

# Milton Township

## *2023-2027 Recreation Plan*



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# Introduction

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Located in scenic southwestern Antrim County in between Grand Traverse Bay and Torch Lake lies Milton Township. Being that the Township is long, there are two centers of activity, one at Torch River Bridge and one at Kewadin. The Township is known for its natural beauty and good quality of life.

The purpose of Milton Township's Recreation Plan is to provide a guide for an organized and coordinated parks and recreational development program based on the interests and needs of Milton Township and surrounding communities. The current economic environment has had a direct impact on the existing parks and recreational facilities, exhibited by an increase in use and enrollment in various sports programs. This extensive Recreational Plan is an attempt to provide a parks system by taking into account active park considerations, open space, trail development, and natural area preservation by including all age and interest groups, while enhancing the natural and historical features of Milton Township. In this plan, facilities for pre-school tots to senior citizens, for males and females, for organized sports, as well as active and passive recreational needs are provided. By using this approach, something of interest for all members of



the community is available. Under the guide of the Milton Township Recreation Plan, it is the intent of the Milton Township Trustees to create a barrier-free park and recreational facility thereby making our facilities available to everyone, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, or physical capabilities.

Milton Township's Recreation Plan shall remain flexible and considerate of the always changing public interest in park and recreational activities. As Milton Township's recreational interests and activities change, within the sphere of influence, they will directly impact the future of any development. The Township has observed over a period of years, the increase in popularity of soccer, little league, softball, tennis, and basketball. In recent years, the Township has experienced a new wave of influence, including pickle ball, hiking/biking trails and the increased health aspects of recreation. Even now, new recreational activities that enhance health, such as jogging, hiking, and bicycling must be considered for future development.

Recreation needs vary depending on many personal factors, including household incomes, age, the presence of children at home, and preferred activities. Because many of these factors vary over time, it's important to consider a wide range of needs. During times of economic decline, people may rely on local facilities to provide for their recreational needs, which is often reflected in increased attendance at events and the additional need for auxiliary development, such as access drives, and parking facilities.

An additional component of recreation planning considers current efforts to save the local plant ecology, preserve community aesthetics, and protect the environment. Careful planning, design,

## **Recreation: An Important Community Asset**

At their most basic, parks, recreation facilities, and community events provide an environment in which residents and visitors can gather and interact in an informal setting; but parks also provide a number of health and economic benefits to the community:

- Parks encourage physical activity, which is critical in staying healthy, reducing stress, fighting obesity, and preventing chronic conditions that lead to heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes.
- Parks and trails are safe options for non-motorized transportation—which is especially important for those that don't own a car or can't drive due to age, disability, or income.
- Recreation opportunities attract visitors, increasing local tourism revenues.
- Demographic groups with expendable income and significant amounts of leisure time, such as retirees and young professional, often relocate to communities with a "recreation oriented" lifestyle and a high quality of life.
- National studies have shown that improvements to parks, civic spaces, and trails can encourage new development or redevelopment.
- Property values tend to increase in direct proportion to their proximity to parks and trails.

construction, and development of recreation facilities can ensure that these values are respected and addressed.

Because of the importance of recreation to all parts of the community, the Township initiated the creation of the Milton Township Recreation Plan in 2013. This 2022 Recreation Plan is intended to identify the Township's highest recreation priorities and to offer an implementation road map for the recreation goals and objectives identified by the community throughout the various planning efforts. The Plan is organized as follows:

- *Chapter 1, Community Description*, includes information regarding the Township's population, natural features, and other community information. The intent of this section is to provide a context for the plan that will assist in establishing goals.
- *Chapter 2, Administrative Structure*, summarizes the process through which recreation decisions are made.
- *Chapter 3, Recreation Inventory* itemizes the Township's existing recreational facilities.
- *Chapter 4, Planning and Public Input*, provides background on related plans and explains how public input was gathered and used in developing and prioritizing recreation goals, objectives, and action program.
- *Chapter 5, Goals, Objectives, and Action Program* describes proposed recreation goals and improvements, and suggests specific implementation activities to achieve those goals.

## **MDNR Recreation Planning Guidelines**

This plan was developed according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources *Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans*. (Rev.11/10/2021)

Through its recreation grants program, currently funded through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreation Passport grant program, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) provides financial assistance to communities that would like to purchase land for parks or are planning to improve or develop recreation facilities.

To be eligible to apply for these grant programs, a community must have a 5-year recreation plan, approved by the MDNR that meets certain requirements. This Recreation Plan was developed to comply with all MDNR requirements for recreation plans.

# Chapter 1: Community Description

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Milton Township, situated in the south-western corner of Antrim County, is a general law township of about 2,350 residents.

## History

The Township of Milton was originally organized in March 1857, and its initial boundaries consisted of the present-day Milton and Helena Townships. In 1865 the township was divided by the Township Board of Supervisors such that all of the land lying on the west side of Torch Lake was named Milton Township, and all of that portion lying on the east side of Torch Lake was named Helena Township. Milton Township takes its name from John Milton Goddard, who made the first purchase of real estate and cleared the first farm in Milton Township.

The Township was covered primarily with hardwood forests with a Native American Village located at the site of present day Kewadin. This village was originally called "Wahwahghedek," the name of an

Indian Chief. The name was later changed to Kewadin in honor of a Native American resident who died in 1884.

Many settlers moved into the Township during the 1860-70 period and began clearing the land and planting crops. In addition to farming, the earliest principal activities were: timber harvest for lumber, cork wood for steam powered boats, and charcoal for the iron foundry in Elk Rapids. The early settlers were mostly of European decent and many were direct immigrants to the Township. They were hard working, industrious people and the 1874 census shows wheat, corn, potatoes, wool, cheese and butter, fruits, and maple sugar were the primary crops grown and harvested. There were also numerous mills and factories such as tanneries, breweries, furniture, and machine shops active in the Township.

A unique historical feature of statewide significance exists just north of Kewadin on Cairn Highway near U.S. 31. In 1938, a stone monument, called the Hugh J. Gray Cairn was built near the 45th parallel on U.S. 31 with a view of Lake Michigan. Gray was regarded as the father of the Michigan tourist industry, having spent many years as a conductor in the Grand Truck Railroad before being named Secretary of the Michigan Tourist Association and thus the Cairn was named after him. Boulders from each of Michigan's 83 counties were donated and shipped free to the site where the monument was constructed by Antrim County. The dedication featured speeches by Michigan Governor Frank Murphy and several other dignitaries.

After the turn of the century, the timber supply was exhausted, and many mills were shut down and agriculture and tourism took dominance as the principal economic activities. During the 1930s the growing of cherries became a principal agricultural



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activity due to the favorable climate created by Lake Michigan. In recent years, tourism has become an additional dominant economic factor. Both cherries and tourism take advantage of the unique natural character offered by Milton Township. The area has increased in population due to the desirable rural quality and attraction of the waterfront environment. The lakes, streams, and forested hills make the Township an attractive place to live and relax.

## Demographics

Understanding Milton Township’s demographic is critical in planning for its future recreation needs.

Milton Township, and the region surrounding it, are popular vacation destinations with many amenities that make it a high-quality place to live. Antrim County’s population has seen dramatic increases over the last several decades as new residents move to the area to enjoy hundreds of miles of inland and Great Lakes coastline, forests, rolling hills and orchards. Between 1990 and 2000 alone, population increased by 27% in Antrim County, while Milton Township grew even faster, with a 41% increase in population.

Between 2000-2020, however, growth rates throughout Michigan slowed, and many communities in the state lost population. Northwest Michigan continued to grow, but at a much slower rate. County-wide, the population increased by 1.4%, while Milton

Township’s population grew by 13.6%. Milton Township’s higher growth rate reflects the Township’s high quality of life and its status as a desirable place to live, work, and recreate.

## Seasonal Population

Because of its extensive shoreline, Milton Township has a significant seasonal population. The Census categorizes both occupied and vacant housing units based on occupancy characteristics, such as whether they’re owner- or renter-occupied, are used for migrant housing, are for sale or for rent, or are for seasonal or recreational use. In 2020 nearly half of all housing units in the Township (46.9%) are classified as vacant units that are “for seasonal or recreational use.” Owners of these housing units typically reside in the Township seasonally.

It’s important to note that because the Census is conducted beginning April 1, the high number of vacant seasonal units that are later occupied by summer residents mean that the population during the summer months could be double the official Census population count. The large influx of seasonal residents has a tremendous impact on the area’s economy, and also on its recreation needs and opportunities.

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Milton Township	564	669	673	853	1,271	1,468	2,072	2,204	2,355
Antrim County	10,964	10,721	10,373	12,612	16,194	18,185	23,110	23,580	23,431

## Milton Township Recreation Plan

**Table 2. Population by Age, Milton Township**  
*Source: 2020 American Community Survey – 5 year estimates*

	2000	2000	2020	2020
	# of Individuals in Age Cohort	% of Total Pop.	# of Individuals in Age Cohort	% of Total Pop.
Under 5 years	82	4%	91	3.7%
5-9 years	132	6%	177	7.2%
10-14 years	145	7%	110	4.5%
15-19 years	128	6%	110	4.5%
20-24 years	60	3%	81	3.3%
25-34 years	164	8%	114	4.6%
35-44 years	307	15%	233	9.4%
45-54 years	295	14%	358	14.5%
55-59 years	192	9%	168	7.8%
60-64 years	143	7%	237	9.6%
65-74 years	267	13%	530	21.5%
75-84 years	132	6%	173	7.0%
85 years & up	25	1%	84	3.4%

The 2020 population for Milton Township over the age 60 was 1024 a 44.6% increase over 2000. The number of youths under 20 in 2020 was estimated to be the same as in 2000, reversing the trend from 2000 to 2010. Increasing employment opportunities in Elk Rapids area and the sound reputation of the school system there are likely responsible for this reversal. The median age of the 2020 Milton Township population is 53.8 years compared to 51.6 years of age in Antrim County and to 39.8 years of age for the State of Michigan.

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As the Township experiences increases in its senior population, a number of family and household trends follow. As individuals age, household size and the number of family households with children both tend to decline, as children leave home for college or to begin their own households.

Different populations have different recreation needs and interests. As such, when planning for recreation facilities, the community's growth trends, age, and income levels are important factors to consider. As individuals age, needs increase for facilities that accommodate passive recreation such as walking. Barrier-free access to recreation is particularly important for an aging population, and the provision of barrier-free recreation will become an increasingly high priority as the population ages.

With children and family households, individuals under the age of 20 making up near about 20% of Milton Township's total population in 2020, youth-oriented recreation opportunities will continue to be important for both current residents and as an amenity to draw new families to the Township.

## Income

In addition to age considerations, it's also important to ensure that activities and amenities in the community are within the financial means of the majority of residents.

Milton Township, with extensive shorelines on both inland lakes and Lake Michigan coastlines, contains significant amounts of high-value property that is desirable for second-homes and retirement. These factors contribute to the overall financial characteristics of its residents. The 2020 census indicates that median household income in the Township is higher than the median household income

**Table 3. Income & Poverty**

*Source: 2020 American Community Survey – 5 year estimates*

	Per Capita income	Median Household Income	Poverty Status
Milton Township	\$40,325	\$69,746	8.5%
Antrim County	\$32,096	\$57,256	10.3%

County-wide— \$69,746 vs \$57,256 (Table3).

About 8.5% of individuals in the Township live in poverty, compared to 10.3% of residents County-wide (Table3). The poverty rates among children under 18 years of age in Milton Township is 12.4%, (Antrim County – 15.4%). And for those over 65 years of age, 5.6% live in poverty (Antrim County 6.8%). (2020 Census data)

## Transportation

### Non-motorized Transportation

In Milton Township the personal automobile is the primary means of transportation to other parts of the County and the region. As a primarily rural township, opportunities for walking or biking are available primarily along roadsides. There are designated walking or biking paths or trails within the Township Recreational Park and the Maplehurst Natural Area. The Township and the County Road Commission have collaborated to widen the apron on roadways that are heavily used by bikers.

### Public Transit

Milton Township is served by the Antrim County Transportation Authority, which provides demand-response or dial-a-ride service to residents throughout Antrim County.

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## Air Transportation

The Traverse City Cherry Capital Airport provides the region's primary air transportation service. The Antrim County Airport is located near the Village of Bellaire and is available for public use.

## Streets and Highways

The Township's road system consists of County-maintained roads along with one US Highway, Route 31, which runs north-south through the western half of the Township.

Cairn Highway and Cherry Avenue are the two primary county roads within the Township. Cairn Highway, the former route of US 31, is known for the location of the Rock Cairn and scenic views of Lake Michigan and adjoining orchards.

### Existing Land Use 2020

Source: Antrim County Equalization Office

	Number of Acres	% of Total Acres
Agriculture	5,696	36%
<i>Improved 3,093</i>	<i>Vacant 2,603</i>	
Commercial	128	1%
Industrial	106	1%
Residential	8,769	55%
Exempt	671	4%
<i>Milton Twp 460</i>		
Unknown	530	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,900</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Natural Resources

Bordered on three sides by Elk Lake, Grand Traverse Bay, Lake Skegemog and Torch Lake, Milton Township is blessed with both an abundance of water and hundreds of acres of farmland, rolling hills, and scenic views. In fact, 45% of Milton Township's area is covered by water.

About 57% of Milton Township's land use is residential development and concentrated on the shores of the lakes and rivers. About 37% of the Township's land use is agriculture. The heart of the Township consists of orchards and crop lands. This improved agricultural land use accounts for 20% of all land use. "Vacant agricultural" use includes forest areas, wetlands and steeply sloping land that connects the lakes and internal network of the Township to the residential regions of the Township, comprising about 17% of its land area. (See Land use Map – page 12)

## Topography & Soils

A significant series of glacial ridges exists along the western shore of Torch Lake and Torch River, and within the interior of the southern tip within Milton Township. These ridges rise up to 200' above Torch Lake, and in some instances steep ridges are located at or within a few hundred feet of Torch Lake. Similarly, long tear-drop shaped hill landforms known as "drumlins" exist within northern portions of the Township.

Torch and Elk Lakes' shared mean elevation is approximately 590 feet above sea level. The Township's highest hills rise to over 790 feet above sea level. The topography of the remainder of the Township rolls from hill to valley to hill or exist as a series of old shoreline terraces running parallel to the Lake Michigan and Chain-of-Lakes shorelines.

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## Soil Characteristics

A soil association is a pattern of soils, normally consisting of a major and one or more minor soil types within an area and is typically named for the major soil. A variety of soil types and associations are found in Milton Township, with each type featuring a characteristic slope, drainage capacity, suitability for construction and septic disposal, water- holding and nutrient filtration capacity, and erosion potential, etc.

Soils along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the northwest corner of Milton Township are generally sandy, with beaches extending in a narrow ribbon from north to south along Lake Michigan. All Lake Michigan shoreline in the Township is categorized by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as a high-risk erosion area.

Loamy to sandy soils exist on glacial outwash plains, ridges, and moraines west of Torch Lake. “Loamy” soils are equal mixes of clays, silts, and sands and are generally considered productive soils. These soils are categorized as “very steep” with a much thinner than typical soil profile and a high susceptibility to erosion. Moving from north to south along the Torch Lake shore, steep slopes rise up from the shoreline in prominent ridges.

Soils within a thin strip along Milton Township’s shorelines are generally comprised of mucky, loamy and/or sandy soils known as the Tawas-Ensley-Roscommon Association. These are generally poorly drained, organic soils within depressions or wetlands.

## Hydrological Features

Milton Township’s geography is shaped by numerous waterbodies: Elk Lake, Torch Lake, the east arm of Grand Traverse Bay, Lake Skegemog, and the Torch River. These hydrological features, which account



for over 15,000 acres, have had a tremendous influence on the location and type of development found inside the Township. These lakes and rivers also provide the Township’s primary recreational opportunities, and draw many visitors to the Township for boating, swimming, fishing, and canoeing or kayaking.

Three miles of Lake Michigan frontage form the Township’s northwestern boundary, Torch Lake and Torch River form the Township’s eastern boundary, and Elk and Skegemog Lakes form the Township’s south-southwest boundary. The Township has over 12 miles of Torch Lake frontage, 7 miles of Elk Lake shoreline, and about 2.5 miles of frontage along Skegemog Lake.

Torch River, Elk Lake, and Skegemog Lake make up the Lower Chain of the Chain of Lakes, a major tourist attraction that encompasses approximately 500 square miles in four counties: Antrim, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Charlevoix. The Lower Chain begins at the outflow of Torch Lake and includes Lake Skegemog and Elk Lake. According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Elk River/Chain of Lakes Watershed contributes nearly 60% of the surface water flowing into Grand Traverse Bay, including fourteen (14) lakes in its

# Milton Township Recreation Plan

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chain. An additional fourteen (14) lakes exist as closed basins or headwaters of minor tributaries. Torch Lake alone accounts for 5% of the total inland lake surface water and 24% of the inland lake water volume in the State of Michigan.

In addition to lakes, there are several small streams within the interior of the Township, but Torch River is the only major river within its boundaries. Permanent streams flow from Mud and Maplehurst lakes.

The Township's lakes are its most prized recreation asset. Numerous boat ramps provide access to Torch, Elk, and Skegemog lakes; due to the popularity of boating on these beautiful inland lakes, boat ramps are heavily used in the summer months, often becoming crowded.

In addition to boat ramps, public access is available at about 25 sites within the Township, including a public beach and numerous road ends. With the exception of the public beach, most access sites are small, generally about 66' wide, with limited parking opportunities, and typically abut residential dwellings. While these properties provide important public access to the Township's lakes, they don't permit extensive use by large groups.

## *Wetlands*

Wetlands are complex ecological systems that function in a number of beneficial ways. They reduce flood hazards by providing additional storm water storage. When located over groundwater recharge areas, they can also improve groundwater quality by filtering the water as it percolates through the soil; while wetlands located along a watercourse protect surface water quality by filtering surface water run-off. Finally, wetlands are highly productive ecosystems which provide an essential habitat to much of Michigan's fish and wildlife at some time in their lifecycle.

There are six primary wetland areas located in Milton Township, some of which have permanent or intermittent streams running through our discharging from them. The largest wetland complexes are located as follows (see Map 4, page 15):

- West of US 31 along Lake Michigan
- Northwest and southeast of Mud Lake
- Along and inland of Elk Lake southeast of Kewadin
- Southeast of Kewadin and east of Cherry Avenue
- Draining to Torch Lake
- Intermittently along and west of Torch River
- Along Lake Skegemog at the southern tip of Milton Township
- East of Chippewa Trail

## **Forests**

Woodland areas are complex ecological systems, providing multiple benefits for the environment, wildlife, and human inhabitants. Woodlands play a role in flood protection by slowing the flow of surface-runoff to allow for greater storm water infiltration; reduce air pollutants by absorbing certain air borne

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pollutants; and provide wildlife habitats. Forests also moderate the effects of wind and temperatures, while stabilizing and enriching the soil. For humans, forested areas offer attractive visual and effective sound barriers, as well as natural resources and recreational opportunities.

12.9% of Milton Township's land base (or 4,473.4 acres) consists of upland forestland, which is defined as aspen-birch, pine, mixed deciduous and conifer, other upland hardwood, and Christmas trees.

## **Climate**

Antrim County's water features and elevation together result in a moderate temperature, with slightly cooler temperatures during the summer months and mildly warmer in the winter. In winter months, average high temperatures range in the high -to-mid-20's, with an average low temperature in the mid-teens. During the growing season, between April and September, average highs are about 70 degrees with lows near 50 degrees at night.

Temperatures are influenced and modified in the spring and fall from the "Great Lake Effect," which provides cooler temperatures in the spring and warmer temperatures in the fall. The lake effect tends to lessen extremes in temperature, impacting land on average about 10-15 miles inland and creating a climate favorable to production of specialty crops such as cherries, grapes and other various fruits. During the summer, the off-the-lake air currents tend to prevent high temperatures and maintain humidity. In the autumn months, they retain heat, and, in the spring, help retard premature growth with the cold retained in the lakes.

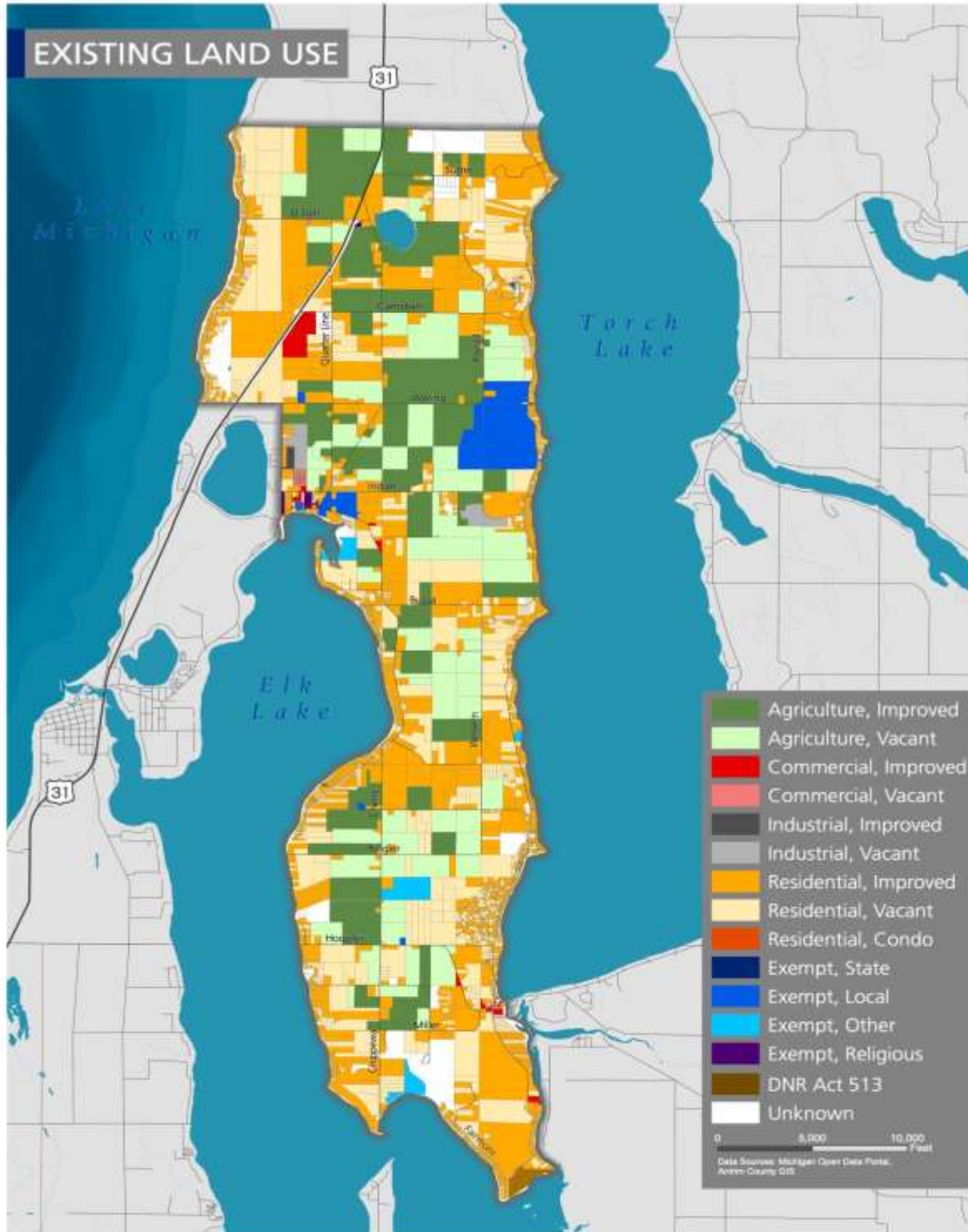
Total annual rainfall in Antrim County ranges from 30 to 33 inches; about 19 inches of that total usually fall in April through September. The average seasonal snowfall, as recorded by the Road Commission, is

156 inches. Thunderstorms occur on approximately 31 days of each year.

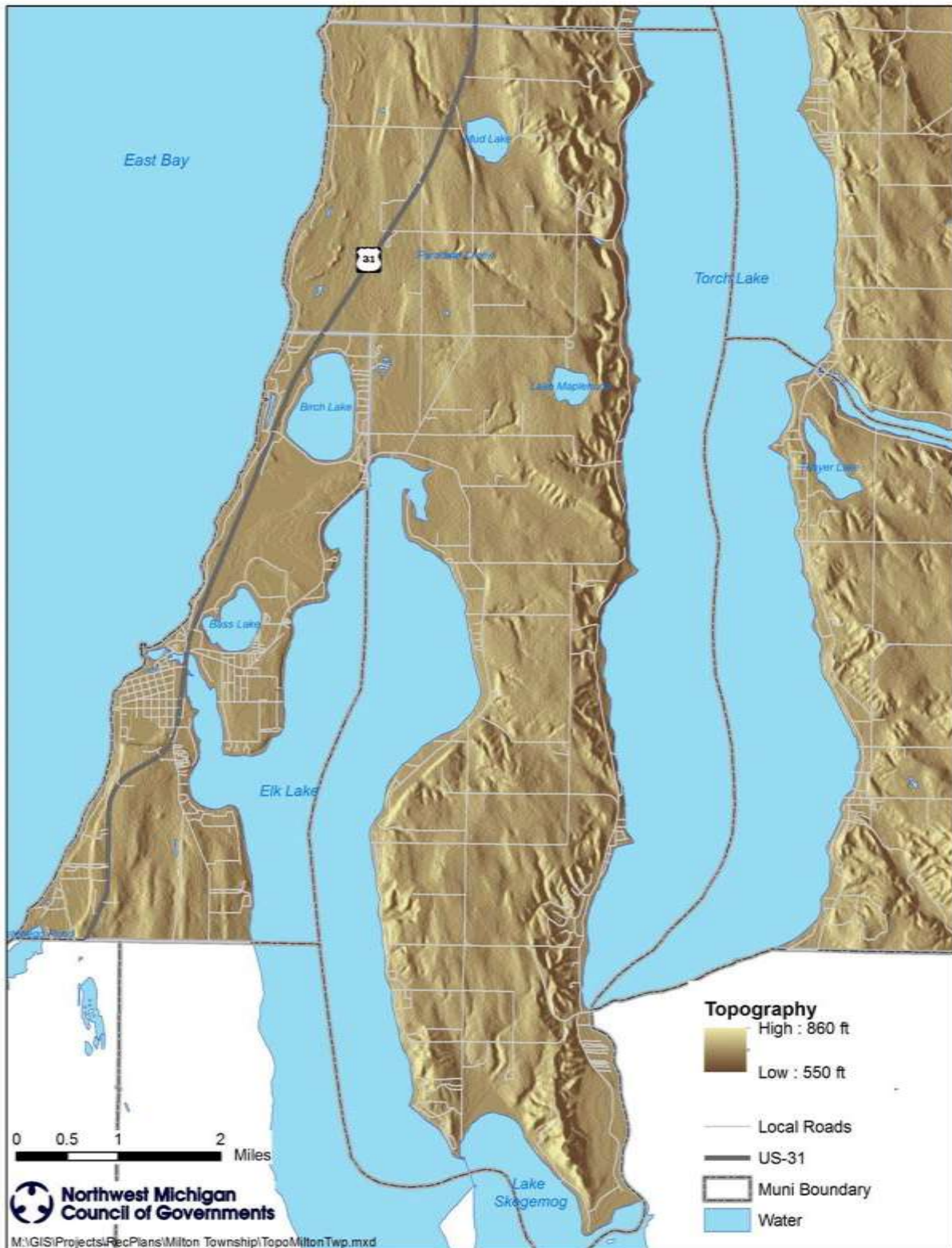
The average relative humidity in mid-afternoon is about 63%. The sun shines 75% of the time possible in summer and 40% in winter. The prevailing wind is from the southwest

# Milton Township Recreation Plan

Map 1. Land Use

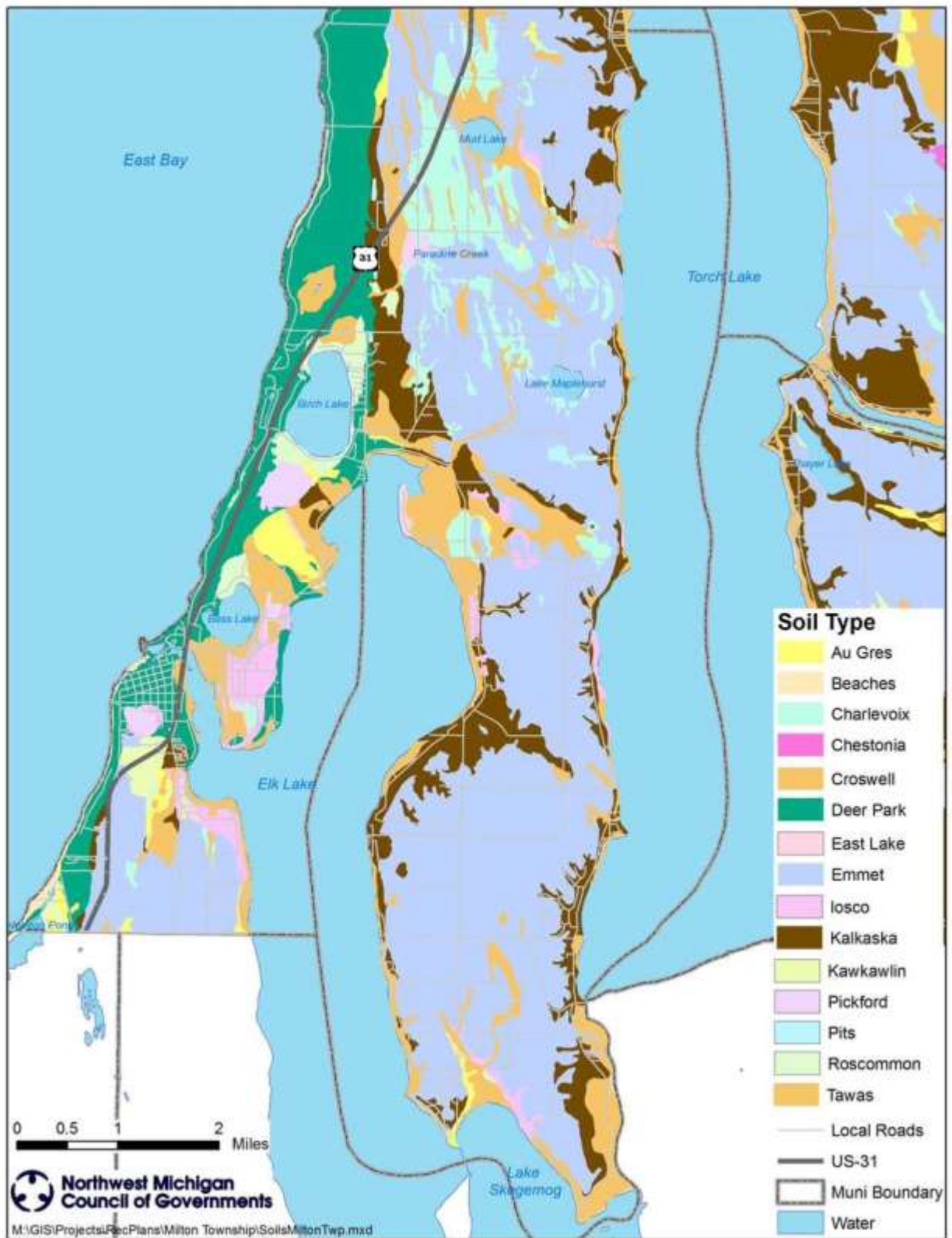


Map 2. Topography



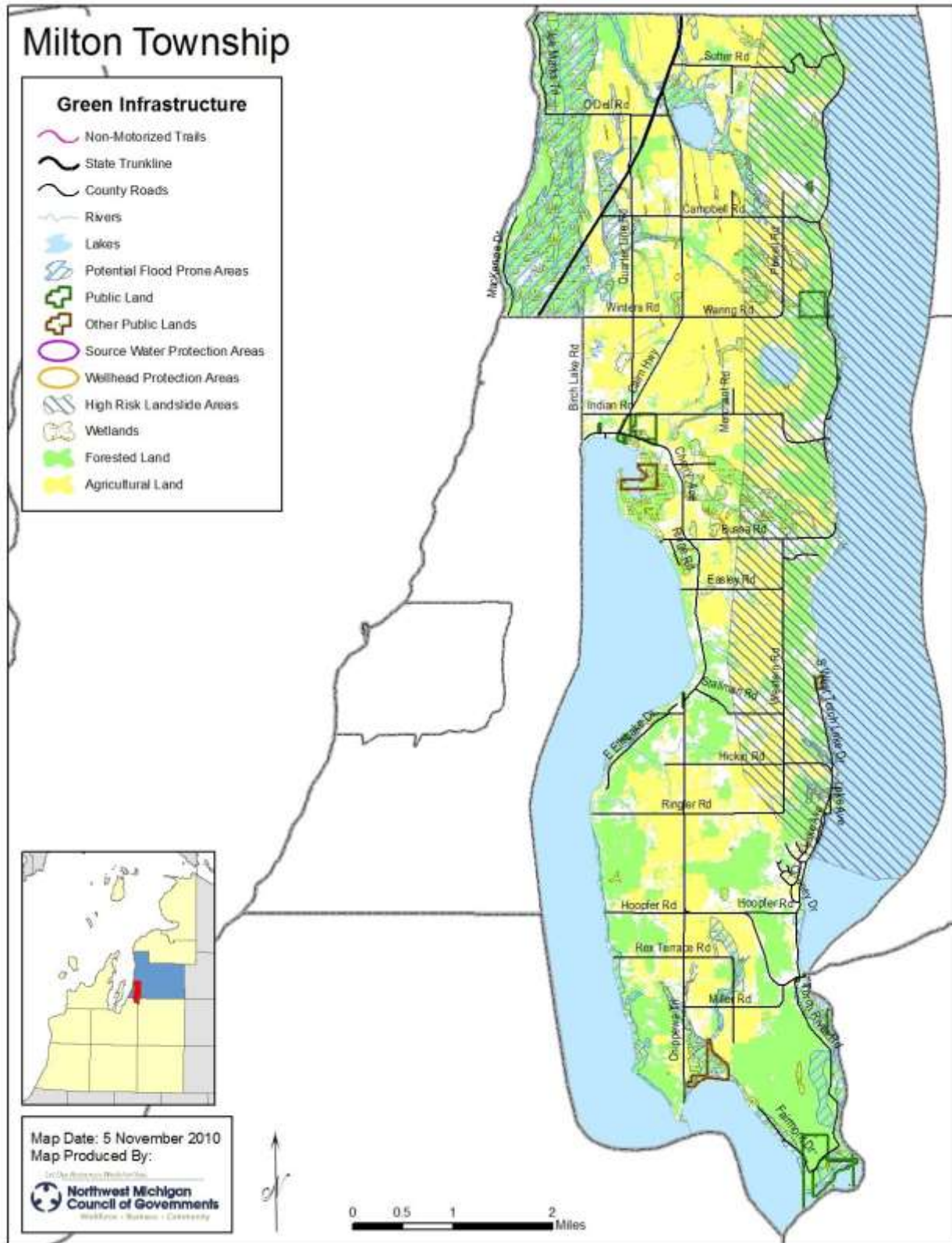
# Milton Township Recreation Plan

## Map 3. Soil Types



# Milton Township Recreation Plan

## Map 4. Green Infrastructure



# Chapter 2: Administrative Structure

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Milton Township is a general law township governed by a township board consisting of a Supervisor, Treasurer, Clerk, and two Trustees. A Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals advise the Township Board on planning and zoning issues. Committees are appointed to advise the Board on Township matters, including the P & R Committee.

## **Township Board**

The Township Supervisor and Board of Trustees provide governance, establish public policy, adopt the annual budget and millage rates, and are the approval authority for community plans and projects. The Township Board is responsible for execution and implementation of Board policies, budgets, and plans, as well as performing oversight for day-to-day operations within the Township. The Board has established these park policies: (1) all parks shall be closed to public use from dusk to dawn, (2) commercial activities are prohibited in all parks.

## **Planning Commission**

The Milton Township Planning Commission is a 7 - member body appointed by the Township Board to administer the Milton Township Zoning Ordinance, create plans, and serve in an advisory role in other planning functions, including the 5 year Recreation Plan.

## **Parks and Recreation Committee**

The Milton Township Parks and Recreation is a 5-7 member body appointed by the Township Board to make recommendations regarding recreation in the Township. A combination of citizens, administrative staff, and elected officials participate on this committee. The Parks and Recreation Committee led the development of the Recreation Plan and will

continue to lead and make recommendations relative to implementation of Plan goals, objectives, and actions.

## **Staff & Volunteers**

The Township Supervisor manages day-to-day Township operations, budget, and facilities. One full time, year-round employee provides maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

Volunteers manage activities at the Township's recreation facilities, such as youth soccer and softball leagues, and aid with maintenance of sports fields and maintain trails at the Maplehurst Natural area. User groups also provide some volunteer assistance for project- specific activities, and some maintenance or improvement activities may be completed by community service workers or jail trustees.

## **Funding & Budgeting**

The Milton Township annual parks and recreation budget averages \$60,000. An additional \$6,000 is budgeted for road end access maintenance. Capital expenditures for larger projects and grant contributions are budgeted annually when the funds will be expected.

## **Grant History**

Milton Township has received the following grants from Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund: 2005 pavilion/concession/restroom facility at the ball fields, 2016 for land acquisition for waterfront park, 2017 for land acquisition for Maplehurst Natural area, 2018 for development at waterfront park.

The Township has received numerous grants from local and regional organizations for park improvements as well as in-kind donations of materials and labor.

# Chapter 3: Recreation Inventory

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Milton Township owns and maintains a recreational park, located in the unincorporated village of Kewadin. This 49-acre park consists primarily of ball fields, playground equipment, basketball, tennis courts, pickle ball courts, walking paths and ponds. There are 5 acres south of Cherry avenue that is a natural area with board walks to Elk Lake.

Recently, the Township has developed a waterfront park in Kewadin with nearly 450 feet of frontage on Elk Lake. The Park opened in the summer of 2019, with additional amenities available in 2020. In January 2019, The Township opened the Maplehurst Natural Area to the public. The acquisition of the 398-acre property was in collaboration with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. Trails were developed in 2019 and 2020.

In addition, the Township owns and maintains 31 road ends, which provide public access to various bodies of water. Upkeep at these sites is provided by the Township with a full-time parks and maintenance employee.

The Recreation Inventory provides discussion on the Township's recreation facilities, and their place in the community, as well as parks and recreation facilities surrounding the Township. Included for each facility is a summary of public input relative to that facility, received through the Recreation Plan questionnaire or public meetings. The inventory also includes an assessment of each of the Township-owned road end sites, which were assessed by members of the Milton Township Parks and Recreation Committee through site visits in 2016 and 2021.

Information is also included relative to the accessibility of each facility to people with disabilities, based on criteria provided in the MDNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plan. The assessment considers the accessibility of both the facilities themselves, as well as the access routes to them.





## Milton Township Recreation Plan

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### **Milton Township Park**

Milton Township Park is located in the Village of Kewadin, between Cairn Highway, Cherry Avenue, and Indian Road. The 10-acre Park is owned and maintained by Milton Township, and includes a children's playground, soccer fields, ball diamonds, a walking path, and tennis and basketball courts. An adjacent 34 acres, known as the Milton Township Sports Park, serves as a multi-purpose recreational area with additional ball fields and diamonds, tennis courts, and a skateboard park. The focus of Milton Township Park is to make it a year-round park with activities for all age groups and all levels of physical fitness.

The park is most frequently used during the spring, summer, and fall; however, there is interest in increasing the recreation activities available during the winter months. Discussions have included opportunities for a hockey rink, sledding hill, and skating on the existing pond. Additionally, initial plans for the park included 2.25 miles of trails. To date, only .75 miles of walking trails exist within the park;

completion of the originally-planned 2.25 miles would provide additional opportunities for walking, jogging, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Initial park plans also called for an additional youth baseball diamond; there is acreage available at the park that could accommodate a youth diamond. Discussion has also occurred around the potential for installation of a horseshoe pit.

Public input received during the 2013 and 2021 recreation planning process indicated that the park is one of the most frequently used recreation facilities in the Township. Soccer fields, ball fields, tennis courts, and the walking trail, in particular, were frequently mentioned in survey responses. Other public comment indicated that the park is regularly used by youth softball and soccer leagues; however, the fields are not currently used by adult leagues. Some discussion occurred around the potential for additional programming at the park, including adult baseball or softball leagues, community events, or regular recreation programming that could broaden the usage of the park and promote the Township to

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neighboring communities and groups. Discussion also included comments regarding the potential for expanding the walking path.

A Clean Michigan Initiative grant was received for the construction of a pavilion/restroom (pictured above). The grant and project were completed in 2005.

Most of the park's facilities are accessible to disabled individuals.

Amenities include:

- Pavilion
- Playground
- Parking (325 spaces)
- Basketball courts (2)
- Baseball/softball diamonds (3 Little League baseball diamonds, 2 softball diamonds and 1 tee-ball diamond)
- Tennis courts (4)
- Pickle Ball courts (8)
- Soccer fields (fields vary in size depending on



the age group of teams using the fields. 2 high school soccer fields are available, 4-6 fields are available for youth up to 12 years in age)

- Walking path (3/4 mile)
- Natural area with boardwalks to Elk Lake

The latter amenity was in the area formerly designated as the "Milton Township Beach" (and as designated in the figure below).

With the development of the **new** Township Beach, this 5-acre parcel is now part of the larger recreational park.



### **Milton Township Waterfront Park**

In 2013, Public input was received regarding concerns with the desirability of the then existing Milton Township Beach (see picture above). The close proximity of the beach to wetlands, which supports a heavy concentration of insects, as well as a murky lake bottom at that location has significantly deterred its usage.

This input reinforced the Parks and Recreation Committee's concerns with the property. When several pieces of waterfront property adjacent to the Township boat ramp on the north end of Elk Lake became available, the Committee recommended to the Township Board to pursue their acquisition. The Board agreed and several pieces of property were acquired from 2014 through 2016, providing approximately 450 feet of shoreline, as well as land for parking and picnic areas next to the old Town Hall. About 200 feet of frontage has been converted to a sand beach, and the remainder is for the boat launch and greenbelt.

The concept is to create a waterfront park, incorporating the existing boat ramp, the old Town Hall and the recycling center into the plan. An engineering firm was engaged, and a multi-phase plan was created. Project costs have been covered through various grants as well as Township funds.

The first phase involving boat ramp improvements, including the installation of a universally accessible kayak launch, were completed in 2017.

Work completed in 2018, included constructing an entrance, road and parking areas west of the old Town Hall. A cross walk with pedestrian activated signals allows public access to the beach area beginning in June 2019.

An MNRTF grant supported the construction of a pavilion, universally accessible restrooms and wheelchair ramps into the water in 2019.

The Park and boat ramp is a trailhead for the Paddle Antrim Water Trail. Community paddles are sponsored by Paddle Antrim at the site that is adjacent to the Kewadin Natural Area, which only accessible by water.



### **Maplehurst Natural Area**

This unique 389-acre property was home to Camp Maplehurst from 1955 until 2011. It has 150 acres of steep hardwood forested bluffs that drain into Torch Lake and open meadows that surround Lake Maplehurst, a 60-acre spring fed lake. Its position on high ground offers spectacular views of Torch Lake, Elk lake and Grand Traverse Bay.

The Maplehurst property was listed for sale in late 2015 for \$2.975 million. The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) approached Milton Township about acquiring the property for a future natural area. Milton Township surveyed residents to gain input to the possible acquisition in February 2016. There were 521 responses (25.5%) with 70% supporting the partnership with GTRLC to acquire the Maplehurst property. Trails for hiking and biking was the recreational activity most preferred by 95% of those responding.

The Township and GTRLC entered into an agreement in May 2016 to acquire the property. A Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant was provided to the Township for \$1.924 million toward the purchase. GTRLC raised additional funds to complete the purchase, remove all existing buildings, and establish an endowment to provide the Township with annual funds for maintenance and improvements.

While the 2016 survey provided guidance for the project, subsequent public input on Stewardship Plans has been vital for meeting community needs. Milton Township and GTRLC have developed Stewardship Plans since 2019. These plans are shared with interested residents allowing for feedback via written comments and discussion with staff and the Parks and Recreation Committee..



# Milton Township Recreation Plan

The figure below depicts the boundaries of the Natural Area and the trail system. The total length of the trail is over 6 miles and was constructed in two stages. The trail is configured so that there are a variety of loops for hikers and bikers. The Township and GTRLC will be constructing a trail surrounding the Lake in 2023. It will require extensive boardwalks.



## Milton Township Recreation Plan

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### **Elk Lake Day Park**

The East Elk Lake Drive Day Park consists of picnic area and 100' of water frontage along Elk Lake. A picnic pavilion and picnic tables, grill, benches, and off-road parking are available. Elk Lake Day Park is used by residents and visitors for gatherings such as picnics and weddings, and functions as a neighborhood park.

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## Milton Township Road End Access Sites

Thirty one road end properties are owned and/or maintained by Milton Township; an additional 2 water access sites/boat ramps are owned by the DNR. These sites provide public access to Milton Township's four lakes and the Torch River, and are used by residents and visitors for fishing, swimming, boating, canoeing, kayaking, picnicking, and potential fire lanes. While many of the sites are fairly small, they provide an important amenity to Township residents and visitors. Road end access and usage issues are regulated by Township policy.

Road ends and other public access sites were assessed by the Township Parks and Recreation Committee in 2013 and updated in 2021. Goals of the assessment process were to identify needs at each of the Township's public access properties and to determine the potential for public access improvements. Assessments reviewed specifics of the road ends including location; waterbody/water frontage details; owner; description/purpose of the site; adjacent landowner information; access to water; disabled access; parking; signage; infrastructure; greenbelt space; and details relative to any erosion issues identified at the site.

Properties were also assigned a ranking or category of 1-4, indicating the potential for public access enhancements. Categories were assigned as follows:

- Category 1 – Currently functional, no improvements needed
- Category 2 – Minimal public investment could enhance public access
- Category 3 – Substantial public investment could enhance public access



- Category 4 – Minimal potential for public access improvements

In addition to public access enhancement potential, Parks and Recreation Committee members, Township staff, and the Antrim County Erosion Control Officer assessed erosion issues occurring at each site. Assessments identified the presence and extent of greenbelts and of any erosion occurring on the site. Assessments also prioritized erosion control projects and identified the scale of any erosion control efforts needed to address erosion on the site.

The Recreation Inventory provides details on each of the following characteristics for each site:

- Waterbody
- Improvement category (potential for public access enhancements; categories are outlined above)
- Water frontage width
- Uses (uses that could or do occur at the site)
- Accessibility barriers (any obstacles to the water's edge, such as steep slopes or vegetation)
- Disabled access
- Parking
- Fire truck pump accessibility
- Erosion (presence and severity of erosion at the site)
- Greenbelt (extent of vegetative buffer impacting runoff into the water)
- Survey recommended

## Milton Township Recreation Plan

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- Recommendations

A summary table on page 29 identifies major site characteristics, improvement rankings, and erosion control priority and project scale.

Site ID	Waterbody	Water front- age width	Accessible for fire truck pump	Access to water	Accessible* to disabled people	Swimming	Beach	Fishing	Kayak	Boat launch	Improvement ranking*	Erosion Control Priority & Project Type**
BUSSA	ELK LAKE	66'	Y	Y	2	Y	N	N	Y	N	1	L/3
CAMPBELL RD	TORCH	66'	Y	Y	1	Y	N	N	N	N	1	M/2
CEDAR WAY	TORCH	30'	Y	Y	1	Y	N	Y	N	N	2	L/3
CHERRY AVE	ELK LAKE	16'	N	Y	1	Y	Y	Y	N	N	1	L3
CHIPPEWA TRAIL	SKEGEMOG	66-100'	Y	Y	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	1	L/3
EASLEY	ELK LAKE	66'	Y	Y	3	Y	N	Y	Y	N	1	L/3
E ELK LAKE DAY PARK	ELK LAKE	100'	N	Y	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	NA
E ELK LAKE DNR RAMP	ELK LAKE	100'	Y	Y	2	N	N	Y	N	Y	1	NA
ERICKSON RD	GT EAST	30'	Y	Y	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	2	H/3
FAIRMONT	SKEGEMOG	66'	Y	Y	1	Y	Y	N	N	Y	1	L/3
HAMMOND	TORCH	48'	Y	N	1	Y	N	N	N	N	2	L/2
HICKEN RD	TORCH	66'	N	Y	1	Y	N	Y	N	N	3	M/2
HOOPFER	ELK LAKE	66'	N	Y	1	Y	N	N	N	N	2	H/1
INDIAN RD ACCESS	TORCH	66'	Y	Y	1	Y	N	N	Y	N	2	H/1
KEWADIN BOAT LAUNCH	ELK LAKE	66'	Y	Y	2	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	1	L/3
LAKE AVE	TORCH	40'	Y	Y	3	Y	N	N	N	Y	1	H/2
O'DELL RD	GT EAST	66'	Y	Y	1	Y	Y	Y	N	N	1	L/3
PINETREE LANE	TORCH	30'	Y	Y	1	Y	N	Y	N	N	2	L/3
QUAIL ST	SKEGEMOG	66'	Y	Y	2	Y	N	N	N	N	4	L/2
REX TERRACE	ELK LAKE	50'	Y	Y	2	Y	N	N	N	N	4	L/3
RICE AVE	TORCH	30'	Y	Y	1	Y	N	N	N	N	2	M/2
RINGLER RD	ELK LAKE	50'	Y	Y	3	Y	N	Y	Y	N	1	L/3
SCHWEITZER LANE	ELK LAKE	66'	N	Y	1	Y	N	N	Y	N	1	L/3
SEVERANCE RD	TORCH	66'	N	Y	2	Y	Y	N	N	N	1	M/2
STOVER AVE	TORCH	30'	Y	Y	1	Y	N	Y	N	N	1	M/2
SUTTER RD	TORCH	66'	Y	Y	1	Y	N	Y	N	N	2	H/1
TORCH RIVER BRIDGE	TORCH	220'	Y	Y	2	Y	N	Y	N	Y	3	H/1
WARING/CAMPBELL RD	TORCH	116'	Y	Y	1	Y	N	N	N	Y	1	H/1
WHITE SANDS #5	GT EAST	50'	N	Y	1	N	N	N	N	N	4	NA
WHITE SANDS #6	GT EAST	50'	N	Y	1	N	N	N	N	N	4	NA
WINTERS ROAD	GT EAST	66'	N	Y	2	Y	N	Y	N	N	3	M/3

\*DNR Accessibility Rating System

\*\*1 = Currently functional, no improvements needed; 2 = Minimal public investment could enhance public access; 3 = Substantial public investment could enhance public access; 4= Minimal potential for improvement

\*\*\*H = High priority; M=Medium priority; L= Low priority. 1 = major project; 2=minor project; 3 = repair and maintain

# Milton Township Recreation Plan

## Map 6. Road End Access Sites



# Milton Township Recreation Plan



## Bussa Rd

The Bussa Road End Access is a paved road end with a grassy shoreline. A slight grade is present at the water's edge. The access site could be used as-is for swimming or a kayak/canoe launch. Homes are present on either side of the road end.

Waterbody	Elk Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	66'
Uses	Swim, kayak/canoe launch
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside parking
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Minimal
Greenbelt	Enhance when conducting erosion control project
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	

## Campbell Rd

The Campbell Road end access is used as an overlook or water view, and as a kayak launch. Some overnight parking is reported to occur. A survey was completed for this site, and boundaries were identified; however, stakes have been removed, and boundaries are difficult to identify.

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	66' owned by Milton, 50' DNR
Uses	Boat launch, swimming
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Off-road—4 spaces, grass & gravel
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Moderate
Greenbelt	Enhance when conducting erosion control project
Survey recommended?	Y
Recommendations	Re-stake boundaries

# Milton Township Recreation Plan



**Cedar Way Rd**

The Cedar Way Road End provides access to Torch Lake; however, the lake bottom in this location is rocky and silty and there is no evidence of public use of the site. Homes are present on both sides, with boundaries difficult to identify.



**Cherry Ave**

The Cherry Ave Road end provides access to Elk Lake and is accessible for swimming. Canoe/kayak launch would be difficult, and the E. Elk Lake Dr DNR launch site is 1/2 mile south. Property boundaries are difficult to identify. Parking is very limited.

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	2
Water frontage width	30'
Uses	Swimming, fishing
Accessibility Barriers	3' drop to water
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Off-road: 2 spaces Roadside parking
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Minimal
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	Y
Recommendations	Add steps for access, conduct survey, install split rail fence

Waterbody	Elk Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	16'
Uses	Swimming
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside parking
Accessible for fire truck pump	N
Erosion	None
Greenbelt	Adequate
Survey recommended?	Y
Recommendations	Provide signage to identify boundaries



## Chippewa Trail

The Chippewa Trail Road End provides access to Skegemog Lake; the lake bottom in this location is sandy and flat. Parking is limited and is prohibited near the access site by signage. Property boundaries are unclear.

Waterbody	Skegemog
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	66'-100'
Uses	Swimming, beach, fishing, canoe/kayak launch
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	Y
Parking	Roadside parking
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Minimal
Greenbelt	Adequate
Survey recommended?	Y
Recommendations	Conduct survey



### Easley Rd

Easley Road provides access to Elk Lake. The site consists of gravel road with grass on both sides and could be used for swimming or canoe/kayak launch.

Waterbody	Elk Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	66'
Uses	Swimming, fishing, canoe/kayak launch
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside parking
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Minimal erosion at grade near water entry
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	N
Recommended improvements	Address erosion, install a split rail fence



### Erickson Rd

The Erickson Road End Access site provides beach access to East Grand Traverse Bay

Waterbody	East Grand Traverse Bay
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	30'
Uses	Swimming, fishing, beach, canoe/kayak launch
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside parking
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Moderate
Greenbelt	Adequate
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	



### Fairmont Dr

The Fairmont Drive Road End features a fairly dense hardwood/cedar forest to the left. The property may have potential, with a sandy lake bottom and good parking. However, it is located near the outlet of Torch River; with lots of stumps and shallow water; the waterfront is not very inviting.

### Hammond Rd

Hammond Road End Access includes a large grassy area and a 20' sand beach on Torch Lake. A paved drive for neighboring property cuts across the access parcel; a 67' drive divides as drives to 2 adjacent cottages. A steep 35 degree slope exists on the other side of Lake Street, which is contributing to erosion on the Hammond Road access site.

Waterbody	Lake Skegemog, Torch River
Improvement Category	4
Water frontage width	66'
Uses	Swimming
Accessibility Barriers	Large floating steel dock
Disabled Access	Y
Parking	Off road: 10 spaces
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Minimal
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	30'
Uses	Swimming
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside parking
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Minimal
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	



### Hicken Rd

The Hicken Road End provides access to Torch Lake. However, the lake bottom in this location is rocky and silty, and existing steps down to water's edge, about 15' from road elevation, are uneven and steep. There is little evidence of public use.



### Hoopfer Rd

Hoopfer Road ends in a paved cul-de-sac, 50' from the water's edge. 30% grade to water, 20' narrow path to 20' flat, then 4' drop to water. Evidence suggests that people have been going down to the water. Dead trees and steps need improvements.

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	3
Water frontage width	66'
Uses	Swimming, fishing
Accessibility Barriers	Steep decline, uneven steps to water's edge
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Off-road: 2 spaces Roadside parking
Accessible for fire truck pump	N—too far to water's edge w/steep drop to water; water is shallow
Erosion	Moderate
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	Update stairs, add railing

Waterbody	Elk Lake
Improvement Category	2
Water frontage width	66'
Uses	Swimming
Accessibility Barriers	Vegetation
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside: 6 spaces
Accessible for fire truck pump	N
Erosion	Severe
Greenbelt	Adequate
Survey recommended?	Y
Recommended improvements	Improve steps – Tree Removal



### Indian Rd

Indian Road End Access provides access for swimming, and potentially for a kayak or canoe launch. A steep grade exists at the water's edge, with stairs.



### Kewadin Boat Launch

The Kewadin Boat Launch provides boating access to Elk Lake. Severe erosion on the site has been successfully addressed by improvements made with the installation of the Universally Accessible Kayak Launch. Now part of the Milton Township Waterfront Park.

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	2
Water frontage width	66'
Uses	Swimming
Accessibility Barriers	Steep slope
Disabled Access	No
Parking	Off-road : 10 spaces
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Significant erosion of drive Deep, soft sand on south side of drive
Greenbelt	Enhance when conducting erosion project
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	Improve grass area by lake, improve entry road

Waterbody	Elk Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	66'
Uses	Swimming, boat launch, fishing, beach
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	Y
Parking	N. side of Cairn adjacent to Hall
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Minimal
Greenbelt	Good
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	Clean catch basins



### Lake Ave

The Lake Ave Road End provides beach access to Torch Lake. Adjacent cottages on the south side of the site use the property for parking.

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	40'
Uses	Swimming, canoe/kayak launch, beach
Accessibility Barriers	N
Disabled Access	Wheelchair accessible with assistance
Parking	Off road: 2 spaces
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Moderate—storm water runoff
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	Address erosion



### Pinetree Ln

The Pinetree Lane Road End provides access to Torch Lake; however, the lake bottom is rocky and silty, and there is no evidence of public use. Property boundaries are not easily identified.

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	2
Water frontage width	30'
Uses	Swimming, fishing
Accessibility Barriers	3' drop to water's edge
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside/off-road: 3 spaces
Accessible for fire truck pump	
Erosion	Minimal
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	Y
Recommendations	Survey property and identify water access point



### Quail St

A boat ramp is located at the end of Quail Street, providing access to Lake Skegemog. A gravel parking area is provided.

Waterbody	Lake Skegemog
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	66'
Uses	Swimming, boat launch, beach
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Off-road : 10 spaces
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Minimal
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	



### Rex Terrace

The Rex Terrace Road on Elk Lake features a rocky lake bottom with a 4' drop to the water's edge. A pile of gravel is located to the left of the road end. The property isn't very user friendly; as is, it would be difficult for visitors to get into the water.

Waterbody	Elk Lake
Improvement Category	4
Water frontage width	40-66'
Uses	Swimming, fishing
Accessibility Barriers	4' drop to water's edge
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside: 2 spaces
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Minimal
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	Y
Recommendations	Could perhaps add steps if someone really wanted to get into the water.



### Rice Ave

The Rice Avenue Road End property appears to be used in the winter months for ice fishing. Erosion is observed on the site; runoff from across the road washes down the length of parcel.

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	2
Water frontage width	30'
Uses	Swimming, fishing
Accessibility Barriers	Large rocks at shoreline
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Off-road: 8 spaces
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Moderate
Greenbelt	Adequate
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	A split rail fence 20' in from the lake could designate parking and improve area between Lake and SW Torch to allow for more parking—add signage for awareness.



### Ringler Rd

The Ringler Road end has excellent access for swimming and canoes/kayaks. There is minimal land cover and large rocks prohibit access by larger boats or fishing shelters. Ample roadside parking is available.

Waterbody	Elk Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	33' open, 15-16' of vegetation on both sides
Uses	Swimming, fishing
Accessibility Barriers	Large rocks at shoreline
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Minimal
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	



### Schweitzer Ln

The Schweitzer Lane Road End site provides access to Elk Lake. The site provides excellent swimming access to Elk Lake via well-maintained steps down to the water's edge. Usage for canoe/kayak launch would be difficult, and the E. Elk Lake Dr DNR launch site is 1/4 mile south.

Waterbody	Elk Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	66'
Uses	Swimming
Accessibility Barriers	Steep slope and Vegetation
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside
Accessible for fire truck pump	N
Erosion	Minimal
Greenbelt	Adequate
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	



### Severance Rd

Severance Road End is a regularly used access site with a designated swimming area outlined with buoys, a sandy lake bottom, and a level, grassy picnic and seating area. The swim area is currently limited by abutting property owner's dock/boat hoist. Issues related to activity/noise/parking at the site have largely been addressed by the addition of a fence.

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	30'
Uses	Swimming, beach
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	Y
Parking	Roadside
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	M
Greenbelt	Enhance, when conducting erosion project
Survey recommended?	Y
Recommendations	Storm water management



### Stover Rd

The Stover Road End property provides access to Torch Lake for swimming or fishing; however, as is, it is difficult to enter the water from this site.

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	30'
Uses	Swimming, fishing
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Off-road: 3 spaces
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Moderate
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	M
Recommendations	

### Sutter Rd

The Sutter Road End site provides access on foot to Torch Lake; however, a steep grade is present for the last 20' to the water, and the lake bottom is rocky. Significant improvements were made at this site in 2015. Recommendations implemented.

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	2
Water frontage width	66'
Uses	Swimming, fishing
Accessibility Barriers	Steep drop last 20-50'
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Off-road: 5 spaces
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Severe erosion last 30' to water
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	Could use riprap to address erosion. Add steps—need steps with a handrail to water.



### O'Dell Rd

The O'Dell Road End provides access to East Grand Traverse Bay and includes an old boat ramp.

Waterbody	East Grand Traverse Bay
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	
Uses	Swimming, fishing, beach
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Moderate
Greenbelt	Adequate
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	



### Waring/Campbell Rd

A boat ramp is located at the Campbell Road End. 66' of the property is owned by Milton Township; an additional 50' adjoining the boat ramp is owned by the DNR and is available for parking. There is a steep grade down to the water; water is only accessible at the boat launch. Severe erosion was addressed in 2016 and other improvements made.

Waterbody	Torch Lake
Improvement Category	1
Water frontage width	66' owned by Milton, 50' DNR
Uses	Boat launch, swimming
Accessibility Barriers	None
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Off-road—4 spaces, grass & gravel
Accessible for fire truck pump	Y
Erosion	Severe
Greenbelt	Minimal
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	Address erosion



### White Sands #5

The White Sands #5 property is located in a platted subdivision along East Grand Traverse Bay and consists of a road end access for a road that was not developed. The property is a wooded lot. No trails or road access extend to the water. The property may have potential as a small waterfront park in the future, if developed.

Waterbody	East Grand Traverse Bay
Improvement Category	4
Water frontage width	50'
Uses	
Accessibility Barriers	Vegetation, uneven
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside
Accessible for fire truck pump	N
Erosion	Not evaluated
Greenbelt	Not evaluated
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	



### White Sands #6

The White Sands #6 property is located in a platted subdivision along East Grand Traverse Bay and consists of a road end access for a road that was not developed. The property is a wooded lot. No trails or road access extend to the water. The property may have potential as a small waterfront park in the future, if developed.

Waterbody	East Grand Traverse Bay
Improvement Category	4
Water frontage width	50'
Uses	
Accessibility Barriers	Vegetation, uneven
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside
Accessible for fire truck pump	N
Erosion	Not evaluated
Greenbelt	Not evaluated
Survey recommended?	N
Recommendations	



### Winters Rd

The Winters Road end access site provides access to East Grand Traverse Bay. While the site does function as a beach, the lake bottom is rocky, and the beach is not heavily used.

Waterbody	East Grand Traverse Bay
Improvement Category	3
Water frontage width	66'
Uses	Swimming, fishing, beach
Accessibility Barriers	Large rocks
Disabled Access	N
Parking	Roadside
Accessible for fire truck pump	N
Erosion	Moderate
Greenbelt	Adequate
Survey recommended?	Y
Recommendations	

## Other Public Recreational Facilities

### Kewadin Natural Area

The 40-acre Kewadin Natural Area is a wetland preserve along the northern shore of Elk Lake, just south of Kewadin. Public access is very limited; the property is only accessible via Elk Lake. The preserve is managed by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

### North Skegemog Nature Preserve

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy owns a 37-acre wetland area, best viewed by boat, known as the North Skegemog Nature Preserve. The Preserve is located near the confluence of Elk and Skegemog Lakes, at the northwestern end of Lake Skegemog, and is open to limited public use in accordance with management plans.

### E. Elk Lake Drive Boat Launch

A MDNR boat launch is located on E. Elk Lake Drive. The launch provides access to Elk Lake, and includes a concrete launch pad, a gravel parking area, and toilet facilities

### Torch River Bridge Launch

The MDNR-owned Torch River Bridge Boat Launch provides access to the Torch River and Torch Lake. A paved parking area for about three vehicles is available near the launch, and a separate parking area for vehicles and boat trailers is available across the road. Disabled-accessible toilet facilities are available.

The launch is heavily used; public input obtained during the recreation planning process noted that the launch becomes very crowded in summer months. Storm water runoff from Cherry Avenue into Torch Lake creates serious erosion.



The MDNR has purchased adjoining properties and improvements are planned.

### Torch River Ridge Nature Preserve

This 290-acre parcel has more than 1,500 feet of undeveloped wetland frontage along the Torch River. This stunning new (as of 2021) preserve offers scenic trails through mature hardwoods and beautiful ravines. At 290 acres, there is much to explore. Aside from its passive recreational benefits, this preserve is of tremendous importance in terms of wildlife habitat, scenic views and water quality in the Torch River (and entire lower Chain of Lakes watershed).

# Chapter 4: Planning Process

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The 2023 -2027 recreation plan has been developed by the Milton Township Parks and Recreation Committee.

Information and suggestions used in the development of the Recreation Plan were collected during the planning process through questionnaires, recreation inventories and assessments, public meetings, Parks and Recreation Committee meetings, and existing Township plans.

## Existing Plans and Projects

### Milton Township Master Plan

The *Milton Township Master Plan*, most recently updated in May 2015, provides goals and policies for the Township and acts as the legal basis for zoning decisions. The *Plan* helps guide decisions about public improvements, community programs, and private development, and provides a number of strategies to enhance the community's housing, transportation, and recreation options (see sidebar, page 49, for recreation-specific strategies).

### Chain of Lakes Water Trail

In 2013, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy began work toward a "water trail" plan for the Chain of Lakes. A water trail is a designated route along a river, lake, canal, or bay, specifically designed for people using small, non-motorized boats like kayaks and canoes. These trails often feature well-developed access and launch points, are near significant historical, environmental, or cultural points of interest. They provide residents and visitors with increased access to the water, enhancing and enabling recreation and increasing knowledge about local bodies of water.

The proposed water trail runs from northern Antrim County, near Ellsworth, through the Chain of Lakes, entering East Bay in Elk Rapids. In Milton Township, the proposed

water trail would include many existing access points at road ends or existing boat Launch sites. The Milton Waterfront Park is a designated trailhead.

The Chain of Lakes Water Trail is now managed by Paddle Antrim and was one of the eight water trails first recognized by the MDNR in 2018. Paddle Antrim has organized lessons and community paddles at the Kewadin site.

## Road End Assessment

As noted in Chapter 3, *Recreation Inventory*, the Parks and Recreation Committee conducted an inventory of all road ends and other public access sites in 2013. They updated the inventory in 2021. Goals of the assessment process were to identify needs at each of the Township's public access properties and to determine the potential for public access improvements. Recommended improvements are included as objectives in the Recreation Action Plan. Significant progress has been made at a few sites since 2013. Greater priority will be placed on following through on recommendations now that the waterfront park and the Maplehurst Natural Area have opened.

## Public Input

### Recreation Questionnaire

A link to a recreation questionnaire was mailed to residents and it was also posted on the Township website and two ads were published in the Elk Rapids News urging completion of the survey. Unfortunately, only 25 questionnaires were returned. Results of the questionnaire identified recreation usage patterns, priorities, needs, and concerns. Full results and comments from the questionnaire are included in Appendix A.

# Milton Township Recreation Plan

- Over half (53%) of respondents indicated that they use the Township's recreational facilities. Inland property owners were more likely than waterfront or inland property owners with deeded access to use Milton Township Recreational facilities – 67% of inland owners answered that they use township park facilities, compared to 46% of those with deeded water access and 48% of those with waterfront property.
- Comments indicated that boat ramps/boat launches were the most frequently used recreation facilities, followed by parks (including the Township park and other parks) and water access points. Soccer fields and tennis courts were also frequently noted.
- For residents that answered that they don't use Township parks and recreation facilities, the most commonly cited reasons were that the respondents didn't need the facilities, followed by those indicating that they don't use Township facilities because they lived on the water.
- Just over half of respondents (54%) felt that "township newsletter" is the best method for distributing information about Milton Township's recreational facilities, followed by "local newspaper" (35%), "township website" (25%) and "specific township mailing (23%)."

## Public Input Session

In addition to the survey, a Public Input Session was held on September 22 at the Milton Township Hall in Kewadin. Unfortunately, no members of the public attended. No comments were received from any sources on the draft 2023 - 2027 plan. The Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearing was published in the Elk Rapids News. The draft plan was available for review and download on the Township's websites with hard copies available at Township offices.



- Boat ramps too crowded – especially holidays
- Consider more lake access for non-waterfront property owners/residents.
- Road End public access issues: limitations to available space, parking access considerations, needs for larger waterfront spaces to provide better public water access.
- Consider enhancements to Milton Township beach.
- Potential Township Park improvements, including walking path extensions/accessibility, community recreation programs, adult leagues, and recreation staff
- Trails and bike paths: long-distance trail connections, shoulder improvements, and scenic trails.

## Public Comment Period

*See Appendix A*

## Public Hearing and Adoption

*See Appendix A and Appendix B*

## **Milton Township Master Plan Recreation Goals**

***The Milton Township Master Plan goals and objectives are as follows:***

*To promote recreational resource development, the Township should:*

1. Consider the recommendations of the Milton Township Parks and Recreation Program plan.
2. Plan for a variety of recreational needs and preferences and develop recreational opportunity for all residents including complying with physical needs-based recreational standards.
3. Recognize that land-based recreation within the Township primarily relies upon private lands (i.e. little State land exists within the Township), and plan for a variety of recreational needs and preferences.
4. Where appropriate, consider the public acquisition of unique natural and/or cultural resources as public recreation lands (i.e. lake accesses for temporary uses such as swimming, unique natural features, scenic overlooks, etc.).
5. Ensure the public use of any rest area, public beach, public and other shared water access, picnic area, roadside park, or any County, Township or Private road end at a lakeshore in the Township is temporary in duration (unless overnight camping is specifically allowed), and does not result in the unreasonable interference with the comfortable use and enjoyment of adjoining private properties or the riparian and/or public use of waters.
6. Manage land within the Township for the preservation of natural resources, including Township-owned lands.
7. Consider the development of new and linkage of existing non-motorized pedestrian trails, especially along but separated from State or County road surfaces. Future non-motorized trails may be considered along Cherry Avenue between Kewadin and Torch River, and/or north and south parallel with the U.S. 31 corridor.
8. Support and maintain existing Township recreation lands and facilities.
9. Obtain Michigan Department of Natural Resources approval of the Milton Township Park & Recreation Master Plan 2014 -2018.

# Chapter 5: Goals, Objectives, & Action Plan

Following is a list of proposed recreation goals, objectives, and actions, for Parks and Recreation Committee review and discussion. The proposed goals were based on public input, the draft 2013 Milton Township Master Plan, the Maplehurst Survey and current Township initiatives.



<b>Goal #1</b>	<b>Plan for a variety of recreational needs and preferences and develop recreational opportunity for all residents including complying with physical needs-based recreational standards.</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Explore opportunities to enhance recreation programming and activities at existing parks.</b>
Action	Consider additional recreation amenities to Milton Township Park.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Provide facilities to meet the needs and abilities of all park users.</b>
Action	Continue to work with volunteers and community organizations to provide a broad range of recreation activities at Township parks and recreation facilities.
Action	Consider and incorporate universal accessibility features in park planning and improvements as feasible.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Continually update and improve the Milton Township Recreation Plan and develop and promote annual Action Plans.</b>
Action	Develop 2022 Action Plan.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Develop options and get public input to the development of the Elk Lake property on the south side of Cherry Avenue (former Milton Township Beach).</b>
Action	Determine Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) interest in assessing feasibilities of options and in collaboration as may be indicated.
Action	Develop options for review by the Milton Township Parks and Recreation Committee and the Township Board.
Action	Gather input on selected options from Township residents through public hearings and survey.

## Milton Township Recreation Plan

<b>Goal #2</b>	<b>Continue the development of the Milton Township Waterfront Park.</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Seek MNRTF funds and other grant opportunities to develop amenities at the Park.</b>
Action	Finalize the plan for the north side of the park adjacent to the old Township Hall. Complete design elements and obtain cost estimates.
Action	Pursue funding opportunities, including grant funds and potential partnerships with regional organizations to implement plan.

<b>Goal #3</b>	<b>Continue to allow, manage, and maintain appropriate access and usage at the Township's public water access and road end sites.</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Ensure public access sites and property boundaries are clearly identified.</b>
Action	Conduct property surveys, delineate boundaries, and identify access areas of road end/water access sites as needed.
Action	Maintain fencing to demarcate public access boundaries at road end/water access sites, road end access sites and others as needed.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Ensure the public use of any park or road end/public access site is consistent with Township policies.</b>
Action	Continue to implement the Township's road end access/usage policy.
Action	Install signage as necessary.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Ensure that usage of access sites does not result in the unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of adjoining private properties.</b>
Action	Continue to implement the Township's road end access/usage policy.

## Milton Township Recreation Plan

<b>Goal #4</b>	<b>Manage land within the Township for the preservation of natural resources, including Township-owned lands.</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Annually develop and implement a Management/Stewardship Plan for the Maplehurst Natural Area (MNA).</b>
Action	In coordination with the GTRLC, the Parks and Recreation Committee to develop an annual Management/Stewardship Plan.
Action	Pursue funding opportunities, including grant funds and potential partnerships with local and regional organizations to carry out stewardship functions and make improvements to MNA facilities. Create a "Friends of Maplehurst" organization to be involved in these activities.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Address erosion issues at public access sites as needed.</b>
Action	Enhance greenbelt surface at road end/water access sites as needed.
Action	Implement minor erosion control measures at Hicken Road, Severance Road, Rice Avenue, Stover Avenue, Lake Avenue, Winters Road, Campbell Road, Hoopfer Road ends and other access sites as needed.
Action	Repair and/or maintain erosion control measures at Ringler Road, Hammond Road, Cedar Way Road, Pinetree Lane, Bussa Road, O'Dell Road, Rex Terrace Road, Chippewa Trail, Fairmont Drive, Easley Road, Schweitzer Lane, and Quail Street road ends and other access sites as needed.
Action	Coordinate with and encourage MDNR to address severe erosion issues at Torch River Bridge Boat Launch.

## Milton Township Recreation Plan

<b>Goal #5</b>	<b>Consider the development of new and linkage of existing motorized and non-motorized trails, especially along but separated from State or County road surfaces.</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Expand and enhance opportunities for bicycle trails and pathways.</b>
Action	Consider non-motorized trails along Cherry Avenue between Kewadin and Torch River, and/or north and south parallel with the U.S. 31 corridor. <i>(language adapted from draft Master Plan)</i>
Action	Consider connecting existing trails in neighboring communities, in coordination with neighboring townships, to enhance long-distance non-motorized recreation opportunities.
Action	Coordinate with Antrim County and other transportation agencies to enhance road shoulders in order to better accommodate bicycle traffic.
Action	Explore opportunities for bike trails or paths along ridgelines or other areas with opportunities for scenic views and overlooks.
Action	Develop relationships/partnerships with regional trail organizations, such as Traverse Area Recreational Trails (TART), to explore additional opportunities for bike trail connections and enhancements.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Expand and enhance opportunities for hiking, biking and cross country skiing trails.</b>
Action	Consider expansions to existing trails at the Milton Township Park and Maplehurst Natural Area.
Action	Develop relationships/partnerships with regional trail organizations to explore additional opportunities for walking/hiking trail connections and enhancements.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Participate in the Chain of Lakes Water Trail.</b>
Action	Continue to coordinate with regional organizations/nonprofits in the Chain of Lakes Water Trail to provide information regarding water access sites, kayak instructional programs and community paddles.

## Milton Township Recreation Plan

<b>Goal #6</b>	<b>Support and maintain existing Township recreation lands and facilities.</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Add, update, or improve park furnishings and amenities at all parks as appropriate and necessary.</b>
Action	Continue to provide ongoing funding to provide maintenance and improvements at Township parks and recreation facilities.
Action	Provide or update stairs and stair railings at Cedar Way Road, Hicken Road, Hooper Road, Rex Terrace, and Sutter Road end access sites.
Action	Improve barrier-free access at parks and public access sites as feasible.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Raise awareness of Township parks and recreation opportunities.</b>
Action	Provide information and resources on recreation opportunities in the Township via the Township website.
Action	Consider sponsoring a Field Day or Community Day at a Township park.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Implement Recreation Plan goals, objectives, and action items.</b>
Action	Develop an annual recreation work plan, based on 2022 Recreation Plan goals, objectives, and action items, to prioritize and initiate activities and improvements based on available funding, grant opportunities, and need.

# Appendices

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## **Appendix A: Public Input**

1. Survey Results
2. Legal Notice of Draft Plan Release and Review Period and September 22, 2022, Public Meeting
3. September 22, 2022- Public Meeting Minutes

## **Appendix B: Approval Documentation**

1. Township Board Resolution (October 10, 2022, meeting minutes)

## **Appendix C: Recreation Grant History**

1. Milton Township Waterfront Park
2. Maplehurst Natural Area

## **Appendix D: Cover Letter to Antrim County**

## APPENDIX A PUBLIC INPUT - 2021 SURVEY (Open July 15 – October 15)

# Milton Township Parks and Recreation

Friday, October 01, 2021

Powered by  SurveyMonkey

### Q1: How many times a year do you or a member of your household visit a Township park, natural area or a road end access

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0

	NONE	1-5 TIMES	5-10 TIMES	MORE THAN 10 TIMES	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Township Recreation Park	8.33% 2	54.17% 13	4.17% 1	33.33% 8	24
Township Waterfront Park	25.00% 6	58.33% 14	0.00% 0	16.67% 4	24
Maplehurst Natural Area	20.83% 5	20.83% 5	20.83% 5	37.50% 9	24
Torch River Preserve	73.68% 14	31.58% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	19
East Elk Lake Drive Day Park	54.55% 12	45.45% 10	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	22
Road End Access Site	41.67% 10	20.83% 5	16.67% 4	20.83% 5	24
Township Historic Hall	72.73% 16	27.27% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	22

Powered by  SurveyMonkey

**Q2: Why do you or members of your household visit Milton Township parks, natural areas and/or road end access sites? (check all that apply)**

Answered: 24 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Trail Use	87.50%	21
Launch Watercraft	50.00%	12
Beach/Swim	37.50%	9
Picnic/Family Gatherings	20.83%	5
Winter Recreation	54.17%	13
Fishing	20.83%	5
Tennis	12.50%	3
Pickleball	37.50%	9
Basketball	12.50%	3
Playground Equipment	37.50%	9
Participate/Watch Organized Sports	16.67%	4
Classes/Meetings	4.17%	1
Other (please specify)	16.67%	4
Total Respondents: 24		

**Q3: If you visited the Milton Township Recreation Park,**

Answered: 23 Skipped: 2

	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Was the facility/area well maintained?	91.30% 21	0.00% 0	8.70% 2	23	1.17

#### Q4: If you visited the Maplehurst Natural Area,

Answered: 24 Skipped: 1

	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Was the facility/area well maintained?	75.00% 18	8.33% 2	16.67% 4	24	1.42

#### Q5: If you visited the Milton Township Waterfront Park,

Answered: 23 Skipped: 2

	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Was the facility/area well maintained?	78.26% 18	0.00% 0	21.74% 5	23	1.43

## Q6: If you visited the Torch River Preserve,

Answered: 19 Skipped: 6

	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Was the facility/area well maintained?	15.79% 3	0.00% 0	84.21% 16	19	2.68

## Q7: If you visited the historic Township hall,

Answered: 21 Skipped: 4

	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Was the facility/area well maintained?	23.81% 5	0.00% 0	76.19% 16	21	2.52

## Q8: If you visited the East Elk Lake Drive Day Park,

Answered: 22 Skipped: 3

	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Was the facility/area well maintained?	45.45% 10	0.00% 0	54.55% 12	22	2.09

## Q9: If you visited a road end access site,

Answered: 22 Skipped: 3

	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Was the facility/area well maintained?	59.09% 13	13.64% 3	27.27% 6	22	1.68

**Question 10:** If you believe that Milton Township should add ONE new recreational activity to its facilities, what should it be?

- Swimming lessons
- More trails and nature preserves
- I think the park directly across from the Township Hall should be cleaned up for the public to use again.
- Tart trail build out
- Running!
- Indoor Pickleball
- More trails in Maplehurst.
- Frisbee golf
- A designated Dark Sky area to be open at night for astronomy viewing.
- Second lane to enter/ exit Maplehurst 2.
- Wider Shoulders on Cherry Avenue for bike traffic between Cairn highway and Bussa Rd as cyclists often ride here on rides around Torch Lake
- Shuffleboard court
- Rollerblade loop
- Bicycle trail
- Indoor pickleball courts to allow play throughout the year.

**Question 11:** What other suggestions or comments do you wish the Township to consider in revising the Recreation Plan through 2026?

- Swimmers and paddlers have a bounty of accesses to choose from. Beach sailors who need a clear area to drag in have less than half a dozen options. Please consider our small sailing community that uses these areas year round when deciding on sign placement, split rail fencing or other infrastructure that might impede access at our already dwindling choice of launches
- Wider shoulders on Cherry Avenue between Cairn Highway and Bussa Rd. Cyclists use this section especially when they ride around Torch Lake. It is very dangerous as narrow as it is with the curves. The new pavement is much better, but still too close to cars!!
- We have enough recreation sites!
- Protect our road ends, public access sites from being taken over by adjoining neighbors.
- Continue to plan for consistent maintenance and updating of all recreation facilities.
- Better access to Torch would be nice.
- More restrictive guidelines for using the Torch sand bar
- Improve the park directly across from the Township Hall for the public to use again.
- Promote more DNR fish planting in Elk Lake. Make Elk Lake as a fishing destination.
- Maps posted for trails to run/walk/mountain bike
- Publish all the parks and rec minutes up to date. You just must stop every single occurrence of late nighttime activity at Maplehurst whatever it takes. A gate and sign with hours of operation clearly posted at the road.
- Need a dock at the boat launch in Kewadin. You need to have a place to tie up your boat while taking car and trailer to parking area. At least a mooring buoy or two.

## Q12: Is your household located:

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
On a lake or river waterfront	60.00%	15
Inland	32.00%	8
Inland with deeded lake or river access	8.00%	2
Total Respondents: 25		

## Q13: How would you describe your residency?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Full time resident	64.00%	16
Summer resident	16.00%	4
Other	20.00%	5
Total Respondents: 25		

**APPENDIX A PUBLIC INPUT – Legal Notice of Draft Plan Release and Review Period and September 22, 2022, Public Meeting**

The Notice below appeared in the *Elk Rapids News* on August 15 and August 22, 2022. The *Elk Rapids News* is delivered to all households in Milton Township without subscription and the Township places all legal notices in the publication.

MILTON TOWNSHIP

**Milton Township Notice to the Public  
Recreation Plan Public Review & Public Hearing**

The draft Milton Township Recreation Plan is available for public review beginning August 18, 2022. A copy of the plan will be available at the Milton Township office, located at 7023 Cherry Avenue, Kewadin, MI 49648, or online at [www.miltontownship.org](http://www.miltontownship.org). Please direct all comments to Milton Township at the contact information below by September 19, 2022. All comments will be compiled and presented to the Milton Township Board for consideration. Public comment will also be heard by the Milton Township Parks & Recreation Committee at a public hearing on September 22, 2022 @ 7:00 pm at the Milton Township Office. To request a hard copy of the draft plan, please contact Liz Atkinson at Milton Township @ 231-264-6693 or via email at [Miltontownshiptreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:Miltontownshiptreasurer@gmail.com)

**APPENDIX A PUBLIC INPUT - September 22, 2022- Public Meeting Minutes**

**Milton Township  
Parks & Recreation Committee**

**Public Meeting**

**September 22, 2022**

Milton Township Parks and Recreation Committee members present:

Liz Atkinson – presiding member

Bob Kingon – recording member

Dave Kopkau – member

Public: no members of the public in attendance

Ms. Atkinson called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

Ms. Atkinson adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted.

Robert Kingon

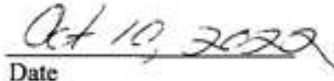


CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the minutes by Robert Kingon in Milton Township, Antrim County, State of Michigan, at the Public Hearing, held on September 22, 2022, that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.



Sandra Ball, Milton Township Clerk



Date

## Appendix B: Approval Documentation

**2023 – 2027 Recreation Plan**  
For Milton Township, Antrim County  
Resolution 2022-08

**WHEREAS**, the Milton Township Board has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2023 through 2027, and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks & Recreation Committee is made up of representatives from Milton Township, and

**WHEREAS**, the Milton Township Board began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

**WHEREAS**, residents of Milton Township, Antrim County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on 9/22/22 at the Milton Township Hall located at 7023 Cherry Avenue, Kewadin, MI 49648, to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Milton Township 2023-2027 Recreation Plan, and

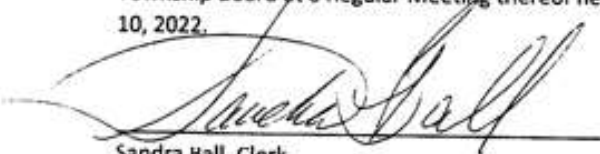
**WHEREAS**, the Milton Township Board has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Milton Township, and

**WHEREAS**, after the public hearing, the Board of Milton Township voted to adopt said 2023-2027 Recreation Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Milton Township Board hereby adopts the Milton Township 2023-2027 Recreation Plan.

Yeas: 4    Nays: 0    Absent: L. ATKINSON

I, Sandra Ball, Clerk do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Milton Township Board at a Regular Meeting thereof held on October 10, 2022.

  
Sandra Ball, Clerk

## Appendix C: Recreation Grant History - Milton Township Waterfront Park

Project #TF15-003 - 2017 Acquisition Grant - \$464,300

Project #TF17-000 - 2018 Construction Grant - \$295,000



## Appendix C: Recreation Grant History – Maplehurst Natural Area

Project #TF16 - 2018 Acquisition Grant - \$1,924,200



## Appendix D: Cover Letter to Antrim County

Milton Township  
7023 Cherry Avenue, PO Box 309  
Kewadin, MI 49648  
231-264-6693

October 26, 2022

Antrim County Planning Commission  
c/o Antrim County Administrator  
PO Box 187  
Bellaire, MI 49615

Dear Antrim County Planning Commission Members,

On behalf of the Milton Township Board & Parks & Recreation Committee, please find attached the final draft of the Milton Township 2023- 2027 Recreation Plan for your review. As required by the DNR Guidelines for the development of community park and recreation plans, Milton Township is requesting this review.

Please send comments or questions to: [Miltontownshiptreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:Miltontownshiptreasurer@gmail.com)

Thank you,



Liz Atkinson  
Treasurer