



Lake Township **Recreation Plan** **2023 - 2027**



LAKE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Lake Township Roscommon County Michigan 5 Year Recreation Plan 2023 – 2027

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INTRODUCTION

Lake Township is located on the North Bay and West Shore of Houghton Lake. The bountiful resources of Houghton Lake and the Muskegon River which feeds out of Houghton Lake from the North Bay provide exceptional resources for recreational activities. However, Lake Township currently does not have any recreational facilities nor provides public access to these resources.

Lake Township does have several state-owned facilities that offer access to Houghton Lake including the North Houghton Lake State Forest campground and boat launch and the West Houghton Lake boat launch. Also, there is access to the Muskegon River and the Dead Stream Flooding on the westerly side of the Township at a state-owned facility. The Houghton Lake Flats is yet another state-owned area that has limited access for wildlife viewing, fishing, and hunting.

The Lake Township Board wants to provide recreation for its citizens and visitors. The goal is to create safe areas that serve the existing community and future generations and that will continue to make Houghton Lake and Lake Township a “destination place” for tourists and visitors.

The Lake Township Board is committed to implementing the recreation plan contained herein. The board will budget the needed dollars to supplement funds garnered from granting agencies and other sources to achieve this goal.



CHAPTER ONE

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Extent of Focus

This Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and characteristics within the boundaries of Lake Township. The plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities as well as the socio-economic status of the Township and surrounding area to determine recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements which fit those needs.

Location and Regional Setting

The Township of Lake is in the middle of Michigan's Lower Peninsula in Roscommon County. Lake Township is one of eleven townships located in Roscommon County. It is nestled between Lyon Township to the north Markey Township to the east, Roscommon Township to the south, and Enterprise Township of Missaukee County to the west. The township comprises approximately 35.6 square miles with approximately 23.8 square miles of land and 11.8 square miles of water (**Map 1-Regional Location**).

Lake Township is also a part of the greater Houghton Lake area which is comprised of four townships surrounding the lake. Lake Township is the smallest township on Houghton Lake and has several characteristics that define it as a rural resort and retirement community. Lake Township offers its residents a high quality of life.

Geography

As mentioned, a major body of water included within the township boundaries is the nationally known Houghton Lake. North Bay, found in the township at the northwestern portion of the lake, provides access for the many residents and their guests to one of the more fabulous all-sports lakes in the state as well as the Midwest.

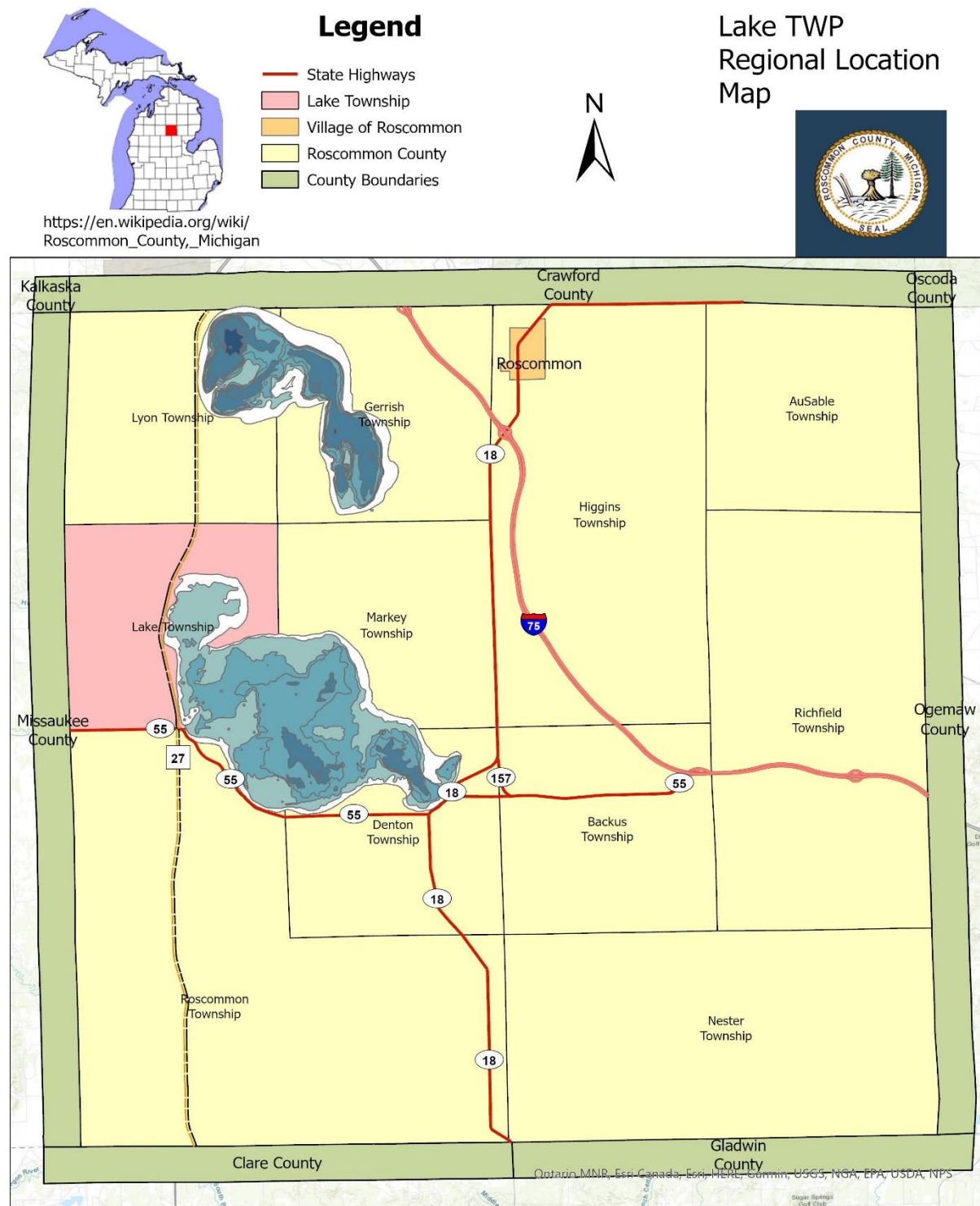
The Muskegon River originates from the North Bay of Houghton Lake and traverses across the northern part of the township where it converges with the Dead Stream. From there it flows southwesterly to the township line and creates the Dead Stream Flooding. The Dead Stream Swamp, with portions located in the north and west central parts of the township, is an exceptionally large example of a northern white cedar swamp, and one of the largest in the United States. Portions of this swamp are considered to be the climax in bog forest development.

The township is mostly forested which is utilized as woodlands and hunting lands (**Map 2 – Land Cover**). Minimal cleared land is used for agriculture purposes and residences. Au Sable State Forest is located throughout the township. Forested wetlands, scrub-shrub wetlands and emergent wetlands are scattered throughout the township and are mostly associated with the drainage areas for the Muskegon River and Dead Stream. A portion of the Houghton Lake State Forest is in Lake Township. This forest provides

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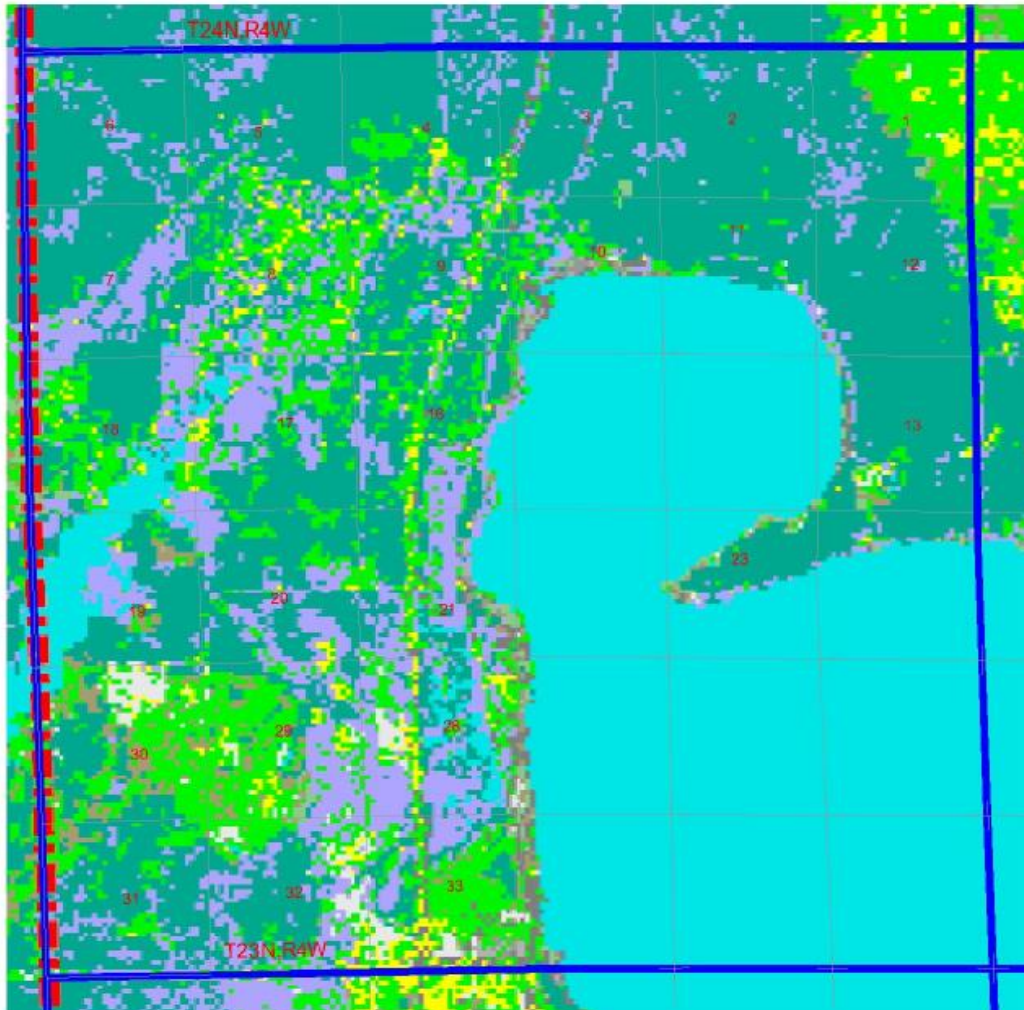
Map 1-Regional Location Map



CHAPTER ONE

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Map 2 – Land Cover



Land Cover Class	
Low-Intensity Residential	Evergreen Forest
High-Intensity Residential	Mixed Forest
Commercial/Industrial/Transportation	Open Water
Agriculture	Great Lakes
Grassland/Herbaceous	Woody Wetlands
Shrubland	Emergent Wetlands
Deciduous Forest	Bare Ground

Lake Township 1992 Land Cover Map.

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COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

wildlife habitat, esthetic, and scenic values as well as the potential for lumber and heating fuel.

The abundant wildlife which relies on these varied habitats provides recreational opportunities not only for residents of the township but also for many visitors to the area. Large and small game hunting, an activity enjoyed by many includes white tailed deer, black bear, rabbit, squirrels, and wild Turkey, among others. Bird watching and wildlife observation has become another preferred recreational activity not only in Michigan but also in most other parts of the country. Lake Township affords the participants great viewing opportunities in the area due to the variety of available habitats and accessible lands.

Lake Township has no municipal water supply therefore, residents and businesses use individual wells to supply water. Typical well yields of 10 to 100 GPM with a six" diameter well in bedrock or glacial deposits. Most of the entire township falls within the Muskegon River Watershed.

Land Use

The most predominate land use in Lake Township is State Forest. The State of Michigan owns about 10,800 acres throughout the Township. The Houghton Lake Flats area includes 770 of those acres. This wildlife management area is controlled and maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Lake Township is where the Muskegon River begins its journey west to Lake Michigan. About five miles of the river runs through the township and is used for fishing, kayaking, and canoeing. Another unique feature of the township is the many man-made canals that run through it.

Lake Township is divided into eleven zoning districts (**Map 3 – Zoning Map**). Of the districts governed by the zoning ordinance, the Forest and Recreational District comprises most of the township. Residential districts cover the developed area around Houghton Lake with commercial districts located along the M-55 and Old US-27 highway corridors. Multiple dwelling units are permitted in any district with approval of the planning commission.

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COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Zoning Districts

AG (RA-3) It is the purpose of the **AG Agricultural / Forested District** to preserve and encourage farming, dairying, forestry operations and other such rural type activities in areas where such activities exist. Large vacant areas, fallow land and wooded areas may also be included in this district.

R-1 Residential District is designed to be the most restrictive of the residential districts to encourage an environment of predominantly low-density, single-family dwellings.

RR-1 Residential District is designed to be the most restrictive of the rural residential districts to encourage an environment of predominantly low-density, single-family dwellings.

R-2 Residential District is designed to permit a greater density of residential development than that provided in the R-1 Residential District classification.

R-3 Residential District is designed to permit a greater density of residential development than that provided in the R-1, RR-1, and R-2 Residential District classifications.

R-4 Residential District - Mobile Home Park is designed to permit for the growing trend toward mobile homes and mobile home parks and the need for well-located and properly developed areas to accommodate them by use under appropriate construction and development standards to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of such areas as well as the residents of adjoining premises. The area zoned for such purposes should be able to accommodate the increased traffic generated from such developments as well as the necessary utilities.

C-W Commercial Waterfront District is designed to allow commercial enterprises along the waterfront that support tourism and can co-exist with residential zones.

C-1 Commercial District is designed to provide retail sales and commercial service uses catering to the public as distinguished from industry or general business customers, but do not become a nuisance or cause other objectionable disturbances or excessive noise.

C-2 Commercial District is designed to permit commercial uses more extensive than the retail variety, occupying greater land areas for each such use, but does not cause a nuisance, objectionable disturbance, or excessive noise.

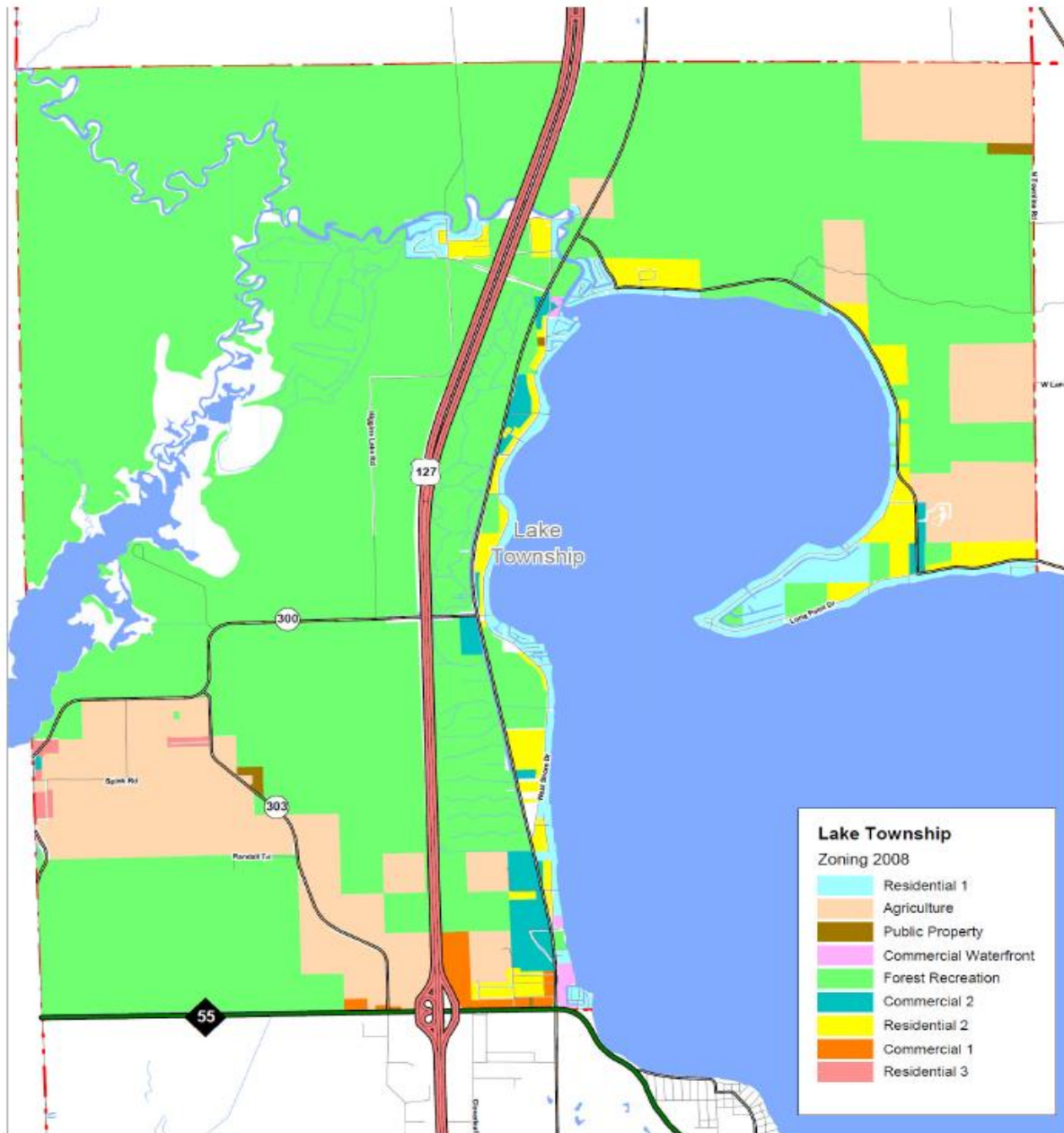
MO Marihuana Overlay District is intended to provide opportunities for the development of certain Commercial Marihuana Facilities.

FR Forest and Recreational District is composed of State-owned lands. It is so named for identification purposes only. For zoning purposes, it shall be zoned the same as the abutting privately owned property.

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COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Map 3 – Lake Township Zoning



CHAPTER ONE

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Climate

In Lake Township the summers are warm and partly cloudy, and the winters are freezing, snowy, and mostly cloudy. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 11°F to 80°F. Temperatures are rarely below -6°F or above 89°F.

The warm season lasts for 3.7 months, from May 24 to September 15, with an average daily high temperature above 69°F. The hottest month of the year in Lake Township is July, with an average high of 80°F and low of 57°F. The cold season lasts for 3.4 months, from November 29 to March 11, with an average daily high temperature below 37°F. The coldest month of the year in Lake Township is January, with an average low of 13°F and high of 27°F.

Lake Township receives some type of precipitation 147 days of the year. An average of 31 inches of rain and 60 inches of snow falls each year. The climate in Lake Township is conducive to both winter and summer recreational activities.

Demographics

The Lake Township population decreased by 8 percent from 2010 to 2020 from 1,215 to 1,119. This is the equivalent of 31.4 persons per square mile. Over this ten-year period, the county population has decreased 4.0 percent, the state has increased 2 percent and the United States population has increased 7.4 percent.

Population Change

Township	2010	2020	% Change
Lake Township	1,215	1,119	-7.9%
Lyon Township	1,370	1,252	-8.6%
Enterprise Twp	194	174	-10.3%
Denton Township	5,557	5,293	-4.75%
Roscommon Twp	4,411	4,397	-0.31%
Markey Township	2,360	2,401	+1.7%
Roscommon County	24,449	23,459	-4.0%
State of Michigan	9,883,640	10,077,331	+1.9%

Lake Township residents, like most of the region, are almost all white (98.2%) and are equally divided between the sexes, (577 male, 594 female). Most Residents are homeowners (89.3%) where the average household size is 2.12 persons. The median age in the township is 61.5 years, with 43% of the population aged over 65 years of age.

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Age Distribution Lake Township 2010 - 2020

Age	2010	2020	Change	% Change
0 - 24	171	189	18	10.5%
25 - 44	133	118	-15	-11.3%
45 - 64	464	362	-102	-22%
65 and over	447	502	55	12.3%

Male / Female Ratio Lake Township 2010 - 2020

Sex	2010	2020	Change	% Change
Male	593	577	-16	-2.7%
Female	622	594	-28	-4.5%

The average commuting time for township residents is about 32 minutes as compared to 27 minutes for the average commute time for all U.S. residents. Lake Township residents travel to local cities such as West Branch, Houghton Lake, Prudenville, Roscommon, Gladwin and as far away as Gaylord and Cadillac for work and shopping.

Most of the recent growth in the county has occurred around Higgins and Houghton Lakes which have Michigan's highest concentration of vacation / seasonal and part-time dwellings. The summer population of the township is estimated to be at least double as 64% of the Lake Township's housing units are seasonal or recreational.

Occupancy Characteristics Lake Township 2010 – 2020

Category	2010	2020	Change	% Change
Occupied	621	596	-25	-4%
Vacant /Seasonal	1054	1060	6	0.6%

County Socioeconomic Characteristics

Roscommon County is rural and forested. It is about 60 - 90 minutes north of the industrial tri-city region of Midland, Bay City and Saginaw. The economic base of the county includes recreation, agriculture, manufacturing, and government employment.

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The population of the county is, 23,459 peaking at 24,996 in 2013, leveling off and decreasing since then. The county has a work force of about 7,533 persons that typically commute over twenty-five miles to work. Unemployment in the county is high, 9.3% when compared to both state, 5.6% and national rates 4% (December 2021).

Ninety percent of Roscommon County's residents over 25 years of age have high school diplomas with approximately fifteen percent with bachelor's degrees. The median household income for 2019 in Lake Township was \$45,048, and in Roscommon County it was \$42,054. The State of Michigan median income was \$57,144 and \$62,843 for the United States.

17% of Roscommon County's residents work in the retail trade industry, 12% in accommodations and food service, 12% in health care and 10% in manufacturing. Large employers in Roscommon County include Lear Corporation, Wal-Mart, Home Depot and the many locally owned hotels, bars and restaurants that cater to the large influx of tourists.

Transportation

Lake Township is most often accessed by two major north-south State of Michigan Highway corridors. US-127 runs on the West side of Houghton Lake, through Lake Township and the I-75 corridor on the east side. M-55 is the major east-west corridor connecting the southern end of Lake Township to these two major highway corridors. M-55 is the commercial and mixed-use corridor on Houghton Lake providing the surrounding communities with its commercial, tourism, and recreation-based businesses.

Residents and visitors to Lake Township rely primarily on private vehicles for transportation. Public transportation is available through the Roscommon County Transportation Authority which allows for scheduled rides countywide, six days a week. Recreational vehicles such as snowmobiles and ORV's are operated on county and local roads and allow for easy access to trails.

Major transportation routes cross Roscommon County. Interstate I-75 transects the northeastern portion with US-127 splitting the county running north and south through the county. There are four truck companies that deal in the county. Greyhound Bus Lines and Indian Trails provide bus passenger service. The Lake State Railroad hauls freight in the county. Air travel and freight can go through the MBS International Airport in Saginaw, Bishop International in Flint, and Capital Region International in Lansing. The largest airlines serving these airports are Delta and United Airlines.

CHAPTER TWO

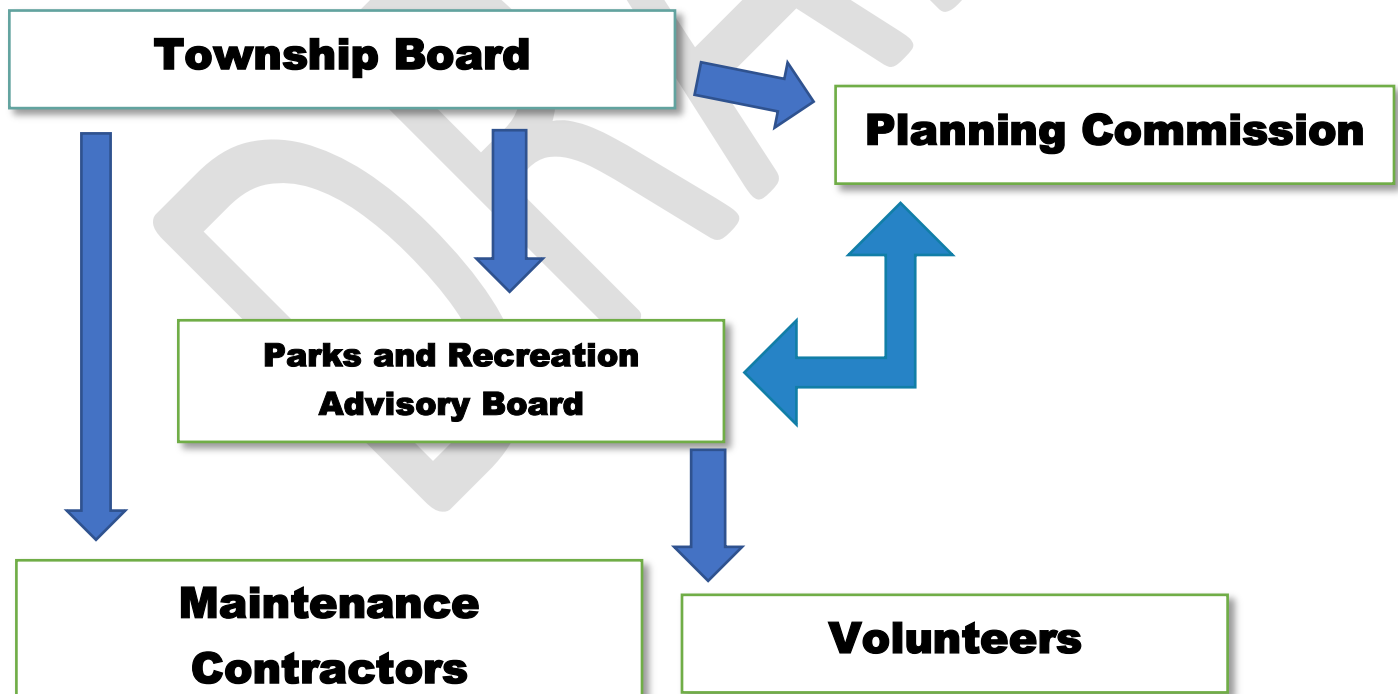
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Township Administrative Structure

Lake Township is a general law township with a township board consisting of a township supervisor, township clerk, township treasurer, and two township trustees. These positions are chosen by registered voters of the township in an at-large election held every four years. The Board oversees daily operations and budget expenditures. Maintenance and capital improvements are typically performed on a contractual basis, although there have been significant volunteer efforts in both areas.

This coordination of efforts will help to provide the best facilities and opportunities for recreation for all citizens and visitors to the area. Lake Township will endeavor to make its parks and recreation programs open and accessible to all its citizens. The township will maintain a policy of constructing its new facilities to meet barrier-free standards, and all repairs and improvements will be done to those specifications. All programs run by the township and those conducted by the county, school district or other agencies are designed to include the handicapped and structured so that all may afford them.

Township Organizational Chart



CHAPTER TWO

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Role of Lake Township Board

The Lake Township Board will have absolute authority over all recreation functions in the township. The responsibility for financing operations and maintenance of all recreation improvements and activities will be that of the Lake Township Board and will be based upon the recommendations of Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Role of Planning Commission

The planning commission is a 5-member board that serves 3-year terms. The planning commission is responsible for completing and updating the 5-year Recreation Plan and Master Plan. The Lake Township Planning Commission works closely with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The planning commission will continue to keep the future growth of the township a top priority.

Role of Park and Recreation Advisory Board

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board was implemented in 2022 (**Appendix A – Establishment of Advisory Board**). The newly formed advisory board is made up of a cross section of interested residents and will help the township move forward on recreation projects, goals and needs. This board will be the voice of the community on recreational issues and report back to the Lake Township Board and Planning Commission.

Role of Maintenance Contractors

Currently the township has no maintenance employees on the payroll. Much of the work done for the township is through the hiring of maintenance contractors. As plans develop in the township for recreation, this will be area that may need to be addressed.

Role of Volunteers

Volunteers will play a vital role in the development of Lake Townships recreation system. With limited amounts of money available, volunteers along with board members may provide needed work and maintenance at new facilities.

Budget for Recreation

The Lake Township board has the authority to commit funds for Parks and Recreation, accept grants, and purchase land on behalf of the community. The township board has allocated \$200,000.00 towards the Muskegon River bridge project in 2022. The recreation capital improvement schedule is detailed in Chapter 6. Lake Township is a small community and will look for grant opportunities and local organizations for funding assistance.

CHAPTER THREE

RECREATION INVENTORY

Introduction

Recreational services from parks, natural areas, private businesses, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and public spaces are used by residents of Lake Township. Currently the township does not own or operate any recreational facilities. The following inventory was conducted by physical inspection, committee knowledge of the area and information from other communities' recreation plans.

Facilities locations are IDed on the maps located on page 15 and 16.

Inventory of all community-owned parks and recreation facilities.

- Lake Township has no township owned recreational facilities.

Inventory of parks and recreation facilities inside Lake Township. Map 4

Map ID #	Facility Name	Description	Owner
1	Lake Township Hall	The township hall offers no recreational opportunity currently but includes 6 acres of land for possible recreational development. 1380 Michelson Rd Houghton Lake.	Lake Township
2	Houghton Lake State Forest Campground	Semi modern 50 site campground for tent or small RV use. Restrooms and potable water. 102 Bayview Rd. Houghton Lake	State of Michigan
3	Reedsburg Dam State Forest Campground	This rustic campground is located along the Muskegon River and the Reedsburg Dam. The campground provides excellent opportunities for boating and fishing. There are 47 sites for tent and small trailer use. Amenities include vault toilets and potable water from a hand-pump well. The campground is located 5 miles northwest of Houghton Lake via M-55 and County Road 300.	State of Michigan
4	Houghton Lake Flats	This viewing site is on a moderately sized wetland on the west edge of Houghton Lake. A parking area, an elevated wildlife observation platform and a barrier free fishing deck along old US 27. Area is open to hunting and fishing.	State of Michigan
5	State Designated Snowmobile Trail	This designated snowmobile trail traverses the township from the northerly side just west of US 127 to the west side of the township by Reedsburg Dam. This trail connects with miles of trails across northern Michigan.	State of Michigan

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RECREATION INVENTORY

6	Potential Township Property	Potential purchase of 15 Acres of property located on East Houghton Lake Dr near Long Point Dr.	Lake Township
7	Houghton Lake West Boat Launch	Boat launch facilities including docking and parking. This facility has vault toilets and a boat cleaning station. Old 27 & M-55	State of Michigan

Inventory of parks and recreation facilities near Lake Township. Map 5

Map ID #	Facility Name	Description	Owner
8	Truman Gardner Park	12 acres. Park includes shuffleboard, two tennis/pickleball courts, basketball court, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, pavilion, walking trails, playground equipment and picnic tables. CO-Rd 100 Houghton Lake.	Markey Township
9	Markey Memorial Park	20 acres. Two softball fields, soccer field, playground equipment, restrooms, dog park, disc golf and pavilion. Markey Rd and School Rd.	Markey Township
10	Skinner Park	36 acres. Playground equipment, kiddie park, softball fields, soccer field, picnic pavilion, fitness station walking trail and 18-hole disc golf course. 8555 Knapp Rd. Houghton Lake	Roscommon Township
11	Township Park 27	Full basketball court, horseshoe pit, softball field, 4 tennis/ pickleball courts, playground equipment, picnic pavilion, restrooms and unpaved walking trails. 10635 N. Harrison Rd., Roscommon.	Lyon Township
12	Houghton Lake Ball Fields	Regulation and non-regulation ball fields. Located behind state police post M-55, Houghton Lake.	Houghton Lake Little League
13	South Higgins Lake State Park	400 campsites with electrical service and modern facilities including mini cabins. Swimming beach, boat launch, picnic area, concession stand and restrooms.	State of Michigan
14	Quest Golf Course	18 holes of golf. Beautiful rolling terrain. Full-service clubhouse with pro shop. Full scale practice facilities. 119 Questview Rd., Houghton Lake.	Private Ownership

CHAPTER THREE

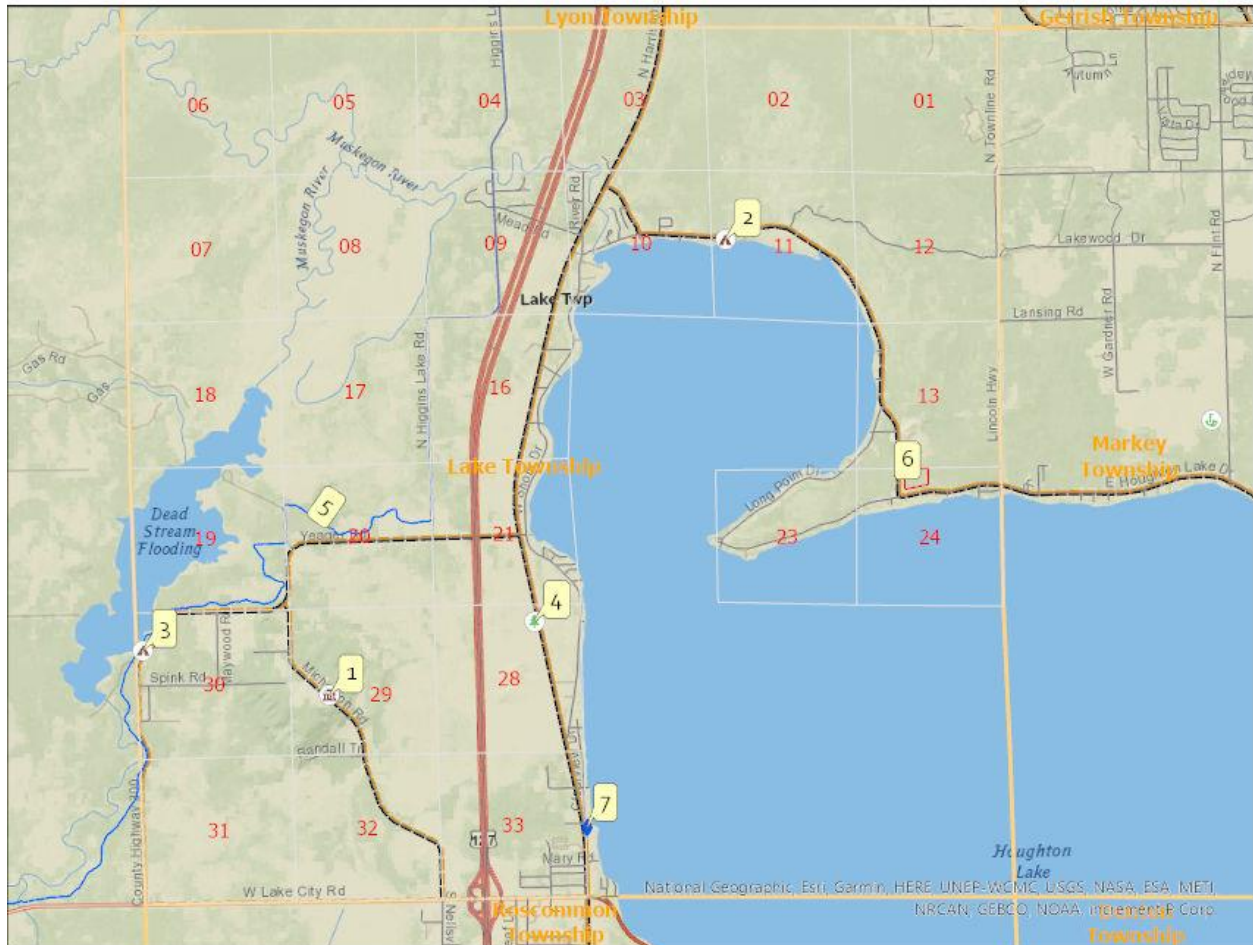
RECREATION INVENTORY

15	Pineview Highlands	18-hole golf course located in the center of Houghton Lake. 4761 W Houghton Lake Dr, Houghton Lake.	Private Ownership
16	Denton Township Pickleball Courts	4 pickleball courts, 2 tennis courts and a basketball court are located on Peachtree Ave off M-18.	Denton Township
17	Tisdale Triangle Pathway	This trail located 1/2 mile east of Roscommon via M-18, consist of 8.1 miles of multiple loops. It is a non-motorized trail where cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, and biking are permitted. The terrain is relatively flat with a few rolling hills. Tisdale Road and Wisner Road.	State of Michigan
18	West Higgins Trail	The West Higgins Trail starts just off Highway 127, north of Lake Township on West Pine Road, and travels northwest through state forest land. The trail features lots of small ups and downs but there are no major climbs or descents. The trail requires a Michigan ORV sticker and trail permit. The trail also connects to the West Higgins Route which offers an additional 34 miles of trails for ORVs of all sizes to enjoy.	State of Michigan

Roscommon County has much to offer beyond what is listed in this recreation inventory. The places listed are the most common facilities that residents use within a reasonable distance. The inventory attempted to incorporate all the recreational activities included in the survey.

Grant Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

Lake Township has received no grants for recreation as of June 2022.



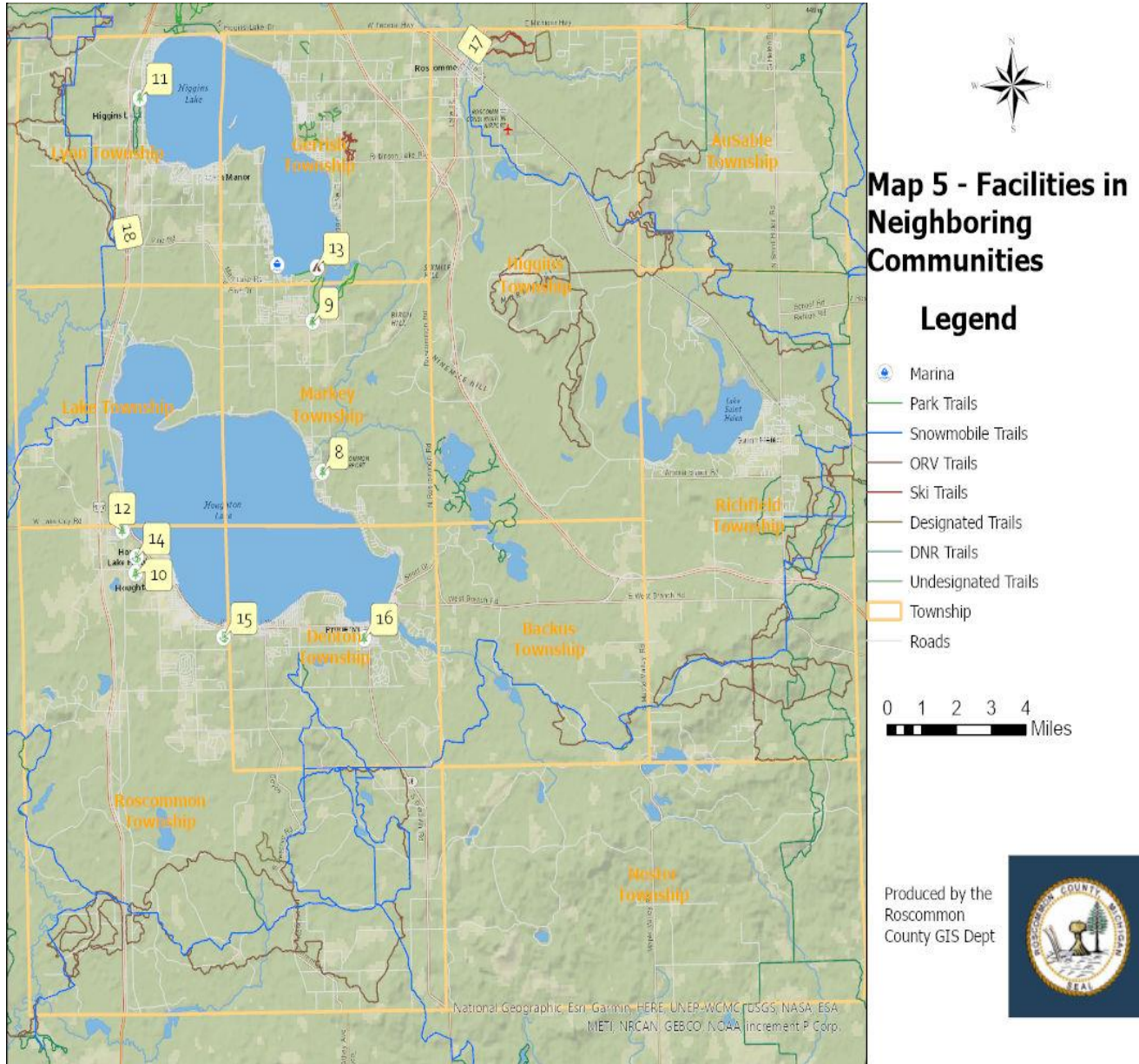
Produced by the Roscommon County GIS Dept



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CHAPTER THREE

RECREATION INVENTORY



May 2022

CHAPTER FOUR

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

Basis for Action

Lake Township is blessed with an outstanding abundance and variety of natural resources but has no developed recreational facilities. Past recreation plans have yielded no results. The present township board has decided to pursue the creation of a realistic recreation master plan and to implement that plan over the next 5 to 7 years.

Lake Township has a large older population. The townships median age is 61 years old which is older than the state of Michigan median age of 39. Individuals 45 to 64 make up 31% of the population while individuals aged 65 and older make up 42% therefore this population should be given consideration when planning for recreational activities.

Another consideration in the planning process is the townships median household income. Lake Townships median income is \$45,048 compared to the State of Michigan average of \$57,144. Almost 58% receive social security compared to 22% statewide. Consideration will be given to whether residents can afford the cost of any type of new taxes.

Although Lake Township has a small full-time population, the summer brings an influx of second homeowners and visitors. Houghton Lake (the lake itself) provides much recreation for residents and visitors with swimming, boating, and fishing to name a few. All residents and visitors should be able to enjoy recreational opportunities in their township. When planning, consideration will be given to the type of parks, their location, and the type of recreational activities to be offered.

The needs and opportunities realized by the results of the survey and public input from meetings has been developed into the goals set forth in this plan.

Description of Early Public Input Process

The first step in acquiring public input was a recreation survey sent to all residential property owners in Lake Township. 1504 surveys were sent out at the beginning of November 2021. The survey included a letter explaining the reason for the survey, a stamped self-addressed return envelope and the survey itself.

The goal of sending the survey to all property owners was to elicit as much of a response as possible. As stated earlier, the township has many part time residents and snowbirds. The only way to reach many residents in the off season was by mailing a survey to their home. The commission also felt that the stamped envelope would increase response. **The township received 748 surveys back (50%).** Many of the surveys contained comments which were included in the decision process. Full survey results are in **Appendix B**.

CHAPTER FOUR

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

30 Day Review Period - April 7, 2022, to May 7, 2022

The thirty-day review period began on April 7, 2022, with the publication of notice in the Houghton Lake Resorter, email sent to township residents with information on file, and a posting at the Lake Township Hall. The full draft plan was posted on the township website and available in hardcopy at the Lake Township Hall. Postings are available in **Appendix C.**

Comments received and how used to modify plan.

Public Hearing

May 17, 2022, at regular planning commission meeting appendix c

If no changes needed PC can adopt plan and send to Board. Appendix D

Resolution of Adoption

Township Board June 14, 2022, meeting – appendix D

CHAPTER FIVE

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of recreational planning in Lake Township is to promote and encourage the use and development of recreational facilities that meet the needs of the residents of the township. Providing low-cost recreational opportunities to our residents, both full and part time, tourists and visitors is a priority.

The following factors were used for analysis of the townships goals and objectives: survey results, public hearing input, Lake Township Board's goals and input, land, and budgetary constraints. Careful review of these findings led to the development of the following goals for our five-year recreation plan.

General Goals

1. Improve the quality of life for residents and attract visitors to Lake Township by maintaining, improving, and expanding recreation within the township and surrounding areas.
2. Provide a balance of recreational amenities which are oriented to the aging population to increase the desirability of the community for retirees.
3. Provide recreational amenities which are oriented toward the younger population and families. This will attract young families to the area while helping to retain older youth.
4. Protect, promote, and preserve the area.
5. Develop and maintain strong local government involvement in recreational and tourism planning projects.
6. Improve the overall local economy by enhancing the livability of the community.

Muskegon River Pedestrian Bridge

Goal: To provide a pedestrian bridge over the mouth of the Muskegon River where it originates in the North Bay of Houghton Lake.

Objective: To provide a nonmotorized connection between the residential neighborhood located to the east of the Muskegon River with the residential neighborhood located to the West.

1. **Action:** Conduct a feasibility study for the design and construction of the bridge.
2. **Action:** Work with Roscommon County Road Commission on the use of the existing road ends for the new bridge.
3. **Action:** Research grant opportunities for the bridge.

Basis for Action: Currently, pedestrian and bicycle traffic utilize the busy Old US 27 Highway bridge over the Muskegon River to cross from one neighborhood to the

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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

other. The speed limit on Old US 27 is 55 MPH. The road has 3-foot paved shoulders. The site for the new non-motorized bridge is on a residential road with a 35 MPH speed limit and less traffic than Old US 27.

Lake Township Park

Goal: Develop a township park for use by residents and visitors to the area.

Objective: Acquire property or use existing township property to build a park for residents and their families to gather and enjoy the amenities of a playground, courts, walking trails and open recreational space.

1. **Action:** Buy property from the DNR on East Houghton Lake Dr that is currently under review or other property that becomes available.
2. **Action:** If property unavailable develop plans for township hall property.
3. **Action:** Work with a playground design company to layout the basic structure of the park.
4. **Action:** Apply for grants and seek community involvement for the construction of a township park.

Basis for Action: Lake Township currently has no recreational facilities for its residents. The survey conducted by the Lake Township Planning Commission during the development of this recreation plan showed an interest in the development of facilities for residents. Walking trails (84%) and a children's playground (72%) both showed an above average interest with residents of the township.

Fishing Pier

Goal: Develop a safe and child friendly public fishing pier at the County Dam or at the Muskegon River Pedestrian Bridge.

Objective: If the Muskegon River Bridge project becomes a reality, then a fishing pier would be established at that site. There are two other possibilities for the establishment of a fishing pier. One being at the County Dam on the Muskegon River which is in Lake Township and option two being at the road end (were the bridge would start) if the bridge project fails.

1. **Action:** Work with the County on the feasibility of a fishing pier at the County Dam. Possible County money for project.

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2. **Action:** Work with the Roscommon County Road Commission on developing a safe fishing area at the north end of West Shore Dr. if the Muskegon River bridge project does not develop.
3. **Action:** If Muskegon River bridge project moves ahead, make sure that a fishing pier is included in the plans as an addition at a later date.

Basis for Action: Lake Township is blessed with approximately 16 miles of shoreline on Houghton Lake and the Muskegon River. Most of this property is privately owned and therefore does not allow everyone access to fishing. Developing a fishing pier for residents who do not live on the lake or river nor have access to a boat would allow for many residents and visitors to enjoy fishing Houghton Lake and the Muskegon River.

Kayak/Canoe Launch

Goal: Develop multiple safe, ADA, and user-friendly public launch areas for kayaks and canoes to enjoy Houghton Lake and the Muskegon River waterways. Work with surrounding townships on the completion of the Blue Water Trail.

Objective: Work with the DNR and the Roscommon County Road Commission on areas to develop multiple kayak launch points to provide easy access to Houghton Lake and the Muskegon River.

1. **Action:** Work with kayak launching system companies on the best type of ramp, dock and launch for our lake.
2. **Action:** Contact the DNR to see if having a kayak launch at the DNR west Houghton Lake boat launch is feasible. Look at existing areas and boat traffic at the site.
3. **Action:** Work with the County Road Commission on using the property at the West Shore Dr. Road end for a kayak launch in conjunction with the fishing pier.
4. **Action:** Work with surrounding communities on the completion of the Blue Water Trail.

Basis for Action: The need for access to the water for residents who do not live on the waterfront and visitors is an issue for the community. Having kayak launches on public property would allow many the chance to enjoy the beauty of Houghton Lake.

CHAPTER FIVE

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Walking Trails

Goal: Develop rustic walking trails at the Lake Township Hall property.

Objective: Using the current 6 acres at the township hall property, develop walking trails and then work with the DNR to add additional trails on the adjacent State property to increase the length of the trails.

1. **Action:** Work with a group of volunteers to walk and mark proposed trail, keeping distance, slopes, and future expansion in mind.
2. **Action:** Clear land and develop a system of directional markers for trail.
3. **Action:** Work with DNR to expand trails onto the adjacent State property.

Basis for Action: The 6 acres at the Lake Township Hall property would provide for walking trails which was the number one priority for residents according to the recreation survey. With the land already owned by the township, the development of the trails could begin in the short term. The addition of State land in the longer term would make the hiking trails a great addition to the greater Houghton Lake area.

Ensure a through Recreational Planning Process

Goal: Create recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities within our township and the surrounding area.

1. **Action:** Regularly update the 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan to ensure the recreation system reflects the current needs of the community.
2. **Action:** Seek grant funding and other financial assistance to help acquire and develop recreational facilities and the recreation goals of this plan.
3. **Action:** Improve the quality of life for Lake Township residents and bring visitors to Lake Township and the surrounding areas by working with local and State governmental agencies, community service agencies and local businesses.
4. **Action:** The Advisory Board will publish an annual report detailing the townships progress on the recreation goals contained in the 5-year plan.

Basis for Action: The need for recreational facilities in Lake Township has been ongoing for many years. The commitment of the current board to recreation for our residents is laid out in this plan.

CHAPTER SIX

ACTION PROGRAM

This Action Program was developed by the Lake Township Board, Planning Commission and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board. The Action Program is based on public input received from the recreation survey, public input at meetings and current township financial conditions. This Action Plan was developed to carry out the goals and objectives set forth in the previous chapter. These projects are subject to the availability of funding through the township and grant acquisition.

Capital Improvement Projects Lake Township

Year	Project Name Description	Priority	Estimated Cost	Township Funding	MDNR Funding	Other Funding Grants
2022	Acquire land for township park.	High	\$40,000	\$40,000		
2022	Begin development of a rustic walking trail at Township Hall.	Medium	\$10,000	\$5,000		\$5,000
2023 2024	Bridge over Muskegon River	High	\$760,000	\$152,000 20%		\$608,000 80%
2024 2026	Township Park	High	\$400,000	\$150,000	\$250,000 MNRTF	
2024	Kayak/Canoe Landing	Medium	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000 LWCF	
2024	Fishing Pier	Low	\$25,000	\$10,000		\$15,000
2027	Township Park Addition of Courts	Medium	\$125,000	\$31,250	\$93,750 RP	

MNRTF – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
RP – Recreational Passport
LWCF – Land and Water Conservation Fund

APPENDIX A

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY BOARD

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Rules of Establishment Lake Township Roscommon County Michigan

Establishment; Composition; Terms.

There is hereby established in the Township of Lake in the County of Roscommon a Park and Recreation Advisory Board consisting of seven (five) members all of whom shall be residents of the Township. Permanent members of such seven (five)-member board shall be as follows: one shall be from the Lake Township Board; one shall be from the Lake Township Planning Commission and the remaining five (three) members of the board shall be citizen members appointed by the Lake Township Board. One of such members will be appointed by the board to a three-year term beginning in April 2022, two (one) members shall be appointed to a two-year term beginning in April 2022, and two (one) members shall be appointed to a one-year term beginning in April 2022. All subsequent appointments to such board shall be for a three-year term. A five-member board will be established if not enough residents apply.

Purpose.

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall consider and study the reasonable needs of the Township Park and Recreation Program; serve in an advisory capacity when so required; function as a recommending body to the Lake Township Board on matters of general recreation policy; and formulate and report its findings from time to time to the Lake Township Board.

Election of Chairperson; Bylaws.

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall elect its own Chairperson and shall establish bylaws for the conduct of its business.

Lake Township Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Lake Township Clerk: _____ Date: _____

APPENDIX A

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY BOARD

Lake Township-Roscommon County Regular Board Meeting March 8, 2022 @ 7pm

The Lake Township Board met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, for a regular board meeting. Keith Stiles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America was recited.

Present: Tony Farhat-Trustee, David Russo Jr.-Trustee, Keith Stiles-Supervisor, Pam Surprenant-Clerk and Harry Trier-Treasurer.

Motion: Stiles to approve the March 8, 2022, agenda. **Second:** Surprenant. **All in Favor. Motion Carries.**

Motion: Trier to approve the February 8, 2022, minutes with corrections. **Second:** Russo Jr. **All in Favor. Motion Carries.**

Approval to Pay the Bills:

Surprenant provided the public with the credit card distribution report as well as a report of all payroll and accounts payable checks, including descriptions. **Motion:** Stiles, to approve the bills and payroll checks #44432 through #44474 and post audit of bills presented on EFT check register. **Second:** Russo Jr. **All in Favor. Motion Carries.**

Budget Amendment:

Motion: Surprenant, to approve budget amendment as presented to the board moving \$5164.50 to cover legal fees. **Second:** Trier. **All in Favor. Motion Carries.**

Old Business:

Septic Bids: Board discussed septic bids. **Motion:** Stiles, to accept Sergeants bid for septic field. **Second:** Russo Jr. **All In Favor. Motion Carries.**

Tree Update HL Drive: Trier stated, trees in question were taken care of the next day after the February meeting by W&W tree service.

Marihuana Cooperative:

Russo Jr. stated the planning commission would like the board to reconsider enforcement relating to marihuana cooperatives. **Motion:** Russo Jr. no action to be taken on caregiver cooperatives at this time. **Second:** Stiles. **All in favor. Motion Carries.**

New Business:

RCRC: Bryan Jeske presented the 2022 road contract for Lake Township. Roads include, Mead Rd, Deadstream, Howe, Lester, Long Point, Mary Rd, Northway, Old Mead, Point View, School, Truman and Victory Rd. **Motion:** Stiles, to accept road commission contracts. **Second:** Russo Jr. **Roll Call: Farhat-yes, Surprenant-yes, Trier-yes, Russo Jr.-yes, and Stiles-yes. All in Favor. Motion Carries.** Contracts signed.

APPENDIX A

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY BOARD

Supervisor Correspondence: Stiles discussed recent ice storms, trash delay and temporary snow fences.

Financial Report: Trier stated was a successful tax year. Trier discussed why there is two different trash fees for Point View and looking into refund of a charge from last month. Stiles to look into refund relating to trash not being picked up the week of March 1st.

Fire Chief Report: Fire Chief Wrzesinski provided a written report to the board.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer Report: OEO department provided a written report to the board. Also addressed on-going short term rental issues. Stiles stated township attorney advised holding off on citations, until current court case comes to an end.

Planning Commission Report: Riss provided a written report to the board.

Parks & Rec Advisory Board: Russo Jr., presented information on creating a Recreation Advisory Board to assist the township board in matters of recreation. Motion: Russo Jr., to create a volunteer only, Parks and Recreation advisory board to operate under the township board. Second: Farhat. All In Favor. Motion Carries.

Maps for Recreation/Master Plan: Riss, stated three maps are needed for the recreation plan. **Motion:** Stiles, invest in the maps for the recreation plan not to exceed \$400.00. **Second:** Surprenant. **All In Favor. Motion Carries.**

ZBA Report: Report received. Trier summarized report for public.

Assessor's Report: None

Supervisors Report: Stiles, is looking into trash contracts for the township.

Mowing Bids Blight and Township Properties: Discussion regarding spec sheets.

Motion: Surprenant, to put ad in the paper to receive bids for blight and mowing of township property. **Second:** Russo Jr. **All In Favor. Motion Carried.**

Leaf Pick Up Spring:

Motion: Stiles, place ad to receive bids; to have two spring leaf pick-ups, Monday, May 9, 2022 and Wednesday, June 1, 2022. **Second:** Russo Jr. **All In Favor. Motion Carried.**

Home Office Rents:

Motion: Surprenant to pay home office rents of \$300.00 for FY 21-22 for Supervisor and Treasurer. **Second:** Farhat. **All In Favor. Motion Carried.**

Planning Commission Openings: Stiles, the township received six applicants for the planning commission. Stiles introduced the applicants Tony Olson, John Hibbard, Scott Hassler, Tina Seegraves, George Mika and Dave Kopin.

Motion: Stiles, to appoint John Hibbard to planning commission. **Second:** Russo Jr. **4 Yay, 1 Nay- Farhat. Motion Carries.**

APPENDIX A

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY BOARD

Motion: Stiles, to appoint Scott Hassler to planning commission. **Second:** Russo Jr. **All in Favor. Motion Carries.**

Temporary Snow Fence: Trier discussed to remove the requirement to have a land use permit for a security fence and underground dog fence when there is no charge for permit. **Motion:** Trier to take matter to Planning Commission the removal of a land use permit for both underground dog wire fences and snow/security fences. **Second:** Surprenant. **4 Yay, 1 Nay – Russo Jr. Motion Carried.**

Revisit OEO Recommendation from Feb. Meeting: Stiles stated the board received the motion from counsel with the attorney.

Motion: Surprenant to resend the motion that was made at the February 8th meeting regarding the closed session. **Second:** Trier. **All In Favor. Motion Carried.**

Motion: Surprenant at present time OEO has current land use permits and no disciplinary action is being taken. If the work is not completed on the barn when the permit expires on 8/30/2022 the board will re-visit. **Second:** Trier. Discussion regarding breezeway. **3 Yay, 2-Nay Stiles and Russo Jr. Motion Carried.**

First Property Holdings LLC (Rize) Appeal:

Motion: Stiles, to move into a closed session pursuant to MCL15.268(h) to discuss a confidential written legal opinion from the Township Attorney regarding the ongoing appeal to the Roscommon County Circuit Court in the First Property Holdings vs Lake Township case no. 21-725651-AA. **Second:** Farhat. **Roll Call: Farhat-yes, Surprenant-yes, Trier-yes, Russo Jr.-yes and Stiles-yes. All in Favor. Motion Carried.**

Board closed the closed session in the closed session.

Motion: Stiles to reopen regular meeting at 9:38 p.m. **Second:** Trier. **All in Favor. Motion Carries.**

Motion: Russo Jr. to direct the Township Attorney to reject First Property Holding's Settlement Offer. **Second:** Farhat. **Roll Call: Russo Jr.-yes, Trier-no, Surprenant-no, Farhat-yes, and Stiles-yes. Motion Carried 3-2.**

Board Comment:

Surprenant stated if the township would like to go out for millages for the August election they are due to the county by May 10th.

Public Comment:

HLIB report received. Comments regarding snow fences and fees. Comment regarding Farhat's missed meetings and snow fence. Comment regarding Farhat's good work for

APPENDIX A

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY BOARD

township. Comment regarding The Houghton Lake improvement board representative, Jim, doing a good job. Comment regarding OEO being held to a higher standard.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:47p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Cassabon
Lake Township Deputy Clerk
Subject to correction and approval

DRAFT

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Letter sent with questionnaire.

November 1, 2021

Dear Resident of Lake Township,

The Lake Township Planning Commission is in the process of updating the 5-year Recreation Plan for the Township. This allows the township to apply for and receive grants from the State of Michigan and other sources.

This is a big undertaking and for it to be viable, we the planning commission, need the input of our residents. Community feedback is the core of a good plan, so we ask that you take 10 minutes to complete the survey and drop it in the mailbox.

We know the holiday season is fast approaching and you are busy, so we have enclosed a stamped self-addressed envelope for your convenience, all we need is that 10 minutes of your valuable time.

As we move through the process of developing the recreation plan, we will hold a public hearing sometime in the first quarter of next year. This will allow the public to see what we have drafted to that point and additional input will be welcomed.

Once again, we thank you for your time and input.

Lake Township Planning Commission.

Any questions can be sent to: laketwppcchair@gmail.com

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

Recreation Survey Lake Township Michigan - Results

1. Is your Houghton Lake property your Homestead (where you reside), or is it your second home? **Homestead 298 Second Home 450 Total 748**

2. What are the ages of your household members?

1 – 10 Yrs. 81 18 – 25 72 36 – 49 136 65 + 459

11 – 17 75 26 – 35 78 50 – 64 350

3. What would be the ideal location for any new township recreation facilities?

Northshore 250 Westshore 260

As part of the existing Township Hall property 130

Adjacent lots to the Fire Department property 219

4. What priority should Parks, and Recreation have in the Township budget?

High Priority 110 Medium Priority 285

Important 147 Low Priority 167

5. How often do you travel to other township parks to use their facilities?

Daily 9 Weekly 60 Monthly 118 Seldom 327 Never 202

6. How often do you participate in the following?

	Often	Sometimes	Interested	Not Interested
Walking, jogging, hiking	<u>343</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>73</u>
Biking	<u>167</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>152</u>
Playground use	<u>54</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>319</u>
Kayaking, paddle boarding	<u>146</u>	<u>188</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>202</u>
Pickleball	<u>31</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>382</u>
Basketball	<u>22</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>433</u>
Softball, baseball	<u>16</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>445</u>
Picnicking	<u>50</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>271</u>
Swimming	<u>275</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>133</u>
Boating	<u>487</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>53</u>
Fishing	<u>342</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>96</u>
Tennis	<u>18</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>424</u>
Skateboarding	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>533</u>

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

	Often	Sometimes	Interested	Not Interested
Snowmobiling	<u>130</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>296</u>
Rollerblading	<u>10</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>482</u>
Disc Golf	<u>18</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>421</u>
Volleyball	<u>13</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>383</u>
Camping	<u>52</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>316</u>
ATV Riding	<u>144</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>234</u>

7. Below is a list of facilities or activities that Lake Township is considering developing, please rate each.

	High	Medium	Low
Children's playground	<u>238</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>175</u>
Dog park	<u>121</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>326</u>
Splash pad	<u>123</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>330</u>
Basketball court	<u>67</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>333</u>
Pickleball court	<u>88</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>351</u>
Horseshoe pit	<u>50</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>330</u>
Disc golf course	<u>47</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>392</u>
Baseball field	<u>59</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>380</u>
Picnic Pavilion	<u>181</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>198</u>
Walking trails	<u>383</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>105</u>
Outdoor ice rink	<u>155</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>288</u>
Bridge over Muskegon	<u>212</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>236</u>
Skateboarding course	<u>15</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>517</u>
Fishing platform at county dam	<u>198</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>189</u>

8. How should the township pay for parks and recreation facilities and their upkeep?

Bonds/Capital Improvement Program	<u>206</u>	Millage	<u>92</u>
General Fund (existing funds)	<u>306</u>		
Private fund raising (grants, private donations etc.)	<u>387</u>		

Please feel free to add any addition comments or ideas

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Results to Question 7 Based on High Percent

Below is a list of facilities or activities that Lake Township is considering developing, please rate each?

Rank		Number of responses High	High Percent	Number of responses Medium	Medium Percent	Number of responses Low	Low Percent
1	Walking trails	383	59%	159	25%	105	16%
2	Children's playground	238	37%	223	35%	175	28%
3	Bridge over Muskegon	212	34%	181	29%	236	38%
4	Fishing platform at county dam	198	31%	246	39%	189	30%
5	Picnic Pavilion	181	29%	251	40%	198	31%
6	Outdoor ice rink	155	25%	169	28%	288	47%
7	Splash pad	123	20%	157	26%	330	54%
8	Dog park	121	19%	179	29%	326	52%
9	Pickleball court	88	14%	186	30%	351	56%
10	Basketball court	67	11%	220	35%	333	54%
11	Baseball field	59	10%	167	28%	380	63%
12	Horseshoe pit	50	8%	234	38%	330	54%
13	Disc golf course	47	8%	183	29%	392	63%
14	Skateboarding course	15	2%	69	11%	517	86%

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Results to Question 7 Based on High and Medium Percent Combined.

Below is a list of facilities or activities that Lake Township is considering developing, please rate each?

Rank		High	High Percent	Medium	Medium Percent	Combined High and Medium Percent
1	Walking trails	383	59%	159	25%	84%
2	Children's playground	238	37%	223	35%	72%
3	Fishing platform at county dam	198	31%	246	39%	70%
4	Picnic Pavilion	181	29%	251	40%	69%
5	Bridge over Muskegon	212	34%	181	29%	62%
6	Outdoor ice rink	155	25%	169	28%	53%
7	Dog park	121	19%	179	29%	48%
8	Splash pad	123	20%	157	26%	46%
9	Basketball court	67	11%	220	35%	46%
10	Horseshoe pit	50	8%	234	38%	46%
11	Pickleball court	88	14%	186	30%	44%
12	Baseball field	59	10%	167	28%	37%
13	Disc golf course	47	8%	183	29%	37%
14	Skateboarding course	15	2%	69	11%	14%

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Comments as Written – Second Homeowners

- Given amount of foot bike traffic on West shore Dr more walking bike paths would be great.
- Bridge over Muskegon River would be nice to unite both shores North and West people on the North Shore cut off from the West shore to be clear walking and or biking bridge across Muskegon not motorized traffic.
- Would be nice if rec center was available to rent for our special occasions most important would be a park pavilion beach area where families could enjoy. Thanks for asking
- #8 is a big question all depends on Township plans for funding etc. we are open to all methods, but our default is general fund.
- We need more information on how the options listed in #8 are funded what would happen if the millage did not pass there would not be any funds, then to fund the project.
- Payment's funding should be shared by all property owners homestead and non-homestead.
- Current campground on the North Shore should be expanded into full facility, IE showers upgrade bathrooms, electricity etc. In addition to expanding camping facilities there should be a beach area, picnic area, and upgrade boat launch we have the largest inland lake in Michigan, but it is treated like a small-town lake the current camping area has sufficient land to expand.
- Would like to see recycling program started again.
- Please stock the lake with fish and remove the weeds in the lake.
- Thank you for the opportunity to participate with this survey.
- Thank you for soliciting second home residents for their input. I'm sure that the short-term rental issue has nothing to do with this survey, but it is an issue that a lot of homeowners are interested in. Perhaps a survey on that would provide data to make sure that the current ordinance remains intact and is enforceable against the state's latest actions about this topic.
- Fix dam so we don't lose lake levels like we did in 2020-2021.
- Please leave snow on road shoulders for snowmobile in transit. In the last couple of years, the roads have been scraped all the way to the mailboxes. This makes it difficult and dangerous for snowmobiles to get from houses to go to the trail. Thank you.
- Don't raise taxes. Bring back recycling. New roads with fishing and walking areas on the side of the road.
- Please figure out a way to have recycling again.
- Walking trails and any public fishing access would be eligible for state and federal funding to build. There are several grant opportunities but of course it takes funding to generate any plans applications and there are some matching fund requirements.
- We would encourage Township leadership to also review existing ordinances and enforce them. Clean up existing properties encourage investment in existing properties etc. Recreation will follow and taxpayers will feel better. Be sure to include a maintenance fund when accepting donations for any facility. Nothing is free.
- I appreciate you collecting taxpayer thoughts and interests.
- I think that before money is spent on new parks, we should figure out how to make the M55 corridor South side of the lake look better. It looks like a slum in many areas with abandoned buildings and junk all over.

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

- On West shore drive we have too much ATV traffic at all hours. They are way too loud and travel at excessive speed.
- Your taxes are already too high.
- Location isn't an issue as it would all be close by.
- We love the lake and are grateful for its care and maintenance, but we use our own property and the lake itself for recreation.
- Thank you.
- We are very interested in safe walking and biking trails. Walking along the road is scary.
- I personally would like to see the lake restocked with walleye fingerlings and as you did about 20 years ago. The last three to five years have been lousy and my neighbors and I are disgusted. I know times have changed, and the lake has gone from a great fishing lake from the 50s to the 2010 to a great recreational boating and jet skiing lake. Michigan outdoors on TV used to brag about fishing at Houghton Lake not anymore.
- I'm sorry this is probably no help to you pro or con. Parker sticker purchase if you want to use it just like the state.
- Thank you.
- Use the Muskegon River as a launch point for playground, fishing pier, picnic tables, kayak launch, restrooms, walking trails and horseshoe pit.
- Would be nice to have snowmobile access across Meade Rd and the road South of that one as well or have county not plow 4 feet of edges of the overpasses.
- No new taxes.
- Anything that can be done to promote additional tourism starts with recreation and should be a priority.
- Markey Township is a great example we supported their garage sales used their dog park and trails have used their ice rink and have watched pick ball games can enjoy the vintage markets Lake Township needs to make their amenities more known if people are to enjoy them thank you from the North Shore.
- As a lakefront homeowner I probably would only use biking and walking trails.
- There is a need for recreation in Lake Township. We need these activities for a healthy lifestyle. The area has so much to offer but it lacks in these services for public uses.
- Please don't spend more or borrow if the Township doesn't have funds, then parks should be a low priority.
- People who want these recreational amenities should be the ones paying for them. the Lake Township Planning Commission should plan on raising taxes for the whole population.
- Dog Park concerns me as some don't keep on leash if dog is not social and some don't maintain vaccines. Just creates more work for the Township.
- A beautiful natural nature boardwalk and combination with a park that would have amenities for all ages would be wonderful. Incorporating the water in nature would be features that could display the beauty of Houghton Lake or its wetlands rivers or waterways. Please incorporate substantial resilient ideas into any project that gets implemented and protect natural features with any sort of development or project. Thank you for allowing residents to provide input.

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

- Recycling center including yard waste is top on our priority list. Thanks for doing this.
- Sidewalks or bike paths would be great. On North Shore cars travel too quickly to safely walk your dogs or ride bikes on the shoulder of County Road 300.
- I would like to see the main road 55 through town to be the first priority to fix. It is a disgrace to ride through town and see all of the old empty buildings and nothing outside of swimming and boating for families to do. People are going further up north because the small towns past Houghton Lake have more to do and take pride in their towns. Bottom line clean up Houghton Lake.
- I have been a recreational property owner in Lake Township for 39 years. I believe that homestead residents' opinion should be given more weight in consideration. Their children will be those who could benefit most. The Planning Commission should be careful not to burden all Lake Township property owners with greatly increased costs to provide recreational activities particularly those activities of little interest in with high implementation and maintenance costs.
- I really like some of the listed possibilities. Thank you for seeking input.
- Houghton Heights is rundown this may not be lake Township but close enough. Abandoned businesses need to be reopened and fixed up or torn down. It is not appealing. Bringing life back to that area along 55 would be a step in the right direction.
- This is great. I look forward to seeing the outcome of the planning.
- Repair east bridge on Long Point Drive.
- Lake Township should be preserved and underdeveloped at it has been for generations. That's the beauty of up north living.
- All ideas are great. Wish I was able to participate in them.
- I have fished Houghton Lake for years and it is the worst I have ever seen it. I would really like to see some fish plantings get organized. It's sad how bad it's become.
- Thank you for asking.
- How should we pay for it depends on how much money you are talking about?
- Good luck this is good for much younger folks.
- Biking and walking trails are something we would be very interested in. We live off West shore and on weekends especially there is heavy traffic including golf carts and side by sides making it difficult to walk or bike ride. Lake stocking would also be nice. Fishing has been very slow the last couple years.
- We should look at other parks like these in the area to see how often they are used. For example, I saw a dog park in Houghton Lake nobody is ever there. Sometimes various pavilions are used. History repeats itself.
- Get people exercising outside. Outdoor trails like Roscommon and Marl Lake. More hiking access.
- What things were improved over the past five years? Include in this mailing.
- Let the homesteaders pay for it they are the ones that use the stuff. The people on the water already pay enough in taxes.
- It would be nice to have a beer garden area on the lake. Like across from back door saloon or by pressure crack. Like Lake City. Table set up on big patio live entertainment food trucks etc. Can easily do need outdoor entertainment up here.

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

- Spruce up entrance off M55 to Houghton Lake. M 55 looks pretty rundown. Need a more welcoming entrance.
- Unfortunately, we are new to the Township and are unfamiliar with all the amenities in the Township.
- You need to look at stocking the lake with walleye. DNR has not done walleye survey or stocking since 2009. The walleye is almost non-existent in the North Bay. I fish a lot and have not caught a walleye in two years. Also, the bluegill have also disappeared from North Bay. All we catch now or three-to-four-inch perch and dogfish.
- Thanks for the survey. Please continue to keep short term rentals out of our Township. There are plenty of Houghton Lake resorts that need the business on Houghton Lake.
- As a second homeowner I feel we pay enough in our taxes for schools we don't even use. A large part of the community have vacation homes or are retirees. We do not need our taxes further increased. We pay property taxes and contribute to the local economy by patronizing the grocery stores bars restaurants gas stations small shops etc. If the taxes continue to increase, we plan to sell.
- Bike path around lake
- Pursue capital grants and donations. Millage may be required for steady income for upkeep.
- Thank you.
- A nice walking path along the North Shore would be great period now with ATV's dirt bikes on roadway shoulder it is not safe to walk anymore along this road. Many go at or above the speed limit for cars and are very noisy and they expect walkers to go into grass or swamp to get out of their way.
- I see no reason to duplicate amenities available nearby simply to have them in our Township. People have transportation.
- My lake house is my recreation area. I have little or no interest in recreational areas around the lake. Taxes are high enough. Do not raise my taxes to fund these projects
- Walking path along Long Point Dr.
- We only use our cottage in the summer many of these just don't apply to us. We are in it for the boating. Many activities are wonderful we just do them at our home in Bath. Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in.
- We personally are not interested in disc golfing. However, both of our adult son's disc golf frequently. I'm sure they would enjoy golfing when they would visit us during the summer months. Many of the options left blank because we would not use them ourselves. However, I'm sure there would be others that would appreciate them. At 65 plus years old most of these activities are far beyond our usefulness.
- Would be nice to have a paved bike trail around the lake. It's amazing that Houghton Lake only has one beach. We should have a nice beach on the West side like Higgins has. Also make these property owners clean up their properties down by the old dam.
- Splashpad our hometown was completed through grants and donation and has very much been enjoyed by our community here past two years.
- A bridge over the Muskegon River and a nice bike path would be very nice and a lot safer for everyone.

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

- I'm not sure if this pertains to this but Houghton Lake used to be a great fishing spot. I think consideration for stocking of fish and a catch and release for two years would make the area stores businesses prosper again.
- Whatever you build please make it handicap accessible.
- We are confused by the bridge over the Muskegon. With this be a walking bridge?
- Some dredging of particularly the Muskegon River and cleaning up its banks would add to the enjoyment of many permanent residents and second homeowners and visitors.
- I would not want a millage for something I do not use. Please consider mountain biking trails. Bike path walking path around the lake. Outdoor ice rink would be great because you cannot skate on the lake because snowmobiles tear up the ice. Consider developing a downtown area similar to elk Rapids in Bel Air. Repair several St lights on West shore.
- Apply for state of Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation grants. This funding from the state of Michigan will be available 2022 and beyond in amounts exceeding \$100 million in grants to local municipalities and townships.
- I think survey should have mentioned if there would be a fee for park use to help its upkeep. I checked all for Township for money for recreation facilities. I think millage is acceptable but there should be other efforts, so millage is reasonable for taxpayers. Thank you for applying for grants.
- We were asked about the bridge over Muskegon River and have received no information from the last survey. A nice well maintained biking path around the whole lake would be awesome. In addition, mountain biking trails off M18 in Prudenville would also be something to consider. Houghton Lake is missing a walkable dynamic downtown area. I don't think the Township should invest in recreation facilities unless it is in town like Prudenville. Houghton Lake needs a downtown area anchored by the rec facility.
- Why in the world can't the Township board get along and address important issues in the Township. Every week there is an article in the Resorter about Lake Township, and all are negative. It's embarrassing. Fence height, short term rental, a bridge across the Muskegon River by Northshore lounge for what purpose? And \$500,000! Township offices no one is ever at the Township Hall we have now. Please spend our tax money wisely not on friends and attorneys.
- We need a place to recycle yard waste cardboard everything else. All of this going into landfills or in the side of the road is not good for the environment.
- Our kids may use the parks we are too old and weekenders
- Thank you for the survey.
- The focus should be on activities tied to outdoor recreation and the things that bring people to Houghton Lake. Picnic, ice skating, fishing, bridge over Muskegon. No playground, basketball, dog park these are plentiful downstate and not why people come to Houghton Lake.
- Add walleye and bluegill to the lake. Would love to have a playground to take the grandkids, nieces, and nephews too.
- Fish stocking, combatting swimmers itch.
- If there is a new park it will increase traffic on West Shore Drive. There is large amount of traffic on West Shore Drive in the summer please decrease traffic. Homestead property owners need to pay the same amount in taxes as a second home property owners.

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Comments as Written – Homesteads

- Any viable site on old 27.
- Residents and visitors come to Houghton Lake to fish and take part in many outdoor activities unfortunately fishing has been non-existent the past few years our community leaders need to push the state and DNR for stocking without help the lake will starve for recreation.
- We are in need of a Township compost facility and or dump. We have nowhere to take our big items they sit on the side of the road or end up in the woods because no one picks them up. We pay taxes and shouldn't have to pay to use a different Township dump.
- Roscommon Township has a three-quarter mile walking fitness trail we enjoy occasionally something similar for our Township would be great.
- Public beach with ample parking.
- For kids there is not much for them to do. I believe that if Skateland was open again that would be awesome. Always took my kids there and I skated too. So much fun. We need a roller rink back up and operating. I used to be a realtor for over 20 years I know what people want, dog park, roller skating, ice skating, basketball court. Markey Township already has a playground. picnic yes walking trails yes fishing platform yes.
- Remember that most of the homes are on the lake. When families come to visit, they want to boat and swim not go to a park. The Walking bridge over the river makes the most sense. A small millage for whatever you decide is necessary.
- Houghton Lake Township is not the area for these facilities. Non homesteaders have these at home we don't need them up here. We pay high enough taxes now. People who come up here and those of us who live here use the lake. Don't need this stuff.
- Ask Biden for money he's giving it away to illegal aliens U.S. citizens deserve better. You ask North Shore or West shore I do not see any property for any improvements you need lots of land for any of these ideas.
- Very interested in bridge over river.
- Bike paths would be a great addition for residents and vacationers. Safer M55 vehicle route lanes too tight.
- Give money back the Township is sitting on.
- Would not be in favor of any expense that would result in increase in any tax or millage. The results of this survey should be published made available to residents.
- No raise in taxes – grants.
- We are fine! leave things alone!!
- We do not need a bridge over the Muskegon River.
- Try to get someone to start a pizza parlor there are none from the Muskegon River to M18 to Roscommon and no deliveries north of the Muskegon River.
- Excessive funds sewer etc.
- Finish bike path. Already spent \$50,000 for plans. Incorporate bridge may be able to get grant money.
- Bridge over Muskegon!

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

- There is no place to go in our Township to go and meet recreate or picnic let alone walk in peace and safety I hope this survey is a starter for action and not another plan that goes nowhere we need things that bring new residents to live here.
- Talk, talk, talk, no action thanks again for trying have a good day
- There are a number of grants out there. DNR, Central Michigan health department, US agricultural etc. You have to look for them.
- The Township can't even decide where to build a new hall. A public hearing? We can't even have a hearing about the poor performance of the Township Board. The vast majority of full-time residents are elderly and retired we just want to be left alone so we can enjoy our lake. The prohibition of short-term rentals on the lake is by far more important to us particularly since the supervisor is by his personal comments supportive of the people operating short term rentals.
- Houghton Lake area has soccer fields, tennis courts dog park, beautiful children play areas all within driving distance for residents to use. We live our vacation in Houghton Lake because of the lake. All water recreation is available to everyone don't need a park in lake Township only to raise taxes and have an excuse to raise future mileages. Please know marijuana facilities in our Township there's no community benefit for security and safety in our area no to all.
- I am retired and cannot afford anymore millage.
- I almost threw this in the trash. I considered this because the lake Township leaders are going to do whatever they want to do regardless of Township residents opinions IE marijuana sales outlets and short-term rentals. Most residents wanted neither of these, but the board wanted them so guess what, we got them.
- Lake Township is well overdue for facilities for its residents to use period from a building to hold family functions to a park to take our kids grandkids to. This is the first Township I have ever lived in with no benefits.
- We seniors have no use for a lot of this. If we were young children a lot of these activities would be useful. We as lakefront homeowners are taxed to kill weeds in the lake why not stock fish in the lake. I'd gladly give another five or ten dollars.
- Combining funds with Denton Township to increase pickleball facilities at current location. With over 200 enrolled members and expansion of the court area would be greatly appreciated as we draw members from many surrounding areas. Our Township benefits from the current facilities.
- I would like to see an economic development plan for Lake Township. Thanks for this.
- There's nothing much lakeside of vacant property to have a recreation facility.
- It all depends on finding the property. If most of these were on one piece of property, we possibly could do a lot of them. The cost is not the only thing to think of. The cost of upkeep, insurance etc. It also needs to be where people can keep an eye on it too many lawsuits already.
- We live on the lakefront in our family mainly uses our boat to fish and they swim on our property.
- Because of age I'm not interested in any of this survey.
- Take over the DNR campground. Money from the sewer fund would be better spent on the campground. The new fire engine as it was, \$100,000 would buy a lot of picnic tables. Reading about the running of the Township turns my stomach. Just because someone is elected to a

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

position does not mean they are untouchable. Because of their poor decisions such as marijuana licenses and turnover in all committees our Township has little or no heritage or culture to follow on for future boards.

- I will be 83 next spring and I am not interested in any of it. The only thing I care about is I don't want my taxes raised.
- Get Biden's COVID money and infrastructure money.
- I am too old to worry about this.
- Walking bike path would be very nice. Currently no place I know up to walk and Houghton Lake besides the woods.
- Behind Township Hall. Walking, ATV trails to the pond needs attention.
- Properly marked bridge over the Muskegon River at the dead end of north Higgins Lake Rd. Full size cars and trucks try and some are able to cross it is damaging the bridge. Some even tried to widen the guardrails on both sides. A sign prohibiting car truck traffic may help. What else are you going to waste the Township money on? You already kept the excess sewer money paid by the residents at the initial time they went in. Markey Township refunded excess money to their residents. Use our money for a worthwhile project like recycling. Try GFL to replace Republic. Incidentally back in the day there was a bridge over the Muskegon.
- We live on the lake. We use our lake daily. We do not need a park for out of Township people to use and for the lake Township people to pay for. Look at the 2020 census on lake Township website population does not merit extra taxes.
- Teenagers especially need something somewhere safe to go and do teenage things. Need a trail on 55 for ATV's that safe. Need more tourist tourism attractions outside of the lake. Think of North or South Carolina on rainy days nowhere for tourists to go.
- My current tax dollars in the excess funds currently held by lake Township liquid and CDs is more than needed to support recreation facilities. Lake Township needs to make the excess liquid funds and cash work for this Township to build a new Township Hall and approve the bridge over the Muskegon River.
- We are new here so we're not sure how present parks are funded or maintained.
- Incorporate walking trail with bridge over Muskegon.
- Need to enhance and develop area between Federal and Hwy 127 this would be right on 55. This area mentioned above has nothing to enhance recreation campers and local residents.
- Bring back some form of recycling.
- Not interested in anything this is only our perspective given our ages and interests. But we realize others may have interest. Small steps are needed, and we need to realize ongoing maintenance costs. This is interesting. I am unfamiliar with the composition of Lake Township, but I don't think we're a hub for major development IE ice rink but not paid attention to what the voices are asking for and what percent they represent of our community. That Percent is who I would like to hear from, and I believe it is small, but I don't want to judge. So Small steps projects goals and what are we wanting to accomplish any development will require long term maintenance costs. What about recycling?
- Do not raise my taxes. I can afford my taxes now. You spent enough money mailing this.

APPENDIX B

RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

- I am retired relatively inactive lakefront owner. I do not have a personal interest in most of these activities.
- Let's make the Township a place where business and homeowners want to come before you figure out how to spend more money.
- North Shore has the campground that creates a lot of foot and bike traffic on North Shore Dr. We need the bridge over the river so people can walk and bike safely.
- Support stocking the lake.
- We need bike trails in our Township that are safe. We need to have safe walking trails for the better health for all ages.
- What is being done about the dam on the Muskegon River. I know it does not fall in Parks and Recreation.
- If you are going to do a park either go big or stay home.
- Provide indoor all season indoor center IE YMCA. Improve enhance or develop trails and sidewalks. Provide community events more culture like concerts plays etc. Work and coordinate with local townships.
- I like the idea of a park by the Township Hall add a pavilion a section for dog park section for playground with splashpad. Family reunions class reunions etc. would love it. Trails to hike are becoming huge in the nation because of Covid. Everyone needs to get outside.
- A bike path would be nice.
- Our Township should be a destination that provides numerous recreational opportunities.
- The Township does not need a new town hall by the fire department. Please use existing land and building. Foolish not to use. You have the property use it! No bike paths either! Too expensive!

APPENDIX C
NOTICES/MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

APPENDIX C
NOTICES/MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

APPENDIX C
NOTICES/MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

APPENDIX D

RESOLUTIONS OF ADOPTION

Resolution 2022-PC1

Adoption of Lake Township 2023 – 2027 Recreation Plan

Lake Township Planning Commission

Whereas Lake Township has undertaken a five-year Recreation Plan update which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreational facilities during the period of 2023-2027, and

Whereas a recreation survey was mailed to all residents in November of 2021 and responses were accepted until January of 2022 providing residents with an opportunity to comment and guide recreation in Lake Township, and

Whereas a public notice was published in the Houghton Lake Resorter on April 7, 2022, which began a 30-day public review period for the draft plan, and

Whereas a public hearing was held on *May 17, 2022*, at the Lake Township Hall as part of the Planning Commission meeting to provide an opportunity for all residents to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Lake Township Recreation Plan, and

Whereas Lake Township has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community to assist in meeting the recreational needs of the entire community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lake Township Planning Commission hereby adopts the Recreation Plan and recommends to the Lake Township Board the adoption of the Lake Township Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Lake Township.

Yeas _____ Nays _____ Absent _____

I HEARBY CERTIFY that the forgoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Lake Township Planning Commission held on May 17, 2022.

**** - Chairperson

Date _____

***** - Secretary

Date _____

APPENDIX D

RESOLUTIONS OF ADOPTION

Lake Township 5-Year Recreation Plan

Resolution # 00000

Resolution of Adoption

- WHEREAS** Lake Township Board has undertaken a 5-Year Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreational facilities during the period of 2023 through 2027, and
- WHEREAS** the Lake Township Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board developed a community recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and
- WHEREAS** residents of Lake Township were provided with a survey and an opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, and
- WHEREAS** A public notice was published in the *Houghton Lake Resorter* on **April 7, 2022**, which began the 30-day public review period for the draft plan and,
- WHEREAS** a public hearing was held on **May 17, 2022**, at the Lake Township Hall as part of the Planning Commission meeting to provide an opportunity for all residents to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Lake Township Recreation Plan, and
- WHEREAS** Lake Township has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the entire community, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Lake Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Lake Township 5 Year Recreation Plan.

Yeas:

Nays:

Absent:

I, Keith Stiles, Supervisor of Lake Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Lake Township Board at a Regular Meeting thereof held on **June 14, 2022**

_____ Date _____

Keith Stiles, Supervisor of Lake Township

APPENDIX D
RESOLUTIONS OF ADOPTION

DRAFT

APPENDIX D
RESOLUTIONS OF ADOPTION

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APPENDIX E

LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL

East Michigan Council of Governments

Roscommon County Planning Commission

DRAFT

APPENDIX E
LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL

DRAFT

APPENDIX F

CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

DRAFT