chikaming Township Park & Preserve)
(**#10-t priority, 3.25 score**)
 - a. QR interactivity plaques and information access
 - b. Self-guided environmental education
 - c. Self guided exploratory activities
 - d. Solar and wind demonstration projects
 - i. Tied in to monitoring systems

Objective D: Implement a common design vocabulary at all facilities

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

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

GOAL II. Actively seek to acquire and restore open space and to maintain infrastructure to preserve the natural resources of the Township (#2 priority, 4.0 score)

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

Objective G: 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 (email: parkboard@chikamingparkboard.org).

Objective H: 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 I: 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 is beaches that have streams flowing where there have been beach closings.

GOAL III. 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 virtual as well as 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 lake front 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 J: Aggressively develop hike and bike trails connecting to parks & preserves (#1 priority, 4.13 score)

- a) Establish a linear park incorporating a hike and bike path, along Red Arrow Highway
- b) Establish trails within the Galien River Valley from Elm Valley Rd. through the Harbert Rd. Preserve in cooperation with New Buffalo Township, Three Oaks Township, and the County Parks Department in order to connect to the Galien River County Park
- c) Consider Warren Dunes State Park to be a destination, and seek cooperation with Lake Township, Michigan DNR, and the County Parks Department to extend the trail through the State Park and further north
- d) Seek to also establish linkages to the schools, and to preserves owned by land conservancies
- e) Actively promote the hiking and biking opportunities available in Harbor Country as an additional form of recreation

Objective K: Establish continuous wildlife corridors through easements or acquisitions (#3 priority, 4.14 score)

- a) In cooperation with Chikaming Open Lands

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

GOAL IV. Expand administrative, informational, and service delivery capabilities

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 M: Strengthen the leadership mechanisms of the Park Board

- a) Develop a set of bylaws that define and focus the Park Board functioning
- b) Develop a new Master Plan for the Park Board
- c) Develop a manual with standard operating procedures, basic structural information, inter-agency agreements, etc.
- d) 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

Objective N: Conduct an in-depth legal analysis of the powers and standing of the Park

Board, and of ownership and agreements surrounding all beach sites; implement any needed changes

Objective O: Conduct an inquiry into beach and dune protection laws, and promote passage of local ordinances to enhance the ability of the Township to protect them. The Michigan Townships Association may be helpful in facilitating such an undertaking.

Objective P: 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 Q: Implement technology improvements (**#4-t priority, 3.75 score**)

- a) Beach and park monitoring systems with more accuracy to specific locations
 - Weather and Water conditions
 - Web cams
 - Security surveillance systems
- b) Informational web site with real-time conditions and information

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

The five year program includes three types of projects:

- Those that we deem necessary to establish the strong organization that will give us a base to move forward on an expansive plan as outlined in the Goal and Objectives,
- Those that are specifically identified and associated with a particular property, and are able to be moved forward with a little more detailing when funding sources are identified.
- Those that will require a lot of up front work, both in detailing out the specifics of the project, but also in building relationships and developing plans with other organizations. This category also includes acquisitions that fit into the long range plan, and will be pursued as opportunities arise

As a result, some have estimated costs attached to them while for others it is not realistic to try to cost them out at this time.

The projects were grouped by the properties where they will be implemented, 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.

The summary budget table on the next page does not include the third category of projects above. Each of those will require a major effort by the Park Board in conjunction with other entities to be brought to the forefront. Note that the first column of numbers is a total cost estimate, while the next five are a breakout year by year.

At the end of this part is a listing of the projects for the first year, their estimated costs, and their projected funding sources. Grant applications will flow from this.

PROGRAM SUMMARY	<u>total</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
System Wide Projects	74,000	14,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Harbert Community Park	282,195	7,695	71,000	78,500	25,000	100,000	0
Chikaming Park & Preserve	66,000	0	1,000	35,000	30,000	0	0
Harbert Rd. Preserve	50,000	0	0	30,000	20,000	0	0
Beaches	175,500	0	500	60,000	40,000	45,000	30,000
total	647,695	21,695	87,500	218,500	125,000	155,000	40,000

SYSTEM WIDE IMPROVEMENTS

This set of projects are those that do not have a specific location, but rather relate to developing capabilities, knowledge, relationships, or common elements for all properties. Some are seen as system wide in scope, but are applied to individual properties rather than budgeted in this grouping.

Making our natural resources accessible to all will require some innovative efforts. It is our number one 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.

The set of higher tech 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 make the presence of nature be felt in other ways. Renewable energy demonstration projects will give us another opportunity to monitor our climate resources and promote the use of alternative energy sources.

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, non-governmental organizations, and the people of Harbor Country.

Note that the tables for the groupings that follow include actions taken or underway in the current fiscal year, as well as a column for the total estimated cost, and a column for future years' activities, either as capital improvements or as ongoing programs.

			PROGRAM YEAR					future years
			year 1	year 2	year 3	year 4	year 5	
SYSTEM WIDE PROJECTS	est. cost	current year 0						
implement ADA accessibility standards as projects are undertaken			costs will be allocated to specific projects as they are undertaken					
higher tech features - web site with remote connections to all sites; solar and wind demo projects; water quality monitoring at beaches; webcams; weather stations; live data on website; maintenance equipment			\$125,000 costs will be applied to specific parks					
develop a common design vocabulary for the park system	5,000		5,000					
implement a common design vocabulary at all facilities	45,000			15,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
hike and bike trails connecting the parks and regional system	estimated \$5,000,000 costs to be planned, detailed, staged and funding sought							
acquire greenway open space and wildlife corridors	unknown	ongoing identified	project dependent upon properties becoming available and funding					
encourage excursions to parks from River Valley Senior Center	unknown	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
establish Park Board informational web site		completed						
develop internal governance and guiding documents (bylaws, master plan, manual with standard operating procedures)		14,000	to be completed in 2015					
legal analysis (beach property standing, Park Board powers & standing, beach and dune protection laws)			10,000					
establish a permanent funding source for the Park Board				campaign				
total	50,000	14,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	

HARBERT COMMUNITY PARK

This park will receive the major share of the developmental effort and funds because it is the park designated for active recreation projects and is seen as the focus of the placemaking effort of the township government. Placemaking is a way of giving the people a sense of identity and community. It is a major land use and economic initiative of the Governor's office in the State of Michigan, and is a nationally recognized community building and planning strategy.

The projects for this park are intended to draw a multi-generational patronage, and to create activities that will foster healthy exercise and community experiences.

The Carl Sandberg memorial will remind us of one of our most famous and colorful residents, whose contributions to history and poetry are internationally renowned.

Other new elements will be a splash pad or other water feature, an upgrade to the ice rink, a beach volleyball court, and a walking path with exercise stations along it (sometimes referred to as a parcours). The playground will be enhanced with features that incorporate natural materials in order to reinforce the theme of nature appreciation.

	est. cost	0	PROGRAM YEAR					future years
			1	2	3	4	5	
HARBERT COMMUNITY PARK								
deferred maintenance, upgrades	1,500	1,500						
Carl Sandberg memorial	6,195	6,195						
develop sketch plan	donation	x						
develop detailed site plan	10,000		10,000					
Sandberg memorial welcome center	25,000		25,000					
implement design vocabulary into existing features	10,000		10,000					
add 6 exercise stations to path	15,000		15,000					
pave the path	30,000		5,000		25,000			
install beach volleyball court over ice rink pad	500		500					
higher tech features: webcam; weather station; live data on website	5,000		5,000					
add natural elements to playground	1,000		500	500				
build a rain shelter at the dog park				3,000				
build pergola, pavilion to concession stand	40,000			30,000				
pond enhancement, including viewing/fishing platform	5,000			15,000				
splash pad with natural waterfall	30,000			30,000				
upgrade ice rink to man-made or synthetic ice	100,000					100,000		
ballfield improvements			\$1,000,000 costs to be planned, detailed, staged and funding sought					
total	279,195	7,695	71,000	78,500	25,000	100,000		

THE NATURE PRESERVES

It is our goal to maintain the nature preserves with as little encroachment as possible while still providing the opportunity to access and enjoy nature in its many facets. The projects that are in the 5 year program have minimal footprints, and will help us bring people to the enjoyment of nature.

Having water available at the shelters will enhance the usability of the preserves without detracting from them.

Utilizing the common design vocabulary will provide recognizability and usability, and likewise be low impact.

Disk golf is an activity which can easily be embedded in natural areas, and is a low cost as well as low footprint feature.

The high tech features will provide a way of drawing attention to our less utilized properties, will help us monitor their use, and will promote the use of alternative energy. They can be installed with little impact on our preserves.

The addition of mountain bike trails and possibly bridle paths will offer even more ways-for people to get out and appreciate the abundance of nature in the township.

	AVERAGE WEIGHT	RANK	est. cost	0	PROGRAM YEAR					future years
					1	2	3	4	5	
CHIKAMING PARK AND PRESERVE										
mountain bike trail	3.5	8	1,000		1,000					
trail of trees memorial path			unknown		implemented per demand; funded by donation					
implement design vocabulary with existing features			10,000			10,000				
water to the shelters at the preserves	3	13	15,000			15,000				
disk (frisbee) golf course	2.4	18	5,000			5,000				
higher tech features: webcam; weather station; wind generator demo project; live data on website										
	3.75	6	35,000			5,000	30,000			
total			66,000		1,000	35,000	30,000	0	0	
sources of funds:	township					5,000	10,000			
	grants					25,000	15,000			
	other				1,000	5,000	5,000			
	AVERAGE WEIGHT	RANK	est. cost	0	PROGRAM YEAR					future years
					1	2	3	4	5	
HARBERT ROAD PRESERVE										
implement design vocabulary with existing features			10,000			10,000				
water to the shelters at the preserves	3	13	15,000			15,000				
higher tech features: webcam; weather station; solar photovoltaic demo project; live data on website										
	3.75	6	25,000			5,000	20,000			
total			50,000		0	30,000	20,000	0	0	

THE BEACHES

Our effort at the beaches are intended to make them more usable, safe, and accessible.

The high tech installations will give us surveillance, water monitoring, and useful information.

The design vocabulary will give us a common theme and recognizability, both at the road level, but at the beach level as well, alleviating various problems.

Accessibility is hard to achieve at the beaches because of the bluff and steep dunes, but we see two possible opportunities to achieve it:

1. The barrier removal from the pavement level at the Townline Rd. Beach is simple and will make it quite easy for persons with mobility challenges to reach the deck at the top of the stairs and to enjoy the beach and lake views.
2. At Berrien St. Beach, the challenge is greater. Since the ground slopes at a grade steeper than the wheelchair ramp standards, providing a compliant ramp from the street level will mean that the ground slopes away from the ramp as it gets closer to the beach. Thus the ramp will be elevated several feet from the ground at the entry to the beach. This offers a construction and cost challenge, but also a wonderful opportunity to provide a viewing platform elevated above the lake and beach with magnificent views. A second challenge here is that this is the beach access that is used for emergency vehicles and patrols, and to allow construction equipment onto the beach for necessary work. There is adequate width to the right-of-way at this point, so it becomes a matter of consciously designing to allow both vehicle and wheelchair access routes.

Finally, the provision of toilets at beaches will be a relief to many, and will reduce some sanitation issues at our beaches. They most likely will have to be vault toilets or a more permanent and picturesque version of porta-potties.

	est. cost	0	PROGRAM YEAR					future years
			1	2	3	4	5	
BEACHES								
ADA accessibility at Townline Rd. Beach	500		500					
ADA accessibility at Berrien St. Beach	30,000			30,000				
toilets at beaches	75,000			15,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
implement design vocabulary with existing features	35,000			10,000	10,000	15,000		
higher tech features: webcams; weather stations; water quality monitors; live data on website	35,000			5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
total	175,500		500	60,000	40,000	45,000	30,000	

In order to develop the FY 2015-16 budget, the first year of the park development program was examined in more detail with potential grant sources identified. This will help the Park Board methodically move forward in acquiring funding and implementing the vision and mission developed on previous pages. The first year program follows:

CONSOLIDATED YEAR 1 (2015-16) PARK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

			<u>Park Board budget</u>	<u>line</u>	<u>grants</u>	<u>local donations, volunteer labor, in-kind contributions,</u>	<u>total</u>
systemwide							
develop a common design vocabulary for the park system	5,000		1,000	legal/consult		4,000	
implement a common design vocabulary	defer \$10,000						
legal analysis (beach property standing, Park Board powers & standing, beach and dune protection laws)	10,000		5,000	legal/consult		5,000	
encourage excursions to parks from River Valley Senior Center	x					x	
total systemwide		15,000					15,000
Harbert Community Park							
develop detailed site plan	10,000				5,000	5,000	
implement design vocabulary into existing features	10,000				5,000	5,000	
install beach volleyball court over ice rink pad	500		500	construction			
add natural elements to playground	500					500	
Sandberg memorial welcome center	25,000		5,000	construction	10,000	10,000	
pond enhancement	defer \$5,000						
higher tech features: webcam; weather station; live data on	5,000					5,000	
add 6 exercise stations to path	15,000		3,000	construction	11,000	1,000	
ADA standard path from Sandberg memorial to pavillion to concessions	5,000		1,500	construction	3,500		
total HCP		71,000					71,000
Chikaming Park & Preserve							
mountain bike trail	1,000					1,000	
higher tech features: webcam; weather station; live data on	defer \$5,000						
implement design vocabulary with existing features	defer \$10,000						
trail of trees memorial path - financed by memorial contributions	x						
total CP&P		1,000					1,000
Harbert Rd. Preserve							
higher tech features: webcam; weather station; live data on	defer \$5,000						
implement design vocabulary with existing features	defer \$10,000						
total HRP		0					
Beaches							
ADA accessibility to deck at Townline Rd. Beach	500				500		
higher tech features: webcams; weather stations; live data on website - one beach	defer \$5,000						
implement design vocabulary with existing features - two beaches	defer \$10,000						
toilets at beaches	defer \$15,000						
total Beaches		500					500
overall total cost for year		87,500	16,000	0	35,000	36,500	87,500

CENSUS DATA

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	Estimate	Margin of Error		Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </				

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

		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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total:		507	915	771	907
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male:		246	449	371	457
Under 5 years		12	13	17	22
5 to 9 years		7	11	9	14
10 to 14 years		13	20	7	25
15 to 17 years		9	19	8	16
18 and 19 years		7	6	7	6
20 years		3	9	5	7
21 years		1	3	3	3
22 to 24 years		9	16	8	12
25 to 29 years		7	13	9	15
30 to 34 years		12	11	11	11
35 to 39 years		8	15	8	19
40 to 44 years		16	15	15	28
45 to 49 years		17	41	30	37
50 to 54 years		28	53	32	55
55 to 59 years		14	40	40	36
60 and 61 years		14	17	19	25
62 to 64 years		17	28	28	17
65 and 66 years		17	14	16	14
67 to 69 years		7	20	25	27
70 to 74 years		7	27	27	30
75 to 79 years		11	22	20	16
80 to 84 years		5	25	19	12
85 years and over		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
80 to 84 years		5	25	19	12
85 years and over		5	11	8	10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female:		261	466	400	450
Under 5 years		7	13	9	10
5 to 9 years		8	12	11	21
10 to 14 years		13	24	13	11
15 to 17 years		13	21	13	13
18 and 19 years		6	9	6	9
20 years		5	3	0	2
21 years		4	2	3	6
22 to 24 years		3	8	7	7
25 to 29 years		10	12	6	9
30 to 34 years		9	7	8	10
35 to 39 years		7	14	12	19
40 to 44 years		21	19	13	22
45 to 49 years		15	36	39	51
50 to 54 years		21	40	38	55
55 to 59 years		29	46	50	49
60 and 61 years		15	17	16	23
62 to 64 years		14	27	23	16
65 and 66 years		8	20	22	11
67 to 69 years		12	31	29	22
70 to 74 years		13	21	20	30
75 to 79 years		10	32	30	21
80 to 84 years		14	32	17	14
85 years and over		4	20	15	19

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

Households by Type		
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	
Family Households by Size		
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	
Nonfamily Households by Size		
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	
Population by Relationship and Household Type		
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%
<p>Data Note: 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</p>		

Population Summary	
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%
Household Summary	
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%
Housing Unit Summary	
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%
Median Household Income	
2012	\$43,461
2017	\$51,870
Median Home Value	
2012	\$210,924
2017	\$214,696
Per Capita Income	
2012	\$26,722
2017	\$30,245
Median Age	
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%
Population by Race			
	Number	Percent	
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%	
Population by Sex			
Male	1,523	49.1%	
Female	1,577	50.9%	
Population by Age			
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%	
Median Age by Sex and Race/Hispanic Origin			
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		
Data Note: Hispanic population can be of any race. Census 2010 medians are computed from reported data distributions.			
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography.			

APPENDIX B

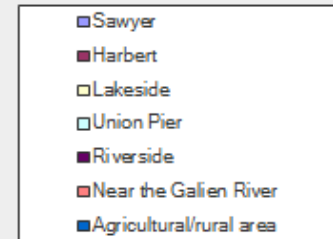
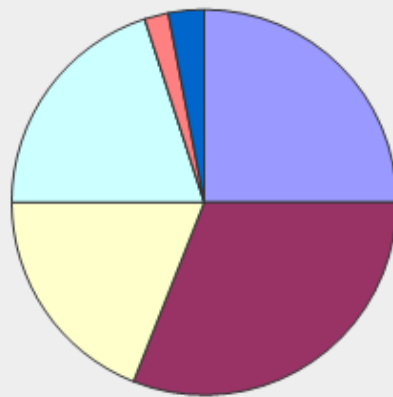
SURVEY RESULTS

1 - PLANNING COMMISSION SURVEY RESULTS

In what part of Chikaming Township is your home?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Sawyer	25.0%	25
Harbert	31.0%	31
Lakeside	19.0%	19
Union Pier	20.0%	20
Riverside	0.0%	0
Near the Galien River	2.0%	2
Agricultural/rural area	3.0%	3
answered question		100
skipped question		3

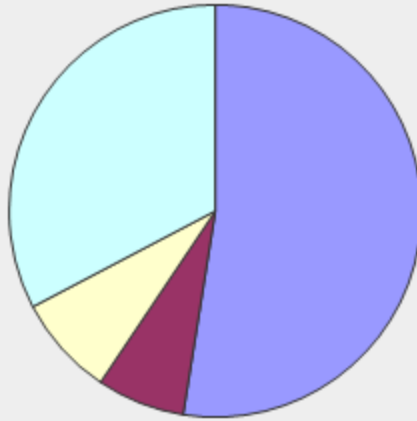
In what part of Chikaming Township is your home?



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?

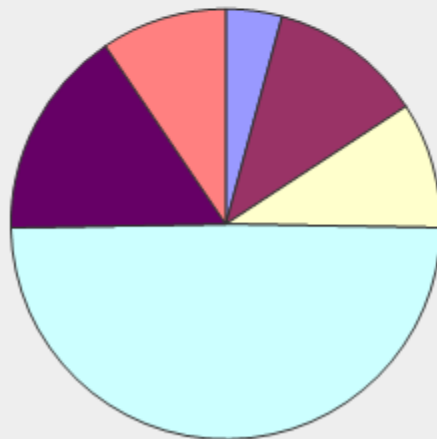


- ☒ Year around resident (occasional time away for periods less than three weeks)
- ☒ Go away for extended periods (more than three weeks at a time)
- ☒ Come to Chikaming Township for extended periods (more than three weeks at a time)
- ☒ Come to Chikaming Township for brief periods (weekends and up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

How long have you had a home in Chikaming Township?

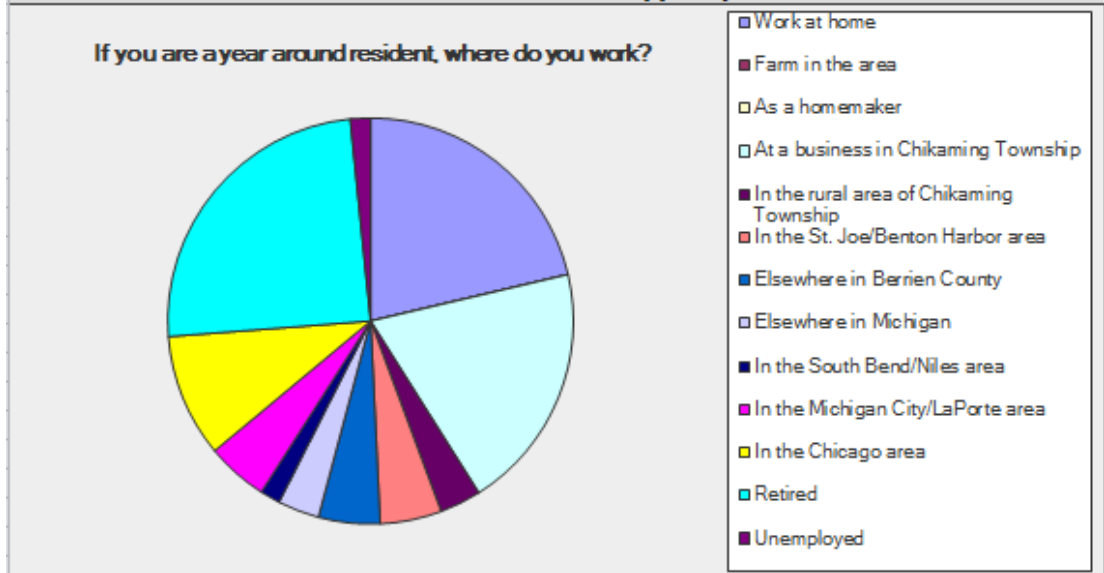
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
less than one year	4.0%	4
1 to 5 years	11.0%	11
5 to 10 years	9.0%	9
10 to 30 years	47.0%	47
30 to 50 years	15.0%	15
more than 50 years	9.0%	9
answered question		100
skipped question		3

How long have you had a home in Chikaming Township?



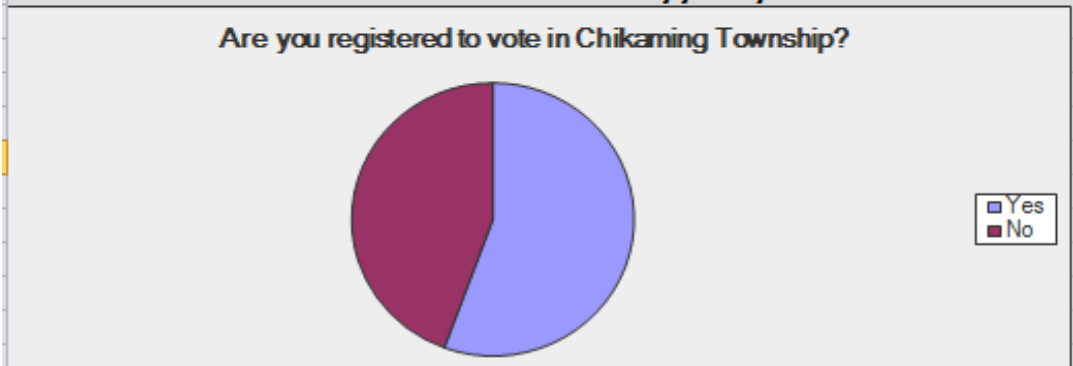
- ☒ less than one year
- ☒ 1 to 5 years
- ☒ 5 to 10 years
- ☒ 10 to 30 years
- ☒ 30 to 50 years
- ☒ more than 50 years

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
answered question		61
skipped question		42

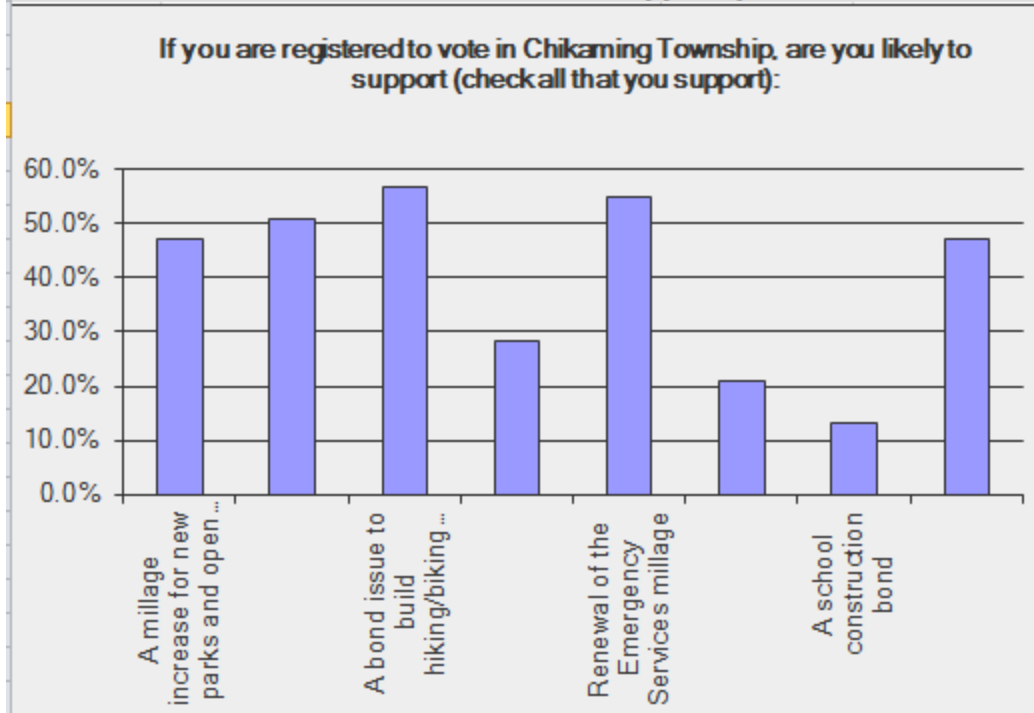


Are you registered to vote in Chikaming Township?

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



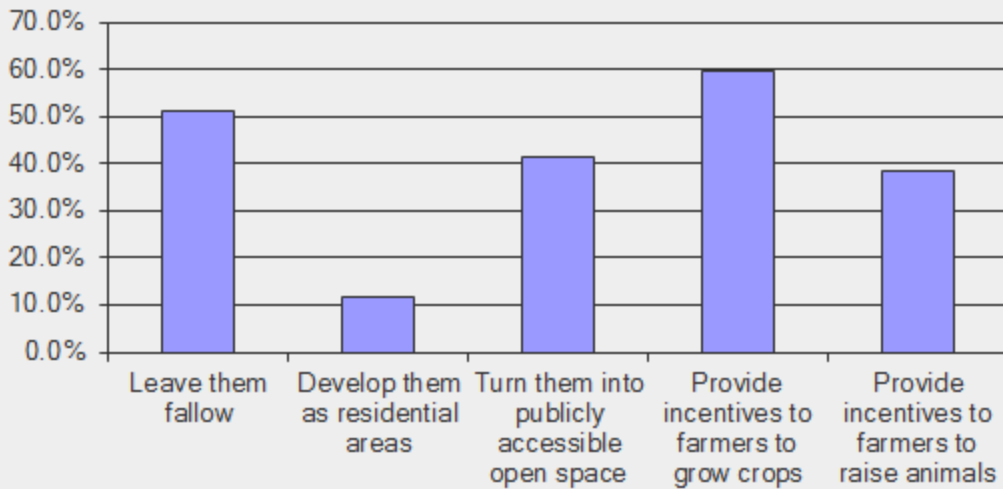
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
A millage increase for new parks and open space	47.2%	25
Tax abatements to attract new jobs	50.9%	27
A bond issue to build hiking/biking trails	56.6%	30
A bond issue to develop a business park	28.3%	15
Renewal of the Emergency Services millage	54.7%	29
A 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
answered question		53
skipped question		50



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
answered question		94
skipped question		9

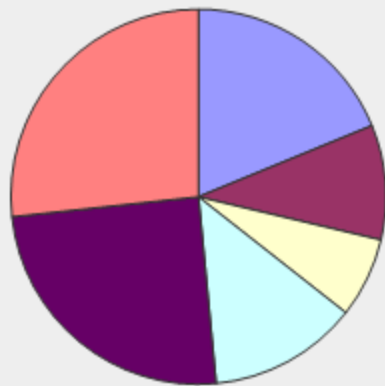
What do you think should happen with unused agricultural lands in the Township? (check all that you agree with)



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
answered question		101
skipped question		2

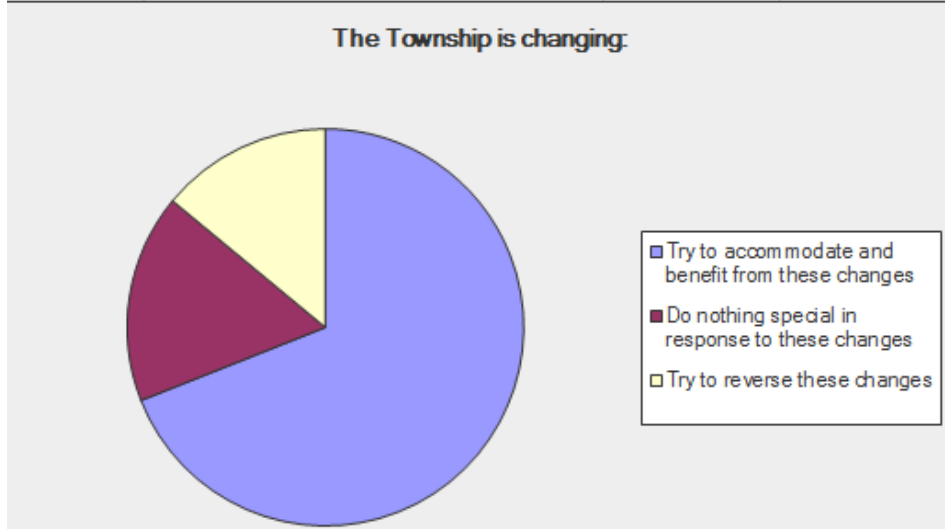
A recent engineering study suggests that it is both effective and feasible to consider safety and traffic calming measures such as traffic circles, speed zones or reduced lanes along the Red Arrow Highway. Do you think this is a good idea?



- ☐ 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

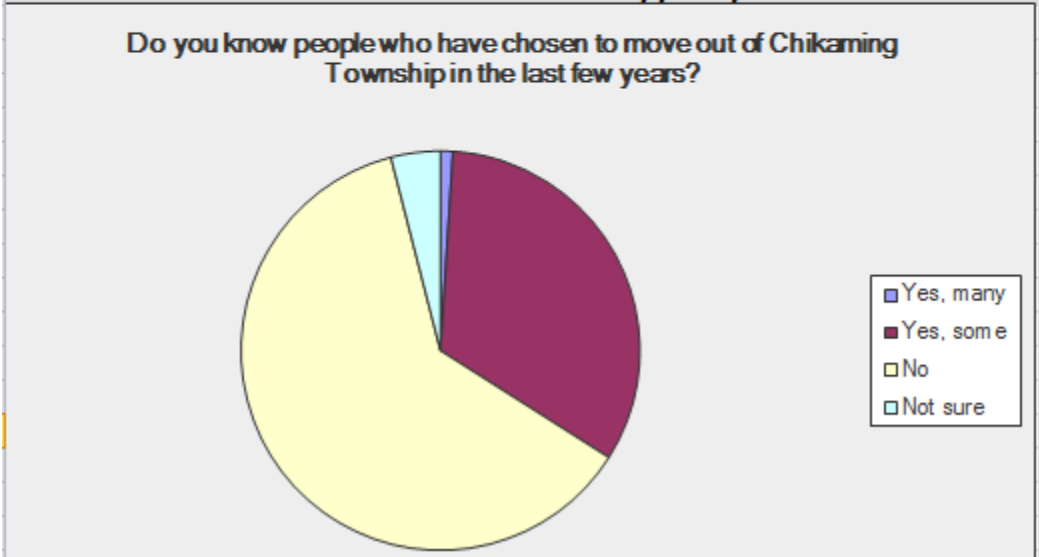
The Township is changing: Chikaming Township's population has fallen by 17% in the last 10 years. There are 759 fewer people under 55 years of

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
answered question		100
skipped question		3



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

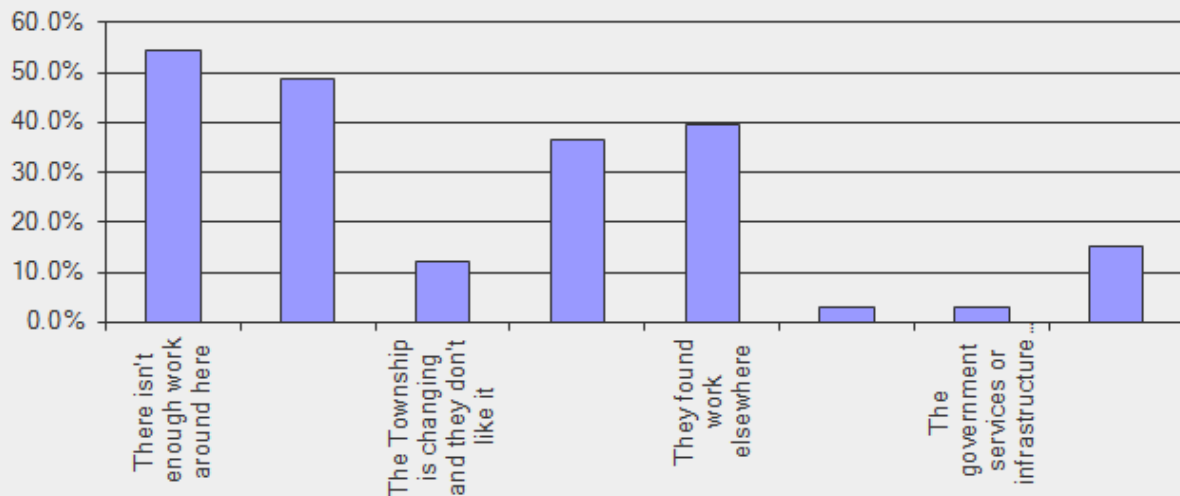
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, many	1.0%	1
Yes, some	33.0%	33
No	62.0%	62
Not sure	4.0%	4
answered question		100
skipped question		3



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
answered question		33
skipped question		70

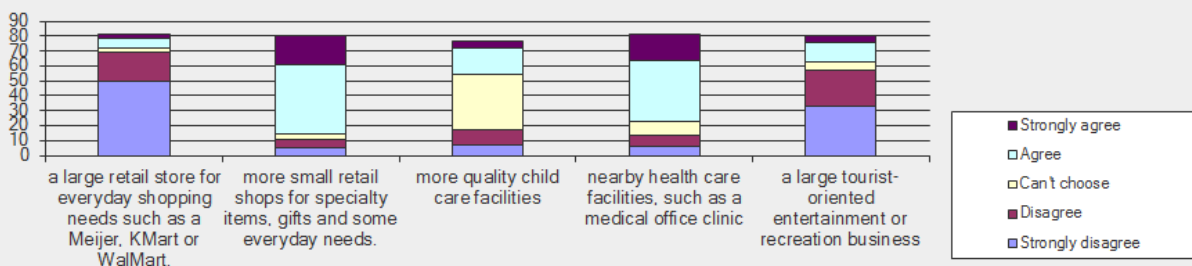
If you answered yes to the previous question, why do you think they moved? Check as many answers as you think apply.



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 everyday needs.	19	47	3	6	5	80
more quality child care facilities	5	18	37	10	7	77
nearby health care facilities, such as a medical office	17	41	10	7	6	81
a large tourist-oriented entertainment or recreation business	4	13	6	24	33	80
answered question						83
skipped question						20

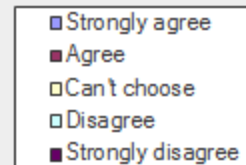
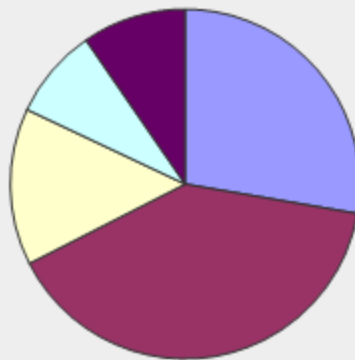
Do you think that Chikaming Township should encourage the following types of development?



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
answered question		83
skipped question		20

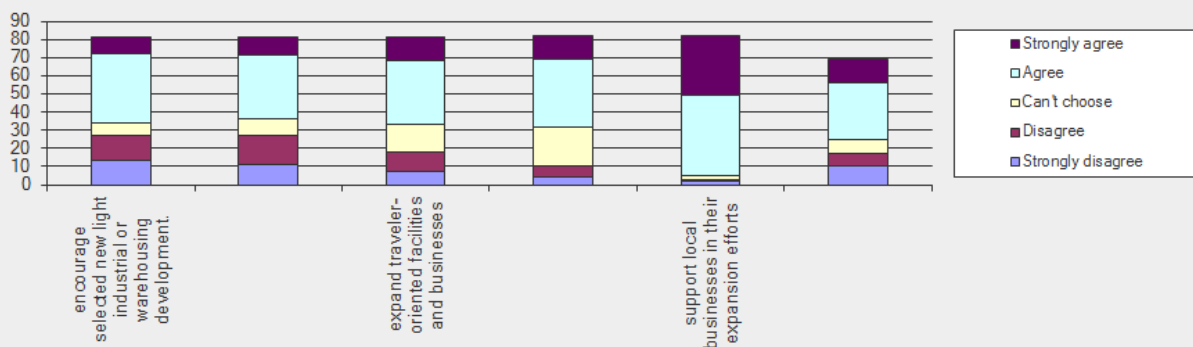
Chikaming Township should take steps to attract employers to locate in the Township.



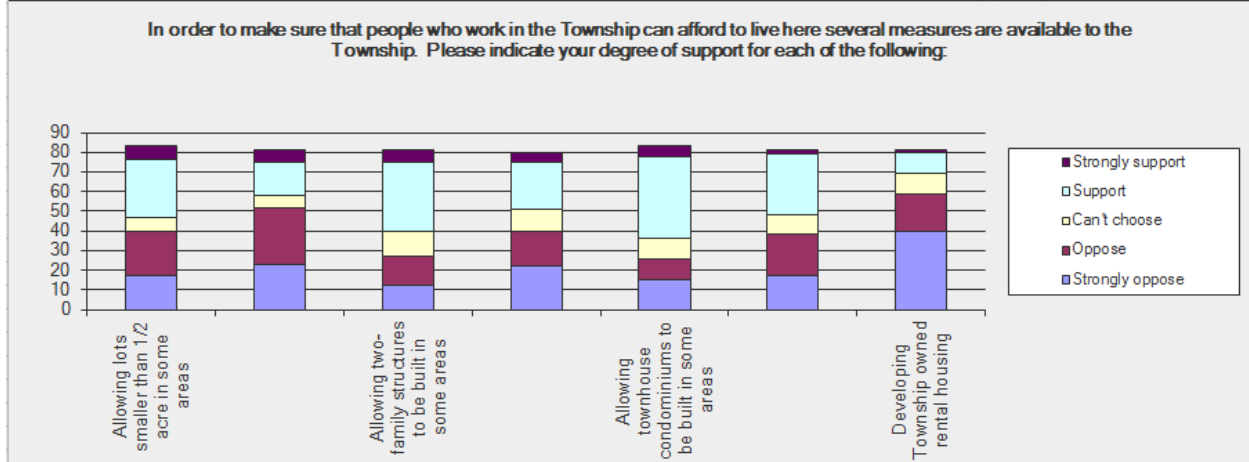
In order to provide more local jobs, several measures are available to the Township. Please indicate your degree of support for each of the following:

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
answered question						83
skipped question						20

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:

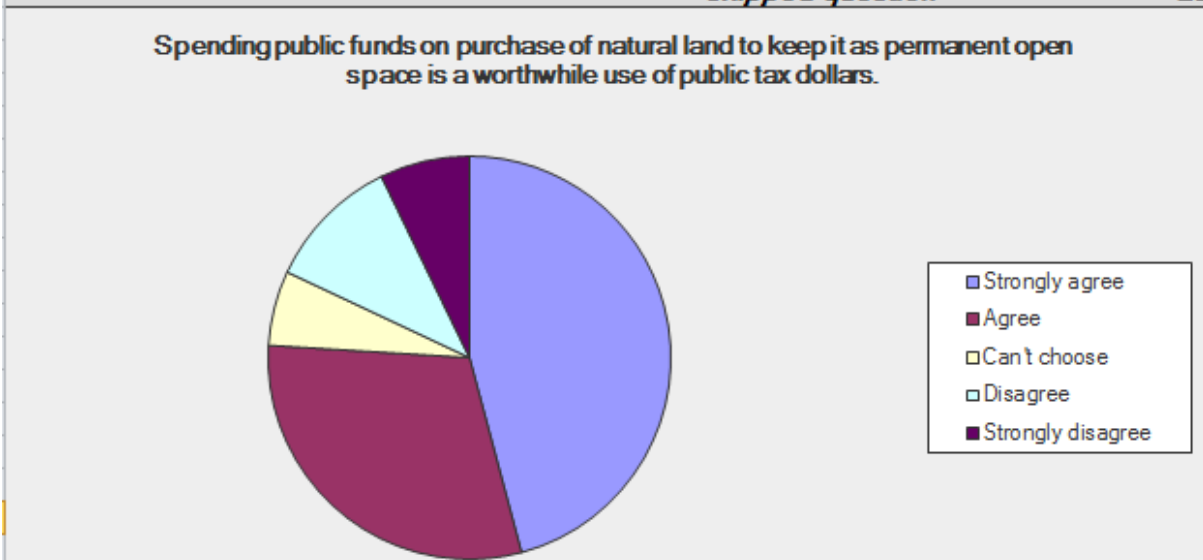


In order to make sure that people who work in the Township can afford to live here several measures are available to the Township. Please indicate your degree of support for each of the following:						
Answer Options	Strongly support	Support	Can't choose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Response Count
Allowing 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
answered question						83
skipped question						20



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

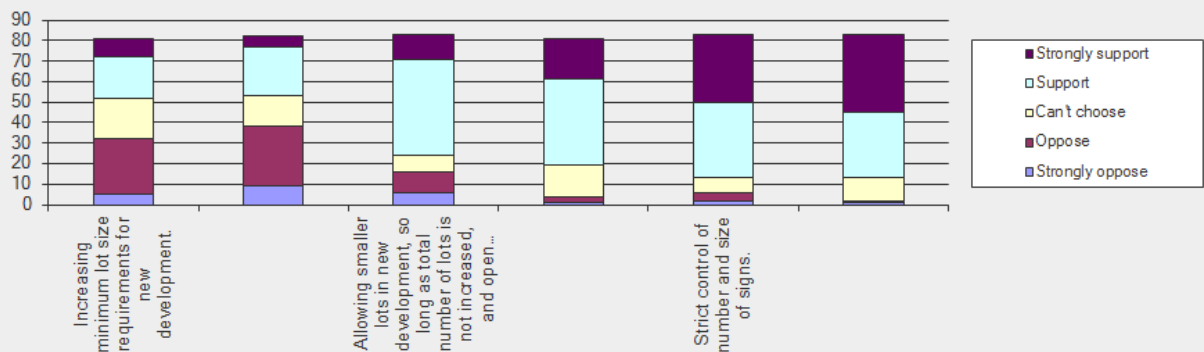
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	45.8%	38
Agree	30.1%	25
Can't choose	6.0%	5
Disagree	10.8%	9
Strongly disagree	7.2%	6
answered question		83
skipped question		20



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
answered question						83
skipped question						20

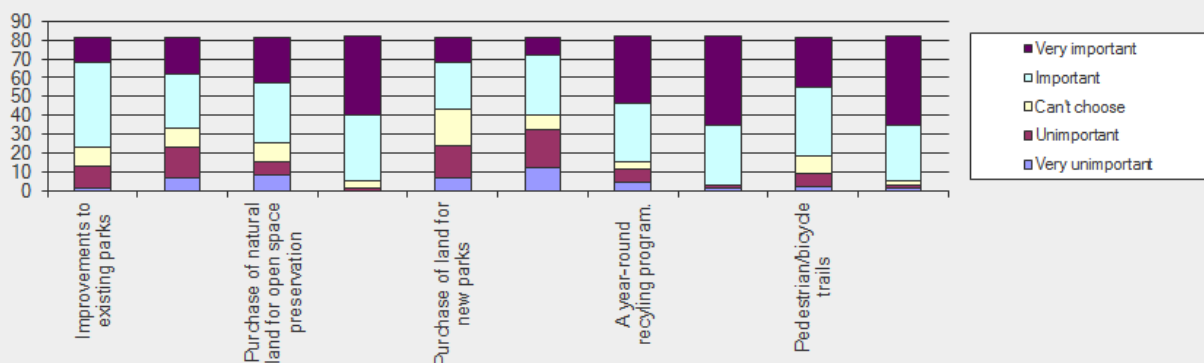
A variety of regulatory tools are available to manage the type and design of new development. Please indicate your views regarding use of the following techniques in Chikaming Township.



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
answered question						82
skipped question						21

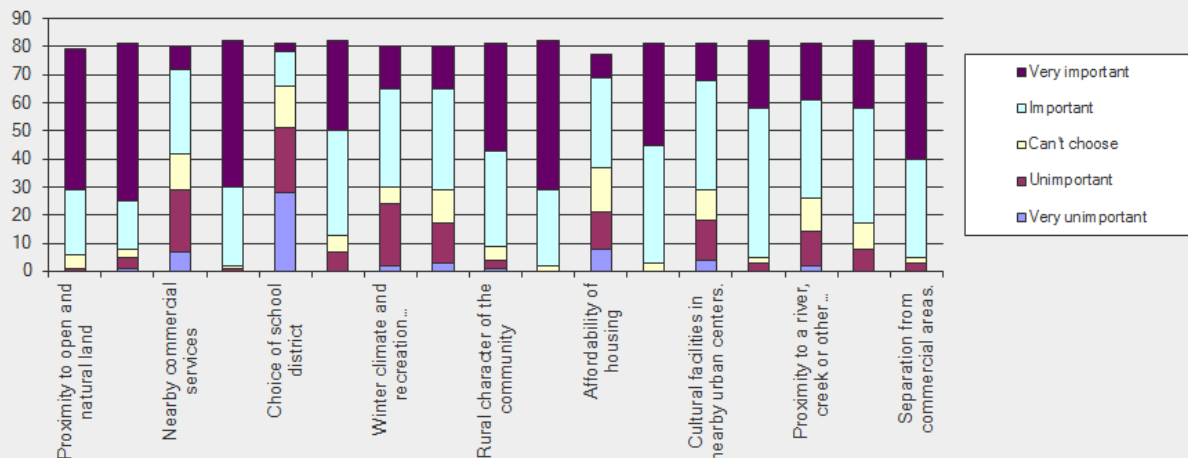
How important are each of the following types of public facilities and services to you?



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

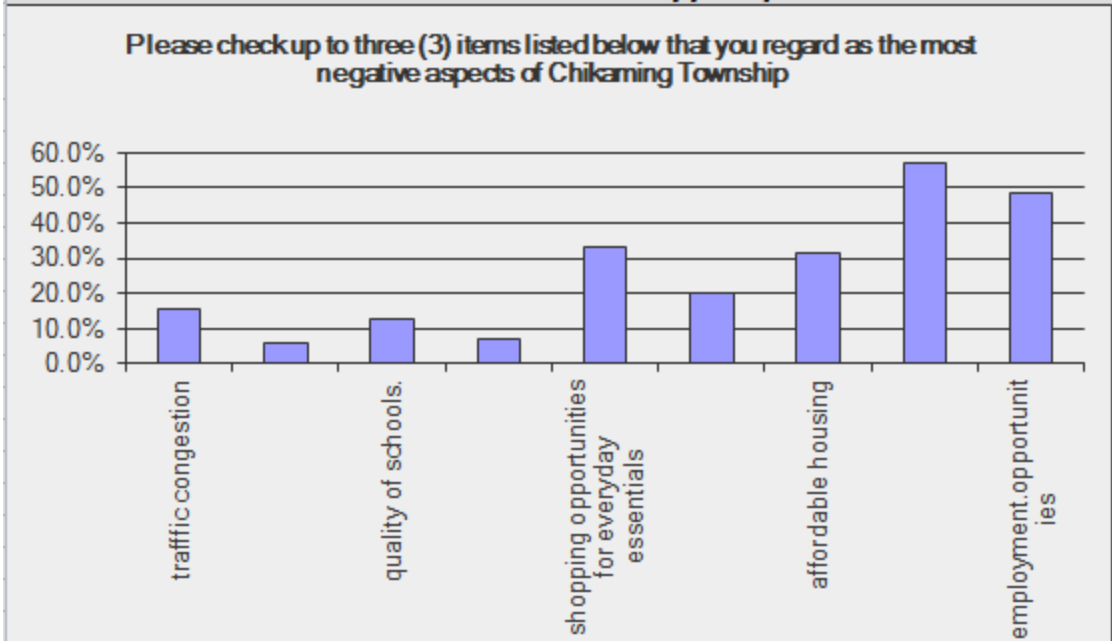
Answer Options	Very important	Important	Can't choose	Unimportant	Very unimportant	Response Count
Proximity to open and natural land	50	23	5	1	0	79
Proximity to Lake Michigan	56	17	3	4	1	81
Nearby commercial services	8	30	13	22	7	80
Small-town character of the area.	52	28	1	1	0	82
Choice of school district	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

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



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
answered question		70
skipped question		33



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



3 - PARK BOARD PRIORITIZATION EXERCISE 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	complete 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	
	<u>4 - Remembered for?</u>	<u>5 - Project interest</u>	<u>6 - Who do we serve?</u>
	trustworthy	protective status for beaches	citizens <u>and</u> 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 xxxx	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	hockey	0
Nature walks/hikes	24	dog play	6
Rock/fossil hunting	5	Frisbee golf	2
Fishing	5	Other outdoor activities (please specify):	
Attending concerts	22	Biking	3
Attending craft, art fairs	22	Skiing	1
Informal group outdoor recreation (circle all that apply):		Soccer	1
Baseball	2		
Softball	2		
basketball	3		
volleyball	2		
playgrounds	2		

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*

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC HEARING & FINAL APPROVALS 1 - PUBLIC NOTICE

Phone: 800-356-4262
Email: ar@newspaperservices.biz

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
PO BOX 40
HARBERT, MI 49115
(269)469-1676

Class Liner Ad #60592965 Summary:

Ad Description: NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND CO
Size: 1.00 x 6.65
Lines: 60

Total Cost \$98.40
Amount Paid \$0.00
Amount Due \$98.40

If paid by credit card, your statement will show the charge as "Newspaper Services 2".

Order Detail:

Publication	Start	Stop	Insertions
2080 Herald Palladium	1/30/15	1/30/15	1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND COM- MENT AND NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PRO- POSED 2015-2019 FIVE-YEAR COMMUNITY RECRE- ATION PLAN

The proposed Chikaming Township 2015-2019 Park and Recreation Master Plan will be available for review and comments from January 30, 2015 through February 29, 2015 during normal business hours at the Chikaming Township Hall, 13535 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, MI 49115. The document is also available on the Chikaming Township, www.ChikamingTownship.org. The public is invited to review and comment on the plan, and also invited to complete an online survey on prioritizing park improvements at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Chikaming-Parks>. Written com-

ments may be sent to: Chikaming Township Park Board, 13535 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, MI 49115, may be dropped off at the reception desk at Chikaming Township Hall, or may be sent by email to parkboard@ChikamingParkBoard.org. A Public Hearing will be held by the Chikaming Township Park Board at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 23, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Chikaming Township Hall, 13535 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, MI 49115.

2 – MINUTES OF THE February 23, 2015 Park Board Meeting



Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting, Monday, February 23, 2015

Chikaming Township Park Board Regular Meeting

Monday, February 23, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Chikaming Township Hall
13535 Red Arrow Hwy
Harbert, MI 49115

MINUTES	INDEX to MINUTES
Park Board Chairman Leona Waldo called the meeting to order at 6:34p.m.	Call to Order
Members present: Leona Waldo, Janet Schrader, Chris Thompson, Joseph Reed, Kathy Sellers and Karen Tarpley. EnRico Heirman was absent.	Roll Call
Approval of the meeting's agenda. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Schrader, to approve the agenda with one amendment that the meeting agenda is to include "a public meeting" following "public comments." CARRIED	AGENDA APPROVED AGENDA AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL
Motion to approve preceding January 26 th meeting minutes. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Schrader, to approve the minutes of the January 26th meeting. CARRIED	MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES MINUTES APPROVED
Approval of the December 15, 2014 minutes was tabled until the March meeting.	
Schrader mentioned that past Park Board member, Joanne Sims, provided her with information regarding prairie burns.	Correspondence

<p>Waldo volunteered to obtain more information regarding the burn.</p> <p>Reed shared a few positive emails given to him by absent member Heirman. The messages applauded the board's progress with their master plan.</p> <p>Waldo stated that Paula Dudeck contacted her to request use of the Harbert Community Park on March 28th at 11:00 a.m. to host an Easter Egg hunt.</p> <p>Tarpley stated that Water Department administrator, Julie Schroeder, suggested the board contact Merritt Engineering and speak with Rob Andrews regarding the safety of their beach stairs. Tarpley contacted Andrews and he offered to write up a proposal. Sellers advise the board asses all beach accesses in May.</p>	
<p>Sellers reported that the board currently has \$5,109.90 remaining in their budget to last until the first of April. The rink currently has \$1,450 left in the maintenance portion of the budget.</p> <p>Sellers stated that the township is standing firm on a 3% increase in the budget from last year which means there will need to be a focus on volunteering.</p> <p>Thompson questioned Supervisor Wayne Warner about the possibility of requesting additional funds from the township if they were to find a grant that requires more matching funds than they are able to budget for. Warner answered that it is a possibility but they should contact the township board prior to application.</p>	Treasurer's Report
<p>New Buffalo resident Pat Fisher came forth to offer support on the proposed five year plan. He referred to recent park renovations New Buffalo has made as a good example of creating a community gathering place. He continued that he is happy to see Chikaming headed in the same direction.</p> <p>Warner provided the board with fire number signs and shared that the Harbert Community Parks fire number is 13411.</p>	Public Comment
<p>Waldo called the public hearing for review of the proposed master plan to order at 7:20 p.m.</p>	Master Plan Public Hearing

<p>There were no speakers from the audience other than Pat Fisher, who made his comments earlier during the regular public comment time.</p> <p>Reed began by stating that the Park Board had a productive meeting with the township over the last week and that the Master Plan Subcommittee met to revise the draft plan accordingly. Hackley spent time over the weekend making the updates they suggested.</p> <p>Hackley stated that he is also making edits suggested by the South West Michigan Planning Commission. He continued that they requested the mention of ADA accessibility on a project-by-project basis. Hackley added that he deferred design vocabulary and some other items to year two to accommodate the revised budget numbers, and also deleted mention of shuttle transportation all together.</p> <p>Hackley mentioned that the New Buffalo five year plan mentions targeting Townline Beach improvements and that it may be a good idea to pool funds efforts with them.</p> <p>Thompson provided Hackley with a proposed insertion into the plan from himself and Peg Kohring. The update would highlight the importance of cleaning waterways to provide safe and swimmable areas. Reed agreed that if mentioned in the five year plan this may help with grant winning. Hackley expressed that he would rather not add it as a goal as it would be better placed as an objective under goal two.</p> <p>Moved by Thompson, seconded by Tarpley, that Reed and Hackley take the language provided by Kohring and Thompson and incorporate it into an objective under goal two.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Moved by Reed, seconded by Thompson, to approved the Park Board Master Plan with discussed edits and submit a copy to the township for review as well as the state for approval by midnight on February 27th.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Waldo closed the public hearing to discuss the master plan at 8:23 p.m.</p>	<p>MOTION TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY AS AN OBJECTIVE UNDER GOAL TWO</p> <p>MOTION TO APPROVE PARK BOARD FIVE YEAR MASTER PLAN AS PRESENTED WITH EDITS</p>
<p>Townline Beach - Nothing new to report.</p>	<p>Beach/ Park Reports</p>

<p>McKinley Beach Access – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Miller Beach Access– Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Berrien Beach Access – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Pier Street Beach – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Cherry Beach – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Harbert Beach – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Warren Woods Park and Preserve – Nothing new to report. Thompson mentioned he had been skiing there.</p> <p>Harbert Road Park and Preserve – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Harbert Community Park – Schrader thinks the board with have enough funds to take the rink down. She added that the Saturday night skating was a huge success with many kids playing hockey. Tarpley added that she thought the turnout was great.</p>	
<p>Waldo stated that a request for bids on contracts for trash removal, snow plowing, and mowing needs to be posted in the newspaper. Tom Krieger of TDK Services stated that he will give the board a full list of his services so they can better determine what the bids should cover.</p> <p>Sellers offered to meet with Krieger on the upcoming Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. to review the scope of work. Krieger also mentioned that the board needs to make sure to send a bill to New Buffalo for half of the work done at Townline beach.</p> <p>Reed reported that the website has space available to post documents for the public to download. He continued that the master plan was made available to the public this way.</p>	Old Business
<p>Waldo stated that she would like the Park Board to consider presenting at the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce lunch and learn program. She continued it would be a good opportunity to inform the public of board goals and need for volunteers. Tarpley stated that she will gather more information on the details of doing an event at the chamber.</p>	New Business

<p>Waldo informed the board that Earth Day and Arbor Day fall within days of each other this year and the board should start considering possibilities for a community event. Schrader suggested some sort of volunteer day and advised that a committee be formed to begin planning.</p> <p>Thompson reported that two upcoming grant opportunities the board should look into are the Berrien Community Grant and the Upton Foundation Grant. He mentioned that he believes no match is required for the Berrien Community Grant.</p> <p>Moved by Sellers, seconded by Schrader, that Thompson apply for the Berrien Community Grant with the condition that it is confirmed there is no need for matching funds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTION CARRIED</p> <p>Schrader stated that she and Sellers spent the day at the county register of deed searching for deeds that could better define Park Board property boundaries. She stated that further searching for surveys need to take place, specifically for Harbert Beach. She continued that it was discovered that some of the houses neighboring Berrien beach do not own their own beach and that half of Pier St. right of way shows deeded rights. Hackley advised Schrader to keep track of time spent researching as it is volunteer hours.</p>	<p>MOTION TO APPLY FOR BERRIEN COMMUNITY GRANT</p>
There were no comments from the public at this time.	Public Comment
<p>Moved Schrader, seconded Tarpley, to adjourn meeting at 9:20 p.m.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	ADJOURNED
MONDAY, March 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.	NEXT MEETING
Minutes signed by Jessica Miller	<i>Jessica Miller</i>

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 February 26th, 2015.

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

(See Attachment Next Page)

Printed Name & Title

(See Attachment Next Page)

Signature of Chikaming Township Supervisor or Clerk

(See Attachment Next Page)

Date



TOWNSHIP BOARD (269) 469-1676

WAYNE WARNER, Supervisor - wwarner@chikamingtownship.org

DOREEN HEYWOOD, Township Clerk - dheywood@chikamingtownship.org

LIZ RETTIG, Treasurer - lrettig@chikamingtownship.org

RICHARD SULLIVAN, Trustee

BILL MARSKE, Trustee

PARK BOARD (269) 359-1117

JANET SCHRADER, janet@chikamingparkboard.org

JOSEPH REED, joseph@chikamingparkboard.org

KATHY SELLERS, kathy@chikamingparkboard.org

ENRICO HEIRMAN, enrico@chikamingparkboard.org

LEONA WALDO, leona@chikamingparkboard.org

CHRIS THOMPSON, chris@chikamingparkboard.org

KAREN TARPLEY, karen@chikamingparkboard.org

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

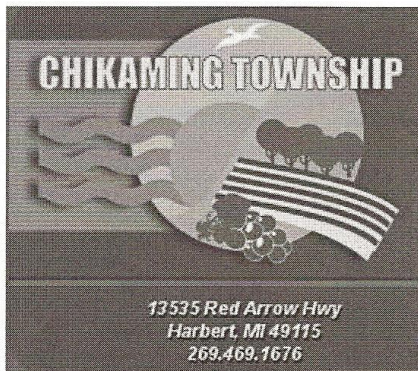
Chikaming Park Board's Five Year Recreation Plan contained within the entirety of this document was approved by the Chikaming Township Board on February 26th, 2015.

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

DOREEN HEYWOOD, CLERK
Printed Name & Title

Doreen Heywood
Signature of Chikaming Township Supervisor or Clerk

FEBRUARY 27, 2015
Date



TOWNSHIP BOARD (269) 469-1676
WAYNE WARNER, Supervisor - wwarner@chikamingtownship.org
DOREEN HEYWOOD, Township Clerk - dheywood@chikamingtownship.org
LIZ RETTIG, Treasurer - lrettig@chikamingtownship.org
RICHARD SULLIVAN, Trustee
BILL MARSKE, Trustee

PARK BOARD (269) 359-1117
JANET SCHRADER, janet@chikamingparkboard.org
JOSEPH REED, joseph@chikamingparkboard.org
KATHY SELLERS, kathy@chikamingparkboard.org
ENRICO HEIRMAN, enrico@chikamingparkboard.org
LEONA WALDO, leona@chikamingparkboard.org
CHRIS THOMPSON, chris@chikamingparkboard.org
KAREN TARPLEY, karen@chikamingparkboard.org

FINAL (2/27/2015)

email: parkboard@chikamingparkboard.org

Page 85 of 85

4 – Special Meeting Minutes of Chikaming Township Board

Special Meeting of the Chikaming Township Board

February 26, 2015 4:00p.m.

The duly posted Special Meeting of the Chikaming Township Board was brought to order at 4:02 with Warner, Heywood, Rettig and Sullivan present. Marske was absent.

Also present were John Gooch, Tom Hackley, Karen Tarpley, Joseph Reed and Chris Thompson.

The purpose of this meeting was to review the 5 Year Plan of the Park Board and to approve the Cook Grant that the Park Board has applied for.

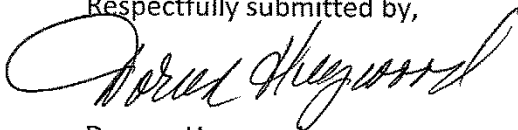
The first order of business was the approval of the Cook Grant Application. Sullivan moved to approve the application, Rettig supported. All said "aye" motion passed.

Next, the board Reviewed the most recent draft of the Park Boards 5 year plan. They asked for spelling corrections. There were sentences reworded and eliminated.

Based on the Revisions noted, Sullivan motioned to approve the Plan. Rettig supported, all said "aye." Motion carried.

At 5:45 Rettig made a motion to end the meeting. Sullivan supported. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

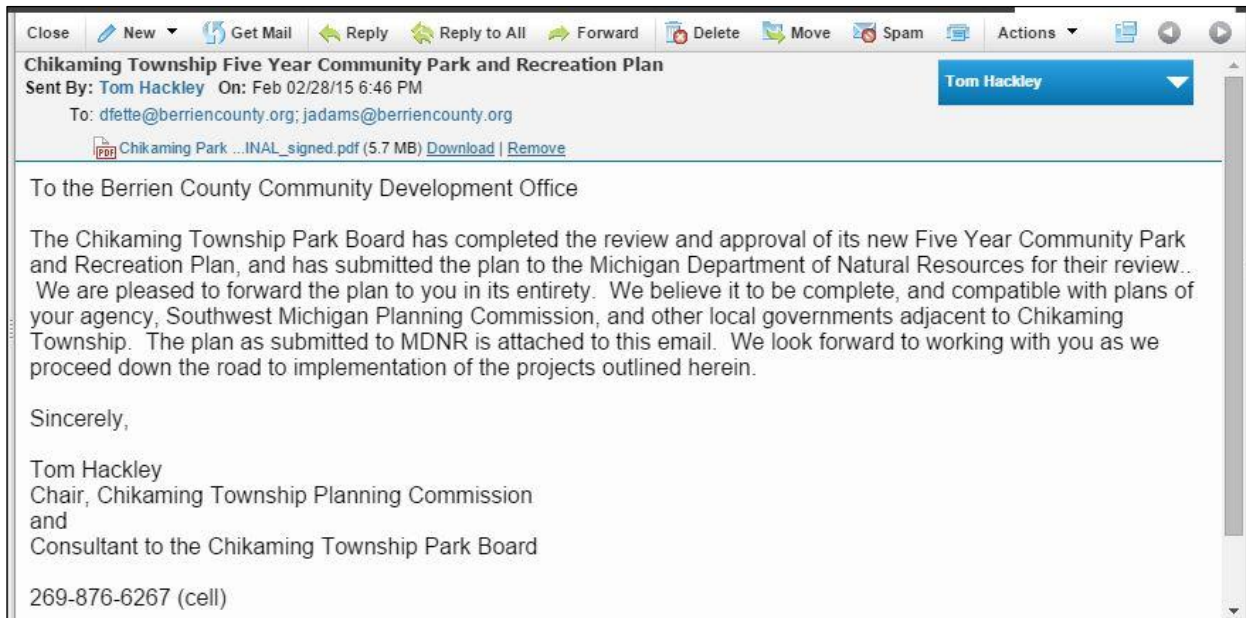
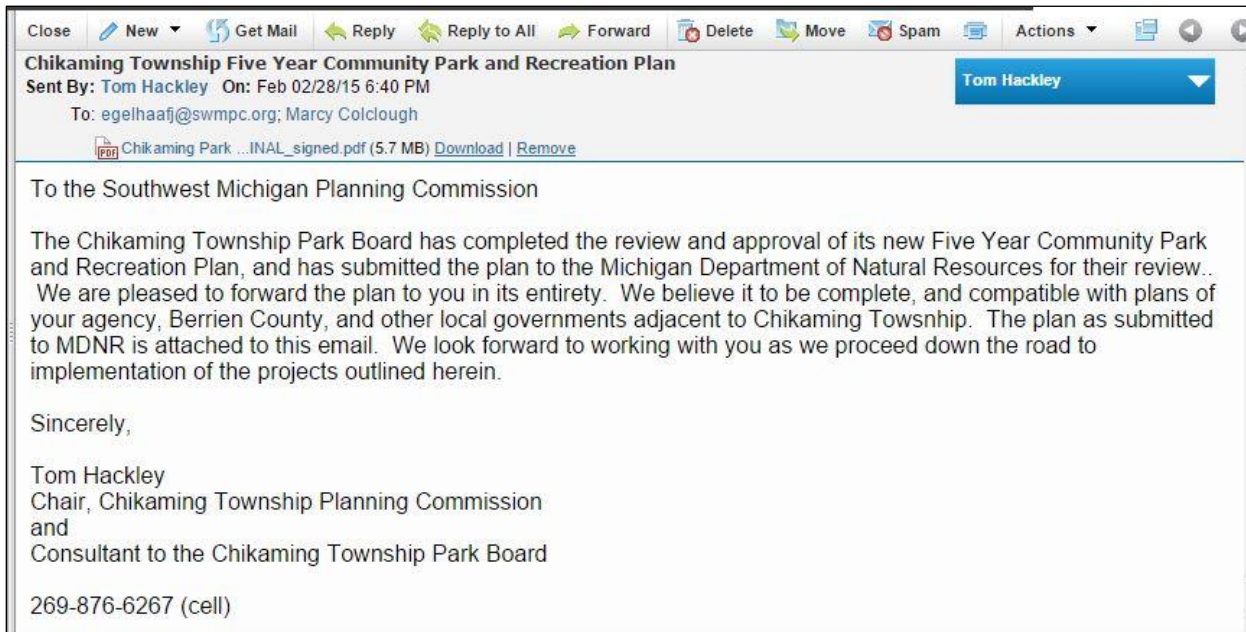


Doreen Heywood

Chikaming Township Clerk

5 – Following the approval by Chikaming Township Board, copies have been submitted to the following entities via email:

- **Berrien County Community Development**
- **Southwest Michigan Planning Commission**





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

By Authority of Parts 18, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

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

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan: <i>FIVE YEAR COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN FOR THE CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD</i>		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
<i>CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP</i>	<i>BERRIEN</i>	<i>FEBRUARY, 2015</i>
<i>RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT</i>	<i>BERRIEN</i>	

PLAN CONTENT

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

☒ 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

☒ 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- ☒ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- ☒ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
- ☒ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation
- ☒ Programming
- ☒ Current Funding Sources
- ☒ Role of Volunteers
- ☒ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations
- Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only**
- ☐ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
- ☐ Articles of Incorporation

☐ 3. RECREATION INVENTORY

- ☒ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- ☒ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- ☒ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- ☒ Accessibility Assessment
- ☒ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

☒ 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)

☒ 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

☐ 6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

- ☒ Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- ☒ Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice JANUARY 30, 2015

Type of Notice NEWSPAPER

Plan Location CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP OFFICES

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 30 days

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

Date of Notice JANUARY 30, 2015

Name of Newspaper HERALD-PALLADIUM (ST. JOE/IN/BENTON HARBOR)

Date of Meeting FEBRUARY 26, 2015

- ☒ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☒ 7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

☒ 8. ACTION PROGRAM

☒ 9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-INSPECTION REPORT

RECREATION GRANT HISTORY for
PROJECT #TF00-317 and PROJECT
#TF03-137 is on P.18 of the PLAN.

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

Plans must be adopted by the highest level governing body (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should also include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are required and must be included in the plan.

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

- ☒ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: FEBRUARY 26, 2015
- ☒ 2. Official resolution of the CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK Commission of Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: FEBRUARY 23, 2015
- ☒ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: FEBRUARY 28, 2015
- ☒ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: FEBRUARY 28, 2015

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP

(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

includes the required content, as indicated

[Signature]
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

2/28/2015
Date

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING, MI 48909-7925

DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

By: _____ Date: _____
Grants Management _____ Date: _____