



2023 Emmet County Parks and Recreation Master Plan



RESOLUTION OF December 20, 2022
EMMET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EMMET COUNTY RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the County of Emmet is made up of representatives from Emmet County, and

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

WHEREAS, residents of the County of Emmet were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, including an on-line survey and a mailed survey to tax payers and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft Parks and Recreation Plan for a period of over 63 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 8, 2022 at the Emmet County Building, 200 Division Street, Petoskey, by the Emmet County Planning Commission, to provide an opportunity for all residents of Emmet County to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the 2023-2027 Emmet County Parks and Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the County of Emmet has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the County of Emmet, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Planning Commission voted to recommend adoption of the Emmet County 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Emmet County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Emmet County 2023-2027 Emmet County Parks and Recreation Plan.

Yeas: *Drier, Ahrens, MacInnis, Wergel, Bachelon, White, Koontz*

Nays: *Ø*

Absent: *Ø*

SIGNED

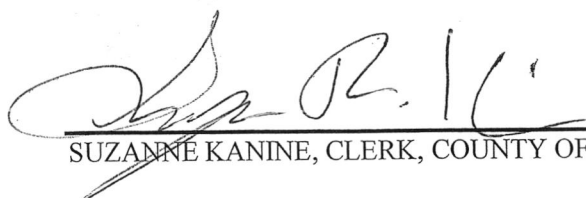


DAVID WHITE, CHAIR, EMMET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

12-2022

Date

I, Suzanne Kanine, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the County of Emmet Board of Commissioners at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 20th day of December, 2022.



SUZANNE KANINE, CLERK, COUNTY OF EMMET

12/20/22

Date

List of Contributors

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Neil Ahrens
Toni Drier
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Many photos courtesy of Charles MacInnis

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Statement of Vision

Our vision is to provide enjoyable, safe, innovative, and quality public spaces, programs, and facilities. We shall strive to maintain a vibrant community that enhances the physical, mental, and social health of our residents and visitors in a fiscally responsible manner while being respectful of the rich cultural and natural resources entrusted to us.



Lake Michigan Shoreline

1.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Parks and Recreation Board formulated the following goals and objectives based upon input received at recreation committee meetings, the recreation survey conducted from 2021 to 2022, and based upon existing natural resources, analysis of accessibility, and trends. A goal is the purpose toward which an endeavor is directed. It is the most general level of recommendations and sets the broad framework for more specific objectives. An objective is one of the mileposts which measures progress along the route by which the goal (destination) is reached. Objectives are intermediate or short-term targets which must be attained in order to reach the ultimate goal. Objectives are more specific than goals and are susceptible to modification due to changing political, economic, and organizational forces in the community. Section 2.0 *Action Program* identifies specific action strategies to complete within the next five years.

The order in which these goals and objectives appear does not represent a ranking of their importance or priority.

Goals

- 1) Continue to improve parks, meet recreation facility needs, and provide safe, diverse recreational opportunities for all age and ability groups.
- 2) Preserve, maintain, and enhance public lands for recreation.
- 3) Ensure pace of growth of parks and access to natural areas meets or exceeds the needs of Emmet County.
- 4) Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of natural resources within the County.
- 5) Create opportunities for a healthy community by providing spaces for outdoor activities.
- 6) Protect and preserve historic property resources.
- 7) Expand a variety of recreational trails for enjoyment and alternate transportation.
- 8) Provide access to information identifying available recreational opportunities.
- 9) Support acquisition of land for passive and active recreation.
- 10) Continue to strive to provide ADA accessibility to all facilities.
- 11) Expand programs and interpretive activities to more parks.
- 12) Develop partnerships linking agencies and organizations promoting parks and recreational programming across multiple jurisdictions.
- 13) Recognize economic benefits of recreation.

Objectives

- 1) Continue to maintain, improve, and expand existing trails in Emmet County.
- 2) Identify opportunities for new or expanded public facilities which can enhance the overall recreational options within Emmet County.
- 3) Provide local school districts educational programming opportunities.
- 4) Support trail connectors to schools and other County resources.
- 5) Provide and promote recreational areas for passive and active recreation.
- 6) Support facilities and programs that encourage those living in Emmet County to want to be outside; engaging in physical, healthful, and educational activities that enhance their lives.
- 7) Maintain and expand recreational opportunities for residents and tourists.
- 8) Preserve, protect, and support acquisition of shorelines and streams for public access.
- 9) Identify and encourage accessibility improvements by incorporating Universal Design in new facilities and when upgrading existing amenities in all County parks.
- 10) Create County awareness of countywide recreation opportunities.
- 11) Support intergovernmental cooperation to enhance recreational opportunities for the entire County.
- 12) Support the development of walkable communities.
- 13) Promote alternative methods for land preservation/ open space.
- 14) Work with partners in the community to develop invasive plant species management plan for all County owned property.
- 15) Continue to maintain and improve recreation facilities and parks.
- 16) Continue to protect and promote the benefits of the Dark Sky Park at the Headlands.
- 17) Continue to improve access to and quality of County swimming beaches.
- 18) Encourage collaboration and communication between different organizations and agencies.
- 19) Monitor, improve and enhance safety throughout all public parks and recreational areas in Emmet County.
- 20) Continue to improve ADA accessibility in all County parks.

2.0 ACTION PROGRAM

The following priorities and implementation plans were developed based on information gathered from public forums, public meetings and the recreation survey. Each priority and implementation plan is linked to one or more goals. The strategies listed below are not listed in any order of priority. This Action Program is intended to guide projects for the Parks and Recreation Board, Parks and Recreation Department, and Parks and Recreation Director for the next five years. It is not necessarily a complete list, as opportunities may develop that were not considered when this plan was developed. Any actions considered should take the goals and objectives of Chapter 1 into consideration before proceeding.

Following is the list of the top priorities and associated implementation plans for the next five years:

- **Promote and continue to maintain the existing facilities at all County Parks.**
 - Each year work with staff members to create an annual list of goals for each of the facilities in Emmet County.
 - Proactively maintain each park facility in Emmet County.
 - Keep records of the maintenance at Emmet County Parks.
 - Review/evaluate parks for necessary parking lot and roadway improvements.
 - Utilize facilities assessment plan to prepare a preventative maintenance schedule.
 - Update equipment and vehicles as needed for all county parks.
 - Update fiber/internet/technology where needed at county parks.

- **Promote park programming at all County Parks.**
 - Each year work with staff members to create an annual list of goals for programming for each recreational facility owned by Emmet County.
 - Review the annual goal list for promotion of each facility with the Emmet County Parks and Recreation Board each year and adopt or edit the list.
 - Work with the staff members to create an online presence to promote each park facility in Emmet County.
 - Keep records of participation in each event held at Emmet County Parks. Annually submit the records to the Emmet County Parks and Recreation Board for discussion and refinement of what events are garnering public support.
 - Develop relationships with more partners to promote dark skies events etc.
 - Cross promote park programs with outside groups.

- **Ongoing trail maintenance for non-motorized trails.**
 - Create an annual inventory of trails that need to be maintained and the work required. Share this inventory with the Emmet County Parks and Recreation Board and discuss the budget required to do the necessary work.
 - Prioritize the trails to be maintained throughout the year depending on the maintenance required.
 - Develop an action plan to make necessary repairs to the trails.
 - Identify large trail maintenance or development projects that require a one-time investment that may be funded through grant funding.
 - Establish an annual budget for trail maintenance and development.

- Work with staff to promote and educate the public about ongoing trail maintenance projects utilizing existing online resources and other social media resources.
 - Present areas for trail development to the Emmet County Administrator and the Administrative staff, and then to the Parks and Recreation Board and prioritize areas for grant funding (as needed).
 - Annually participate in the grant funding requests for prioritized trail areas in Emmet County (or as needed).
- **Explore the possibility of adding pickle ball courts to recreational facilities or in conjunction with other public entities**
 - Research the feasibility of developing pickle ball courts on county recreation lands, or other public lands designated for recreational use.
 - If pickle ball courts are feasible, discuss the proposal with the Emmet County Administrator and Administrative Staff, then to the Parks and Recreation Board. If the Board recommends the improvement to the County Administrator, identify a budget.
 - Submit the proposal to the Emmet County Board of Commissioners for approval.
- **Investigate the requirements to propose a dog park facility in Emmet County.**
 - Research the feasibility of adding a dog park in Emmet County.
 - Explore partnerships to facilitate the creation of a dog park in Emmet County.
 - Work with municipalities and Township to explore locations for a dog park.
 - Present locations for a dog park to the County Administrator and Administrative staff, discuss and gain approval or disapproval for locations for a dog park.
 - Present the approved locations to the Parks & Recreation board for recommendation to the County Administrator.
 - Present the proposal to the Board of County Commissioners for discussion and approval or disapproval.
- **Continue to work on shoreline improvements at Emmet County Parks.**
 - Annually create an inventory of areas of shoreline in Emmet County Parks that need shoreline improvements.
 - Work with staff to prioritize areas that need improvements.
 - Annually present shoreline findings to the Emmet County Administrator and the Administrative staff, and then to the Parks and Recreation Board and discuss the prioritized findings and establish a budget for shoreline work.
 - Submit the proposal to the Emmet County Board of Commissioners for approval.
 - Train and work with seasonal employees to implement shoreline activities.
 - Explore partnerships.
- **Create an action plan for invasive species control. Work with other organizations and units of government to implement the action plan.**
 - Contact other organizations already working on invasive species and initiate discussions regarding an action plan.
 - Evaluate staff resources and volunteer resources available to implement an action plan.

- Set reasonable goals that can be accomplished in a five year period regarding invasive species control in Emmet County Parks.
- Create an action plan regarding invasive species control utilizing partners and volunteers to help protect Emmet County Parks.
- Present the action plan to the Emmet County Administrator and the Administrative staff; and then to the Park and Recreation Board for approval.
- If recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board to the County Administrator, then submit the action plan to the Emmet County Board of Commissioners for approval.
- If approved by the Board of Commissioners work with partners and volunteers to implement the action plan.



McGulpin Point Lighthouse

Following is a list of accomplishments from the Action Plan Table from the previous Plan over the past five years.

- Headlands International Dark Sky Park
 - New trails added.
 - Added parking signage along the road.
 - Tree maintenance performed to remove dead or injured trees.

- Completed shoreline and watershed stabilization features.
 - Many technological updates completed in the dome.
 - Worked with a consultant to improve and maintain the green roof.
 - Increased programming with focus on astronomy.
 - Renovated caretaker house to Star Gazing house that can be rented for overnight stays.
- McGulpin Point Lighthouse
 - Improved some shipwreck signage.
 - Camp Petosega
 - Improved pedestrian bridges, walkways and pathways at Camp Petosega.
 - Completed the campground re-location project and added a bath house and playground.
 - Repaired log cabins D and F.
 - Repaired the entrance rock wall.
 - Added four rustic camp sites.
 - Improved “hangar” building by painting and replacing the roof.
 - Developed a Disc Golf Course.
 - Completed the replacement and installation of a new entrance sign
 - Worked with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Partnership to complete shoreline restoration from the canoe/kayak launch over to cabin 5.
 - Started a Forestry Plan for all of the Emmet County properties.
 - Made significant investments in staffing.
 - Continued work with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council on Phragmites Control Plan and reduction.
 - Supported land acquisition in Littlefield Township –adjacent to the North Western State Trail.
 - Conducted a study on the economic benefits of parks, trails, and open spaces in Emmet County to obtain data to assist in justification of funding.
 - Promoted the existing facilities and programs at all County Parks.
 - Staff members enhanced the programming of the parks across the board, improving educational opportunities with speakers and presenters.
 - Volunteers worked through the Michigan Trails Council to survey users of the trail system.
 - Supported grant funding for North Country Trail.
 - A full time staff member implemented and activated a new online reservation system for all parks, and gift shop for the parks.
 - Ongoing trail maintenance including tree removal, chipping, and root heave repairs.

3.0 Community Description

Emmet County is located at the Northwest tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula which has had a profound influence on its physical, economic, and social character. See Figure 3-1.

Adjacent counties are Cheboygan to the east and Charlevoix to the South. Lake Michigan forms the north and west boundaries of Emmet County with 68 miles of shoreline. Emmet County encompasses 461 square miles and is divided into 16 townships, 2 cities, 3 villages, and tribal trust land. See Figure 3-2.

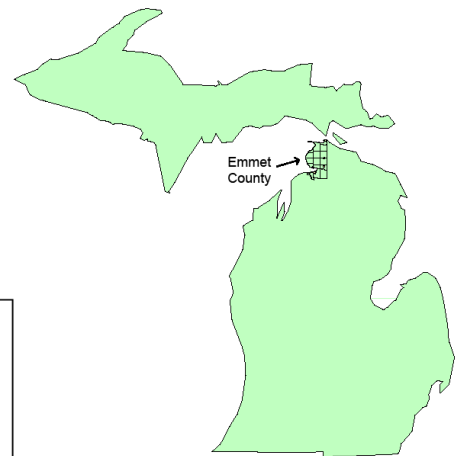
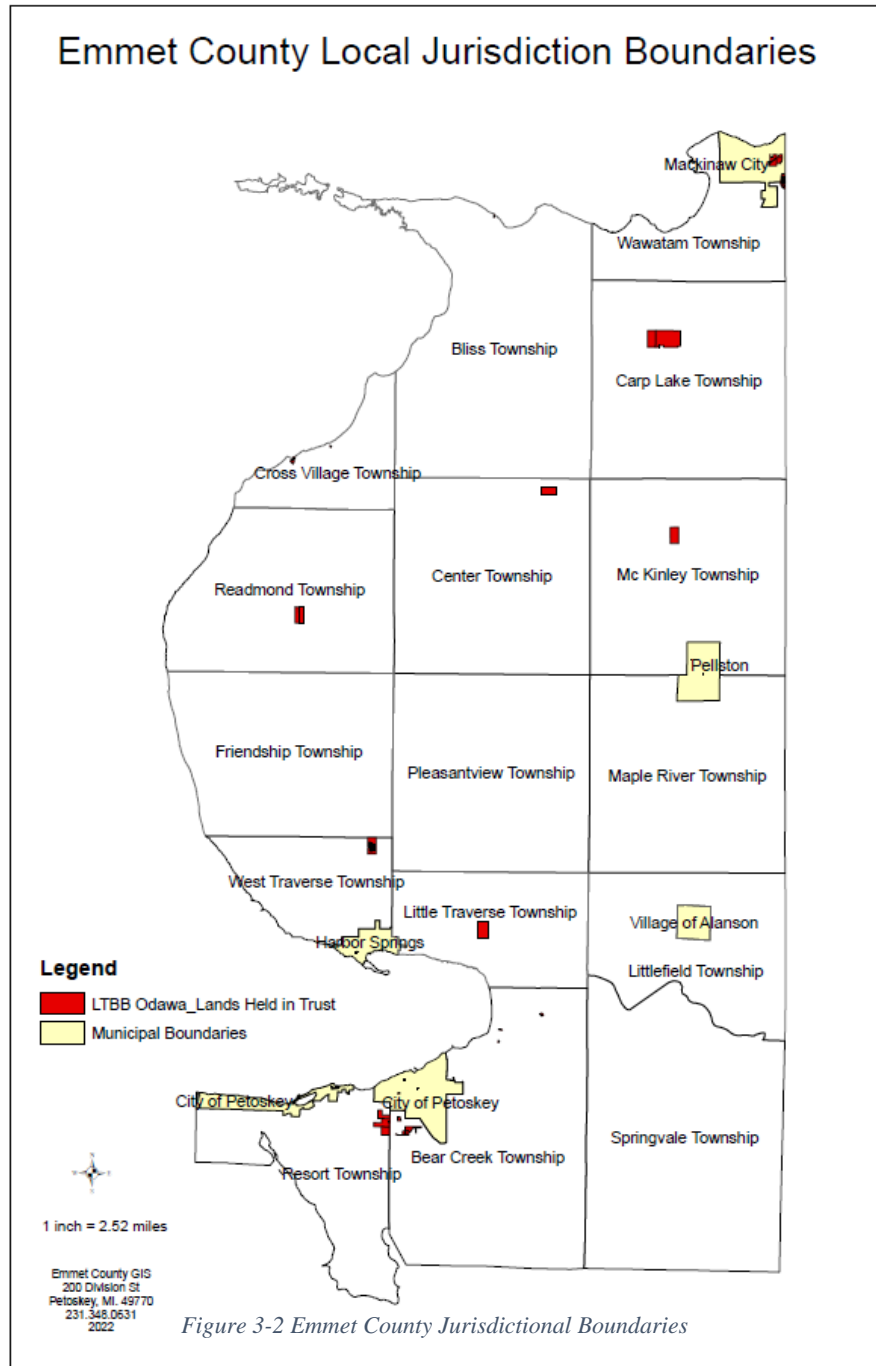


Figure 3-1 Regional Location of Emmet County



Emmet County is a four season paradise, offering numerous recreational opportunities. Because of the rich diversity of recreational activities, Emmet County is known as a world class resort community. Recreation through tourism, though important, is not the only significant economic activity in the County. According to the 2019 Census, Emmet County's largest percentage of employment was in the education, health, and social services industries.

The physiography of the County is varied and complex. Sandy beaches along Lake Michigan have strong recreation attractions for local residents and visitors. Also, the views of Little Traverse Bay and Lake Michigan have attracted high value, permanent and seasonal housing. Several major resort communities were formed in the 19th century because of the natural and scenic beauty of the area. The emphasis has been on "resort communities" rather than pass-through tourist traffic.

The County has all types of landscapes and ecosystems. It is known for its natural scenic beauty of lakes, rivers, forests, fields, and sunset coastlines. Combined, these features give the County its outstanding character as a Northern Community with a four season recreational environment. Forestry, farming, and mining are major segments of the Emmet County community. Prior to 1980, the County exported significant volumes of cement manufactured from natural limestone deposits along the Lake Michigan Shoreline in Resort Township. The former 1,100 acre cement manufacturing property, which ceased operations in the 1980s, has been transformed into a major Midwest resort community, featuring housing, golf, shopping, lodging, public parks, and marina services.

Some 75 percent of the county is classified as woodland, which provides an important resource for the timber industry. In addition to logging operations; sawmills, veneer mills, and other secondary lumber industries currently operate in the County. Emmet County is in the Hardwood State Forest which is a critical open space resource that supports broad scale outdoor recreational activity. Farming generally follows national state trends in terms of decreasing employment, decreasing acreage, but higher valued farm production. Dairy and beef farming are typically the most significant. To some extent the farm and forest land base is threatened by growth pressures to hold land for scenic recreational values rather than forest-farm production. High income families who immigrate or who visit the county for recreation can afford to purchase farm-forest lands for recreation, and the purchase prices are deemed inflated in terms of farm-forest economics and local markets.

In general the growth of the County has been historically gradual. As a result of growth, new services are being demanded, retail shopping centers have been developed, and the general pressures of the urbanization process are ongoing. Major expansions have occurred in the medical field involving acute medical care and extended services of a nursing home character. Additionally, the increased popularity of short term rentals in single family homes and the ability to work remotely have both contributed to the steady growth in Emmet County. In 2020 the population was recorded at 34,112, with nearly one-quarter of those above age 65.

The County continues to enjoy the image of a wilderness landscape with a low density rural population. Also, highly sophisticated developments such as ski resorts, vacation home communities, freeway, specialty retail shops, hospital, community college, etc. function in close proximity to farming enterprises, forest harvesting, and mining. These contrasting physical conditions are coupled with diversity in the education levels, cultural heritage, and income among families of the county. It is the variety of physical and social conditions that makes this County diverse, attractive, and interesting.

Emmet County is a place where natural beauty and prosperity harmonize in a desirable and sustainable community. The County appeals to both year-round and seasonal resort residents, maintaining its reputation as a world-class resort and tourist destination. Emmet County land development is guided to complement and enhance the natural beauty and landscape for which it is famous. Parks and open spaces abound, while wildlife populations are visible and healthy. Emmet County offers outstanding opportunities to the outdoor enthusiast for camping, biking, hunting, boating, skiing, fishing, and other outdoor recreation. The abundance of clean air and water add to the beautiful scenery promoting a sense of pride and belonging. Finally, Emmet County's citizens value and celebrate its history. From the State Stone, Petoskey Stones that lived as coral millions of years ago, the glacial creation of the landscape, the rich history of the Odawa Nation to the development of the area as part of the Northwest Territory and later the State of Michigan. The heritage of the area is treasured and respected by the many groups and individuals who work hard to preserve and share the natural and cultural history of Emmet County.

In summary, Emmet County has a near ideal combination of important resources like: water, climate, topography, and a degree of urban development. This renders the area attractive to year-round residents and tourists alike who shop, ski, boat, hike, bike, and enjoy other recreational activities year-round. The challenge for Emmet County is to plan for its future in such a way as to preserve its natural appeal in the face of growing development and recreational pressures.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Population

The US Census population estimate in 2020 was 34,112. Emmet County's population has been increasing since 1960. The County experienced a growth rate of over 25% between 1970 and 1980, however, between 1980 and 1990 the growth slowed to less than 10%. The county experienced a much greater rate of growth than the State of Michigan which only experienced an increase of 6.9% from 1990 to 2000. The 2000 Census showed an increased rate of 25.5% for Emmet County, showing a growth rate similar to that of the 1970s. Emmet County experienced a reduction in growth rate as reported in the 2020 Census (34,112); however, the 4.0% increase in population continued to exceed the State of Michigan's rate as the State gained population by an estimated 1.9%. Table 3-1 provides data over the last four decades showing estimated populations and percentage of increase from decade to decade for the State of Michigan, Networks Northwest 10-county region and Emmet County.

Table 3-1: Population							
Selected Community	Population 1990 - 2020						
	1990	2000	2010	2020	1990-2000 Percent Increase	2000-2010 Percent Increase	2010-2020 Percent Increase
Emmet County	25,040	31,437	32,806	34,112	25.5%	4.4%	4.0%
Northwest Region (10 Counties)	231,962	281,468	297,912	305,437	21.9%	5.8%	2.5%
State of Michigan	9,295,297	9,938,480	9,883,640	9,973,907	6.9%	-0.6%	0.9%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau & networksnorthwest.org/data							

As shown below in Table 3-2, the majority of the townships experience population increases, with five townships experiencing a decrease in population. The cities and villages experience increases in population from 2010 to 2020 with the exception of the Village of Pellston. Based on the data, the highest percentage of population increase occurred in Friendship Township followed by Cross Village Township. However, the largest increase in actual population was experienced in Bear Creek Township.

Table 3-2: Population Estimates by Municipality in Emmet County, 2010 & 2020 comparisons.				
Community	Census Year		Numeric Change	Percent Change
	2010	2020		
Cities				
Petoskey	5,795	5,877	80	1.4
Harbor Springs	1,194	1,274	87	6.7
Villages				
Alanson	673	778	99	14.6
Pellston	822	774	-43	-5.3
Mackinaw City	805	846	41	5.1
Townships				
Bear Creek	6,085	6,542	457	7.5
Bliss	661	568	-93	-14.0
Carp Lake	774	748	-26	-3.4

Center	598	525	-73	-12.2
Cross Village	202	240	38	18.8
Friendship	683	954	271	39.7
Littlefield	2,973	3,200	227	7.6
Little Traverse	2,348	2,657	309	13.2
McKinley	1,142	1,294	152	13.3
Maple River	1,442	1,295	-147	-10.2
Pleasantview	917	918	1	0.1
Readmond	505	560	55	10.9
Resort	2,680	2,835	155	5.8
Springvale	2,396	2,146	-250	-10.4
Wawatam	704	711	7	1.0
West Traverse	1,707	1,768	61	3.6
County Totals	32,806	34,112	1,306	4.0
Source: data.census.gov/cedsci				

Seasonal Population

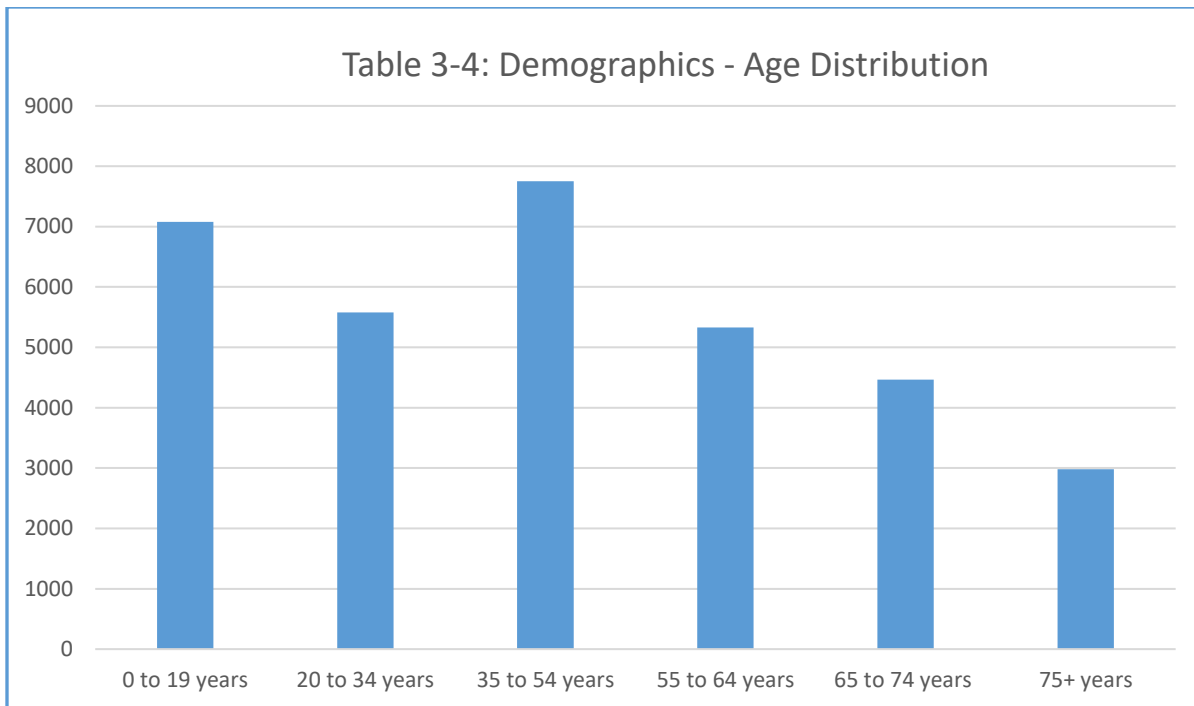
In October of 2022, Networks Northwest published a Seasonal Population Study. The study revealed that Emmet County is the second-most seasonal county in the region, largely driven by an influx of overnight visitors in the months of May - October. In the summer, the permanent population of 34,112 individuals accounts for less than 40% of the total population compared to over 70% in the off-season. Over 17% of the regional accommodation visitors in the month of July stay in Emmet County. The seasonal workforce heavily mirrors the substantial monthly fluctuations in population. In the off-season, the seasonal workforce represents less than 4% of the total labor force, and in the on-season, seasonal workers are upwards of 15% of the total labor force. In the month of July, there are an estimated 2,789 seasonal workers in Emmet County, 18% of the region’s seasonal workforce. Seasonal population surges have a significant effect on the demands for goods and services of all kinds, including the investment in public infrastructure. Table 3-3 identifies the varying population of Emmet County showing the steep increase in population experienced in the summer months. This data shows that the population exceeds the permanent population in every month of the year, showing the need to provide recreational opportunities for visitors and residents alike.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
Full-Time Population	34,112	34,112	34,112	34,112	34,112	34,112	34,112	34,112	34,112	34,112	34,112	34,112	34,112
Part-Time Population	1,688	1,688	2,532	2,532	2,532	13,504	13,504	13,504	3,798	3,798	3,798	3,798	5,556
Overnight Population	8,386	7,866	7,786	7,472	38,367	40,136	42,011	41,898	34,779	34,794	6,725	7,715	23,162
Accommodations	5,087	4,608	5,222	5,586	34,538	35,205	36,962	36,785	30,386	30,419	4,467	5,168	19,536
Short-term Rentals	3,299	3,258	2,564	1,887	3,829	4,931	5,049	5,113	4,393	4,376	2,259	2,548	3,625
Total	44,186	43,666	44,430	44,116	75,011	87,752	89,628	89,514	72,690	72,705	44,635	45,625	62,830

Table 3-3 Source: Northwest Lower Michigan Seasonal Population Study

Age Distribution

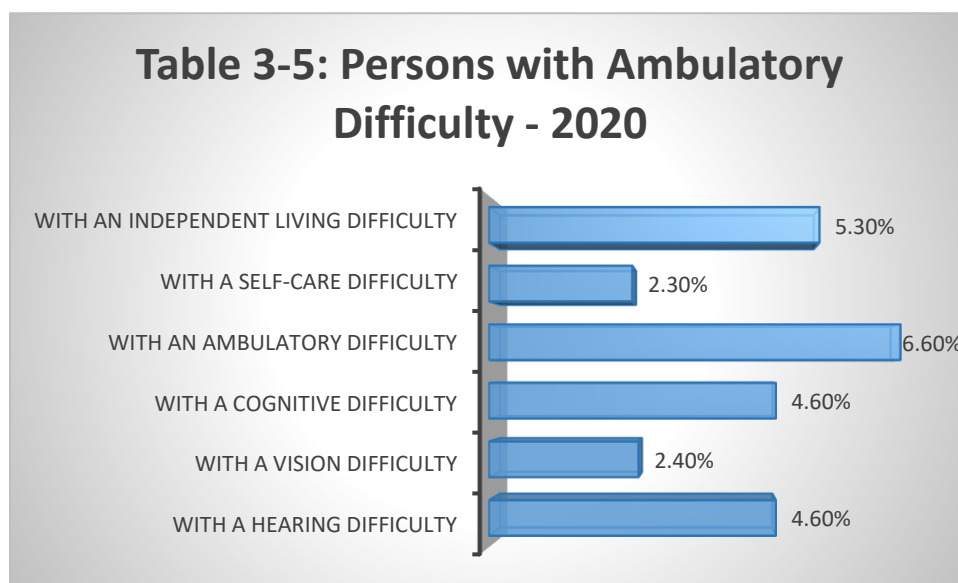
Table 3-4 shows the age distribution for Emmet County. Emmet County needs to continue to provide diverse recreational opportunities for all ages.



Source: data.census.gov/cedsci

Disability of Civilian Non-institutionalized Persons

The information presented in Table 3-5 was taken from the 2020 U.S. Census and indicates disability characteristics. Table 3-6 provides percentages of persons with ambulatory difficulty by type of disability. Additional details are available, such as age categories added to the data <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=emmet%20county&t=Disability&y=2020>. Emmet County continues to consider all residents of the County when making a park improvement or when planning for the development of a newly acquired park. This effort will enable all park visitors to enjoy the County’s park and recreation environments. A main focus of recreation opportunities should be to provide universal design recreation.



Per-capita Personal Income History

Per-capita personal income (PCPI) is income per person on an annual basis. The data from 2019 shows that wages in Emmet County are behind those in the State as a whole and the Country. This may also reflect the higher unemployment rate in Emmet County.

Table 3-6: Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) 2000-2019					
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2019
Emmet County	\$28,147	\$34,939	\$38,499	\$31,109	\$32,388
Michigan	\$29,400	\$32,409	\$34,714	\$26,607	\$35,755
United States	\$30,319	\$35,452	\$39,937	\$28,930	\$39,871
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts					

Employment

The 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates listed the Emmet County Employment rate at 59.5%. The August 2022 unemployment rate, according to the Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, in Emmet County is estimated at 4.3%, just a bit above the State of Michigan’s rate of 4.1%. Low unemployment rates throughout the state show the employment situation of today. Help wanted signs prevail throughout Emmet County as employers seek qualified workers to fill employment vacancies.

Economic Impact of Recreation, Parks, and Open Space

Parks and open space amenities can add many economic benefits to a community. According to the Pure Michigan industry research and reports in 2020, 106 million visitors spent \$18.8 billion in Michigan. This supported 275,000 jobs in Michigan. Visitors generated 2.6 billion in state and local taxes, which is equivalent to \$645 in tax savings for every household in Michigan. These numbers were significantly impacted by the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in a 15.7% reduction in visitation and a loss of approximately \$7.5 billion dollars.

Studies show maintaining high quality parks and open space can attract new business as well as retain current business, attract retirees to the area, attract tourists looking for outdoor recreation opportunities, and increase property values. Parks and open spaces also provide non-market benefits which are more difficult to accurately measure such as ecological, physical, and mental health benefits. Open space can safeguard drinking water, provide clean air, provide wildlife habitat protection, and other benefits.

Economic impact in 2018 from Pure Michigan industry research shows a total of \$400.14 million dollars spent in Emmet County. It estimates the following impact, shown in millions of dollars spent:

- \$115.97 lodging (includes 2nd home valuation)
- \$78.75 food and beverage
- \$45.69 retail
- \$101.86 recreation (includes casino wagering)
- \$57.86 transportation (includes local and air transportation)

The estimates further indicate a 4.3% growth rate from 2017 spending which generates \$43.74 million in state and local tax revenue.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis 2020 data shows outdoor recreation’s powerful and positive economic impact on the US economy. Industry segments like boating, biking, camping, shooting and powersports experienced record sales and unprecedented growth.

Attracting retirees to a community may help stimulate the local economy. Their income is generally stable and comes from outside the community, but is spent locally. Retirees moving into the area can be considered a positive tax payer, since they tend to use fewer recreational services than they pay for through taxes.

Increases to property values can be linked to the proximity of a park, according to *Active Living Research* (2010). The majority of properties located within 500 to 600 feet of the park appear to benefit the most. For some larger community parks the proximity benefit may extend up to 1,500 feet. Conversely proximity to a

poorly maintained park or a large high intensity use park that creates traffic congestion, noise problems, or other nuisances may decrease property values.

Physical Characteristics

An understanding of the physical characteristics in Emmet County is important to the overall parks and recreation planning process. The following additional information can be found in the Emmet County Master Plan, adopted in 2021: a chapter on agriculture, natural and cultural resources, a chapter on transportation, and a chapter on land use. The Emmet County Master Plan can be found at the following link:

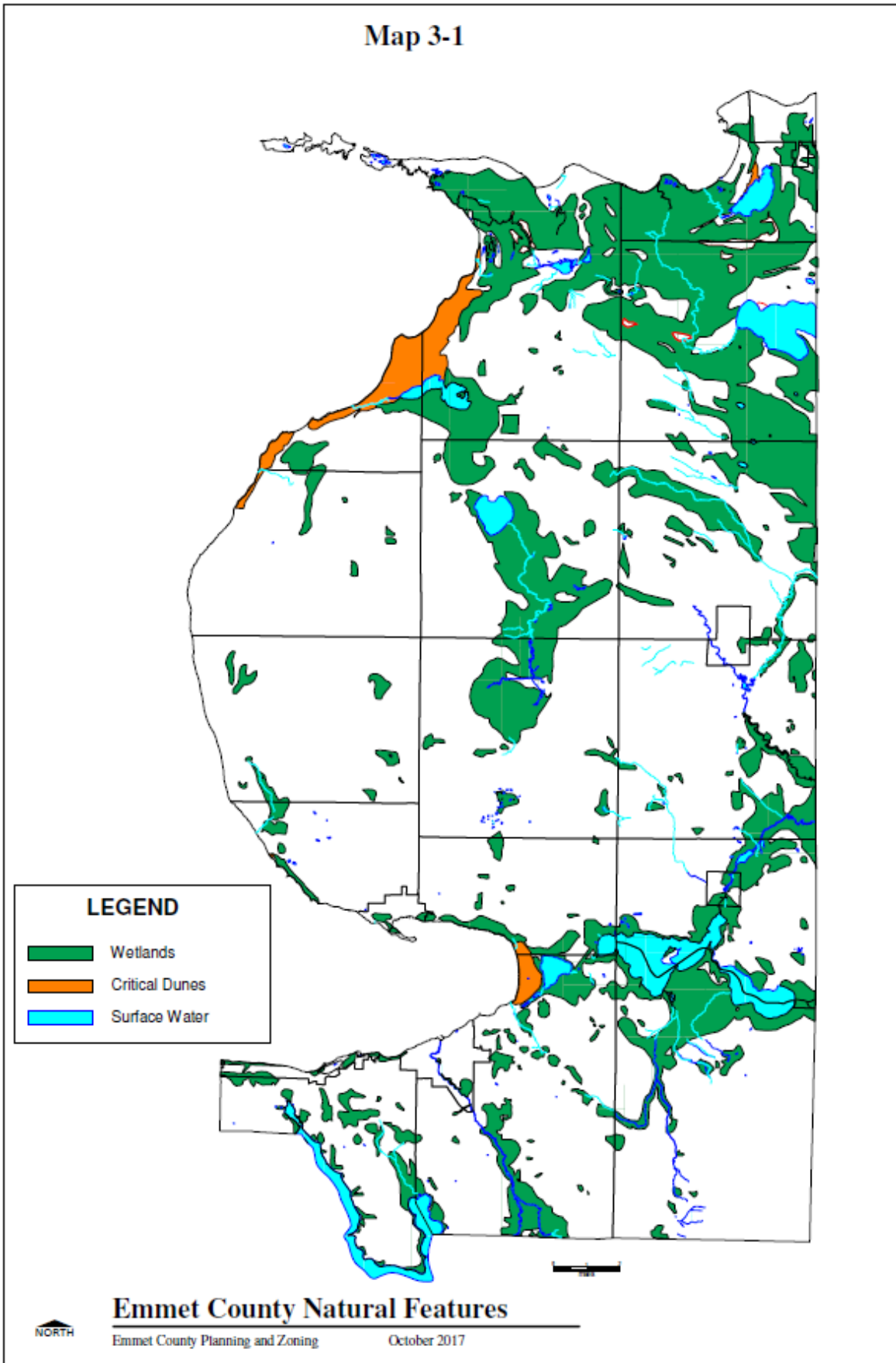
[PZCR_2021-2025_emmet-county-master-plan-adopted.pdf \(emmetcounty.org\)](https://www.emmetcounty.org/PZCR_2021-2025_emmet-county-master-plan-adopted.pdf)



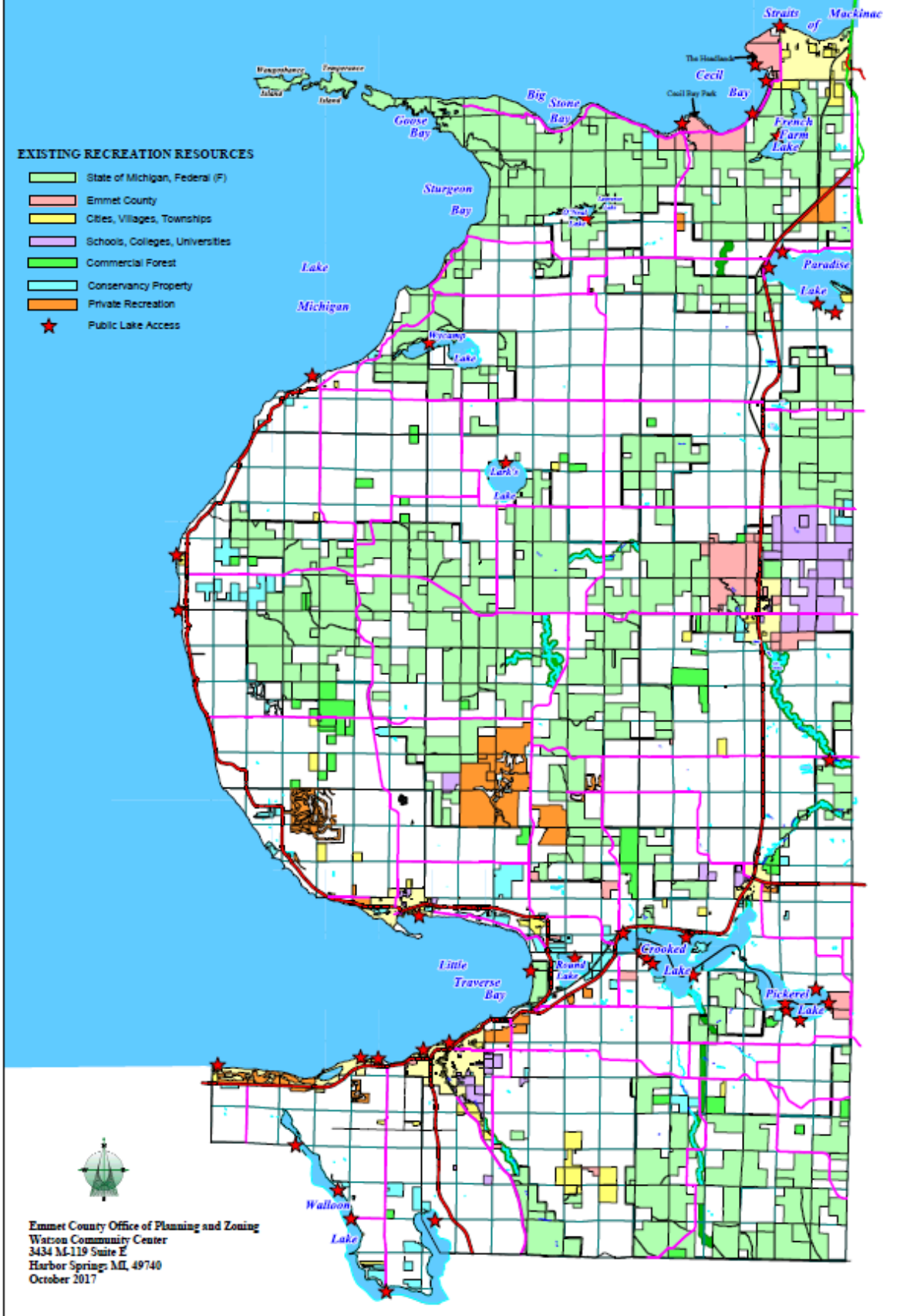
Lake/wetland area in Bear Creek Township

The following map, Map 3-1 provides a general illustration of the wetlands, lakes, rivers and streams throughout Emmet County. The entire westerly and northern boundary is Lake Michigan. These natural features provide numerous recreational opportunities.

Map 3-1



Map 3-2: Emmet County Existing Recreation Areas & Lake Access



4.0 Administrative Structure

Administration

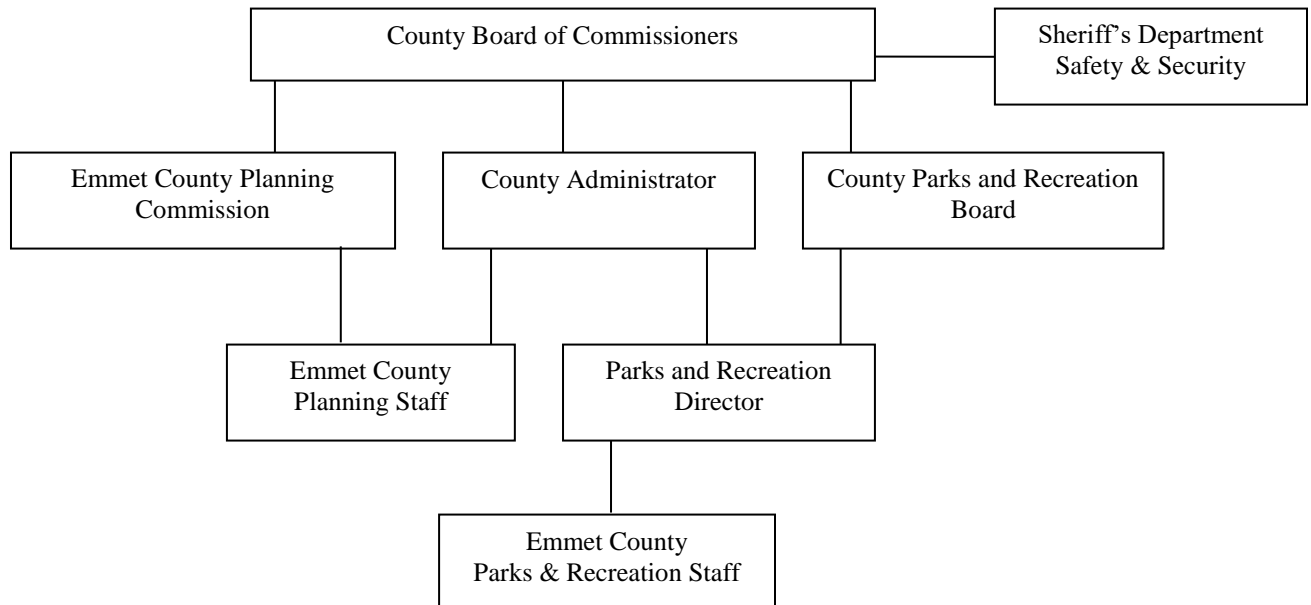
The Emmet County Board of Commissioners is empowered to operate a public recreation and playground system pursuant to Public Act 156 of 1917, (MCL 123.51 et seq.; MSA 5.2421 et seq.). The Emmet County Parks and Recreation Board was created in 1997 to set policies and procedures for management of county owned recreation properties as well as prioritize and plan for the provision of future park and recreation areas. (Originally the Parks and Recreation Board was created on July 13, 1989, however, the Board disbanded that Board in 1997 and then established a new Parks and Recreation Board at that same March 13, 1997 meeting.) The Parks and Recreation Board is advisory to the Emmet County Board of Commissioners. The membership of the Parks and Recreation Board consists of not less than 5 nor more than 7 members appointed by the Chairperson of the County Board of Commissioners. The Chairperson shall appoint not less than 2 members of the County Board of Commissioners and not less than 3 citizens of Emmet County. The Emmet County Parks and Recreation Board mission statement is as follows:

To provide opportunities for public recreation, exploration, and education within and about Northwest Michigan's environment; to protect, preserve, and promote the natural and historic resources of Emmet County.

The Board meets monthly in the County Commissioners' room and in the warmer months at various county parks. Staff includes a Parks & Recreation Director, Parks & Recreation Programming Coordinator, 2 park managers, a grounds/maintenance supervisor and approximately 22 seasonal staff members. It should be stressed that each city and several of the townships have their own recreation board or department. Some are very active in the development of recreation opportunities.

In addition, planning assistance including grant writing, recreation plan development and park planning recommendations are undertaken by the County Planning, Zoning, and Construction Resources department.

County Staff Structure to Support Recreation Services



Volunteers

The Emmet County Parks and Recreation Board recognizes the valuable contribution that volunteers may make and encourages the participation of community groups, schools, and businesses in the County's parks and recreation programs. Top of Michigan Trails Council, Northern Michigan Master Gardeners, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Emmet Conservation District, Great Lakes Lighthouse Association and other organizations have done volunteer projects for the Parks & Recreation Department. The Parks and

Recreation Board feels volunteer efforts increase public awareness of the importance of protecting our natural resources, generate pride in our park system, and demonstrate a commitment to the community.

Volunteers have the opportunity to donate services to the community and enjoy the results of their work. Services may include enhancement and maintenance of the park through clean-up efforts, trail improvements/brushing, monitoring wildlife, and furthering the park system's mission statement. Short term commitments are also welcome and these include: one time clean-up projects, plantings, and trail maintenance projects.

School Districts/ Other Public Agencies/Private Organizations

Emmet County works with other entities in both formal and informal partnerships whenever possible to better enhance the public's experience when using county public lands. A few examples of these are; the Parks and Recreation department partnering with the Department of Natural Resources to offer a free ice fishing experience in February at Camp Petosega, Emmet County conducts trail maintenance on the Department of Natural Resources non-motorized trails where they pass through the county, and the University of Michigan Biological Station through an agreement with Emmet County is conducting scientific research at Cecil Bay. The County and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council have a formal agreement for treating Phragmites, an invasive plant species, located within the County.

Financial Plan and Methods

The financial plan is designed to guide the County and municipalities in the County in budgeting proposed recreation projects by listing potential funding sources.

Budget

To finance the 2022 Parks and Recreation Department operations, maintenance, and capital development, the County Board of Commissioners designated \$470,000 from the general fund to balance revenue and expenditures. Total budget for 2022 is \$1,267,193. The Emmet County Parks and Recreation Board conducted a fee structure evaluation in 2020 and made suggestions to the Emmet County Board of Commissioners to amend the fee schedules for a handful of facilities so they were consistent and competitive with outside facility rentals. The Board of Commissioners adopted the recommend fee adjustments, which are reviewed periodically. The intension of the board is to increase revenues for the park properties.

Capital Improvements

Municipalities are required to prepare a Capital Improvement Program which is a list of projects that are intended to be accomplished over a given period of years. In Emmet County, this process is part of the budgeting process which occurs primarily in December of each year. If available, cost estimates are set forth for each year, and total estimated expenditures by improvement area are shown. Park developments and land acquisitions for parks or open space reserves are included in the total County Capital Improvement Program and the section of this report titled *Recreation Action Program* presents the five (5) year capital improvements for the Emmet County Parks and Recreation Department.

Funding Sources

Several possible funding sources exist for recreational facilities primarily for acquisition and development as listed below:

General Obligation Bonds	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
County General Fund	Transportation Enhancement Grants
Clean Michigan Bond Fund	Tax Increment Finance Districts (TIFS)
Pay-As-You-Go Financing	Donations
Special Assessments	Land Bank Authority
Revenue Bonding	Coastal Zone Management
Land and Water Conservation Fund Programs	Recreation Passport Grants
Community Development Block Grants	Michigan Humanities Council Grant
Local Community Foundation Grants	Non-profit organizations - gifts/donation

5.0 Recreation Inventory

Recreational assets of Emmet County are documented in the Public Park and Recreation Inventory (Table 5-1, pg. 28) including county property, county road ends, township parks, village parks, municipal parks, conservancy property, and state and federal properties. An attempt was made to include all parks and recreation areas owned by agencies other than Emmet County. (Any omissions to this inventory are done so inadvertently, please contact the Office of Planning, Zoning, and Construction Resources for additional inclusions.) The inventory was compiled by Planning, Zoning, and Construction Resources staff using the 2013 Emmet County Recreation Plan as an initial platform for the inventory. Input was gathered from the public, township recreation plans, townships officials, and the Emmet County Recreation Board. Ownership of individual parks is listed in Public Park and Recreation Inventory (Table 5-1) and the following abbreviations were used to show ownership:

ECRC	Emmet County Road Commission
MDNR	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
MDOT	Michigan Department of Transportation
WLC	Walloon Lake Conservancy

The acreage listed in Table 5-1 does not include land in the road right of way and was derived from the Emmet County GIS, other recreation plans, and/or web-sites. The accessibility assessment system used in Table 5-1 was taken from "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans." The five (5) accessibility categories are as follows:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet the accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet the accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet the accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Emmet County's Parks and Recreation system is dominated by broad scale resource properties with emphasis on outdoor recreation. Older buildings in the park system are not barrier free, however, these structures existed on the properties when they were acquired by Emmet County. As improvements are made, barrier free design features will be incorporated. The accessibility designation was performed by Emmet County staff members.

Classification of Recreational Assets

The "Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation, Open Space, and Trails" from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources defines 16 types of parks of which 10 apply to Emmet County. These ten are as follows:

Mini Park (MP)-used to address unique or isolated recreational needs. Typically the park is less than 1 acre in size and is located within ¼ mile of a residential setting.

Neighborhood Park (NP)-serves as a recreational and social focus for the neighborhood. It is usually 5 to 10 acres in size and less than ½ mile from a residential setting.

Connector Trails (CT)-multipurpose trail that provides safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. It is usually a single purpose hard-surfaced trail for pedestrians or bicyclists / in-line skaters and is typically located within railroad-right-of-ways.

School Park (SP)-park combined with a school site. The location is dependent upon the school property and size can vary depending on the function of the park.

Natural Resource Area (NRA)-land set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. This category has no size requirements and location is variable.

Special Use (SU)-usually a single purpose recreation facility. The size and location will vary depending on the use.

Community Park (CP)-serves a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. The focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. It usually serves 2 or more neighborhoods and is within ½ mile to 3 mile distance of the neighborhood. The size is usually between 30 and 50 acres.

On-Street Bikeways (BW)-paved segments of roadway that serve as a way to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic. This can be a bike route with designated portions of the roadway for preferential use of bicyclists or bike lane with shared portions of the roadway providing separation between vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.

Greenways (G)-tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment. This type of recreational land has no size requirement and location is dependent on availability.

Sports Complex (SC)-consolidation of programmed athletic fields and associated facilities strategically located throughout the community. These facilities are usually 25 acres or larger.

Table 5-1: Public Park and Recreation Area Inventory						
Communities	Name of Park/ Facility	Ownership	Acreage	Park Type	Accessibility	Service Area
Emmet County	Camp Petosega	County	274.2	SU	3	regional
	Cecil Bay Park	County	907.7	NRA	1	regional
	Community Center/fairgrounds	County	29.5	NRA/CP	5	regional
	Dow Rd.	County	388	NRA	1	county
	Headlands Park	County	511.2	NRA	2	International
	Krause Rd.	County	43.9	NRA	1	township
	Maple River Forest	County	315.7	CP	1	area townships
	McGulpin Point	County	9.6	SU/NRA	2	regional
	North Conway Road	County	116.4	NRA/SU	1	county
	Pellston parcel	County	38.4	NRA	1	county
	Resort Bluffs	County	4.3	NRA/CT	2	regional
Wycamp Lake Public Access	County	3.1	NRA	1	township	
Bear Creek Township	Atkins Preserve	Township	20	NRA	1	township
	Bay View Association Open Space	Bay View Association	16.6	NRA	1	neighborhood
	Bear River (McDougal Rd)	Township	18.7	CP	1	area townships
	Click Road Property	Township	20	NRA	1	Township
	Petoskey State park	MDNR	318.7	NRA	2	Regional
	River Road Property	Township	57	NRA	1	Township
	Round Lake Public Access: Powell Road	MDNR	4.4	SU	1	county
	Walloon Lake Access: Gruler Road	Township	0.3	SU	1	county
	Jones Landing	Township	3.1	NRA	4	county

Table 5-1: Public Park and Recreation Area Inventory						
Communities	Name of Park/ Facility	Ownership	Acreage	Park Type	Accessibility	Service Area
Bear Creek Township	Spring Lake Park	Township	12.3	NRA	4	Surrounding townships
	Click Road Soccer Fields	Petoskey Youth Soccer	43.1	SC	1	regional
	Roadside Park (US131)	MDOT	<1	SU	1	regional
	Little Traverse Wheelway	MDNR/MDOT	7.8	CT	4	regional
	Northwestern State trail	MDNR	23.0	CT	1	regional
	State forest land	MDNR	1,679.7	NRA	1	county
Bliss Township	Wilderness State Park (part)	MDNR	10,697.0	NRA	2	regional
	Bliss Township Park	Township	35.2	NRA	1	township
	Bliss Township	Township	7.8		1	township
	State Forest Land	MDNR	2,671.9	NRA	1	county
Carp Lake Township	Paradise Lake Public Access	MDNR	1.7	SU	1	surrounding townships
	Village of Mackinaw City forest	Village of Mackinaw	400.3	NRA	1	township
	Grange Hall Park	Township	3.3	MP	1	township
	Paradise Lake Recreation Area	Township	12.5	NP	1	township
	Lincoln Park	Township	50.4	NRA	1	township
	Paradise Lake Public Access: Dekruif Road	ECRC	0.2	SU	1	surrounding townships
	Paradise Lake Public Access: Sommers Road	ECRC	0.2	SU	1	surrounding townships
	Paradise Lake Public Access: Pachy Road	ECRC	0.2	SU	1	surrounding townships
	Northwestern State trail	MDNR	86.1	CT	1	regional
	State Forest Land	MDNR	6,002.0	NRA	1	county
Center Township	Larks Lake Pioneer Park	Township	20.4	CP	1	township
	Center Township forest	Township	35.7	NRA	1	township
	Township Hall/Park	Township	12.6	CP	1	township
	State Forest Land	MDNR	6,240.2	NRA	1	county
Cross Village Township	The Port of Cross Village "Port/Park"	Township	7.6	CP	2	local
	Cross Village Community Center/Township Hall	Township	0.7	SU	1	local
	Original Township Hall	Township	0.2	SU	1	local
	Wilderness State Park (part)	MDNR	74.1	CP/NRA	2	regional
	Township Forest	Township	14.5	NRA	1	regional
	State Forest Land	MDNR	1455.6	NRA	1	township

Table 5-1: Public Park and Recreation Area Inventory						
Communities	Name of Park/ Facility	Ownership	Acreage	Park Type	Accessibility	Service Area
Friendship Township	Township Hall	Township	1.3	SU	1	township
	Township Forest	Township	36.6	NRA	1	township
	Township Forest	Township	80.7	NRA	1	township
	State Forest Land	MDNR	4,972.9	NRA	1	regional
Little Traverse Township	Township Hall	Township	4.6	NRA	2	local
	Former Township Hall (M-119)	Township	0.8	MP	1	township
	Little Traverse Beach	Township	0.7	MP/SU	1	township
	Little Traverse Boat Launch	Township	2.0	SU	1	county
	Little Traverse Community Center	Township	0.5	NRA	4	local
	Harbor Hills (lot 23)	Township	0.1	NRA	1	local
	Liegl Park Drive	Township	0.4	NRA	1	neighborhood
	M-119/W Conway Rd/ (open space)	Township	0.8	NRA	1	neighborhood
	Duvernay/ Pleasantview Rd. (open space)	Township	2.7	NRA	1	neighborhood
	Harbor Springs School (Athletic Field)	School	18.0	SP	1	neighborhood
	Harbor Light School Soccer field	School	7.3	SP	1	neighborhood
	Harbor Light School	School	8.0	SP	1	neighborhood
	Mill Street Public Access	Township	0.1	SU	1	neighborhood
	Warren Street Public Access	Township	0.1	SU	1	neighborhood
	Roaring Brook Public Access	ECRC	0.1	SU	1	neighborhood
	Little Traverse Wheelway	MDNR/ MDOT	4.2	CT	4	regional
	North Country National Scenic Trail		4.5		1	regional
	Northwestern State trail	MDNR	1.2	NRA	1	regional
	State Forest Land	MDNR	895.2	NRA	1	county
	Littlefield Township and Village of Alanson	Alanson Public School	Alanson Public School	98.3	SP	2
Alanson Public School forest		Alanson Public School	117.1	NRA	1	township
School Ball Fields and Track		Alanson Public School	20.57	NP	1	village
Alanson Village Park		Village of Alanson	1.4	NP	1	village
Bass Street Property		Village of Alanson	0.4	MP	1	village

Table 5-1: Public Park and Recreation Area Inventory						
Communities	Name of Park/ Facility	Ownership	Acreeage	Park Type	Accessibility	Service Area
Littlefield Township and Village of Alanson	Island Sanctuary Park	Village of Alanson	1.44	NP	4	Village
	Memorial Park	Village of Alanson	0.7	MP	1	Village
	Hillside Garden	Alanson Beautificati on Center	1.3	MP	1	village
	Littlefield Township Fire Department	Littlefield	7.67		1	
	Walter Dow Roadside Park	Littlefield	0.3	SU	1	township
	Moore Road property	Littlefield	37.8	NRA	1	township
	Hay Lake Marina	Littlefield	24	CP	1	county
	Oden Community Association Park	Oden Com. Association	5.71	NP	1	neighborhood
	Gazebo Park	Littlefield	0.27	MP	1	neighborhood
	Pickrel Lake Public Access: Mission Rd.	ECRC	0.3	SU	1	surrounding townships
	Woodruff Park	State of Michigan (MDOT)	0.8	MP	1	neighborhood
	Area surrounding Crooked River locks	MDNR	11.9	NRA	1	township
	Pickrel Lake access	MDNR	1.6	SU	1	surrounding townships
	McKinley Township and Village of Pellston (part)	Northwestern State trail	MDNR	6.9	CT	1
Oden Fish Hatchery		MDNR	140.5	NRA	3	regional
State Forest Land		MDNR	910.7	NRA	1	county
McKinley Township Park		Township	8.0	NP	1	township
McKinley Township Hall		Township	4.1	NP	1	township
Pellston Public School		School	21.7	SP	2	neighborhood
University of Michigan Regents		University of Michigan	2,848.8	NRA	1	regional
Pellston Memorial Park		Village	1.7	MP	1	village
Maple River Township and Village of Pellston (part)	Northwestern State trail	MDNR & County	72.0	CT	1	regional
	State Forest Land	MDNR	6,970.6	NRA	1	county
	Township Hall	Township	0.6	SU	2	township
	Township Forest (Tower Road)	Township	40.3	NRA	1	township
Township Forest (Section 21)	Township	77.2	NRA	1	township	
S.A. McClutchey Memorial Field	Pellston Public School	14.9	SP	1	village	

Table 5-1: Public Park and Recreation Area Inventory						
Communities	Name of Park/ Facility	Ownership	Acreage	Park Type	Accessibility	Service Area
Maple River Township and Village of Pellston (part)	Maple River access	Village of Pellston	0.002		1	village
	Pioneer Park	Village of Pellston	46.1	CP	1	village
	University of Michigan Regents	University of Michigan	309.8	NRA	1	regional
	Pellston Public School Forest	Pellston Public School	159.6	NRA	1	township
	Northwestern State trail	MDNR	69.8	CT	1	regional
	State Forest Land	MDNR	1,827.5	NRA	1	county
Pleasantview Township	State Forest Land	MDNR	9,937.3	NRA	1	county
	Harbor Springs Schools forest	School	159.1	NRA	1	township
Readmond Township	Readmond Township Hall Wormwood Rd.	Township	26.4	NRA	1	township
	Middle Village Park	Township	4.1	CP	1	area townships
	Readmond Township Park Preserve	Township	41.0	NRA	1	township
	State Forest Land	MDNR	5,564.0	NRA	1	county
Resort Township	Eppler property	Township	20.5	NRA	1	township
	Doernenburg property	Township	15.1	NRA	1	township
	Resort Pike Park	Township	0.7	MP	2	township
	Morford Park	Township	0.2	MP	1	township
	Parcel between Resort Pike and Lake Grove	Township	43.8	NRA	1	township
	West Park	Township	34.8	CP	2	township
	East Park	Township	36.7	CP	4	regional
	Townsend Road Access	ECRC	0.2	SU	1	township
	Stolt Road End Access	ECRC	0.2	SU	1	township
	Reycraft Preserve	Private/com. forest	37.9	NRA	1	township
	Multiple Walloon Lake Conservancy properties	WLC	491.0	NRA	1	township
	Little Traverse Wheelway	City of Petoskey/MDOT/ Bay Harbor	4.7	CT	5	regional
Springvale Township	Township Park Rd. Park	Township	2.0	MP	2	township
	Channel Rd. Park	Township	0.8	NP	2	county
	Township Hall area	Township	38.1	NP	1	township
	Graham Rd.	Township	0.12	MP	1	township
	Crooked Lake Public Access: Glenn Rd.	ECRC	0.1	MP	1	township

Table 5-1: Public Park and Recreation Area Inventory						
Communities	Name of Park/ Facility	Ownership	Acreage	Park Type	Accessibility	Service Area
Springvale Township	Crooked Lake Public Access: Birch Rd.	ECRC	0.1	MP	1	township
	Crooked Lake Public Access: Elizabeth St.	ECRC	0.1	MP	1	township
	Pickerel Lake Public Access: Artesian Ln	ECRC	0.12	MP	1	county
	Pickerel Lake Public Access: Botsford Rd.	ECRC	0.1	MP	1	township
	Crooked Lake Public Access: Graham Rd	ECRC	0.12	MP	1	township
	Channel Road Park	MDNR	1.6	NP	1	county
	State Forest Land (Beach 1)	MDNR	10,574.6	NRA	1	regional
Wawatam Township & Mackinaw City (Parks in Emmet County)	(Beach 1)	Township	1.4	NP	2	township
	(Beach 2)	MDNR	2.66	NP	2	Township, region
	Recreation Complex	Village	13.1	SC	4	village, region
	Fort Michilimackinac	State of Michigan	27.9	SU	3	village, region, State
	French Farm Lake Public Access	ECRC	0.2	NRA	1	county
	Heritage Village	Village	43.0	CP	3	region
	May Woods Nature Trail	Mackinaw Area Historical Society	100.00	NRA	2	Township, region
	Wind Turbine Park & Disc Golf Course	Village	3.0	CP	1	village
	Indian Pathways Park	Village	1.8	MP	3	village
	Township Forest	Township	117.2	NRA	1	township
	Mackinaw City Public School Forest	school	62.4	NRA	1	township
	Northwestern State trail and trailhead	MDNR	53.5	CT	2	regional
	State Forest Land	MDNR	4,645.84	NRA	1	county
	West Traverse Township	Cook Property	Township	9.9	CP	1
Ridge Road "80"		Township	81.6	NRA	1	township
Forty Acres on Hughston Road		Township	40.2	NRA	1	township
City of Petoskey	Arlington Park	City	2.5	CP	5	Regional
	Bates Park	City	7.0	CP	5	Regional
	Bayfront Park	City	25.0	CP	3	regional
	Bear River Water Trail	City	3.3	CP	1	Community
	Bear River Valley Recreation Area	City	36.0	CP	4	regional
	Bear River Valley Trail	City	1.0	NP	5	neighborhood
	Curtis Park	City	7.8	NP	1	neighborhood
	Curtis Stadium	School	6.0	CP	3	regional
	Downtown Greenway Corridor	City	0.61	CT	5	neighborhood
Library Courtyard Park	City	0.5	MP	5	neighborhood	

Table 5-1: Public Park and Recreation Area Inventory

Communities	Name of Park/ Facility	Ownership	Acreage	Park Type	Accessibility	Service Area
City of Petoskey	Little Traverse Bay Water Trail (Bay Harbor to Bay View)	City	9	CP	1	Regional
	Little Traverse Wheelway	City	8.0	CT	4	regional
	Lockwood Park	City	2.8	NP	3	neighborhood
	Magnus Park	City	21.2	SU	3	regional
	McLaughlin Field	School	3	SU	2	regional
	Memorial Park	City	0.5	MP	4	neighborhood
	Mineral Well Park	City	1.5	CP	2	neighborhood
	Northmen Drive Trail	City	0.74	CP	5	neighborhood
	Pennsylvania Park	City	2.7	CP	2	regional
	Quarry Park	City	2.5	MP	4	neighborhood
	Quarry Trail	City	0.37	CP	5	neighborhood
	Riverbend Park	City	2.5	CP	4	regional
	River Road Sports Complex	City	91.0	CP	3	regional
	School Recreation Complex	City/School	60	CP	5	Community/school
	Skyline Trail	City	865.0	CP	1	regional
	Solanus Mission Beach	City	1.0	MP	2	neighborhood
	Sunset Park	City	1.0	MP	1	neighborhood
	Turcott Field	City	5.7	CP	1	regional
	Veterans Park	City	0.25	MP	1	neighborhood
	Washington Park	City	5.0	NP	2	neighborhood
	Winter Sports Park	City	30.0	CP	5	regional
	North Central Michigan College	NCMC	265.0	NRA	5	county
	Central School	School	1.7	SP	2	neighborhood
	Lincoln School	School	2.0	SP	2	neighborhood
	Ottawa Elementary School	School	9.5	SP	2	neighborhood
	St. Francis Xavier	School	3.0	SP	2	neighborhood
	Sheridan Elementary School	School	5.0	SP	2	neighborhood
Petoskey Municipal Marina	City	3.0	SU	3	regional	
City of Harbor Springs	Public Marina	City	2.0	NP	1	regional
	Ford Park	City	2.3	NP	1	neighborhood
	Zoll Street Beach	City	0.3	MP	1	neighborhood
	Deer Park	City	15.0	NP	1	neighborhood
	Ottawa Indian Stadium	City	7.0	SC	1	neighborhood
	Tourist Park	City	2.0	NP	1	neighborhood
	Municipal Park	City	15.0	SC	1	city
	Zorn Park	City	3.0	NP	1	neighborhood
	Kiwanis Park	City	19.4	NP	1	neighborhood
Harbor Springs Public	School	0.5	SP	2	neighborhood	
	Kosequat Park	City	12.35	NP	3	regional

Data Source: Emmet County Office of Planning, Zoning, and Construction Resources

County Properties

In an effort to better manage resources on County owned property a forestry consultant was contracted to write a Forestry Resource Management Plan for several county parcels. The plan was adopted in February 2015. Recommendations from the plan are currently being followed based on the timeline in the plan. A map of the county Parks and Recreation properties is included following the County Properties inventory.

Watson Preserve

Emmet County and the Little Traverse Conservancy were given the 82.6 acre piece located on M-119 halfway between Harbor Springs and Petoskey. Presently the parcel contains public administrative buildings and offices which include the Sheriff's Department, Planning, Zoning, & Construction Resources Department, Health Department, and others. This site also has a covered hockey arena with one sheet of ice known as the Griffin Arena. Through a private/public arrangement, the property is owned by the County and the building is a privately owned and operated facility. The main activities during fall, winter, and spring are figure skating, speed skating, and hockey. Griffin Arena is the home arena of the Petoskey High School Varsity Hockey team and hosts some 300 participants of the Char-Em Adult Hockey Association and the Petoskey Area Hockey Association, ranging in age from 4 to 74.

ADA Assessment: 3) The property includes accessible buildings, parking and sidewalks. Pathways exist that do not currently meet accessibility guidelines.

Krause Rd.

Emmet County received this undeveloped 43.9 acre parcel in 2008 through a land swap with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

ADA Assessment: 1) There are no amenities on the mostly forested parcel.

Emmet County Community Center/ Fairgrounds

Since 1921, the annual Emmet/Charlevoix County Fair has been held at its current location at the west end of the City of Petoskey along US-31. Emmet County owns approximately 29 acres of land at this location, due in part to the acquisition of property from Hodgkiss & Douma, Inc., in January of 2000. In 2004 major renovations and construction began, improving and creating new facilities for the public. The buildings include an 11,000 square foot community center, 10,000 square foot exhibit barn, a 2,500 seat covered grandstand, large restroom and shower facility, and a pedestrian entrance plaza.

Today the fairground facilities are used for numerous functions throughout the year, including the Emmet/Charlevoix County Fair, horse and livestock shows, antique shows, animal clinics, concerts, plays, parties and receptions, and various other civic, government, and private events.

A portion of this property is on the north side of the highway and serves the purpose of protecting approximately 440 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline as well as providing a natural view shed of Lake Michigan. A portion of the Little Traverse Wheelway Bike trail goes through this parcel.

ADA Assessment: 5) The entire property has been redeveloped over time using universal design. This includes the grand stands, barns, and community center, parking and pedestrian walkways.

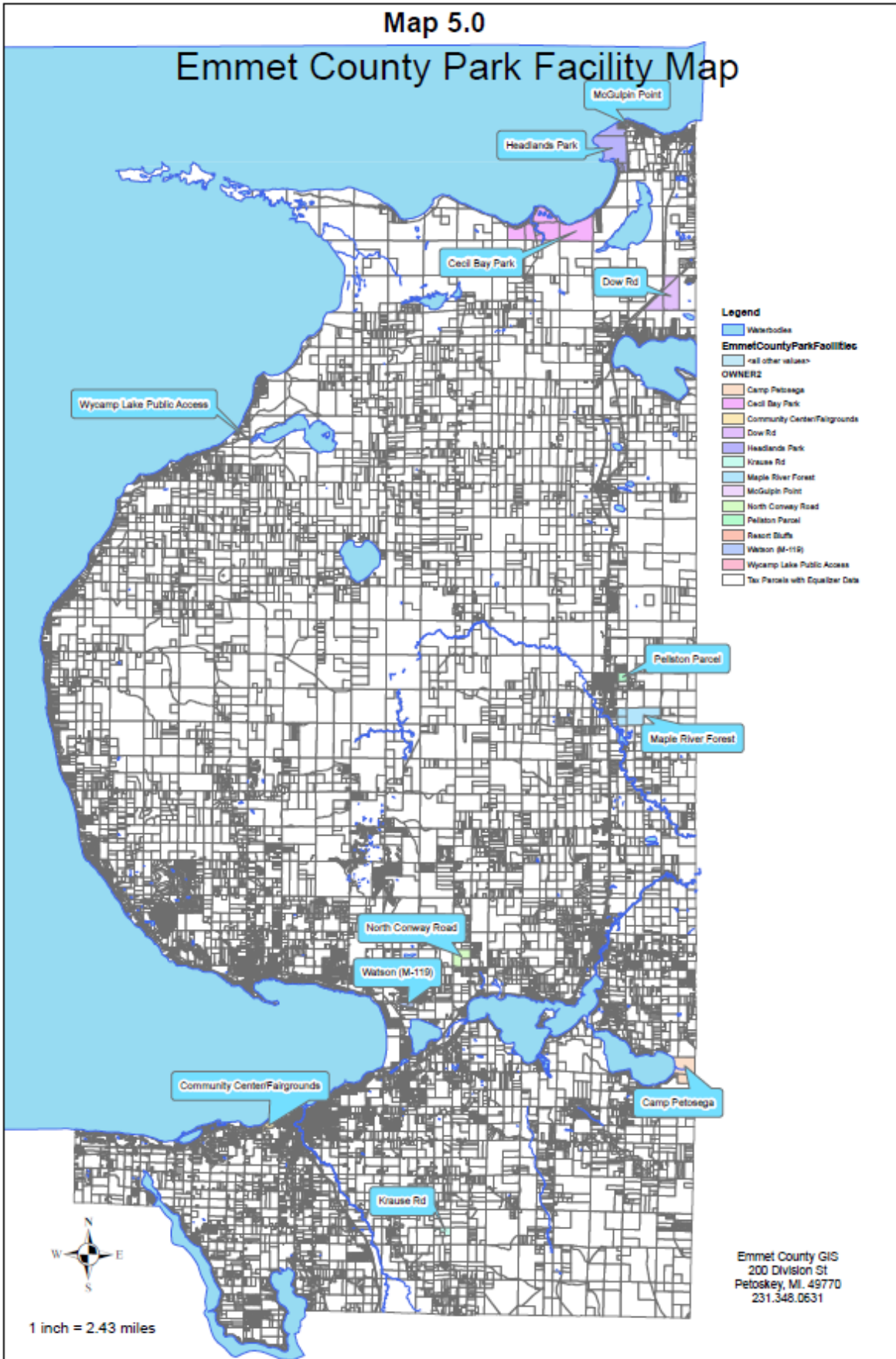
TF98-037 Little Traverse Bay View Park- property acquisition
See Table 5-2 (pg. 44)



Dow Rd.

Emmet County received this parcel of 388 acres in 2016 through a land swap with the Village of Mackinaw City. The property is currently forested and undeveloped.

ADA Assessment: 1) There are no amenities on the highly forested parcel.



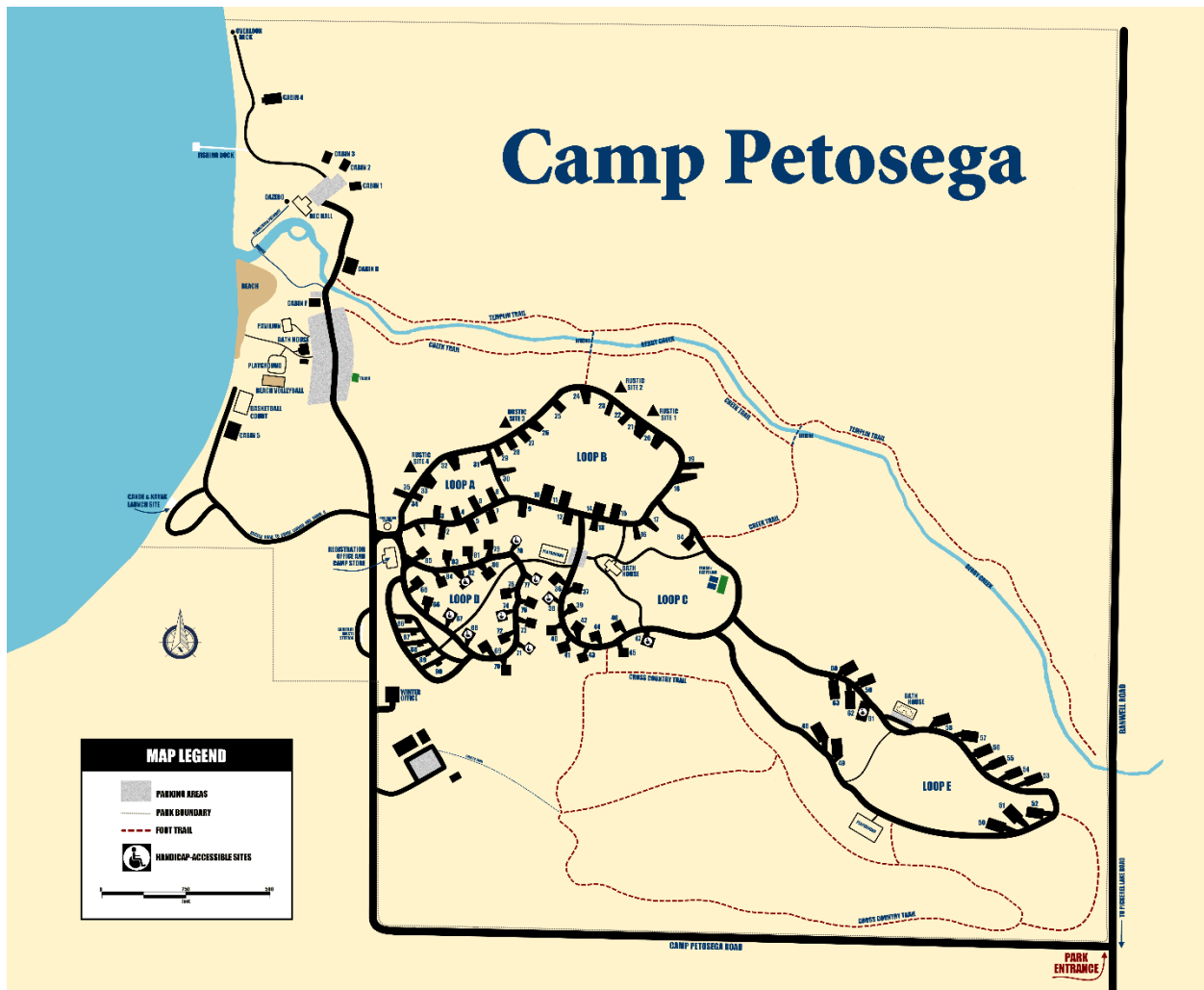
Camp Petosega

Camp Petosega is located on the shores of Pickerel Lake and is part of the Inland Waterway. It was established in the 1930s by Jim Templin as a camp for boys and young men. The camp offered a variety of activities ranging from athletics, archery, riflery, and aviation.

In 1992 through State grants and County contributions, it was turned into a County park. Since its purchase, modern amenities have been added while the historic charm and atmosphere have been preserved. The property encompasses 275 acres and offers many year-round recreation opportunities for its visitors. It boasts 90 campsites with electricity, seven rental cabins, modern restrooms and shower facilities, a beach, canoe/kayak launch, seasonal dock, hiking trails, playground equipment, and game areas. During the summer months free movies are shown in the pavilion and park programs are offered throughout the year. The cabins are heated and available for use in the winter. During the winter months the park offers opportunities for cross country skiing, snow shoeing, and ice fishing. Map 5-1 shows the current trail system at Camp Petosega. In the past the park has been used to host multiple local cross country track meets as well as the annual regional cross country track meet. The park also offers a multiuse recreation hall that can accommodate group events, reunions, receptions, and meetings.



Camp Petosega Water Access & Dock



Camp Petosega has been supported by the local community through the donation of many structures and playground equipment. Currently two of the rental cabins, two garages, and the check-in station booth are all buildings that have been donated to the County for use at Camp Petosega.

A pathway and dock were added near the day-use area at Camp Petosega in 2017 which is accessible and will provide access to Pickerel Lake for boating, fishing, and relaxing on the benches both on the shore and at the end of the 175 ft. long dock.

In 2022, a disc golf course at Camp Petosega was constructed and became operational. The gift shop stocks supplies for the disc golf players and early reviews have been positive.

ADA Assessment: 3) The property includes accessible restrooms, camp sites, pavilion, walkways and dock. The playground in the day-use area and the beach area use principals of universal design. Pathways exist that do not currently meet accessibility guidelines. Waterfront access for kayaking currently do not meet accessibility guidelines.

TF89-208	Camp Petosega Property acquisition	See Table 5-2 (pg. 44)
CM00-37	Camp Petosega Bathhouse	See Table 5-2
TF01-029	Camp Petosega Campground Development	See Table 5-2
TF06-077	Camp Petosega Campground Facilities	See Table 5-2
TF14-0230	Camp Petosega Water access and dock	See Table 5-2

Maple River Forest

This 315 acre parcel was obtained from the State of Michigan in 1945. The Maple River traverses through the property providing opportunities for fishing and wildlife enjoyment. The property has been maintained in its natural state. As part of a forestry management plan this parcel was logged in 2018. The purpose will be to improve grouse habitat and quality timber management.

ADA Assessment: 1) There are no amenities on the highly forested parcel.

North Conway Rd

This 116.4 acre parcel came under County ownership in 1971. No trails exist on the property, however, it is open to the public for hunting, bird watching, other wildlife enjoyment, and is used for model airplane flying. The parcel has been maintained in its natural state.

ADA Assessment: 1) There are no amenities on the parcel.

Pellston parcel

Emmet County obtained this forested 38.4 acre parcel through a land swap with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 2007. The parcel is undeveloped and currently serves as a natural resource area. The property was logged in 2017 as part of the forestry resource management plan to improve the timber stand.

ADA Assessment: 1) There are no amenities on this parcel.

Wycamp Lake

Emmet County purchased this 3.1 acre parcel from the State of Michigan in 1961 for \$1.00. This property provides access to the WyCamp dam and lake for recreational fishing. Currently, the site is undeveloped and left in its natural state.

ADA Assessment: 1) There are no amenities on this parcel.

Resort Bluffs

This undeveloped 4.3 acre parcel along Little Traverse Bay protects and provides a viewshed of Lake Michigan for the residents of Emmet County. A portion of the Little Traverse Wheelway Bike trail goes through this parcel, however, the trail had to be closed due to erosion and safety concerns. The county is working with the City of Petoskey, Resort Township and the State of Michigan to seek solutions to the trail closure. Approximately 610 feet of shoreline is protected.



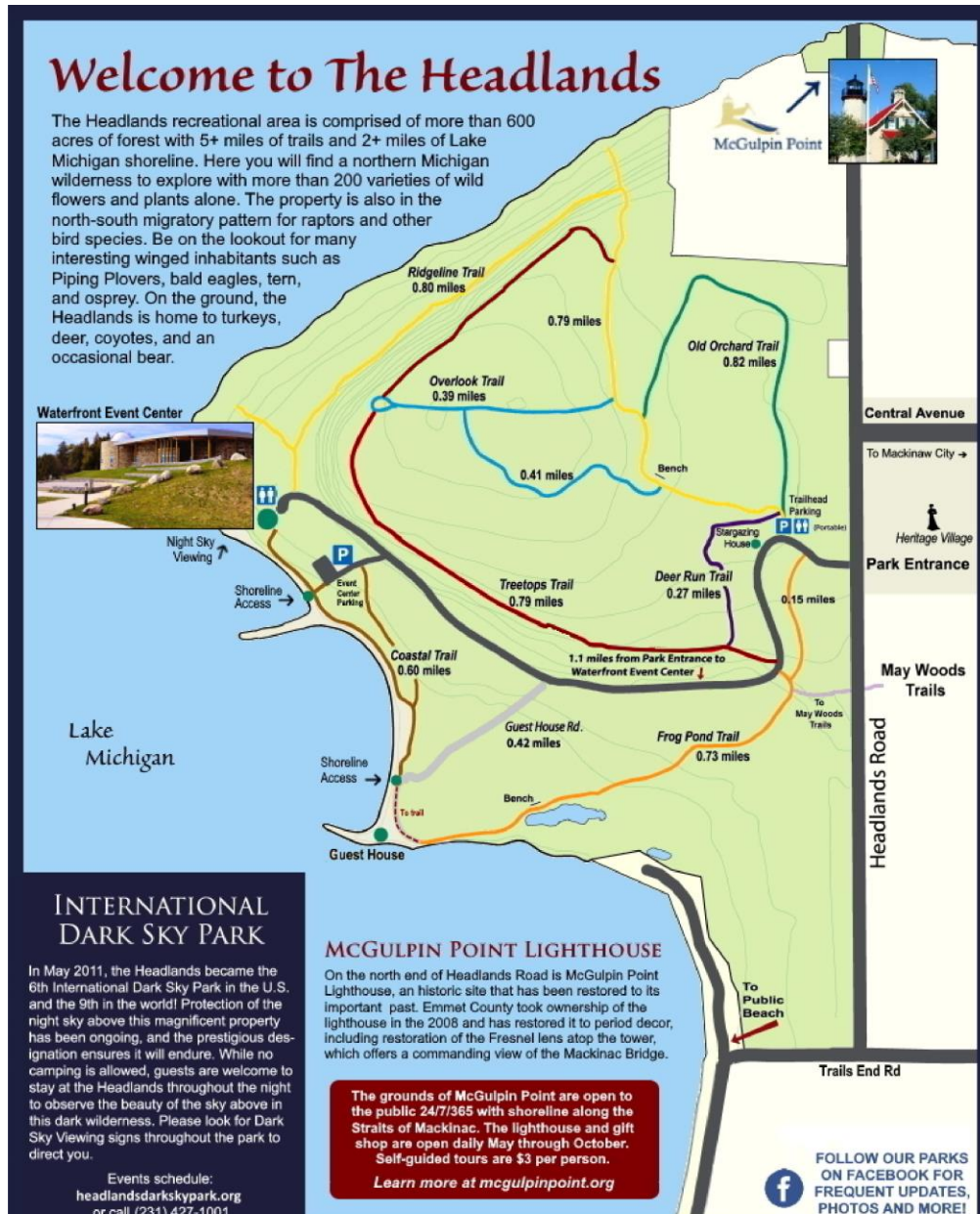
ADA Assessment: 2) There are no amenities on the top of the bluff of this scenic parcel. The Little Traverse Wheelway, non-motorized trail has been constructed below the bluff through this property which is accessible, however, due to erosion, the trail has failed and is currently closed.

TF02-026 Resort Bluffs- acquisition See Table 5-2 (pg. 44)



Headlands International Dark Sky Park

The Headlands was established in the late 1950s when Roger McCormick purchased the land for private use. On May 6, 1996, Emmet County acquired the Headlands property and transformed it into a County park. The park consists of approximately 511 acres of pristine woodlands, with more than two miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. Marked trails guide hikers, bicyclists, cross-country skiers, and other outdoor enthusiasts throughout the scenic property. The Guest House at the Headlands accommodates 22 people and is available for rent by the public. A house at the entrance to the headlands, "Star Gazing House" sleeps 8 and is available for rent. Various groups, agencies, and units of government such as Village of Mackinaw City, Emmet County, Little Traverse Conservancy, Schott Foundation, McCormick Foundation, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources, worked together to bring the property to public ownership.



Map 5-2

The Headlands received its International Dark Sky Park designation in May 2011. When it was established it was the sixth park in the United States with this designation and the ninth in the world. According to the International Dark Sky Association, as of January 2022, 195 International Dark Sky Parks existed world-wide <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/finder/>. The Waterfront Event Center and Observatory, opened in June of 2017. The building is unique in that it has a green roof helping to make it more environmentally sensitive to the area. New telescopes and computers have been installed to assist in observation from the complex. The event center is available for rent and has a building capacity of 278 people. Restrooms are available twenty-four hours per day and are open to the public year round. Dark Sky programs are offered throughout the year and are open to the public. A self-guided cell phone tour is available for visitors to explore. People can view the dark sky on their own, as a designated dark sky trail and viewing area along the lakeshore is available to the public. In 2017 the Headlands was awarded the first ever International Dark Sky Association’s “Dark Sky Place of the Year”. This honor recognized the exceptional programming offered at the Headlands International Dark Sky Park.



ADA Assessment: 2) Parking areas, walkways, accessible restrooms, the Waterfront Event Center, and the outdoor seating area have been completed which incorporate accessibility guidelines. There are many pathways and steep terrain on much of this natural property. The existing guest house (rental) is not ADA accessible, as it was built prior current standards. As improvements are made to the property, they are designed using universal access principals.

- TF94-124 Headlands- property acquisition See Table 5-2 (pg. 44)
- RP12-462 Headlands- outdoor seating See Table 5-2
- 17-PA-002 Headlands- pathway and board walk See Table 5-2

Cecil Bay

Cecil Bay Park is located at the mouth of the Carp River and offers nearly a mile of shoreline on Lake Michigan. Purchased in 1984, this undeveloped land is open to fishing, and personal exploration. A beach for swimming exists where the Carp River empties into Lake Michigan. In 1990 Emmet County acquired a neighboring piece of land, increasing the park size to approximately 900 acres. In order to make the park more visitor friendly, the County has added a picnic shelter, parking area for day visitors, and steps to the river to protect the banks from erosion. A new trail has been marked to provide access to the Lake Michigan shore and beach. Porta-johns are available seasonally at Cecil Bay Park.

- TF589 Cecil Bay property acquisition See Table 5-2 (pg. 44)
- TF87-080 Cecil Bay property acquisition See Table 5-2

ADA Assessment: 1) There is a gravel parking lot and grass along the Carp River at this property. A gazebo exists as a shelter with limited access.

McGulpin Point Lighthouse

The lighthouse is situated on 11.5 acres located off Headlands Rd. This acreage includes 336 feet of shoreline on Lake Michigan. McGulpin Point lighthouse was built in 1869 to help guide ships through the straits. It was decommissioned in 1906 when it was no longer needed as a lighthouse, at which time it went into private ownership. Emmet County purchased the property in 2008 due to its historical value for Emmet County residents. The lighthouse and surrounding property is being renovated and now open to the public. A self-guided cell phone tour, detailing points of interest, is available as well as public programs. Beginning in 2013, Boy Scout Troop 4 of Ann Arbor reconstructed an historical barn on the property. It replicates the

original 16'x24' cow and horse barn historically used on the property. In 2017, an apartment next to the McGulpin Point Lighthouse was updated and offered for overnight accommodations.

ADA Assessment: 2) Parking areas and walkways exist at the lighthouse. The pathways and access to the tower of the lighthouse are not accessible. As improvements are made to the property, they are designed using universal access principals.

Table 5-2: Status Report on Grant- Assisted Recreation Acquisitions & Development			
Grant #	Park Name	Scope Item and Current Condition	Status
TF589	Cecil Bay	850 acres purchased. Property is open for fishing, bird watching, and hiking.	Completed
TF87-080	Cecil Bay	4.5 acres purchased. Property is open for fishing, bird watching, and hiking.	Completed
TF89-208	Camp Petosega	284 acres purchased. Property was converted to a public campground with a day use area with access to Pickerel Lake.	Completed
TF94-124	Headlands	511.2 acres purchased. Property has two facilities available for rent to the public. Marked trails are available for hikers, bicyclists, bird watchers, night sky viewers, and cross-country skiers.	Completed
TF98-037	Little Traverse Bay View Park	1.8 acres purchased. No improvements have been made to the property. It is being maintained for its scenic view.	Completed
CM00-037	Camp Petosega Bathhouse	Barrier free bathhouse constructed for use by campers.	Completed
TF01-029	Camp Petosega Campground Development	An additional 29 site loop was developed with electric and water service, picnic tables, fire rings and site marker posts. Three of the twenty-nine are barrier free sites.	Completed
TF02-026	Resort Bluffs	4.3 acres purchased. Residence removed. Property maintained for scenic view shed of Little Traverse Bay.	Completed
TF06-077	Camp Petosega Campground Facilities	Development of the 3 rd and 4 th campground loops totaling 26 sites, day use parking lot, restroom/shower building for day use area, small boat access, and non-motorized trails. Seven of the sites are barrier free.	Completed
TF11-051	Petoskey to Alanson Rail - Trail	Trail improvements to 10 foot wide multi-use recreational trail connecting communities of Conway, Oden, and Alanson to Petoskey and Harbor Springs	Completed
RP12-0462	Headlands Dark Sky Park	Outdoor seating for viewing dark sky, migratory birds, Lake Michigan and resting area	Completed
TF14-0230	Camp Petosega	Water access and dock	Completed
17-PA-002	Headlands Dark Sky Park	Pathway and boardwalk (Coastal Zone Management Grant)	Open
Data Source: Grants Management Department of Natural Resources 2017 & Office of Planning & Zoning			

Dark Sky Coast

Governor Rick Snyder signed HB 5414 the “Dark Sky Coast” bill, Public Act 251 into law July 2, 2012. This bill protects the night sky above nearly 21,000 contiguous acres of land in Northwest Emmet County from the effects of light pollution and light trespass. Figure 3-1 below, shows the outline of designated dark coast. The bill encompasses the state land around the Headlands and the county’s Cecil Bay Park. It adds Wilderness State Park and certain state forest land within Bliss, Cross Village, and Wawatam Townships to a law that originally designated a park in Lenawee County for dark sky status in 1993.

The bill was introduced by 107th District State Rep. Frank Foster, who served as the chairman of the House Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee. After approval

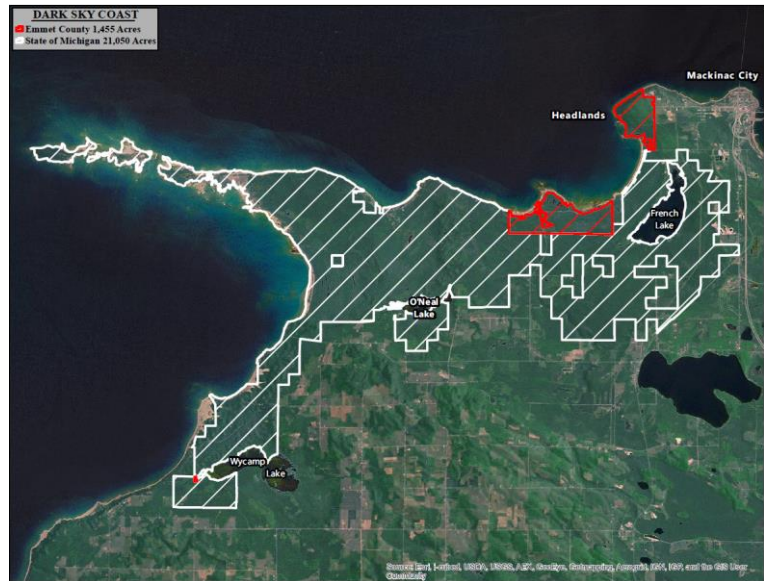


Figure 5-1: Dark Sky Coast

from the state House the bill was moved to the Senate for consideration and it was passed with support from 37th District State Sen. Walker. It builds upon the tremendous public interest following designation of the Headlands as an International Dark Sky Park in May 2011. Public Act 251 does not place any requirements on land owner; it simply requires that any lighting on the included public lands be directed downward and where practical be on sensor fixtures so as not to interfere with the view of the night sky.

This legislation reiterates the importance of preserving the dark sky natural resources. It provides not only natural resource benefits, but it also benefits the economy of Emmet County and Michigan.

The Headlands International Dark Sky Park and the Dark Sky Coast are attracting people from across the US and from other countries, making astro-tourism a relatively new attraction to Emmet County. Wilderness State Park now hosts night sky viewing events and are giving more publicity to night sky interpretation and activities.



Headlands International Dark Sky Park observatory and pathways

Springvale Township Properties
Township Park Road

This 2 acre parcel provides public access to Pickerel Lake. The park includes a small boat launch, mowed picnic area, and gravel parking maintained by the township. In 2004 the park was upgraded with picnic tables, trash receptacle, and port-a-john.



Channel Road Park

Channel Road Park protects scenic views of Crooked Lake and provides public access to the lake. The park has a paved parking area and a small boat launch. Improvements to the park were made in 2004 with the addition of a park bench, picnic tables, grill, and a portable toilet.

Artesian Lane Road End

This road end owned by the Emmet County Road Commission provides public access to Pickerel Lake. Currently, the site provides a seasonal dock, small boat launch, trash receptacle, and a port-a-john provided and maintained by Springvale Township in cooperation with the Road Commission.



Springvale Township Hall area



The Springvale township hall and fire station are located on this 38.1 acre parcel along the north end next to Mitchell Road. The remainder of the parcel is undeveloped forest land and provides a natural resource area.

Glenn Road

This is a platted road off Graham Road dedicated to the use of the public and provides access to Crooked Lake. This easement is maintained in its natural vegetative state. The easement location is marked with a sign.

Birch Road

This is a platted road off Graham Road dedicated to the use of the public and provides access to Crooked Lake. This easement is maintained in its natural vegetative state. The easement location is marked with a sign.

Elizabeth Street

This is a platted road off Graham Road dedicated to the use of the public and provides access to Crooked Lake. This easement is maintained in its natural vegetative state. The easement location is marked with a sign.

Public Natural Recreation Areas

Petoskey State Park

With over 303 scenic acres, the Petoskey State Park is located on the north end of Little Traverse Bay. The park has a modern campground offering 180 campsites and a day-use area with a designated swimming area. The property is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and a recreation passport (daily or annual pass) is required for vehicle entry.



Petoskey State Park

Wilderness State Park

Wilderness State Park offers visitors a variety of year-round recreational activities. It includes over 10,000 acres with 26 miles of beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline, numerous trails, six rustic cabins, three rustic bunkhouses, and over 250 modern campsites. The property is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and a recreation passport (daily or annual pass) is required for vehicle entry.

Little Traverse Conservancy properties

The mission of the conservancy is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment. They maintain more than 200 nature preserves all of which are open to the public. Some preserves are more accessible than others with 110 miles of trails maintained in their nature preserves. The Conservancy maintains a robust web-site with maps and locations throughout Emmet County identified.

<https://landtrust.org/>

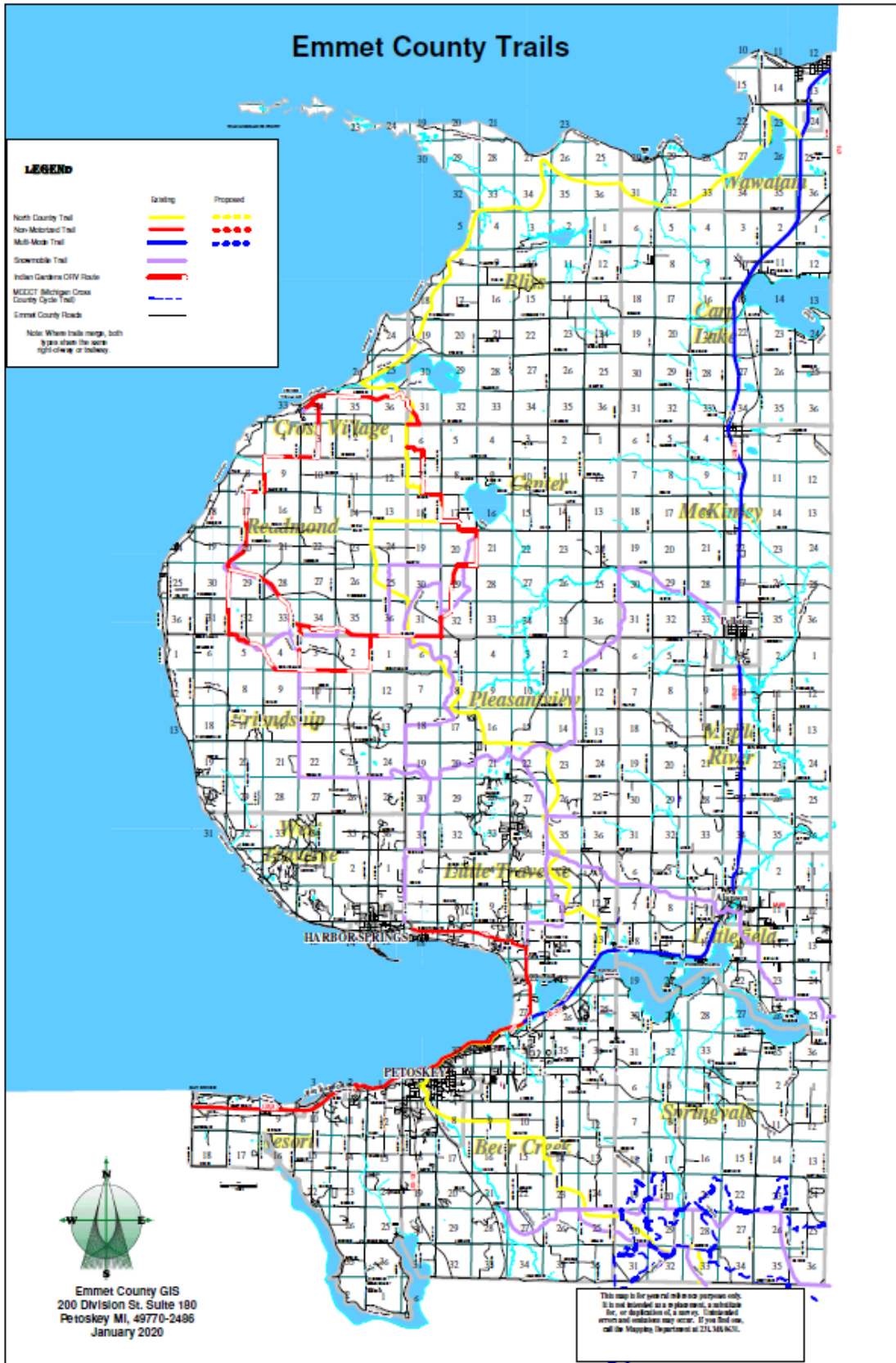
Straits of Mackinac Underwater Preserve

The preserve is 148 square miles at the tip of northern Michigan. The area is known as a ship graveyard as many ships have met their doom in or near the narrow passage between the two peninsulas. Some of the shipwrecks have been identified and marked, but many are yet to be identified.

<https://www.straitspreserve.com/>

North Central Michigan College Nature Area

North Central's Natural Area, located on Howard Street within the City of Petoskey, is 195 acres of relatively wild land adjoining and south of the developed campus. The Nature Area is open to the public and accessible through hiking trails. It is also groomed for cross-country skiing in the winter. The college's trails network is part of Michigan's Iron Belle trail system.



Map 5-3: Emmet County Trails Map

Trails

Outdoor recreational opportunities are growing rapidly, and among the most popular are trail-based activities. The 2021/2022 Emmet County Recreation Survey results shown in the appendix show high support for trails. Some examples of trail based activities include, but are not limited to walking/hiking, running, bicycling, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling. Ultimately trails provide alternative transportation, recreational opportunities, economic benefits, and increased quality of life. With that in mind, entities seeking easements for future trails may also wish to consider obtaining utility easements such as broadband, at the same time to provide an additional benefit. Trails are desirable destinations that contribute to the increasing number of visitors to Emmet County.

Emmet County has trails for year round activity. Currently 101 miles of snowmobile trails and multiple miles of trails for cross country skiing or snow shoeing exist in the winter. Year-round Emmet County hosts several non-motorized trails including 16 miles of trails for biking and walking on the Little Traverse Wheelway (with a segment of the Wheelway closed due to erosion), 35 miles of rail to trail from M-119 to Mackinaw City, and 46 completed trail miles of the North Country Trail for hiking. Several of the trails continue beyond the boundaries of Emmet County into Cheboygan and Charlevoix Counties. Trail development is highly active and ongoing. To view locations of existing and proposed trails in Emmet County see Emmet County Trails (Map 5-3 on the preceding page). Many trails exist in the County and connect to the greater northern Michigan region. For more detailed maps and information on trails in Emmet County and the region please visit: www.trails council.org or www.michigantrailmaps.com.

Non-Motorized Trails

North Country National Scenic Trail

The North Country National Scenic Trail with 4,600 miles is the longest national scenic trail. It was created in 1980 by Congress. The route starting in New York and ending in North Dakota passes through seven (7) states. Forty-six miles of the trail pass through Emmet County. This trail is open for both hiking and bicycling.

Michigan's Iron Belle Trail

Michigan's Iron Belle Trail is a state-wide dual route - one route designed for biking (774 miles), the other for hiking (1,259 miles). The trail was established by the State of Michigan to connect Detroit in southeast Michigan with Ironwood in the northwestern Upper Peninsula. In Emmet County, the hiking trail essentially utilizes the North Country National Scenic Trail. This trail was recently improved within the City of Petoskey to add a pedestrian bridge over the Bear River. <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/places/state-trails/iron-belle>

Little Traverse Wheelway

The Wheelway is 26 miles long running from Charlevoix to Harbor Springs. It is somewhat parallel to M-119 and US 31, a non-motorized paved trail, mostly separated from the roadway offering spectacular views of Little Traverse Bay and Lake Michigan. The trail is managed and maintained by multiple government entities and organizations. Top of Michigan Trails Council conducted a trail user survey in 2021. The study shows 116,000 annual users (doubled from 2014). The estimated direct economic impact is \$1.4M. More information is available on the Top of Michigan Trails Council's web-site: <https://www.trails council.org/economic-traverse-wheelway/> .



Petoskey State Park is currently constructing an internal trail which would connect the Little Traverse Wheelway to the beach area and also connect through the park so that users of the Wheelway could bypass the portion of the trail which is right next to the highway from essentially the Trails Council

office to the state park entrance. A portion of the Little Traverse Wheelway, within the City of Petoskey and Resort Township, has been closed due to erosion and safety concerns. Multiple governmental agencies are seeking a solution to the trail closure.

USBR (United States Bicycle Route) 35

The following map shows the USBR 35 bicycle route intended for experienced long distance touring bicyclists. It is not a trail per se, but is a mapped route meant to be a recommendation as the best way to ride a bicycle long distance along the coast. Approval of USBR 35 designates it as a nationally recognized route, designated by the same organization that numbered the US interstate highway system.

Michigan's U.S. Bicycle Route 35 will attract bicycle tourists from near and far, providing economic, social, and health benefits to the communities that the route intersects. The route approximately 500 miles in length runs from New Buffalo, on the border with Indiana, to Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. USBR 35 is comprised of a network of state highways, county and local roads, and regionally significant multi-use trails. Once complete, USBR 35 will continue south through Indiana and eventually down to Mississippi.

Within Emmet County USBR 35 follows both existing trails and roadways. Entering Emmet County from the west the route will follow the Little Traverse Wheelway into Harbor Springs. The route turns to follow State Rd. north to Cross Village. After reaching Cross Village the route turns east along Levering Rd. USBR 35 continues along the following roads; Canby, Gill, Cecil Bay, East Wilderness and Trails End, until it connects with the Northwestern State Trail. Northwestern State Trail takes the route into Mackinaw City where the route follows Nicolet Street and Central Avenue to the ferries. Bicycle maps can be located through the Michigan Department of Transportation's web-site:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/travel/safety/road-users/bicycling/bicycle-maps>

Equestrian Trails

Currently in Emmet County designated trails for riding are limited to, two Little Traverse Conservancy properties; Good Hart Farm and Elmer Johnston preserve. Horseback riding is allowed on non-motorized trails. Riding is also allowed on State Forest roads and State Forest lands that are not posted closed to horse use. Horseback riding is growing in popularity. According to the American Horse Council Foundation, the equine industry contributes an estimated \$2.6 billion annually to Michigan's economy. A Polo club in Bliss Township adds to the equine activities during the summer months.

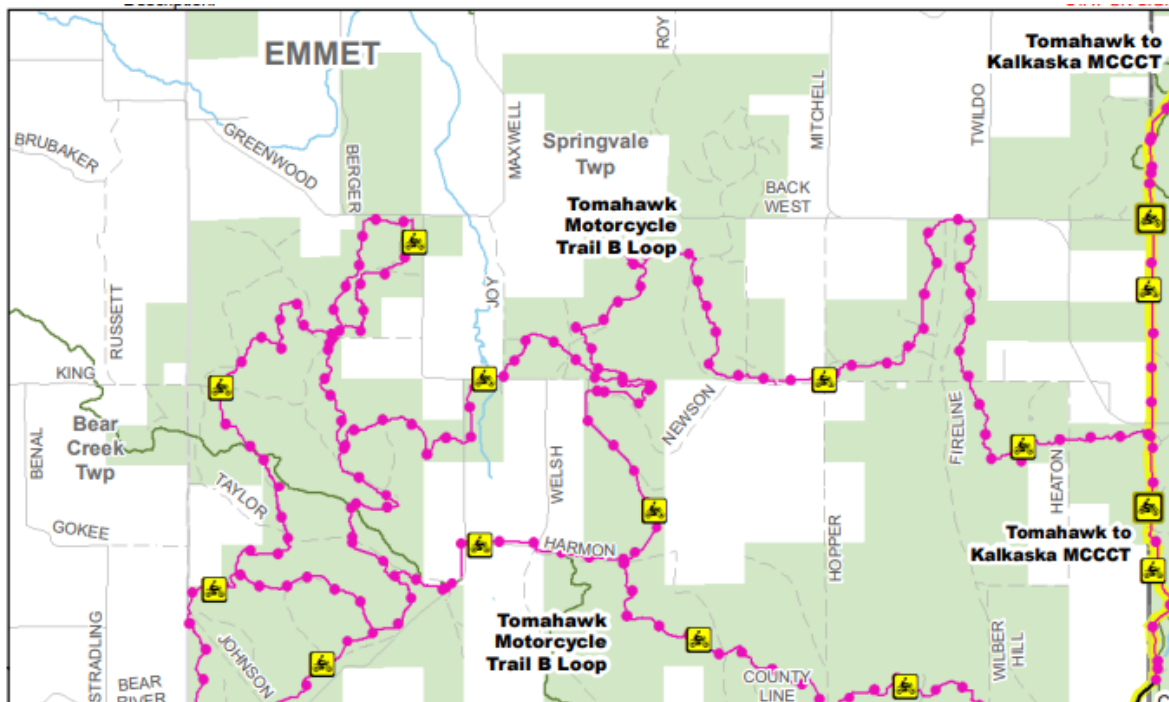


Map 5-4: Bicycle Route 35

Motorized Trails

Tomahawk Trail

The Tomahawk Trail consists of three (3) loops totaling 94 miles of motorized trails for motorcycles. The loops cross over Emmet, Charlevoix, and Cheboygan County properties. Part of loop B containing 40 miles crosses into the southern part of Emmet County. The trail is managed and maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



Map 5-5: Tomahawk Trails in Emmet County

Indian Garden ORV Route

This route is combination of dirt, gravel and paved roads totaling 36 miles. It crosses through 3 townships. A parking area is located near the corner of State Road and Middle Village on Michigan Department of Natural Resources owned land.

ORV Trails

A state-wide effort to increase trails for off-road vehicles is underway. Select State forest roads are now open, as of January 1, 2018, to ORV traffic and an interactive map has been created showing those trails: <http://www.michigan.gov/som/0,4669,7-192-26847-455653--,00.html>.



Snowmobile trails

Over 100 miles of groomed interconnecting snowmobile trails exist in Emmet County. These trails pass through many towns and connect neighboring counties. They are groomed and maintained by Michigan Department of Natural Resources and local snowmobile clubs.

North Western State Trail

The 32 mile trail follows the old railroad corridor from M-119 to Mackinaw City. It intersects directly with the Little Traverse Wheelway near Spring Lake Park connecting the communities of Conway, Oden and Alanson to Petoskey and Harbor Springs. The first 7 miles of the trail surface is paved with asphalt starting at M-119 up to Alanson. The remainder of the trail from Alanson to Mackinaw City was completed in 2016 and has a crushed and packed limestone surface. This section of the trail is multiuse with horses allowed in the summer months and snowmobiles in the winter.



Water Trails

Northern Michigan Inland Waterway

This waterway, 38.2 miles, is Michigan’s longest chain of lakes and rivers. It starts in Pickerel Lake and winds its way through three lakes, three rivers and two counties ending in Lake Huron. The route also passes through two locks and one Swing Bridge for a truly unique recreational adventure which operates on-demand during the summer season. Multiple boat launches along the way provide convenient access.

Crooked River Lock

In 2012 the Crooked River Lock came under the management of Emmet County. The County signed a lease with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the operation and management of the Lock. This arrangement allows for the extending of the operating season and lowering of passage fees. The Lock is typically open to recreational boating from mid - April until mid-to-late October.

Bear River Valley Recreation Area White Water Park

The Bear River provides one of the best whitewater recreation areas in the Midwest. This section of the river is 1.5 miles long, providing 11-14 drops or waves and up to class III level of difficulty. The course flows through what once was home to multiple dams and various industries. The Bear River has more fall than any other river in the lower peninsula of Michigan.

Public Swimming Beaches / Water Access

A parks and recreation use survey was conducted by the county in 2021 into 2022. The results show swimming ranks in the top five (5) recreational activities of residents along with boating, hiking/walking, bicycling, and camping. Results also showed over half of respondents felt water access available to the public and waterfront access was insufficient. More detailed results of the survey are shown in the appendix. Clearly access to public water ways is important to the residents of Emmet County. Public swimming beaches are distributed fairly evenly throughout the county as shown below in Table 5-3 with eleven (11) of the sixteen (16) townships having at least one public beach. In addition to the swim beaches listed below, Map 3-2 highlights areas that provide public water access points. All public roads that end at the water also can provide access to the water. Not all road ends are shown on the map.

Table 5-3: Public Swimming Beaches			
Township/City Location	Body of Water	Beach Name	Location
Bear Creek	Lake Michigan	Petoskey State Park	M-119
	Walloon Lake	Jones Landing	West Gruler Rd.
Bliss	Lake Michigan	Sturgeon Bay (MDNR)	N. Lakeshore Dr.
	Lake Michigan	Wilderness State Park	Wilderness Park Dr.
Carp Lake	Paradise Lake		End of Blake Dr.
Center	Lark's Lake	Lark's Lake Pioneer Park	Latocha Rd.
Cross Village	Lake Michigan	The Port of Cross	Waterfront Dr.
	Wycamp Lake	Wycamp Lake (MDNR)	Wycamp Rd.
Harbor Springs	Lake Michigan	Zoll Street Park	End of Zoll St.
	Lake Michigan	City Beach	W. Bay St.
Little Traverse	Crooked Lake	Little Traverse Beach	US 31
Littlefield	Pickerel Lake	Camp Petosega	
	Crooked Lake	Walter Dow Roadside Park	Oden Rd.
Petoskey	Lake Michigan	Magnus City Park	W. Lake St.
Readmond	Lake Michigan	Park Preserve	N. Lamkin Dr.
	Lake Michigan	Middle Village Park (Readmond/Friendship Twp.)	S. Lamkin Dr.
Resort	Walloon Lake	Resort Pike Park	Resort Pike Rd.
	Walloon Lake	Morford Park	Lake Grove Rd.
Springvale	Crooked Lake	Channel Road Park	Channel Rd.
	Pickerel Lake	Township Park Road Park	Township Park Rd.
	Crooked Lake	Channel Road Park (MDNR)	Channel Rd.
West Traverse	Lake Michigan	Thorne Swift Nature Preserve	Lower Shore Dr.
Wawatam	Lake Michigan	Cecil Bay (Emmet County)	Pointe Dr.
	Lake Michigan	Headlands (Emmet County)	E. Wilderness Park Dr.
	Lake Michigan	Beach 1 (managed by Village of Mackinaw City)	Corner of Esther Land and E. Wilderness Park Dr.
	Lake Michigan	Beach 2 (managed by the Village of Mackinaw City)	Approximately 1 mile west of Beach1 on E. Wilderness Park Dr.

Data Source: Office of Planning, Zoning, & Construction Resources, 2017

Private/Semi-private Recreation

Private and semi-private recreation uses also contribute to the inventory of recreational facilities that are available within Emmet County. A variety of private facilities exist which encompass a substantial area of land. The following Table 5-4 summarizes the dominant private and semi-private uses including those considered to be commercial amusement. Additionally, several farms now offer outdoor recreation, including Pond Hill Farms in West Traverse Township and Uncle Frank's Apple Town in Maple River Township.

Table 5-4 Private and Semi-Private Recreational Facilities			
Facility	Location by Township or Reference	Approximate Acreage	Use-
Alanson Marinas	Village of Alanson	1.5	
El Rancho Campground/ Resort	Village of Alanson	40.0	
Crooked River RV Park	Village of Alanson	1.7	
Bear River Canoe Livery	Bear Creek	5.0	
Hearthside Grove RV Resort	Bear Creek	20.2	
Petoskey Snowmobile Club	Bear Creek	2.1	

Pirates Cove Adventure Golf	Bear Creek	3.3
Sports Center in Fochtman Industrial Park	Bear Creek	0.5
Jellystone Campground	Bear Creek	26.4
Bliss Polo Club	Bliss	81.0
Marina (Jordan)	Carp Lake	0.3
Irish Boatworks	City of Harbor Springs	5.7
Walstrom Marina	City of Harbor Springs	3.1
Harbor Springs Yacht Club	City of Harbor Springs	0.5
Crooked Lake Yacht Club	Littlefield	0.5
Ryde Marina	Littlefield	0.5
Windjammer Marine	Littlefield	2.5
Crooked Lake Outboard Club	Little Traverse	1.3
Bay Tennis & Fitness	Little Traverse	2.7
Petoskey Ice Arena	Little Traverse	3.4
Northern Lights Recreation Center	Little Traverse	6.0
Morgan Trout Ponds	Maple River	20.0
Boyne Highlands Ski Resort	Pleasantview	1,780.0
Nubs Nob Ski Resort	Pleasantview	200.0
Bay Harbor Yacht Club	Resort	9.8
KOA- Campground	Wawatam	45
Trout Ponds	Wawatam	0.5
Birchwood Farm and Country Club	West Traverse	540.0 (part)
Five Mile Creek Community Center	West Traverse	2.0
Data Source: Emmet County Office of Planning, Zoning, & Construction Resources, 2017		



Polo Club, Bliss Township

Fifty privately owned properties within Emmet County are classified as Commercial Forest (CF). These properties are listed with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and qualify for reduced property taxes. As part of the program, the properties are available to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping, and other non-motorized recreational use.

The most significant private uses are the major resorts Boyne Highlands, Bay Harbor, Nubs Nob, and Birchwood Farms. Combined with golf courses shown in Table 5-5, these facilities provide extensive outdoor recreational services.

Table 5-5: Golf Course Inventory, Emmet County		
Identifying Name	Approx. Acreage	Township Location
Bay Harbor	280	Resort
Birchwood Farms (P)	390	West Traverse
Boyne Highlands	620	Pleasantview
Chestnut Valley	100	Pleasantview
Crooked Tree	160	Resort
Harbor Point (P)	100	West Traverse
Hidden River	220	Maple River
Mackinaw Club	180	Carp Lake
Petoskey-Bay View (P)	120	Bear Creek
True North (P)	212	Friendship
Wequetonsing (P)	150	Little Traverse
TOTALS	2532	
Data Source: Emmet County Office of Planning, Zoning, & Construction Resources, 2022 (P) Private Club		

Indoor Recreation

While the majority of the public recreation is outdoor recreation, a significant number of indoor recreational opportunities are available for citizens and visitors of Emmet County. In the public sector, North Central Michigan College offers a Community Resource Center including a walking track, fitness facility, and gymnasium. Several schools offer their hallways for walking and gymnasiums for recreational opportunities, and Harbor Springs Schools offers a swimming pool for some recreational use. Many private recreational facilities are available usually through memberships -- these include indoor tennis and racquetball, fitness machines, free-weight lifting, organized sports, yoga classes, Pilates, dance, bowling, and more. Opportunities abound for both individual and team sports through private and semi-private organizations.

Two indoor sports growing in popularity in Emmet County are ice hockey and curling. One indoor ice hockey facility, Petoskey Ice Arena, located in Little Traverse Township hosts participants from Emmet and surrounding counties. The local hockey associations sponsor free clinics for beginner skaters, as well as clinics for intermediate and advanced players. They also host tournaments which enhance the economic development of the county. An opportunity exists for locating a curling facility in Emmet County.

Pickleball is another indoor and outdoor recreation growing in popularity. The sport has gained popularity as it appeals to all age groups.

6.0 Planning and Public Input Process

Planning Methods

The Planning Department, in consultation with the Parks and Recreation Department, prepared the plan in accordance with *Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans* and in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.

Public Input Process (Survey)

The main mechanism used to gather public input was a community-wide survey. The survey was first launched on the County's web-site and social media on July 22, 2021. The survey was also provided to all users of the County Parks in summer and fall of 2021. To boost responses, an insert was sent with the winter tax bills to all property owners within Emmet County except within McKinley, Wawatam and West Traverse Townships. The tax-bill insert invited emails, calls, or survey participation. The survey continued through January 2022 and 1,635 responses were received.

Involving the public in the recreation planning process is a favorable way to better meet the recreational needs of the County's changing and growing population as well as to anticipate forthcoming recreation trends. Many of the suggestions included in the survey are part of the Action Plan for the coming years.

The surveys and recreation inventory lists were sent to all townships, cities and villages throughout Emmet County. Follow-up emails were sent to encourage responses.

- Parks and Recreation Board Kick-Off Meeting, May 4, 2021

The recreation planning process began in May, 2021. The Parks and Recreation Board was presented with a preliminary planning timeline for the updated Recreation Plan. The Board reviewed the survey questions and recommended approval of the questions to the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners approved the survey questions during their June, 2021 meeting.

- Parks and Recreation Board Meeting, monthly meetings

Each month since May, 2021, the Parks and Recreation Director updated the Parks and Recreation Board of the progress being made on the Recreation Plan. The survey results were shared with the Board as they became available. Following the survey, drafts of the plan were distributed to Board members for review and comment. On June 14, 2022, draft 3 of the Emmet County Parks and Recreation Plan was recommended to be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

- Distribution of Plan

The draft plan was made available on the Emmet County web-site and provided to the various governmental units within and adjacent to Emmet County starting on July 21, 2022. The Plan was printed and distributed to public libraries located within Emmet County. Citizen input was collected and discussed during public meetings. The plan was modified as a result of the public input received. Public Comments were received through September 12, 2022 and have been incorporated into this plan.

Public Hearing - Emmet County Planning Commission, December 8, 2022

The Emmet County Planning Commission published notice and held a public hearing during their regular monthly meeting held on December 8, 2022. Minutes from the Public Hearing is included within the appendix of this plan.

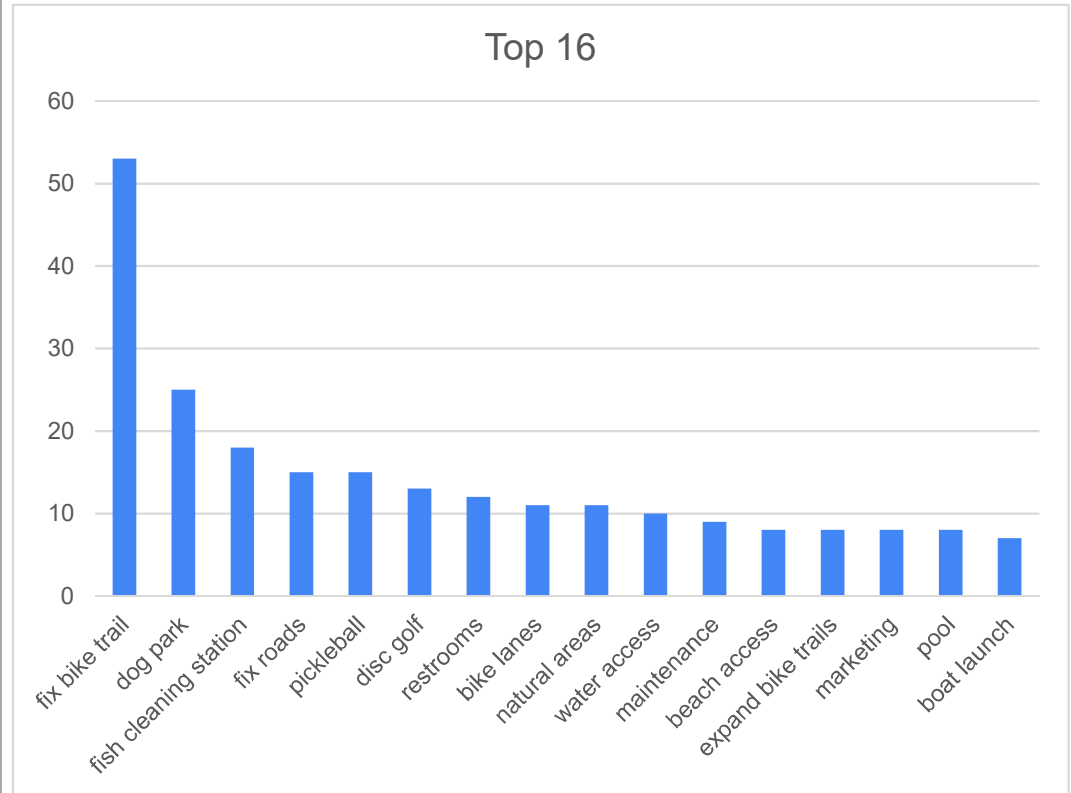
Final Adoption - Emmet County Board of Commissioners, December 20, 2022

The Emmet County Board of Commissioners posted the Recreation Plan on December 16, 2022 for consideration during their December 20, 2022 meeting. The Board passed the Resolution, made part of this document within the appendix of this plan.

26. Please provide any other comments or suggestions you might have regarding Emmet County recreation programs and facilities.

fix bike trail	53	mountain bike trails	2
dog park	25	native plants	2
fish cleaning station	18	playgrounds	2
fix roads	15	shooting sports	2
pickleball	15	swimmers itch	2
disc golf	13	baby park	1
restrooms	12	bike stands	1
bike lanes	11	fix bike trail	1
natural areas	11	bird watching	1
water access	10	cabin rentals	1
maintenance	9	camping at Headlands	1
beach access	8	childrens garden	1
expand bike trails	8	concession stands	1
marketing	8	dispersed camping	1
pool	8	expand marina	1
boat launch	7	glamping	1
cross country skiing	6	golf courses	1
invasive species	6	hiking preserves	1
sidewalks	5	ice arena	1
signage	5	ice climbing tower	1
Swimming	5	indoor walking facilities	1
ada accessibility	4	lifeguards	1
fishing	4	light pollution	1
Hunting	4	long term planning	1
orv access	4	paddle accessibility	1
public transit	4	parking	1
curling	3	parking downtown	1
dark sky programming	3	pave bike trail north of alanson	1
Horse Back riding	3	protect watersheds	1
picnic areas	3	recreation center	1
programming	3	rentals	1
snowmobile access	3	rock climbing	1
youth development	3	skateboarding	1
beaches	2	sledding	1
gardens	2	staffing	1
housing	2	stop line 5	1
kayak rental	2	tennis	1
land acquisition	2	trail maps	1

trash receptables	1
update marina	1
update showers	1
water bottle refill station	1
water park	1
water quality	1
waterfront	1
website updating	1





Emmet County Parks & Rec Survey 2021

Questions Responses 1,635 Settings

1,635 responses



Not accepting responses



Message for respondents

This form is no longer accepting responses

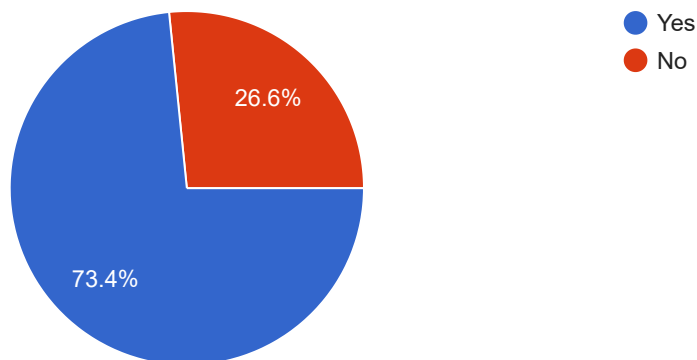
Summary

Question

Individual

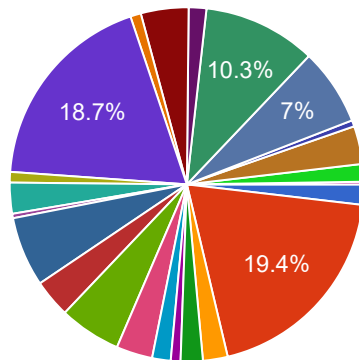
1. Are you a permanent resident of Emmet County? (If no, please skip to question 3)

1,635 responses



2. This question is for permanent residents of Emmet County. Where in the county do you live?

1,240 responses

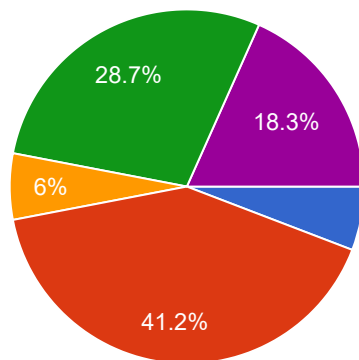


- Village of Alanson
- Bear Creek Township
- Bliss Township
- Carp Lake Township
- Center Township
- Cross Village Township
- Friendship Township
- City of Harbor Springs

▲ 1/3 ▼

3. This question is for NON-RESIDENTS of Emmet County only. Which of the following best describes your connection to Emmet County?

464 responses

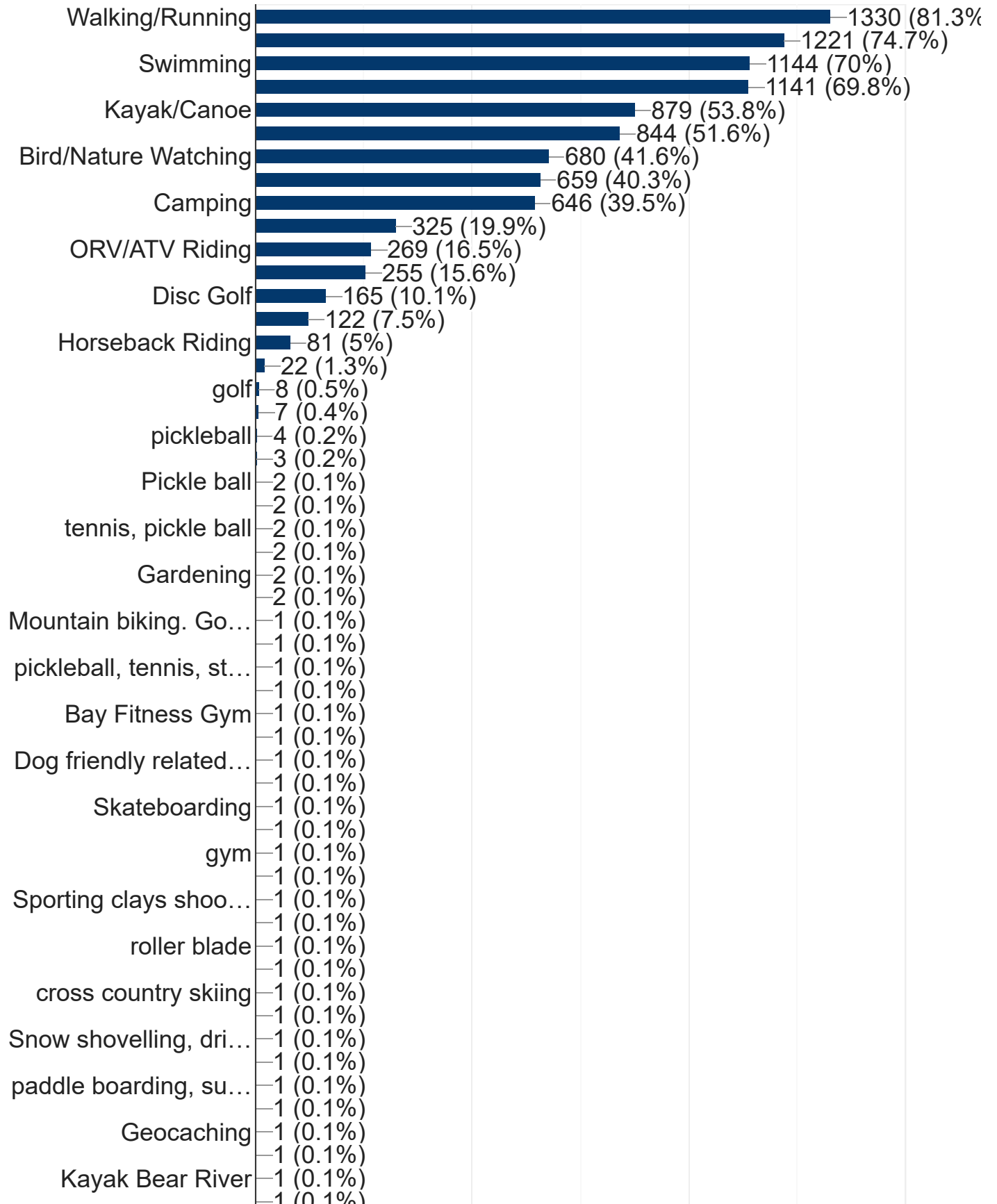


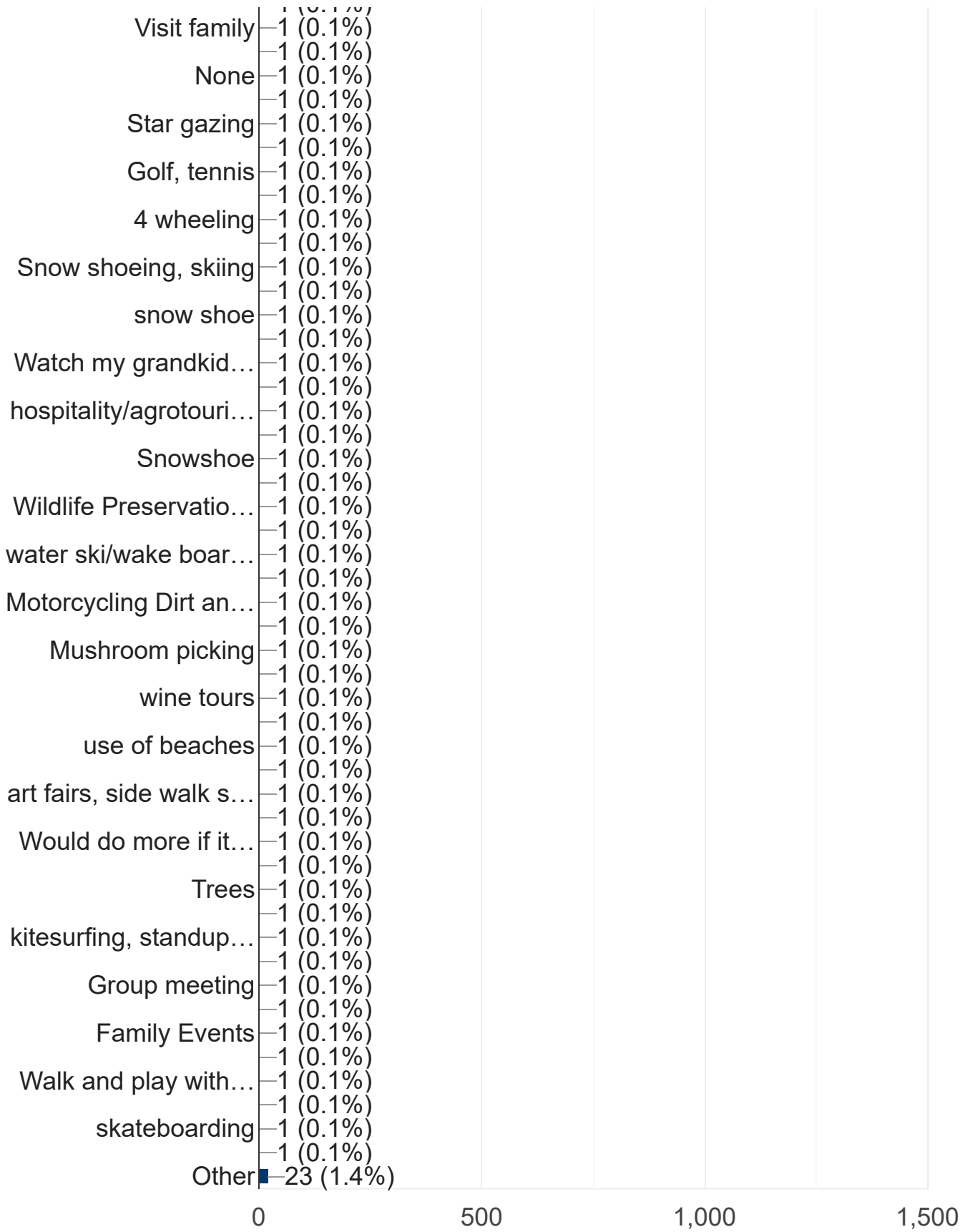
- I work in Emmet County
- I live in Emmet County for part of the year (seasonal resident)
- I live in an adjacent county
- I own land in Emmet County
- I am visiting from out of the area

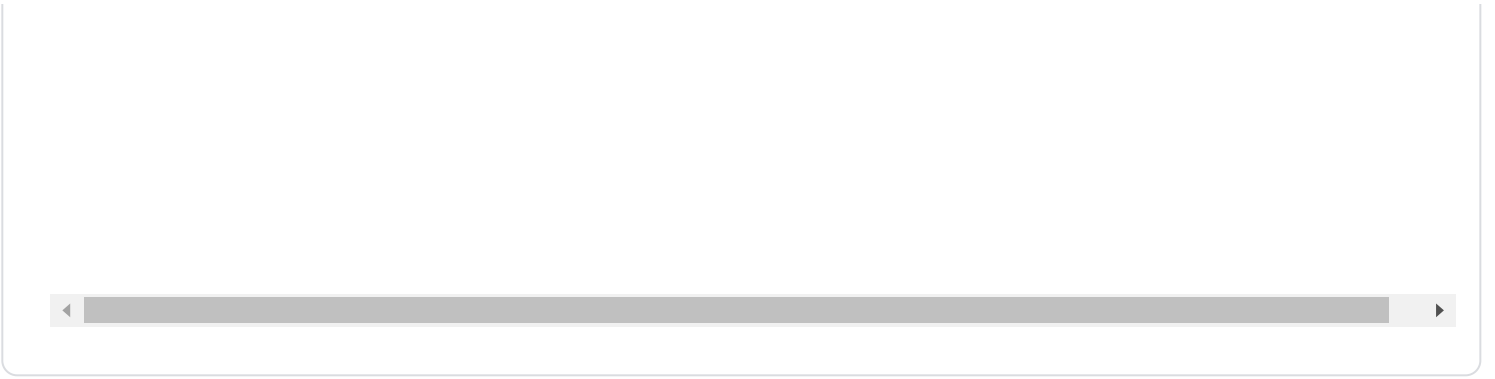
▲ 1/3 ▼

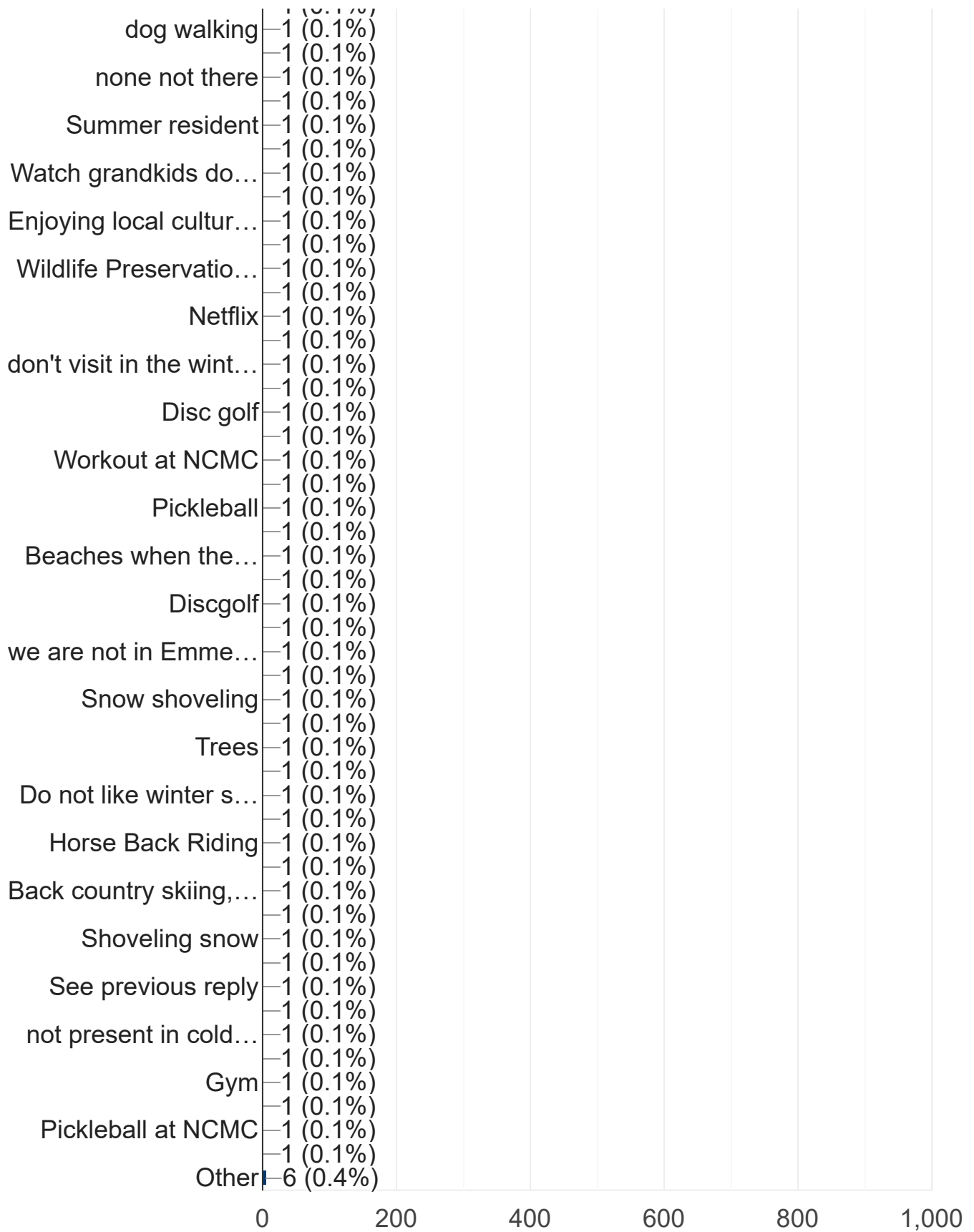
4. Which of the following recreational activities do you participate in within Emmet County during warm-weather months? (Check all that apply)

1,635 responses

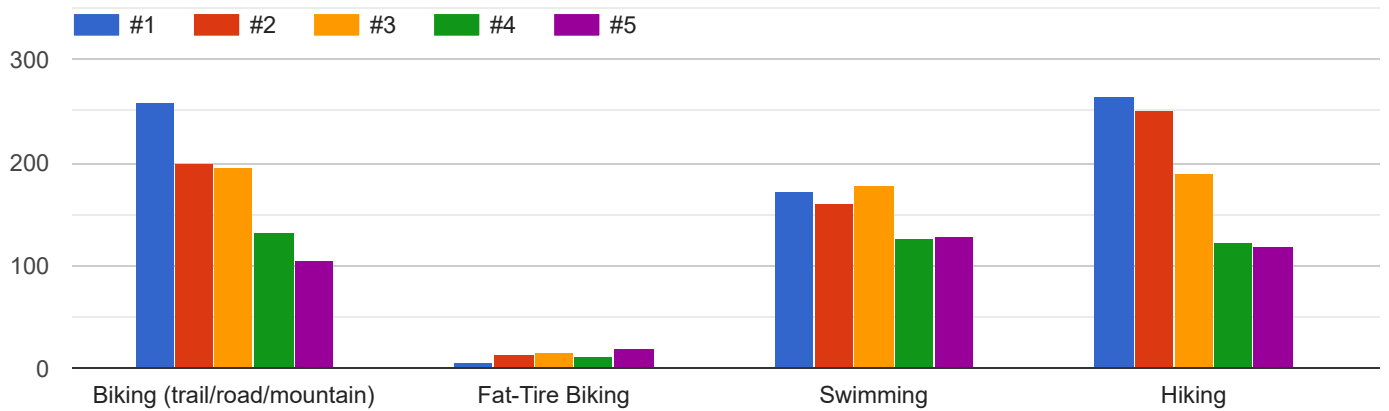




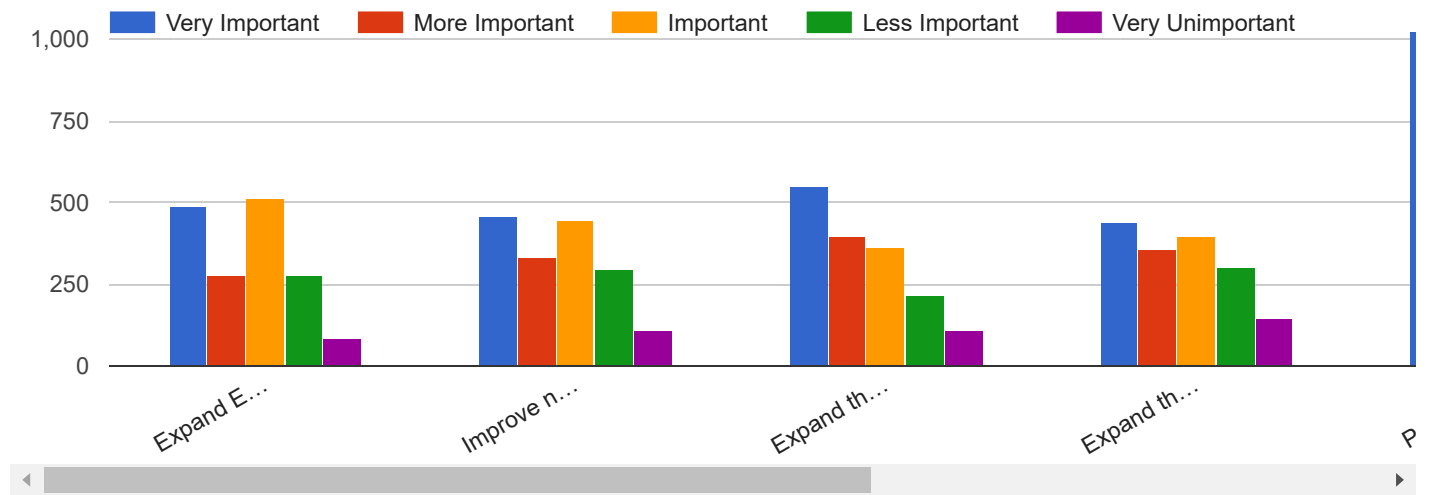




6. Please choose your top five recreation activities in Emmet County and rank them by importance to you (with 1 being your highest-ranked activity)

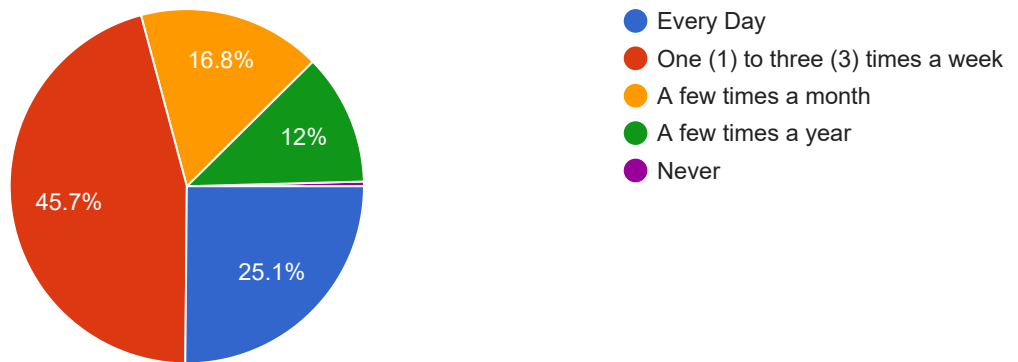


7. How important are each of the following development priorities within Emmet County for the next 5-10 years?



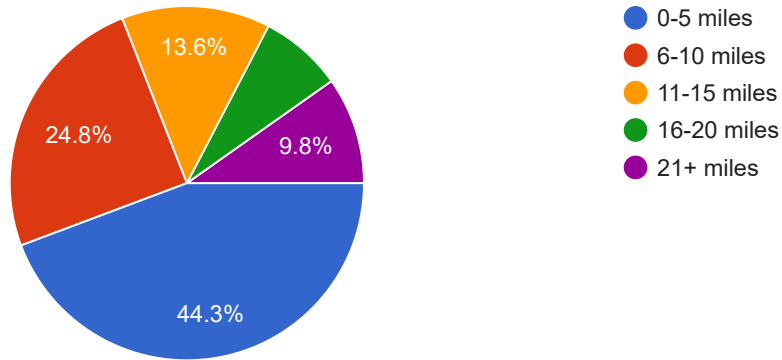
8. How often do you participate in recreation activities in Emmet County?

1,635 responses



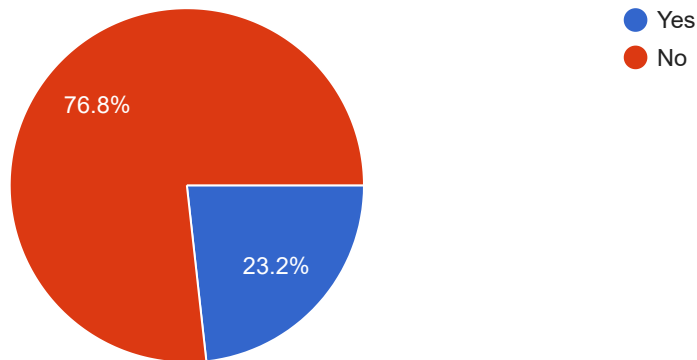
9. How far do you typically travel to use recreational facilities within Emmet County?

1,635 responses



10. Are there recreational activities that you would like to participate in that are not available in Emmet County?

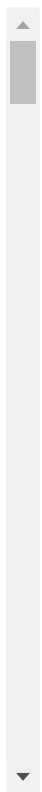
1,635 responses



11. If you answered yes to Question 10, what activities would you like to participate in?

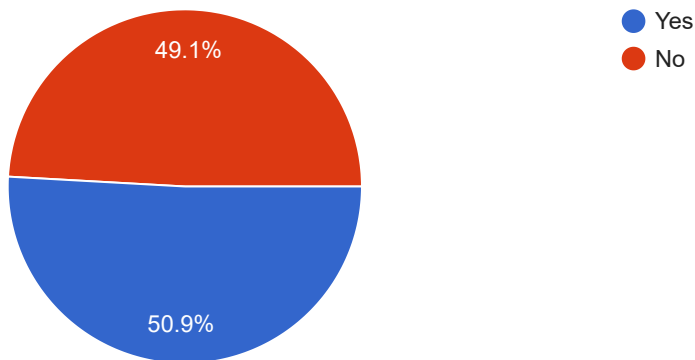
364 responses

- Dog park
- Curling
- Indoor swimming
- Dog Park
- Indoor swimming pool
- Pickleball
- Splash pad
- curling
- Rock Climbing



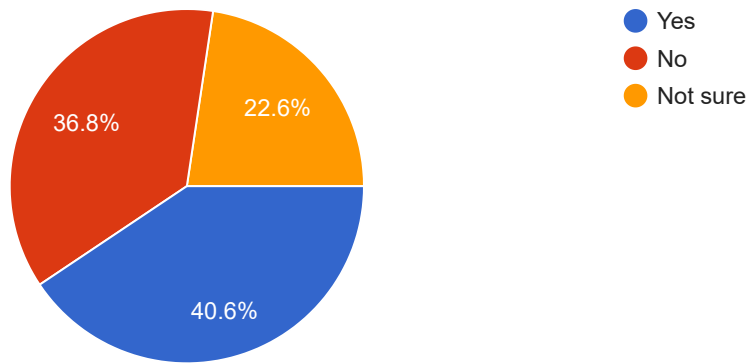
12. Do you ever travel outside of Emmet County to partake in recreational activities that aren't available within the county?

1,635 responses



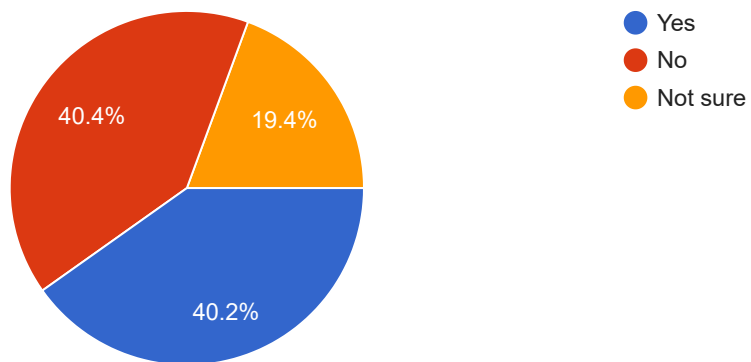
13. Do you think there are enough waterfront parks in Emmet County?

1,635 responses



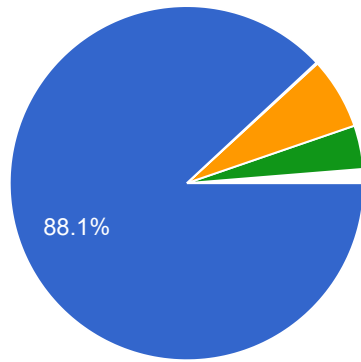
14. Do you think there is enough public water access in Emmet County?

1,635 responses



15. How do you typically travel to recreation facilities or locations in Emmet County?

1,635 responses



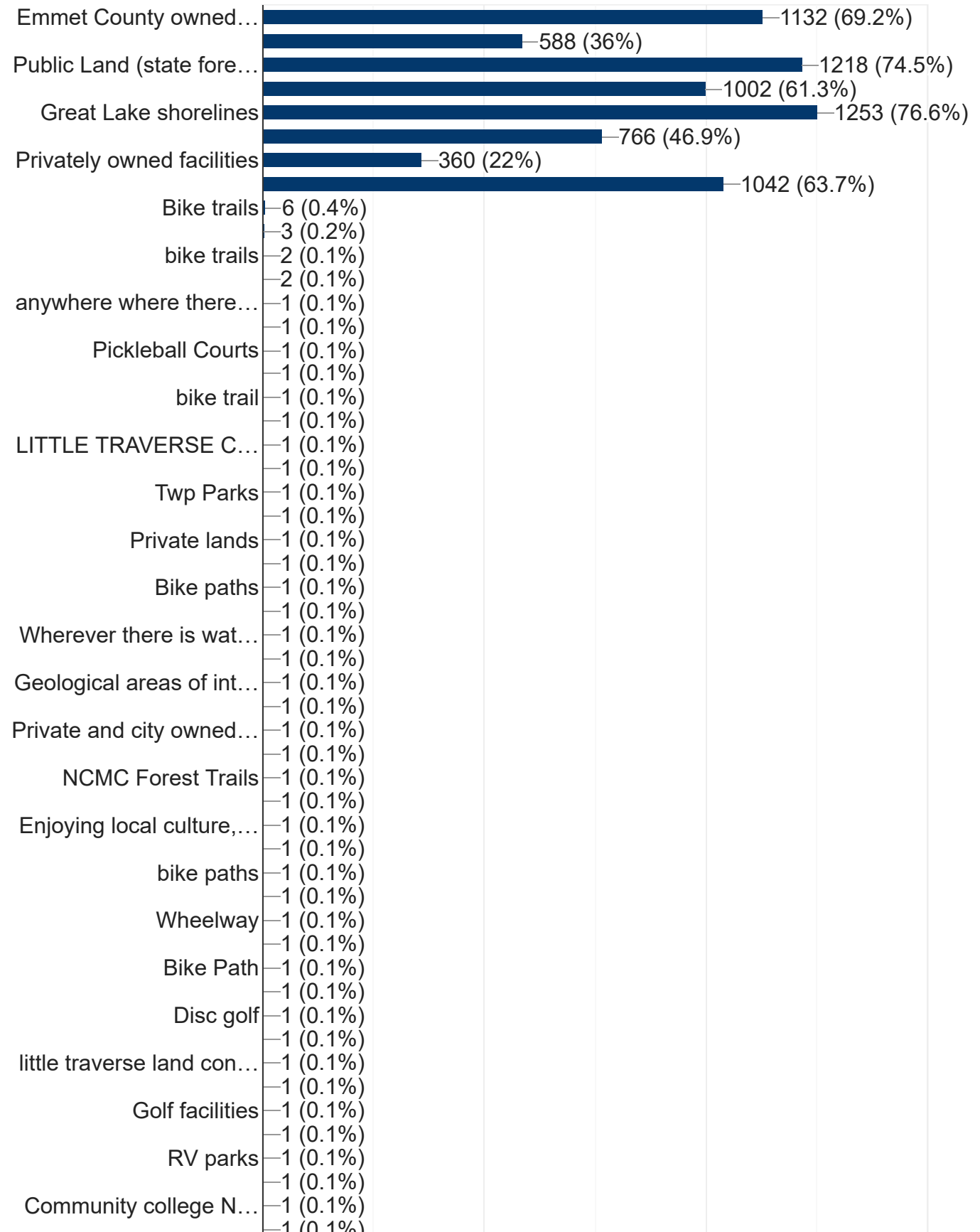
- Personal Vehicle
- Public Transportation
- Walk/run
- Bicycle
- I usually walk or if need to, take the car
- boat
- Boat
- Multiple: car, walk, bike. Would take p...

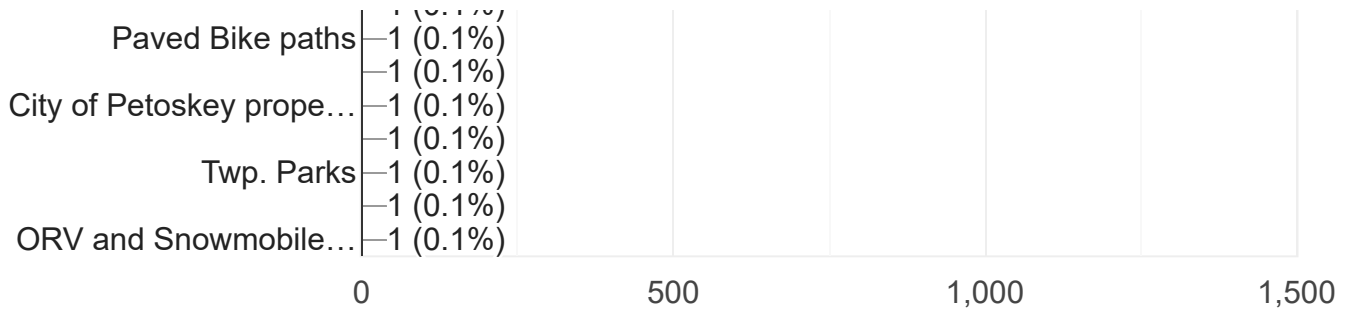
▲ 1/4 ▼



16. What type of recreational amenities do you typically spend time at? (choose all that apply)

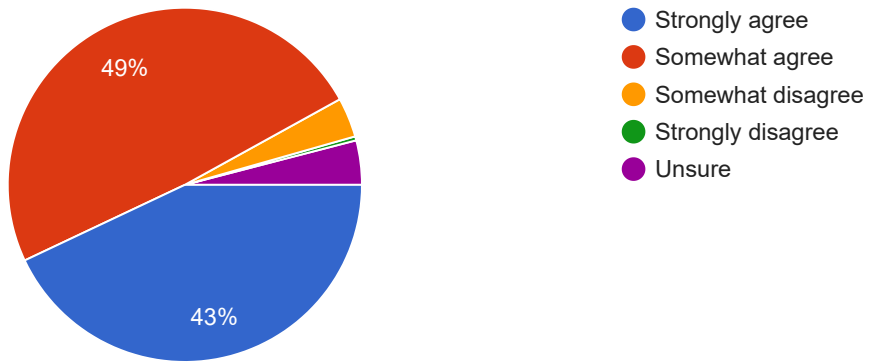
1,635 responses





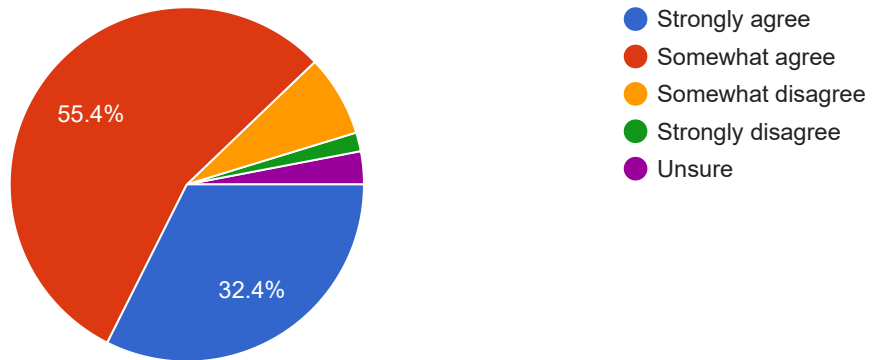
17. Parks and facilities in Emmet County are well-maintained.

1,631 responses



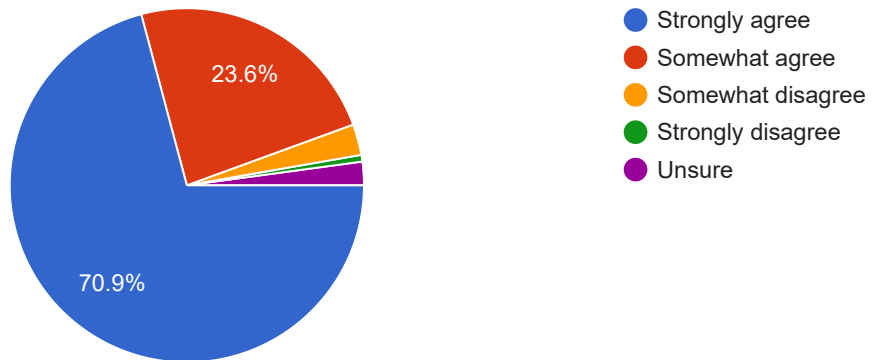
18. Parks and facilities in Emmet County provide adequate amenities that appeal to my recreation interests.

1,629 responses



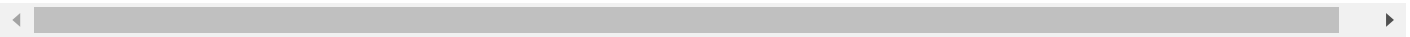
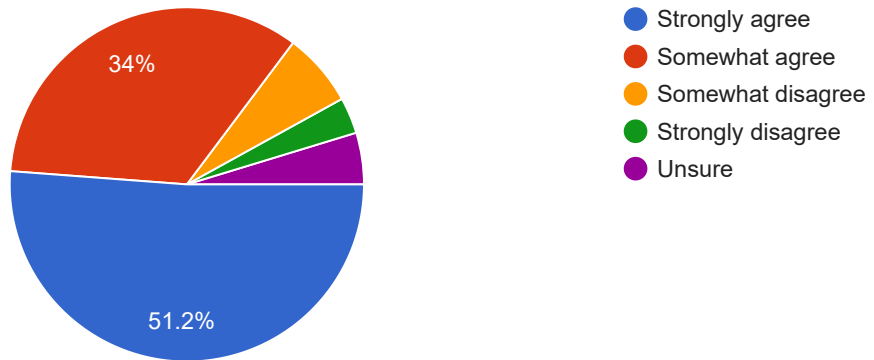
19. Emmet County should prioritize preserving natural areas and water access.

1,633 responses



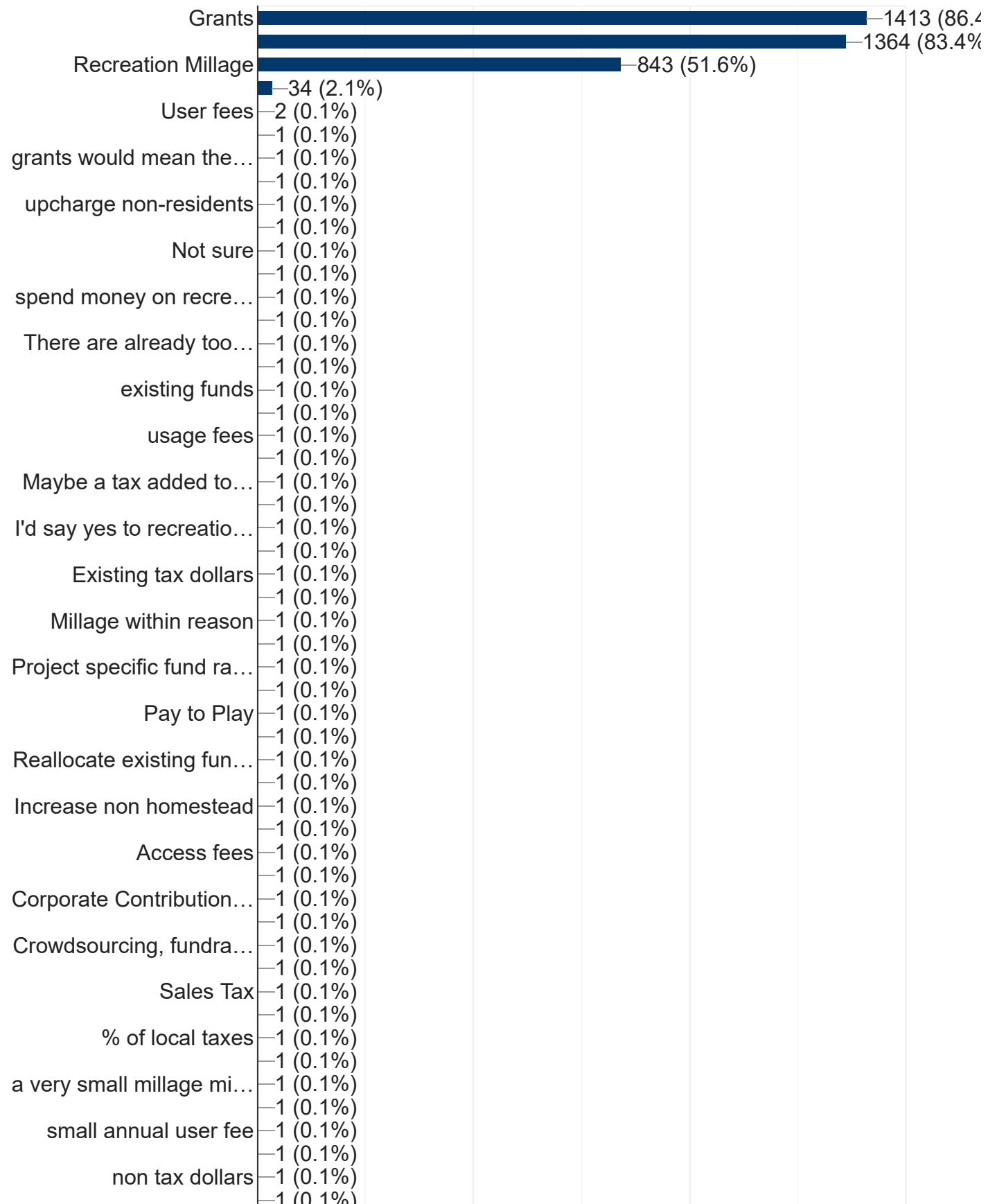
20. Emmet County's residents and visitors would benefit from an increase of non-motorized trails and connections.

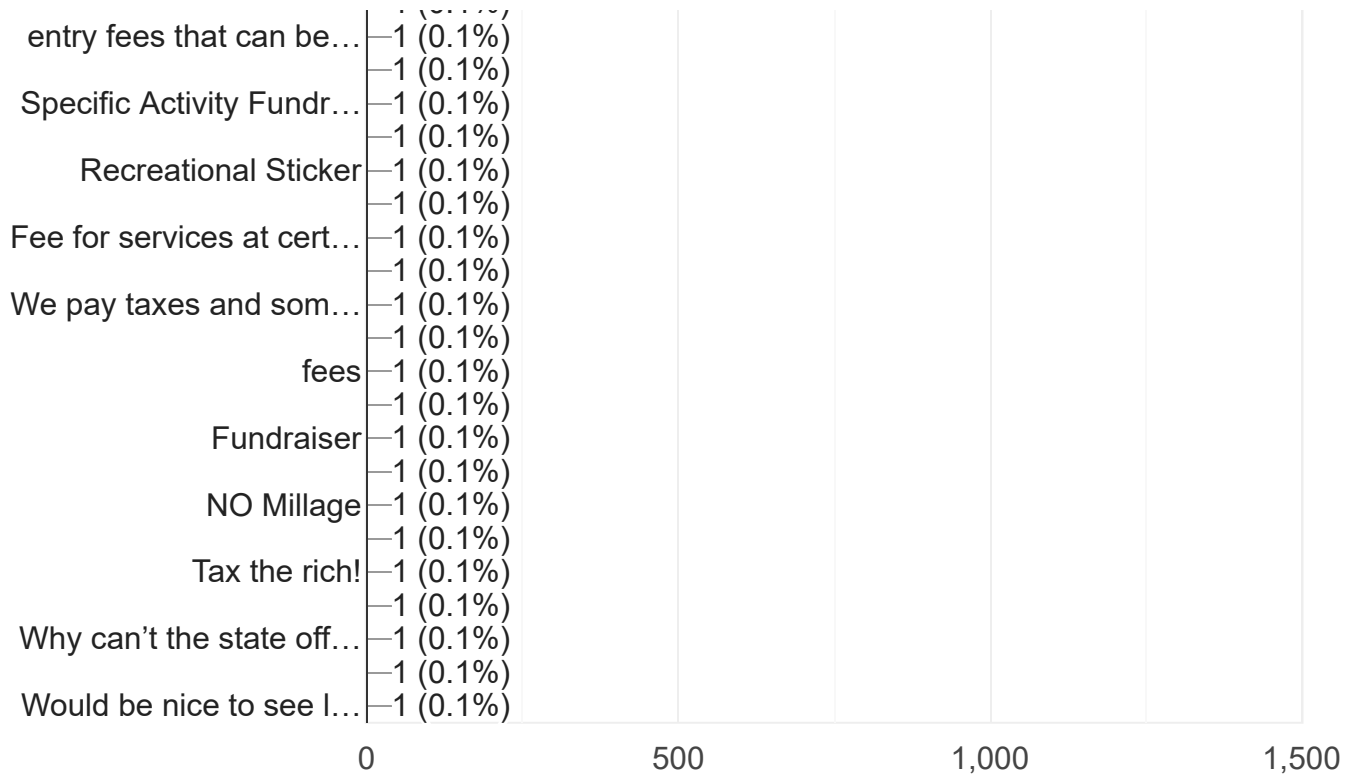
1,633 responses



21. Please choose which recreation funding methods you would support for park and recreation initiatives in Emmet County (choose all that apply).

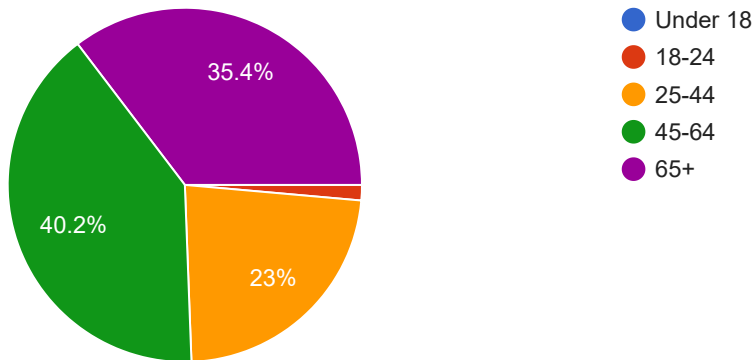
1,635 responses





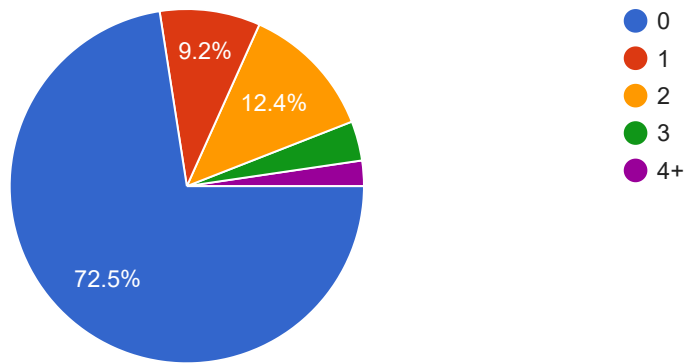
22. What is your age?

1,635 responses



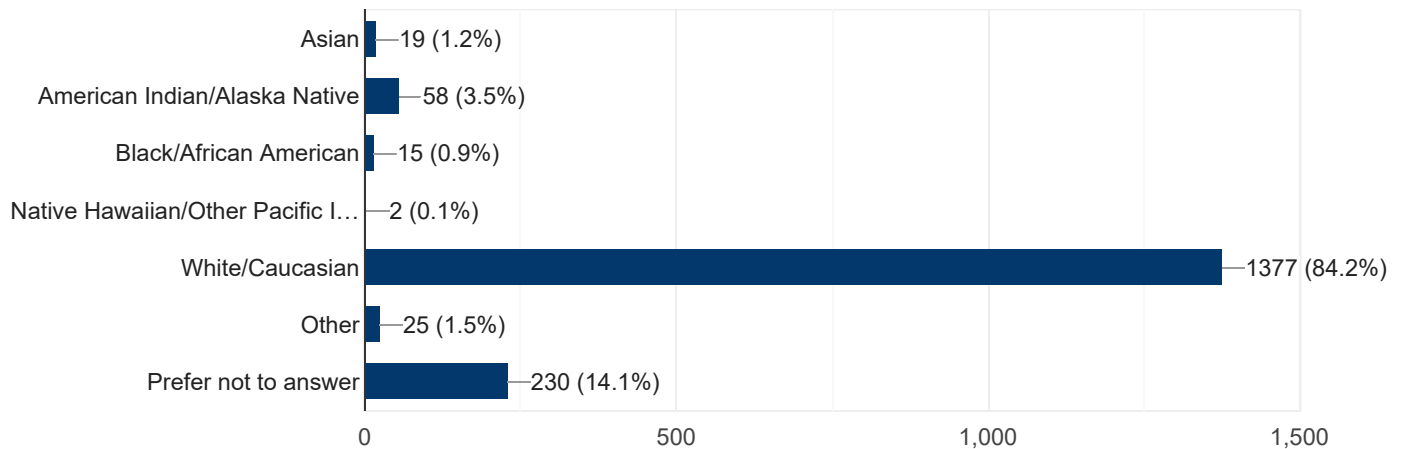
23. How many children under the age of 18 live in your household?

1,635 responses



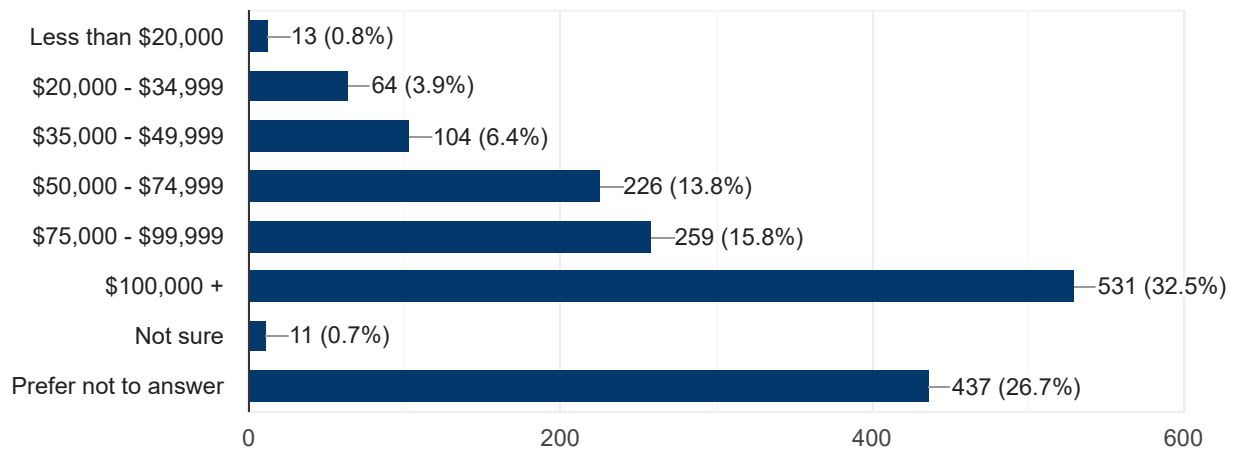
24. What race(s) are represented by the people who live in your household? (choose all the apply)

1,635 responses



25. What is your yearly household income?

1,635 responses



26. Please provide any other comments or suggestions you might have regarding Emmet County recreation programs and facilities.

549 responses

Thank you!

State park fees are way too expensive so we use county facilities like Camp Petosega

I bike to work and the trail being closed because of the landslide has made my commute less safe on the way to Bay Harbor.

City of Petoskey needs sidewalks for both sides of the road not just one. Spring Street especially!

We very much enjoy the Guest House and the Dark Sky Park. Great for family get togethers.

fix washed out bike trail, discourage commercial use of boat launches, plan future bike trails away from high traffic road ways. Keep up the good work.

Sell the dark sky park and reinvest the \$ into something that tax payers can actually use.

Please add a dog park somewhere in the County!!

