

**2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Outline from Previous Plan**

<p><b>Community Description</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Jurisdiction and Focus</li> </ul>	<p>Update data as needed</p>
<p><b>Administrative Structure and Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative Structure</li> <li>• Sources of Funding and Parks and Recreation Budget</li> <li>• Partnerships and Other Recreation Providers</li> <li>• Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant History</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* New Administrative Structure (add Parks Stewards, remove GTCD)</li> <li>* Update Budget Structure</li> <li>* Update Partnerships</li> <li>* Update Grant History (TF-15-141 grant closed out for BVNP upgrades)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recreation Inventory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introduction</li> <li>○ Park Facility Classifications</li> <li>○ Trail Facility Classifications</li> <li>○ Accessibility Analysis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Parks and Recreation Area Descriptions</b></li> <li>• <b>Other Recreational Opportunities within Garfield Township</b></li> <li>• <b>Regional Recreational Opportunities</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Kids Creek mill demo</li> <li>* BVNP pickleball / kayak launch / etc.</li> <li>* SLRA improvement projects</li> <li>* River East beginning projects</li> <li>* Historic Barns Park improvements</li> <li>* Keystone Complex access</li> <li>* Boardman Lake Loop Trail finished</li> <li>* Other updates as needed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Description of Planning and Public Input Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview</li> <li>• Planning Methods</li> <li>• Preliminary Public Input</li> <li>• Development of Goals, Objectives, &amp; Action Plan</li> <li>• Public Notices, Finalization of Draft Plan, Opportunity for Final Public Input, &amp; Adoption</li> <li>• Timetable of Adoption</li> </ul>	<p>2021 Parks Survey                  2022 Township (random sample) Survey                  2022 Open Houses for Grand Traverse Commons Design Plan</p> <p><b>Anticipated timeline:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>10/3/2022</b> – PRC provide guidance for updating plan content, future projects,</li> <li>* <b>12/5/2022</b> – PRC review plan and launch 30-day public review period</li> <li>* <b>1/9/2023</b> – PRC recommend plan to Township Board</li> <li>* <b>1/10/2023</b> – TB sets public hearing</li> <li>* <b>1/24/2023</b> – TB holds public hearing and resolution to adopt plan</li> <li>* <b>2/1/2023</b> – deadline to submit the complete plan to DNR</li> </ul>
<p><b>Basis for Goals and Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demographic Characteristics                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Geographic Distribution</li> <li>○ Social Characteristics</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Physical Characteristics – Natural Features                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Boardman River Watershed</li> <li>○ Boardman Lake</li> <li>○ Silver Lake</li> <li>○ Invasive Species</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Physical Characteristics – Significant Manmade Features</li> <li>• Public Involvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Update demographic information</li> <li>* Sabin Dam removal completed</li> <li>* Updated Township development history, continuing existing development patterns</li> <li>* Highlight responses from public input including the 2021 Parks Survey, 2022 Township Survey, and the Commons Design Plan open houses</li> <li>* Update the park inventory table</li> </ul>

<p><b>Goals and Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1: Improve non-motorized connectivity within the Township and to neighboring communities</li> <li>• 2: Continue to improve existing resources through regular maintenance and by providing a greater variety of active and passive recreational opportunities</li> <li>• 3: Explore opportunities and provide funding for the acquisition, protection, and preservation of natural areas, wetlands, habitat areas, and other similar resources</li> <li>• 4: Provide a range of safe and convenient parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of all segments of the population</li> <li>• 5: Develop stable sources of funding and practice sound fiscal management of the parks and recreation system</li> <li>• 6: Increase public use, access to, and enjoyment of natural resources including the Boardman River, Boardman Lake, and Silver Lake</li> <li>• 7: Promote public awareness and usability of the park system</li> </ul>	<p>Review goals and objectives Remove references to objectives for which the Township does not control</p> <p><b>Potential considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Non-motorized connections between Township parks?</li> <li>* How much should the Township focus on acquisition of parkland vs. improvements of existing parkland?</li> <li>* Review parks for barrier-free access and universal design principles / consider these for future park upgrades?</li> <li>* Aside from Township budget and grants, explore funding sources such as a Friends group for the parks?</li> </ul>
<p><b>System-Wide Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Motorized Connections</li> <li>• Barrier-Free Accessibility</li> <li>• Continued Public Involvement</li> <li>• Acquisition of Park Land and Green Infrastructure Parcels</li> </ul>	<p>Potentially merge this section into the previous section (these are broad goals)</p>
<p><b>Park-Specific Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boardman Valley Nature Preserve (BVNP)</li> <li>• River East Recreation Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Park Development Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commons Natural Area “North Parcel” Park Development Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Kids Creek Park</li> <li>• Miller Creek Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Silver Lake Recreation Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Park Development Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Update River East development plan with progress over the past few years</li> <li>* Include Commons Natural Design Plan recommendations</li> <li>* Remove pump track idea at Commons</li> <li>* Silver Lake Rec Area: add pickleball and remove disc golf</li> </ul>
<p><b>General Policy Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed and Natural Areas of Park</li> <li>• Tree Plantings and Invasive Species Removal</li> <li>• Park Lighting</li> <li>• Water Resources</li> <li>• Reservations</li> <li>• Reservations – Leagues</li> <li>• Reservations – Facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Update the park hours (dawn to dusk)</li> <li>* Describe updated park reservation and facility rental policies</li> </ul>

<p><b>Non-Motorized Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boardman River Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Update for completion of the Boardman Lake Loop Trail</li> <li>* Use methodology and information from MSU student project</li> <li>* Look at connecting parks with trails</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential trail connections between parks, trails, etc. to evaluate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Miller Creek – BVNP</li> <li>* Miller Creek – Boardman Lake Loop</li> <li>* Miller Creek – Mall Trail</li> <li>* Kids Creek Park – SLRA (Buffalo Ridge)</li> <li>* Mall Trail – SLRA</li> <li>* Commons Natural Area – Hickory parks (TART is working on this)</li> <li>* LaFranier/Barlow – Boardman Lake Loop</li> </ul>
<p><b>Green Infrastructure Plan</b></p>	<p>Many of these did not become Township parks including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Village at LaFranier Woods development</li> <li>* BATA / TCHC development</li> <li>* Hickory Forest (Joint Rec Authority)</li> </ul> <p>Consider establishing criteria for pursuing new parkland or receiving donated parcels</p> <p><b>Potential criteria to consider:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Adding parkland in areas which are currently underserved</li> <li>* Enhancing existing Township parkland (better access, additional land, etc.)</li> <li>* Protecting wetlands / natural features</li> <li>* Accepting donations of land</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project status from previous Action Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Long Lake Rd pump track not completed (likely not to be pursued further)</li> <li>* MCNR – BVNP connector not completed</li> <li>* Kids Creek mill demo completed</li> <li>* River East projects started / in progress</li> <li>* BVNP crushed gravel path completed</li> <li>* MCNR Hanson parcel trailhead not completed (project not currently defined)</li> <li>* Boardwalk to Silver Lake not completed (project not currently defined)</li> </ul>