

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP

Parks and Recreation Plan

2027 - 2031

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Introduction

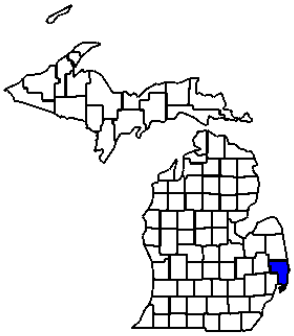
Port Huron Township recognizes that an ongoing commitment to its parks and recreation facilities and programs is a vital investment in its future. These programs and facilities have a unique potential to increase an overall quality of life for both current and future generations of Township residents. Promoting personal health and education, fostering economic activity, creating intricate social networks, and protecting environmental landscapes, are some of the most compelling benefits gained through well-maintained parks and recreation facilities. Ultimately these benefits are contingent upon a well planned and executed system of parks, trails, open space, water access, and recreational programming.

This Parks & Recreation Plan provides the community with a five-year work plan and a long-range vision to guide future recreational investments. The Township of Port Huron intends to use this plan to: guide decisions on capital improvement projects, guide the acquisition of open space and available public buildings, explore the implementation of future recreational programming, and pursue both state and federal grant opportunities.

The Plan follows the guidelines set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and includes the following:

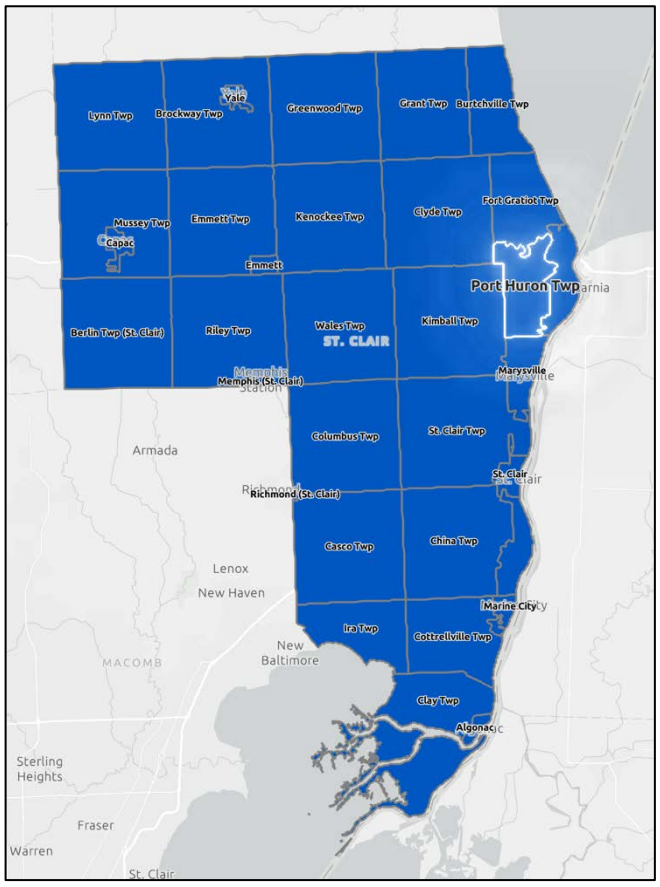
- Community Description
- Administrative Structure
- Parks & Recreation Inventory
- Resource Inventory
- Recreational Needs & Opportunity Analysis
- Planning & Public Input Process
- Goals and Objectives
- Action Strategies

Community Description



The following is a description of the various physical features of Port Huron Township. This description is important to the recreation planning process because it establishes the physical context in which future decisions regarding recreation facility and program development will take place.

Community Profile



Port Huron Township is a 13-square-mile charter township in St. Clair County bordered by the City of Port Huron to the north, Fort Gratiot Township to the northwest, Kimball Township to the west and southwest, the City of Marysville directly to the south, and the St. Clair River corridor and City of Port Huron's eastern limits forming its broader eastern regional context.

Established in 1827, the township transitioned from early agricultural and transportation-based settlement into a mixed suburban-industrial community shaped by its proximity to Port Huron's commercial, industrial, and waterfront activity. It includes the historic unincorporated communities of South Park and Tappan, and today features a blend of residential neighborhoods, commercial corridors, industrial employers, and natural areas. With a 2020 population of 10,792, Port Huron Township is closely connected to its surrounding municipalities through shared transportation routes, regional recreation systems such as the Bridge-to-Bay Trail, and cross-jurisdictional economic and community activity, making it an integral part of the Blue Water region's urban-suburban fabric.

Population

The estimated 2020 population for Port Huron Township was 10,792 persons. As of 2025, the Census estimated are 10,665. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) projects the Township population will be 11,497 persons by 2050.

Population Trends for Port Huron Township & Surrounding Communities

	2020	2030	2040	2050
Port Huron Township	10,792	10,624	11,382	11,497
City of Port Huron	28,983	28,754	29,479	29,270
Fort Gratiot Township	11,242	11,981	12,460	12,600
Marysville	9,997	10,064	10,548	10,334
Kimball Township	9,609	9,670	10,010	10,194
Clyde Township	5,523	5,143	5,251	5,173

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Households

Average household sizes have dropped across the country, from 2.62 in 2000, to 2.53 in 2019. Michigan overalls has experienced a large drop (2.75 to 2.52) during the same period. Port Huron Township has followed this trend, with the average household size sitting at 2.45 in 2020, dropping from 2.51 in 2010.

Population and Household Data ACS 2020-2024

	Population	Households	Average Household Size
Southeast Michigan	4,813,318	1,947,559	2.47
St. Clair County	160,221	67,816	2.34
Port Huron Township	10,722	4,433	2.45

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Age Characteristics

An important demographic factor influencing recreation planning is the age composition of the community and the extent to which this composition has changed over time. This can assist in matching recreational services to community characteristics, and in determining the special needs of certain age groups.

While the Township's population has decreased, there have been noteable increases in two segments of the population: adults aged 55 to 64, and adults aged 65 to 84. SEMCOG projects that this trend will continue in the Township through 20250. While planning must account for people of all ages, growth among these groups should be carefully considered in the planning of recreation needs now and in the future.

Port Huron Township Population by Age Brackets

	2010	2024	2010 – 2024 Change
Under 5	644	278	-366
5 – 19	2,110	2,121	+11
20 – 34	2,075	1,887	-188
35 – 54	3,124	2,759	-365
55 – 64	1,317	1,851	+534
65 – 84	1,256	1,696	+440
85 +	128	130	+2
Median Age	38.4	40.8	+2.3 years

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Diversity

One important social characteristic of a community is its racial make-up. Understanding the racial composition of a community helps to identify the diverse needs of its population.

The following chart indicates the racial make-up of the Township in both 2010 and 2024.

Port Huron Township Racial Composition

	2010	% of 2010 Population	2024	% of 2024 Population
White	9,412	88.3%	9.314%	86.9%
Black	468	4.4%	594	5.5%
Asian	39	0.4%	39	0.4%
Hispanic	403	3.8%	404	3.8%
Multi-racial	255	2.4%	345	3.2%
Other	77	0.7%	0	0.0%

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Income and Poverty Levels

Studying income and poverty levels is a good way to measure the relative economic health of the community. Port Huron Township has experienced a drop in median income from 2010 to 2024 as county overall and the metropolitan area has seen an increase. The township also has a higher percentage of households living in poverty in comparison to the rest of the region.

Income and Poverty Levels 2010 - 2024

Community	2010 Median Household Income	2024 Median Household Income	Percentage of households living in poverty ACS 2024
Port Huron Township	$63,310	$61,983	15.2%
St. Clair County	$68,638	$71,270	11.7%
Southeast Michigan	$74,205	$77,671	13.5%

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Education Levels

A community's educational attainment metrics are a vital statistic to track. The correlation between education attainment and economic prosperity is remarkably high. As residents continue to gain degrees and credentials, there is more opportunity for job growth. Port Huron Township continues to host a solid base of residents who have graduated from high school, with an increasing number of adult pursuing and completed post-secondary education. The township's education attainment follows county trends.

Highest Level of Education Completed – ACS 2024 (Percentage of Residents)

Highest level of education	Port Huron Township	St. Clair County	Southeast Michigan
Graduate/Professional	7.3%	7.5%	16%
Bachelor's	6.8%	13.2%	22%
Associate	13.6%	12.7%	9%
Some college, no degree	28.3%	25.8%	21%
High school graduate	35.6%	32.8%	25%
Did not graduate from high school	8.4%	7.9%	8%

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Housing & Building Trends

Port Huron Township's housing trends, based on SEMCOG's regional forecasts and monitoring of St. Clair County communities, show steady but moderate residential growth, a gradual shift toward newer single-family housing, and continued reinvestment in existing homes rather than large-scale new development. SEMCOG's long-range projections indicate that the township's housing stock has been slowly increasing in unit count, with most growth occurring through incremental infill, small subdivisions, and replacement housing, rather than major greenfield expansion.

Regionally, SEMCOG notes rising demand for smaller, more affordable single-family homes, which aligns with Port Huron Township's existing suburban-industrial character and its predominance of mid-century housing. The township also reflects broader Blue Water Area trends: stable owner-occupancy, aging housing stock, and modest increases in rental units, driven by regional workforce needs.

Overall, SEMCOG's data suggests Port Huron Township will continue experiencing slow, steady housing growth, with reinvestment and incremental development shaping its residential landscape rather than rapid expansion.=

Median Housing Value 2010 – 2018 (ACS 2010 & 2024)

Community	2010	20	Change
Port Huron Township	$202,388	$196,000	-$6,388
St. Clair County	$222,523	$224,600	+$2,077

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Port Huron Township Housing Tenure (ACS 2010 & 2024)

	2010	2024
Owner-Occupied Units	2,785	2,952
Renter Occupied Units	1,259	1,481
Vacant Units	308	115
Total Units	4,352	4,548

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Existing Land Use

Port Huron Township primarily remains an open space suburban community, with undeveloped parcels and residential uses making up most of the land use in the township.

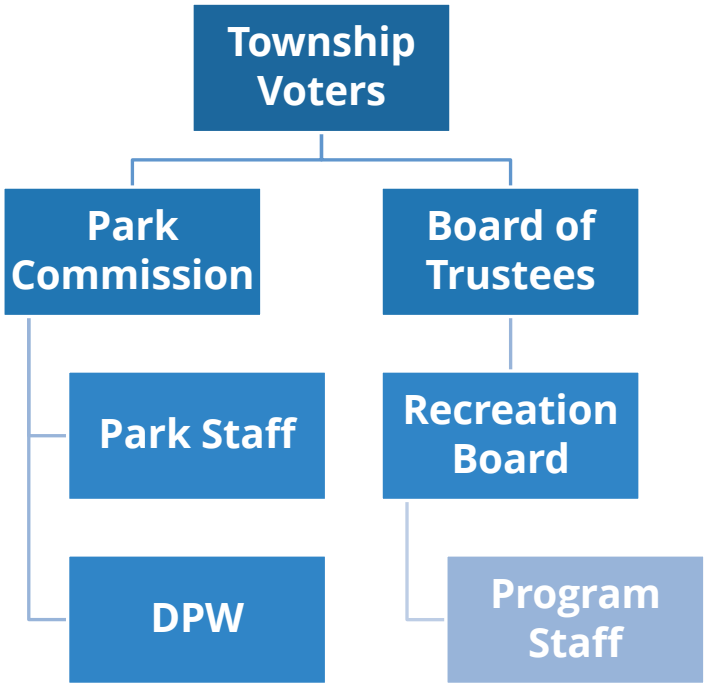
2020 Existing Land Use

Land Use	% of 2020 Acres
Vacant	26.22%
Single Family Residential	24.96%
Agricultural/Rural Residential	15.77%
TCU	6.81%
Recreational/Open Space	4.94%
Institutional	4.19%
Retail	3.74%
Industrial	3.17%
Manufactured Home Park	2.87%
Golf Course	2.47%
Water	2.04%
Office	1.15%
Multi-family housing	0.79%
Hospitality	0.40%
Mixed Use	0.38%
Medical	0.10%

Source: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Administrative Structure

Port Huron Township oversees parks and recreation through two primary groups. The five-member Parks Commission is elected by township voters to four-year terms and is responsible for recreation planning, goal setting, park maintenance, policy development, and budgeting. The Recreation Board manages most public parks and recreation activities, supported by an annual budget allocation from the Township Board.



Park Commission

The Park Commission oversees Township parks and recreation facilities, with except to Baker's Field and the Little League Park which is overseen by the Township Board. While individual commissioners do not have formal duties, each is expected to evaluate assigned parks, monitor conditions and activities, identify concerns, and recommend improvements. Park needs, expenses, and issues are discussed collectively at the Commission's monthly meetings.

The Commission's operating budget is provided by the Township Board through the Township Clerk's Office. On the Township's behalf, the Park Commission may accept gifts,

grants, and donations of land or funds for park development or recreation. However, according to the Township attorney, only the Township Board may legally purchase, own, sell, or acquire property through condemnation under State law.

The Park Commission contributes about $15,000 each year to the Department of Public Works (DPW) for landscaping, maintenance, and repairs. It also works with the DPW on equipment upkeep and grounds-maintenance supplies.

The Park Manager supports daily operations by handling minor repairs, securing park gates, mowing grounds, preparing and lining softball fields, and completing other routine maintenance as needed.

Recreation Board

The nine-member Recreation Board is appointed by the Township Board and operates without formal by-laws. Recreation Board members receive compensation through an annual budget allocation approved by the Township Board. The Board does not employ any full-time staff, as current funding levels do not support dedicated personnel.

Parks And Recreation Budget And Funding

Below are a summary of revenues generated by Parks and Recreation Port Huron Township.

Year	General Fund Recreation Revenue	Park Fund Revenue	Total Parks & Recreation Revenue
2025	$16,040.90	$139,635.96	**$155,676.86**
2026 (YTD as of 8/18/26)	$18,896	$58,433.61	**$77,329.61**

The Township Board and Park Commission maintain a strong working relationship. The Park Commission is responsible for the management and maintenance of Township parks, while the Township Board reviews and approves the Commission's budgets.

Recreation-related expenditures in 2025 included:

- $63,004.11 for Recreation Department operations
- $109l195.02 from the Park Fund

As of August 2026, expenditures for the year were $131,003.79.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MILLAGE

The St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) manages a countywide parks and recreation millage. Under this program, PARC directs 75% of millage revenue to facilities and projects serving countywide needs, while the remaining 25% is distributed to local governments for improvements to community parks, recreation programs, and related facilities.

Since 1995, local communities have received more than $17 million through the millage, substantially supporting local parks and recreation services. Allocations are based on municipal population. From 1995 through 2021, Port Huron Township received $989,711 for parks and recreation activities.

To qualify for continued funding, communities must file an annual report and meet maintenance-of-effort requirements. These requirements ensure that millage funds add to, rather than replace, existing local support for parks and recreation. Local governments must demonstrate that their funding remains at least equal to the level provided before the 1994 millage election.

PARC has also supported capital improvements directly, including the donation of ADA-accessible kayak launches at Bakers Field Park and the Wm. Thompson Pond.

STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS

Since 1972, Port Huron Township has received four MDNR grant awards, though two were later withdrawn. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) has served as an important source of support for the Township's recreation investments.

Other grant programs have also helped fund recreation improvements, including an MDNR Clean Michigan Initiative grant for Hoover School Park and Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance for improvements at Wm. P. Thompson Pond.

PROJECT	YEAR	GRANT AMOUNT	PROJECT TYPE	PUBLIC ACT
Purchase of Bakers Field	2001	$375,000	Acquisition	PA 81 of 2001
Bakers Field Park Development	2009	$282,000	Development	PA 23 of 2009

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 2022

Eligible MDNR grant programs include the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Recreation Passport Grants, Waterways Program Grants, Invasive Species Grants, and Snowmobile/ORV Trail Grants. These programs support land acquisition, park development, water access, habitat restoration, and accessibility improvements.

RECREATION PROGRAMS, COLLABORATION, AND VOLUNTEERS

The Township partners with the County Parks and Recreation Commission, Blueways of St. Clair, community members, and various organizations to provide recreational programs and amenities.

In March, the Township has an Eastern Egg Hunt, and a Fishing Clinic in June. The Township operates a six-week, drop-in Summer Recreation Program for children from kindergarten through age 14. The program features themed days, contests, parties, tournaments, and field trips. Two supervisors and multiple volunteers staff the program.

Each October, the Township hosts a family-friendly Fall Festival in one of its parks. Activities typically include hayrides, children's carnival games, a magic show, fire truck tours, inflatables, and refreshments. A local orchard often participates by offering seasonal items for sale. The Township also organizes a holiday decorating contest open to all residents and outdoor movie '

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP'S PARKS AND RECREATION 2021-2022 BUDGET		
Category	**2025 Total**	**2026 YTD Total**
Personnel	$87,985.58	$70,005.48
Contracted Services	$15,015	$10,428.25
Supplies & Operating	$3,681.50	$2,201.31
Programs	$18,378.31	$19,596.97
Transportation	$4,281.22	$4,853.89
Maintenance & Utilities	$34,487.52	$35,417.89
Capital Outlay	$202,450	$105,000
Total Expenditures	**$172,199.13**	**$131,003.79**

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP'S PARKS AND RECREATION PROJECTED REVENUES		
Revenue Source	**2025 Actual**	**2026 YTD**
Interest (Savings + Investments)	$85,725.60	$43,839.76
Pavilion Rental	$2,115	$1,875
Park Use / Donations	$500	$250
Ball Diamond Rent	$4,860	$4,430

Sign Leasing	$11,496.68	$8,031.67
Tower Lease	$34,938.68	$19,900
Misc Revenue	$500	$7.18
Total Park Fund Revenue	**$139,635.96**	**$58,433.61**

Parks & Recreation Inventory

When a community seeks to develop a comprehensive parks and recreation master plan, it is imperative to catalog existing parks and recreation facilities. An extensive inventory of parks and recreation will allow a community to highlight its assets, develop linkages, build off of innovative trends, and determine any gaps in services.

Existing Facility Inventory

Various methods were employed to assess these recreational facilities, including a review of aerial photographs and existing maps, windshield surveys, site visits, and discussions with recreational providers. The inventory that follows provides a detailed look at the amenities available at private and regional recreational facilities/parks.

State and Regional Parks

Port Huron Township is part of a region that has a wealth of parks and recreation destinations. As a region, southeast Michigan has illustrated a longstanding commitment to parks and recreation. From major park systems to wildlife preservation areas, the State of Michigan and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority have established a network of facilities that provide users of all abilities and interests with plentiful parks and recreation destinations.

Sixteen (16) state parks and recreation areas are located in the five-county area surrounding Port Huron. In total, these recreation facilities encompass over 50,000 acres of land, and offer a wide range of services including trails, swimming, fishing, boating picnicking, camping, nature preserves, cross-country skiing, and many others. St. Clair County is home to

Lakeport State Park, Algonac State Park, St. John's Marsh Wildlife Area, Port Huron State Game Area, and St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area.

St. Clair County Recreational Facilities

Columbus County Park

This county park, located in Columbus Township along the Belle River, provides natural area for outdoor enjoyment, a sledding hill, lodging, and a variety of trails.

Goodells County Park

This park occupies 327 acres and includes the County Farm Museum and 4-H Fair Grounds, as well as a butterfly garden, natural areas, a sledding hill, and a splash pad.

Fort Gratiot County Park

This park in north St. Clair County offers scenic views of Lake Huron, and provides a public beach, picnic areas, playscapes, trails, and the 1971 Tunnel Explosion Memorial, which honors 22 workers killed in an accident during construction of a water intake tunnel in the area.

Fort Gratiot Light Station

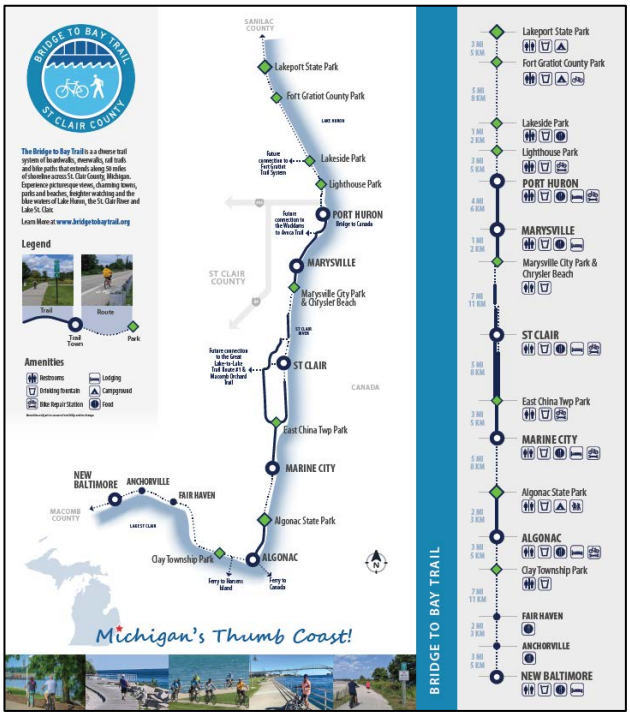
This former Coast Guard station is home to Michigan's oldest lighthouse, which has been renovated and restored, and is St. Clair County's newest county park.

Woodsong County Park

This park was purchased from the Girl Scouts – Michigan Waterways Council Inc. This site contains trails and runs along a half mile of the Black River, and offers opportunities for nature study, hiking, biking, and paddling.

Blueways of St. Clair

St. Clair County's Blueways Trail is a water trail system implemented throughout the county's many waterways and lakeshore. Implemented in 2009, this 17-route system, including some ADA accessible launches, includes the Island Loop Route, which runs up the Black River and along the Lake Huron shoreline, and has been recognized as a National Water Trail by the US Department of the Interior, the first such trail in Michigan.

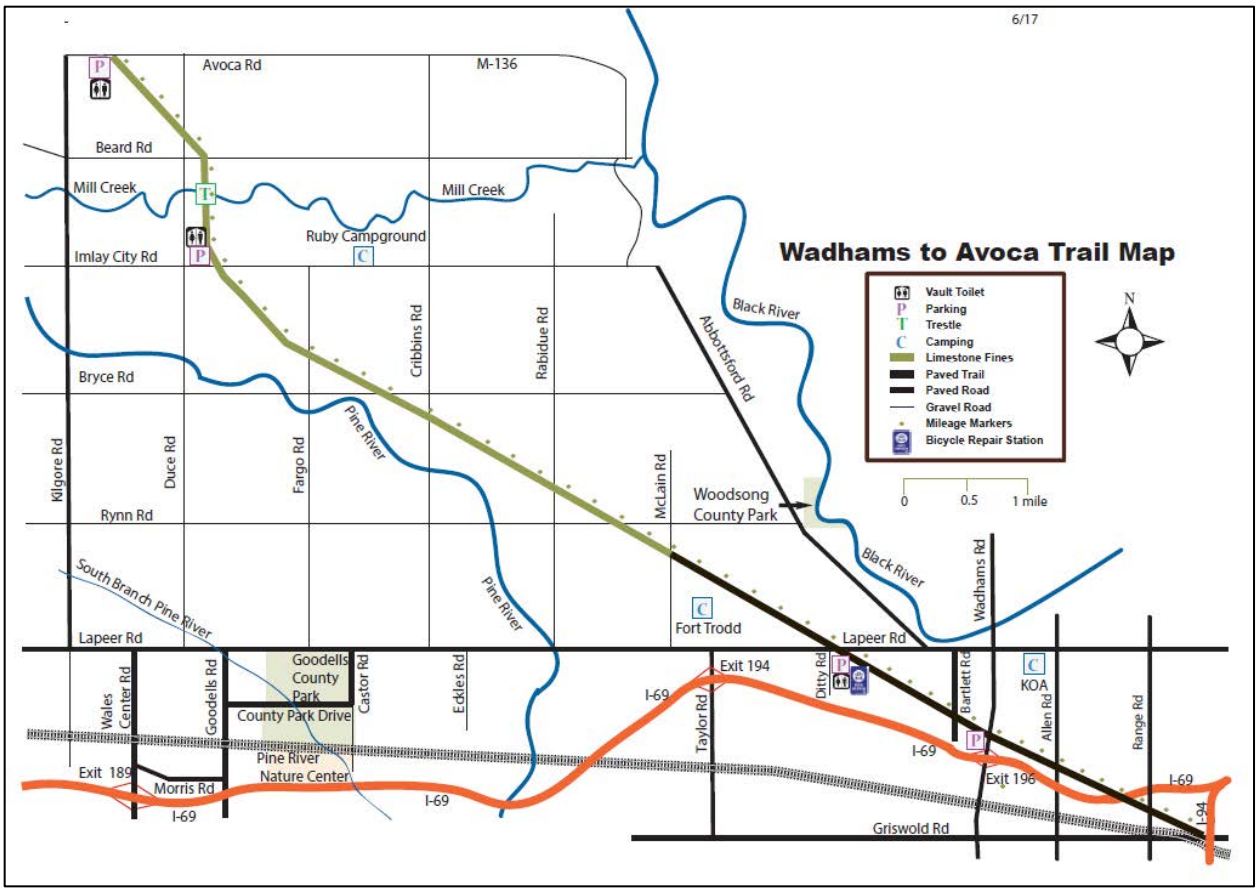


Bridge-To-Bay Trail

The Bridge-To-Bay Trail is a biking and walking path that follows the lakeshore the County from New Baltimore to Burtchville. Most of the trail is a shared-access route, and the segment in Port Huron Township is along Dixie Highway.

Wadhams to Avoca Trail

The Wadhams to Avoca Trail is a rails-to-trails pathway located on the former CSX rail line. The trail is open to hikers, bikers, and equestrians, and its scenic rural character also supports birding. The trail also contains the 60-foot Mill Creek Trestle, which provides four overlook areas into the Mill Creek Valley.



Local Parks And Recreation Facilities

- Port Huron Township Parks and Facilities
- The Township owns and operates just over 216 acres of parkland, including:
- Lions Club Park
- Memorial Park
- Wm. P. Thompson Pond
- Michigan Road Little league Park
- Hoover School Park
- Bakers Field Park.

Additionally, the Township subsidizes the funding for the Port Huron Township Museum. The following pages include a profile of each park in Port Huron Township.

Accessibility Evaluation

Recreation planning must strive provide barrier-free access for visitors of all abilities. For new or renovated facilities, this includes accessible parking, sidewalks, trails, picnic tables, playground equipment, and other features. Compliance is evaluated using standards in The Accessibility Checklist, which is based on the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

In accordance with the MDNR's recreation plan guidelines booklet, an accessibility evaluation was completed for each park within the township. The evaluation was conducted by the planning consultant. On September 15, 2026, each facility was compared to the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and given a ranking from 1-5, where:

1 = none of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

2 = some site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

3 = most site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

4 = all site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

5 = the facility meets the Principals of Universal Design

Park / Facility	ADA Rating (1–5)	Notes
Lions Club Park	**2**	Some accessible elements present; several routes and surfaces not fully compliant.
Memorial Park	**3**	Most elements meet ADA standards; accessible routes present but some amenities need upgrades.
Wm. P. Thompson Pond	**3**	Accessible fishing piers and kayak launch; remaining amenities mostly compliant.
Michigan Road Little League Park	**2**	Some accessible elements present; several routes and surfaces not fully compliant.
Hoover School Park	**2**	Some accessible elements present; several routes and surfaces not fully compliant.
Bakers Field Park	**3**	Most elements meet ADA standards; accessible routes present but some amenities need upgrades.

Evaluations used the following criteria to determine each park's ranking:

PARKING

- Accessible parking spaces are provided and marked with international symbol of accessibility.
- Accessible parking is as near to the parking entrance as possible.
- Signs designating accessible parking spaces are 60 inches high.

PLAY AREAS

- There is an accessible route (60 inches wide) to the entrance of the play area with a slope no steeper than 1:16. N/A
- For playground equipment, at least one turning spaces provided on the same level as components.
- Play area, surface is firm and stable (mulch, wood chips, sand and gravel are not accessible surfaces).
- Where multiple swings and a swing bay are provided, one swing is located on an accessible route.
- For court sports, at least one accessible route both sides of the court.

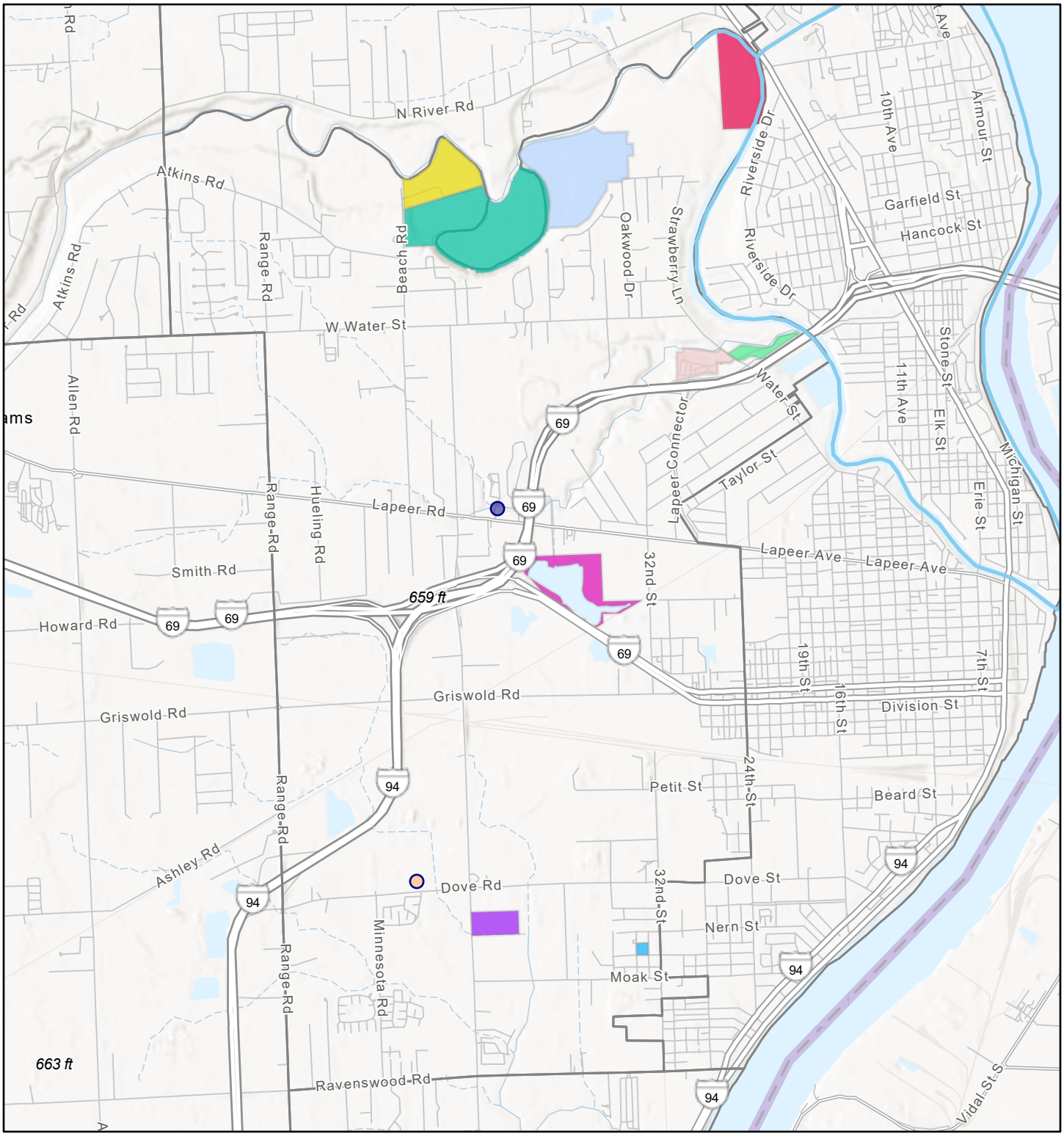
PARK AMENITIES

- Picnic table provide at least one wheelchair space for each 24 linear feet of usable table service perimeter. The isles between chairs and table are 3 feet wide.
- Drinking fountain spouts outlets are a maximum of 36 inches of the finish floor or ground.
- Safety is promoted by good street lighting.
- Ramps are non-slip.
- If public restroom facilities are present, there is at least one fully accessible restroom.

TRAILS AND SIDEWALKS

- There is a path of travel that does not require the use of stairs.
- Bike paths are separate from pedestrian walkways.
- Sidewalks are free of obstruction, wide enough for wheelchairs, solid (not made of dirt) and have curb cuts. All stairways feature railing and stair tips that are painted distinguish each step.
- Handrails are provided on both sides of a ramp.
- Accessible routes, connect all park amenities and coincide with general circulation.

Port Huron Township Parks and Recreation Facilities Map



Michigan DNR State-designated Water Trails

1:66,000

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 mi

0 0.5 1 2 km

Port Huron Township Public Parks & Facilities

- Baker's Field Park
- Hoover School Park
- Lions Club Park
- Memorial Park
- Michigan Road Little League Park
- W.P. Thompson Pond (40th Street Pond)
- Port Huron Township Museum

Private Recreation Facilities

- Black River Golf Course
- Port Huron Elks Golf Club
- Port Huron Township RV Park
- Glacier Pointe Ice Complex

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), State of Michigan, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, NASA,

Lions Club Park



Amenities:

- 10 Acres
- Black River Access
- Stocks Creek Access
- Public Service Building
- Playground
- Picnic/Shelter Facilities
- Sledding Hill
- Fishing Platforms
- In-Ground Stoves
- Picnic Tables
- Portable Restrooms

Accessibility Rating: 2





Memorial Park



Amenities

- 58 Acres
- Black River Access/Frontage
- Picnic Tables
- Outdoor Pavilions
- Playground Equipment
- Walking Paths
- AYSO Soccer Fields
- Basketball Court
- Softball Diamonds
- Volleyball Court
- Bleachers
- Fishing
- Birding

Accessibility Rating: 3







William. P. Thompson Pond



Amenities:

- 65 Acres •
- Spring-Fed Lake
- Six Gazebos
- Outdoor Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Two 124-foot Accessible Fishing Piers
- ADA-Accessible Kayak Launch
- Public Restrooms

Accessibility Rating: 3





Michigan Road Little League Park



Port Huron Township owns this 20-acres of property along Michigan Road, north of Moak Street with five baseball diamonds, bleachers, a concession stand, and several out-buildings. The park is leased to the Port Huron Township Baseball League, which runs the local Little League, and is responsible for maintenance and upgrade.

Accessibility Rating: 2



The Hoover School Park



Amenities:

- 1.5-Acre Neighborhood Park
- Multi-Use Basketball Courts
- Outdoor Pavilions
- Playground
- Restrooms

Accessibility Rating: 2





Bakers Field









Amenities:

- 61.5 Acres
- Boat Ramp
- ADA-Accessible Kayak Launch
- ADA-Accessible Fishing Pier
- Trails
- Pickleball/Tennis Courts
- Picnic Area
- Fitness Court

Accessibility Rating: 3

Port Huron Township Museum

The Port Huron Township Board also subsidizes funding for the operation of a museum highlighting the Francis Malane Schoolhouse and restored train caboose located behind the Port Huron Township Hall. The site also includes a pavilion which houses the Port Huron Steam Engine and Thrasher.

Accessibility Rating: 2

Private Recreational Facilities In Port Huron Township

There are several private recreation facilities within the township including:

- Black River Boat Club: Private modern club and boat slips.
- Black River Country Club: Privately-owned 18-hole golf course with a modern clubhouse. Public is welcome.
- Bridge Harbor Yacht Club: Privately-owned modern clubhouse with a swimming pool, tennis courts, and individually-owned boat slips.
- Elks Lodge Golf Club: Private 18-hole golf course with a modern clubhouse. Open to members and guests.
- Glacier Point Ice Skating Arena: Two ice skating rinks.
- The Port Huron and Detroit Historical Society Museum
- Soccer Association in Park #3: Multi-use courts and soccer fields.
- Riverside Sports Academy: Gym on Michigan Road south of Dove Road.
- Dancing Fire Glamping and RV Resort, former the Port Huron Township RV Park, offers camping options with up to 134 sites.

Parks And Recreation Facilities In Neighboring Communities

The neighboring communities of Clyde Township, Kimball Township, Marysville, and Port Huron provide a broad range of parks and recreational facilities. The following tables present an inventory of these facilities.

Community	Park	Acres	Amenities
Clyde	Bills Bearss Park	20	Playground, ballfields, soccer fields, tennis courts, picnic areas, pavilion, basketball court, concessions, restrooms
Clyde	Firefighters Park	1	Playground, ball diamond, basketball court, picnic facilities, ice skating
Clyde	Clyde Township Hall Park	1	Playground, tennis courts, picnic areas, pavilion, restrooms
Clyde	Jake Simpson Wilderness Park	17	Basketball courts, inline skating, playground, pickleball court
Clyde	Riverfront Park	1.8	Undeveloped
Kimball	Sutherland	46	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, pond access, fishing access, bathing

			beach, trails, tennis courts, picnic areas, restrooms
Kimball	Smiths Creek Park	3	Playground, basketball courts, ice skating, trails, picnic areas
Port Huron	Lakeside Park	17.7	Playgrounds, volleyball courts, lake access, concessions, bathing beach, restrooms, splash pad, freighter watching
Port Huron	Lighthouse Park	7.9	Playgrounds, lake access, bathing beach, restrooms, freighter watching
Port Huron	Blue Water Bridge Park	3.7	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Port Huron	Thomas Edison Park	9.0	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Port Huron	Pine Grove Park	13.7	Playgrnund, ballfields, river access, fishing access, rails, picnic areas, restrooms, concessions, pavilion, freighter watching
Port Huron	Lincoln Avenue Turnout	0.5	River access, fishing access, freighter watching
Port Huron	Keifer Park	0.9	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Port Huron	Municipal Office Grounds	1.8	River access, fishing access; trail, freighter watching
Port Huron	Wastewater Treatment Plant	1.1	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Port Huron	Lincoln Park Turnout	0.6	River access, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Port Huron	Fort Street Dock	0.8	River access, marina, fishing access, trail, restrooms
Port Huron	Quay Street Dock	1.0	River access, marina, fishing access, ADA-accessible kayak launch, restrooms
Port Huron	Southside Dock & Park	1.25	River access, fishing access
Port Huron	River Street Dock	9.1	River access, marina, fishing access, restrooms
Port Huron	12th Street Dock	1.8	River access, boat ramps, fishing access, restrooms

Port Huron	Riverside Boat Ramp	5.7	River access, boat ramps, fishing access, restrooms
Port Huron	Sanborn Park	41.7	Playground, ballfield, basketball court, swimming pool, trails, tennis courts, restrooms
Port Huron	Palmer Park	7.8	Playground, ice skating, trails, community center, restrooms
Port Huron	Gratiot Park	1.8	Playground, basketball courts
Port Huron	Mansfield Park	0.8	Playground
Port Huron	Optimist Park	3.2	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, ice skating, picnicareas
Port Huron	White Park	3.4	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, ice skating
Port Huron	20th & Court Street Park	2.5	Swimming pool, restrooms
Port Huron	11th & Division Tot Park	1.0	Playground
Port Huron	19th & Division Tot Park	0.5	Playground
Port Huron	Knox Field	6.5	Ballfields, basketball courts, restrooms
Port Huron	Lincoln Park	9.8	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, ice skating, picnic areas, freighter watching
Port Huron	16th & Dove Park	14.5	Playground, ballfields, basketball courts, restrooms
Port Huron	Haynes Park	1.17	Playground, ice skating
Port Huron	12th & Jenks Tot Park	0.44	Playground
Port Huron	Heritage Park on the Quay	0.21	River access, marina, fishing access
Port Huron	Flag Plaza Park	1.20	River access, fishing access, freighter watching
Port Huron	McMorran Place		Special events, performances, concessions, restrooms
Port Huron	Renaissance Tot Park	0.47	Playground

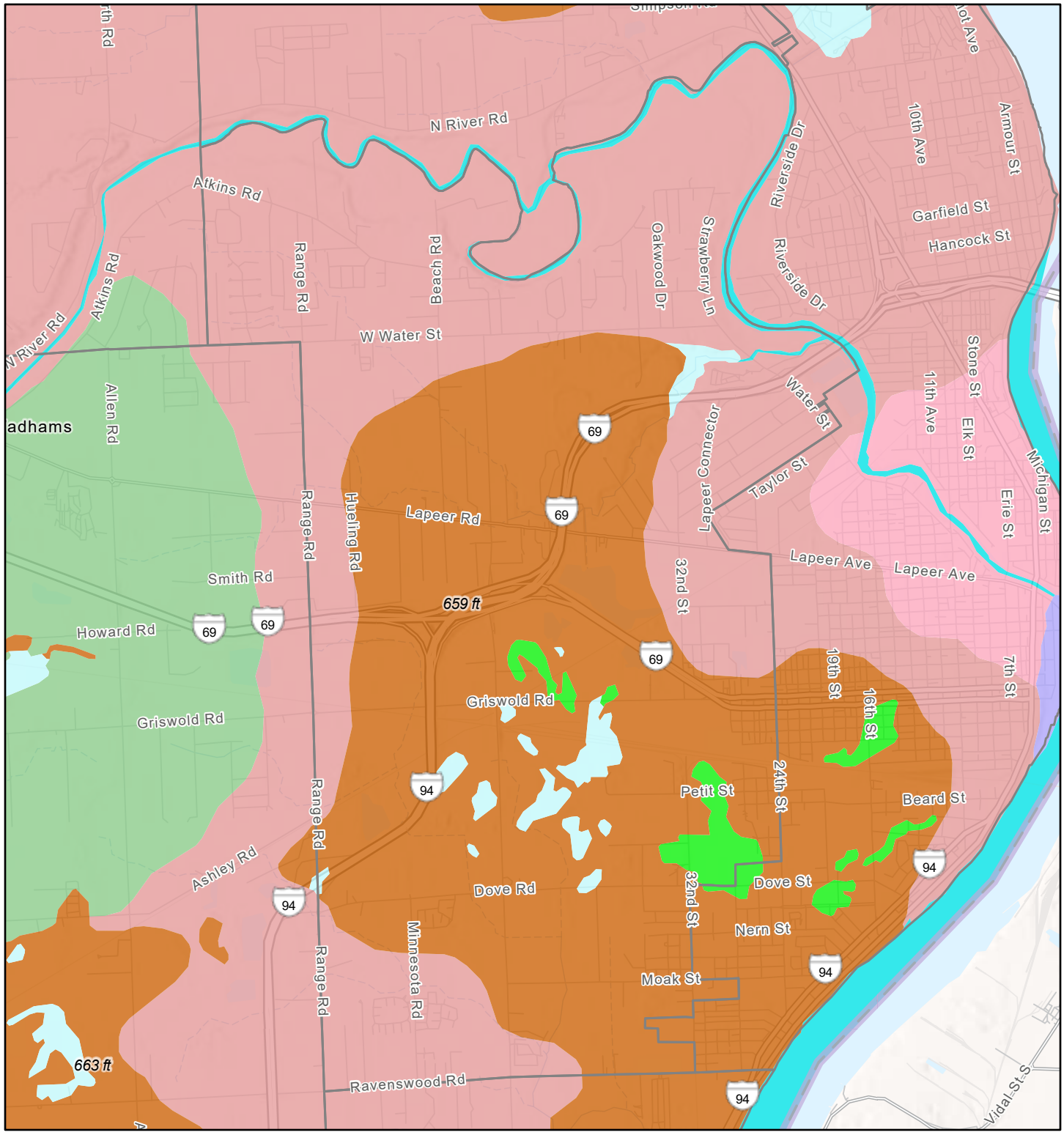
Marysville	Marysville City Park	58.	Playgrounds, soccer fields, basketball courts, trails, tennis courts, picnic areas, restrooms, amphitheater; picnic shelters, ballfields, sledding hill, freighter watching
Marysville	Marysville Boardwalk	1.4	River access, boat ramp, bathing beach, fishing access, trail, freighter watching
Marysville	Morton Park	10	Playground, soccer field, ice skating, inline skating, picnic table/areas, restrooms, picnic shelters, skate park, parking area, trails/walking track
Marysville	Mermaid Park	0.7	River access, fishing access, freighter watching
Marysville	4th Street Park	35	Trails
Marysville	Chrysler Beach	2	Playground, bathing beach, river access, fish cleaning station, concessions, restrooms, charging stations, fishing pier, gazebo, trail, picnic areas, ADA accessible, boat launch, kayak launch
Marysville	Ravenswood Road Park	39	Ice skating, trails
Marysville	Washington Road Park	5.4	Native trees
Marysville	Huron Road Park	1.4	Ice skating
Marysville	New Hampshire/6th Street Park	1	Ice skating
Marysville	Delaware Road Park	0.3	Ice skating
Marysville	Connecticut Road Park	0.3	Ice skating
Marysville	Municipal Golf Course	152.7	Golf course, restrooms, freighter watching

Natural Resource Inventory

In a community such as Port Huron Township, where recreational opportunities are heavily intertwined with the natural environment, an inventory of natural resources clarifies where potential opportunities may be available.

The following maps depict historic vegetation coverage, soil types, watersheds, and wetlands.

Port Huron Township Natural Resource - Vegetation Circa 1800s



10/2/2026

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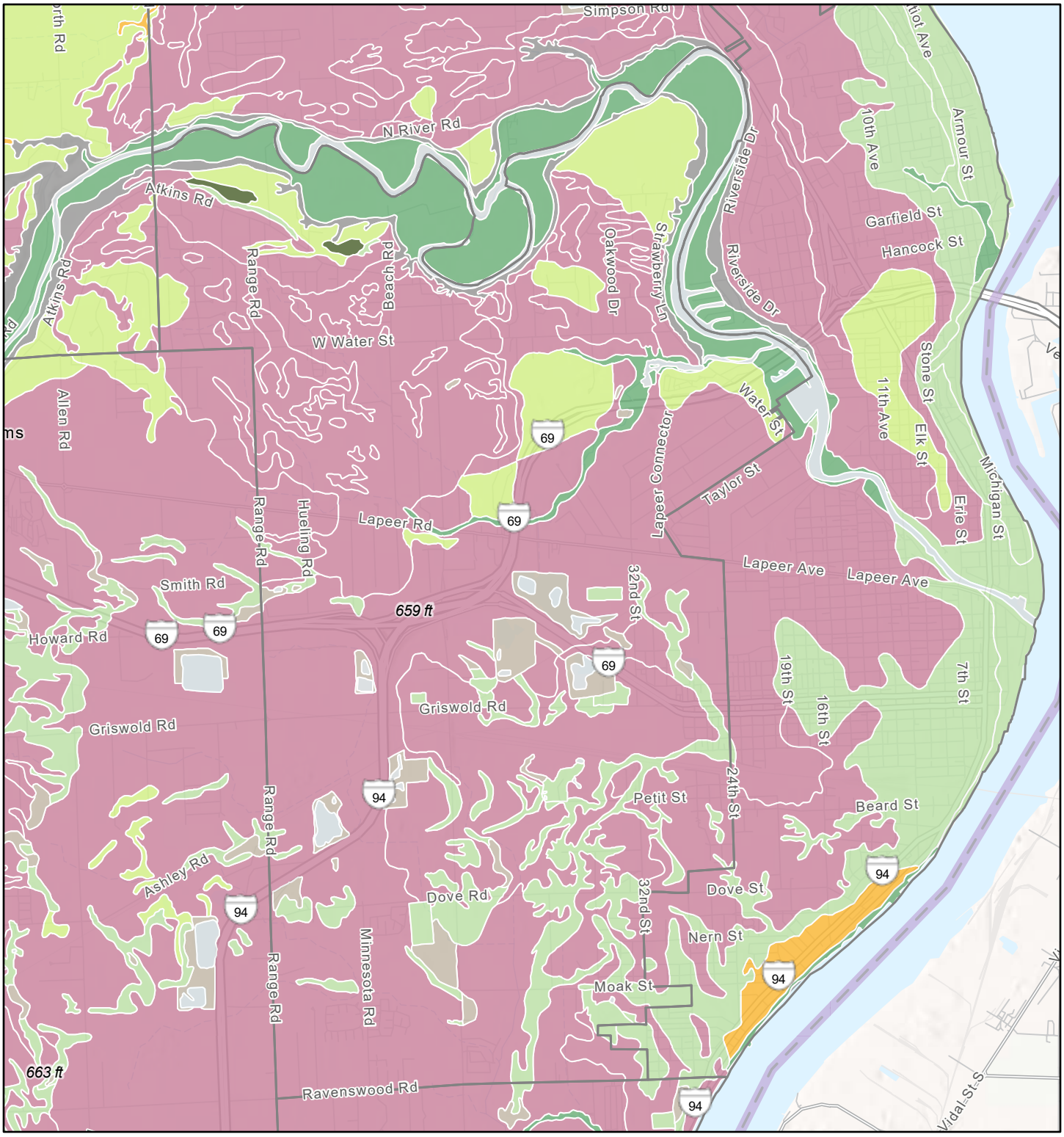
- Community Boundaries

Vegetation of Michigan circa 1800s

- BEECH-SUGAR MAPLE FOREST
- HEMLOCK-WHITE PINE FOREST
- LAKE/RIVER
- MIXED CONIFER SWAMP
- MIXED HARDWOOD SWAMP
- OAK-HICKORY FOREST
- SHRUB SWAMP/EMERGENT MARSH
- WET PRAIRIE

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, State of Michigan, Comer, P.J., D.A. Albert, H.A. Wells, B.L. Hart, J.B. Raab, D.L. Price, D.M. Kashian, R.A. Corner & D.W. Schuen (map interpretation); T.R. Leibfreid, M.B. Austin, C.J. DeLain, L. Prange-Gregory, L.J. Scrimger, K.M. Korroch, & JG. Spitzley

Port Huron Township Natural Resource - Soils



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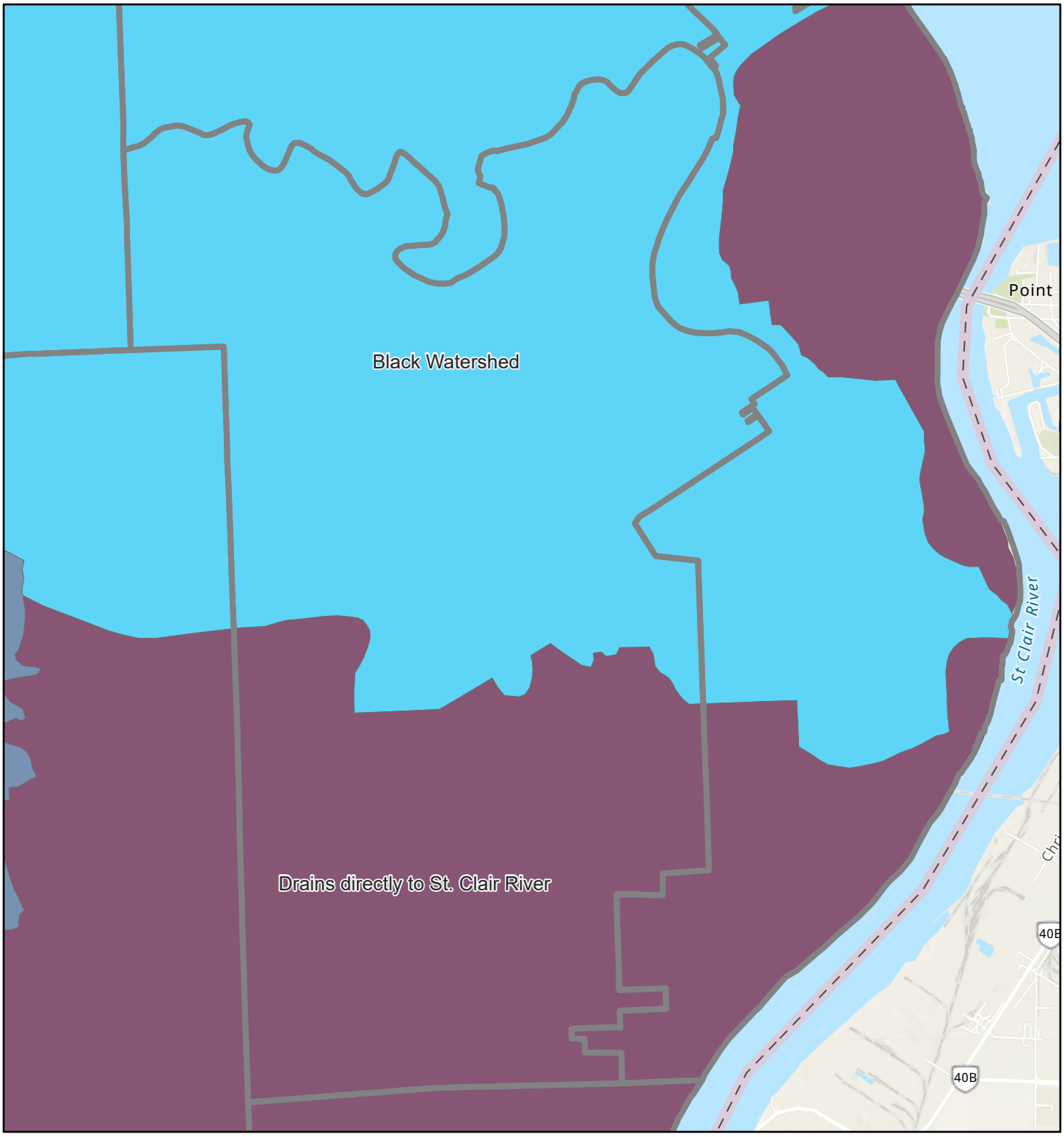
- Community Boundaries

USA Soils Map Units

- Alfisols
- Entisols
- Histosols
- Inceptisols
- Mollisols
- Spodosols
- Bodies of Water
- No Soil
- Data Not Available

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, State of Michigan, Source: USDA NRCS, Esri, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

Port Huron Township Watersheds



8/29/2026

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Community Boundaries

Watersheds

Black Watershed

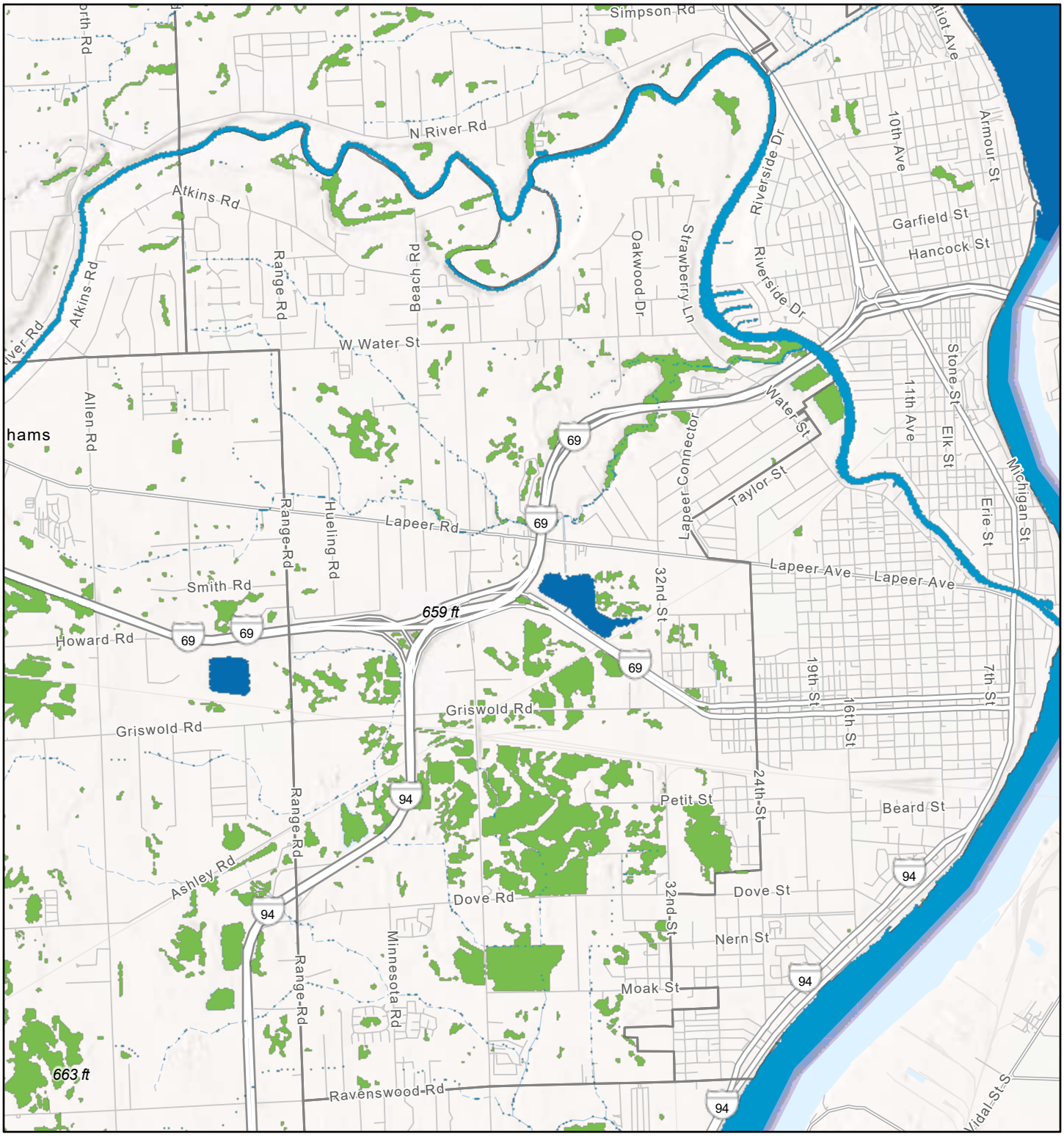
Drains directly to St. Clair River

Pine Watershed

World_Hillshade

State of Michigan, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

Port Huron Township Natural Resource - Wetlands



10/2/2026

1:66,666

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Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Esri, State of Michigan, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

Recreation Needs & Opportunities Analysis

Understanding the recreation needs of Port Huron Township begins with looking at who lives here, what facilities currently exist, and how well those facilities serve the community. This analysis helps identify gaps in recreation opportunities and highlights areas where future investment can make the greatest impact.

A common way to evaluate recreation needs is to compare a community's existing parks and facilities with widely accepted planning standards. These standards are not strict requirements; instead, they offer a benchmark that communities can use to understand how their recreation system aligns with typical expectations. Every community is unique, so these standards must be considered alongside local conditions, available resources, and the types of recreation opportunities already offered in the surrounding area.

Recreation Planning Standards

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The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provide guidelines to help communities plan for parkland and recreation facilities. Michigan's "Recreation Opportunity Standards," based on NRPA guidance, outline how much parkland and how many recreation facilities a community should ideally have per 1,000 residents.

These standards cover a wide range of recreation opportunities—from playgrounds and picnic areas to specialized facilities like archery ranges, ice rinks, ORV trails, and cross-country ski routes. While some facilities require a larger population base than Port Huron Township currently has, they may still be appropriate if the Township's natural features, location, or funding capacity support them. In some cases, adding specialized facilities can attract visitors, support local businesses, and strengthen the Township's overall quality of life.

Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards	
Type of Recreation Opportunity	**Plan Standard**
Developed Local Park Land	**10 acres / 1,000 population**
Archery Ranges (including private & commercial)	**1 / 50,000 population**
Ballfields (not including school facilities)	**1 / 3,000 population**
Outdoor Basketball Courts (not including school facilities)	**1 / 5,000 population**
Bicycle Trails (miles)	**1 / 40,000 population**

Golf Courses (including private & commercial)	**1 / 25,000 population**
Indoor Ice Rinks	**1 / 50,000 population**
Outdoor Ice Rinks	**1 / 20,000 population**
Picnic Areas (tables)	**1 / 200 population**
Playgrounds (not including school facilities)	**1 / 3,000 population**
Rifle Ranges (including private & commercial)	**1 / 50,000 population**
Shotgun Ranges (including private & commercial)	**1 / 50,000 population**
Sledding Hills (not including school facilities)	**1 / 40,000 population**
Soccer Fields (not including school facilities)	**1 / 20,000 population**
Outdoor Swimming Pools	**1 / 40,000 population**
Outdoor Tennis Courts (not including school facilities)	**1 / 4,000 population**
Campground Sites (including commercial)	**1 / 150 population**
Cross-Country Ski Trails (miles)	**1 / 10,000 population**
Fishing Access (feet)	**1,000 / 1,000 population**
Fishing Piers	**1 / 100,000 population**
Hiking Trails (miles)	**1 / 5,000 population**
Horseback Trails (miles)	**1 / 20,000 population**
Nature Areas (each)	**1 / 50,000 population**
Nature Trails (miles)	**1 / 20,000 population**
ORV Areas	**1 acre / 7,500 population**
ORV Trails (miles)	**1 / 10,000 population**
Snowmobiling Land	**10 acres / 1,000 population**
Snowmobiling Trails (miles)	**1 / 3,000 population**
Swimming Beaches	**1 / 25,000 population**

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Current Recreation Needs

Using the Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards and Port Huron Township's 2025 estimated population of 10,665 residents, several recreation needs emerge. These standards serve as guidelines rather than strict requirements, and they should be considered alongside regional recreation opportunities and the Township's ability to maintain new facilities.

Based on the standards, the Township currently has potential needs in several areas:

Port Huron Township's Current Recreation Needs (Based upon an estimated)			
Recreation Facility	**Existing Amount**	**Suggested Amount (based upon Recreation Standard)**	**Need**
Cross-Country Ski Trails (miles)	0	1 / 10,000 population	**1 mile**
ORV Areas	0	1 acre / 7,500 population	**1 acre**
ORV Trails (miles)	0	1 / 10,000 population	**1 trail**
Snowmobiling Land	0	10 acres / 1,000 population	**100 acres**
Snowmobiling Trails (miles)	**0**	**1 / 3,000 population**	**3 miles**

It is important to note that ORV and snowmobiling access is generally limited in Southeast Michigan. For this reason, the Township may find that developing a cross-country ski route within an existing park is a more practical and achievable option.

Future Recreation Needs

Looking ahead, Port Huron Township's projected populations for 2040 (11,382 residents) and 2050 (11,497 residents) show only modest growth. As a result, future recreation needs remain similar to current needs. Using the same Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards, the Township can anticipate slightly increased demand for developed parkland and certain recreation facilities.

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The future needs table (for 2040 and 2050) assume that current deficiencies remain unaddressed. Even with population growth, the recommended facilities change very little, reinforcing the importance of focusing on the few key areas where the Township has the greatest opportunity to expand recreation offerings.

Port Huron Township's Future Recreation Needs (Based upon an estimated 2040 population of 11,382 persons and the 2050 population estimate of 11,497 persons)			
Recreation Facility	**Existing Amount**	**Suggested Amount (based upon Recreation Standard)**	**Need**
Cross-Country Ski Trails (miles)	0	1 / 10,000 population	**1 mile**
ORV Areas	0	1 acre / 7,500 population	**1 acre**
ORV Trails (miles)	0	1 / 10,000 population	**1 trail**
Snowmobiling Land	0	10 acres / 1,000 population	**100 acres**
Snowmobiling Trails (miles)	**0**	**1 / 3,000 population**	**3 miles**

Recreation Needs & Opportunities Conclusion

Port Huron Township's recreation needs were evaluated using demographic trends, public input, and the Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards. The Township's aging population indicates growing demand for accessible, low-impact recreational amenities such as paved walking paths, benches, shade structures, and ADA-compliant facilities. At the same time, the stable number of school-aged children supports continued investment in youth sports fields, playgrounds, and structured programming.

The Michigan Recreation Opportunity Standards identify several facility gaps based on the Township's 2025 population of 10,665. These include needs for cross-country ski trails, ORV areas, ORV trails, snowmobiling land, and snowmobiling trails. While some of these facilities require larger regional populations, they represent potential opportunities for partnership or regional collaboration. The Township may more realistically pursue development of a cross-country ski route within an existing park, as noted in the current needs table.

Public input reinforces the need for improved accessibility, expanded water access, enhanced maintenance, and additional family-friendly amenities. Residents consistently express interest in walking paths, fishing access, restrooms, and improved lighting. These needs align with demographic trends and the Township's existing park strengths, particularly at Memorial Park and Wm. P. Thompson Pond.

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Overall, Port Huron Township's recreation needs emphasize accessibility upgrades, multi-age amenities, water-based recreation, and continued support for youth sports. These priorities form the foundation for the Township's five-year action program.

The Planning & Public Input Process

The recreation planning process in Port Huron Township involves individuals who represent a broad cross-section of the community's population. The Township Board is responsible for implementing the Recreation Plan, but the Park Board, Recreation Commission, and staff provides input, analysis, and recommendations.

The Township developed an online public survey (with hard copies available at the Township Hall), to collect public input on community priorities for future parks and recreation. Using the inventory and survey findings, this Recreation Plan identifies goals, opportunities, and implementation measures.

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Public Input

Understanding the important role of public involvement in developing this plan, the Township developed an online survey to gather general input from the community regarding their thoughts on parks and recreation facilities and programming in the Township. The survey was available from (5) months beginning July 7, 2026 through August 24, 2026. It was advertised on the Township's website and promoted at the Township Hall.

The survey received 83 responses from a broad cross section of Port Huron Township residents. Respondents were primarily adults ages 30–49, with strong participation from households with children under 18, suggesting that parks and recreation amenities are heavily used by families. Older adults also provided meaningful input, emphasizing walking, water access, and quiet natural areas. Most respondents visit parks weekly or several times per month, indicating regular use of township facilities.

Residents most often reported using Bakers Field, Beach Road Park, W.P. Thompson Pond, along with regional destinations such as the Wadhams to Avoca Trail, Pine Grove Park, Marysville Park, and Lakeside Beach. The results show that township parks are well used, but residents also rely on regional parks for amenities the township lacks, particularly walking and biking trails.

Respondents value township parks for their cleanliness, convenience, accessibility, water views, natural scenery, and quiet rural character. Bakers Field improvements and the Summer Rec Program were frequently praised. Chart responses also showed strong satisfaction with maintenance and overall safety.

The strongest improvement theme was the need for safer walking and biking connections, including sidewalks, expanded trails, and better access to the Wadhams to Avoca Trail and West Water Street. Other priorities included updated and accessible playgrounds, a splash pad, better water and kayak access, permanent restrooms, improved lighting and security, more pickleball and tennis courts, expanded pavilions and picnic areas, and upgrades at Wm. P. Thompson Pond, and Hoover Park.

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Additional comments raised concerns about the Lions Club Park, sports field access, rental arrangements and limited resident use during tournaments. Residents also requested more community events, including concerts, and suggested a veterans memorial, stronger trail links to county systems, and better walkability along West Water. Overall, the survey shows strong support for parks, interest in modern amenities, and clear priorities for connectivity, safety, affordability, and family-friendly features.

Goals & Objectives

Goals and Objectives formulated by Port Huron Township are the basis of the recreation planning process. They form the framework for public and private decision-making regarding recreational facilities and programs in the Township. This Recreation Plan seeks to pursue long-range recreational goals and objectives through specific short-range actions on the part of the Township, County, and State as well as private entities.

The following goals and objectives were developed by the Township after review of the Township's natural features, population, housing, existing land uses, existing recreational facilities and programs, and the results of the community recreation survey.

The recreation goals and objectives are not prioritized. The Action Program in the Chapter that follows, will detail the specific program strategies to achieve the goals and objectives.

GOAL 1: Enhance Placemaking, Livability, and Community Identity Through Parks and Recreation

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Objectives

- Highlight the Black River as a signature natural asset by improving river access, views, and amenities.
- Integrate public art into parks, trails, and public facilities to strengthen community identity.
- Improve wayfinding and signage for parks, trails, water access points, and community destinations.
- Provide recreation amenities that support multigenerational use, including families, youth, and seniors.
- Promote parks as community gathering spaces through events, programming, and accessible design.

GOAL 2: Expand Nonmotorized Connectivity and Safe Access to Recreation

Objectives

- Develop safe pedestrian and bicycle connections between neighborhoods, parks, schools, and Township facilities.
- Improve pedestrian safety along West Water Street, Dove Road, Michigan Road, and other high-use corridors.

- Connect Township parks to regional trail systems, including the Wadhams-to-Avoca Trail and Bridge-to-Bay Trail.
- Incorporate bike lanes into Township streets where feasible to support regional trail connectivity.
- Provide linear recreation opportunities such as walking, jogging, biking, and nature trails.
- Add benches, rest areas, and ADA-accessible features along walking routes and trails.
- Improve communication and signage for trail access points.

GOAL 3: Provide High-Quality, Inclusive Recreation Opportunities for All Ages and Abilities

Objectives

- Modernize playgrounds with inclusive, ADA-accessible, and nature-based equipment.
- Evaluate feasibility of a Township splash pad based on public input and demographic needs.
- Expand permanent restroom facilities at high-use parks to improve accessibility and year-round use.
- Provide recreation programming for youth, families, adults, and seniors, including fitness, outdoor recreation, and cultural events.
- Continue partnerships with the City of Port Huron Recreation Department to maintain equal access for Township residents.
- Develop a dog park at an existing or new Township park.
- Promote activities and events that strengthen community connections and social engagement.
- Ensure adequate parkland and recreation space is included in new residential developments.
- Explore the possibility of an indoor recreation space for the community.

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GOAL 4: Protect and Enhance Natural Resources and Water-Based Recreation

Objectives

- Acquire and preserve land along the Black River when opportunities arise to ensure perpetual public access.
- Utilize natural topography and ecological features when designing new recreation areas.
- Develop nature trails and conservation-focused recreation areas throughout the Township.
- Improve water-based recreation amenities, including kayak launches, fishing docks, and shoreline access.
- Use parks as tools for conserving natural features and supporting environmental education.

GOAL 5: Maintain Township Parks to a High Standard and Implement Improvements Proactively

Objectives

- Continuously improve ADA accessibility at all Township-owned recreation facilities.
- Modernize Hoover Park with updated playgrounds, lighting, pavilion improvements, and grills.
- Complete the accessible loop trail around Wm. P. Thompson Pond and improve shoreline access.
- Improve water access, signage, and shoreline stabilization at Beach Road Park.
- Review partnership agreements (Lions Park, AYSO) to ensure equitable resident access and appropriate use.
- Improve lighting, drainage, parking, and safety features at Memorial Park and Michigan Road Park.
- Maintain high standards of cleanliness, safety, and maintenance across all parks.
- Expand pavilions, picnic areas, and seating where needed to support community gatherings.
- Implement a proactive capital improvement schedule for park facilities and equipment.

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Action Strategies

Action Strategies outline Port Huron Township's approach to implementing the goals and objectives identified in the previous chapter. These strategies provide guidance for planning and budgeting purposes for the next five years. They suggest priorities generally but are not intended to be set in stone or limit additional creative approaches. Generally, parks and recreation action strategies should consider the following when outlining a strategy to implement goals and objectives:

- Based upon the Public Survey, as part of this Recreation Plan, what projects or activities were considered most important by the respondents?
- Is there immediate health and safety concerns that need to be addressed?
- What opportunities exist to partner with other groups towards a common goal?
- Is there a person or group who can champion specific goals/objectives?
- Are there multiple goals that can be achieved by implementing a project?
- What projects affect the greatest number of people in the community and/or address the greatest need?
- How can projects be broken down into phases for a multi-year approach?
- What funding opportunities exist for implementation of certain goals?

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Port Huron Township's recreation priorities were developed through an assessment of existing park conditions, community feedback, and alignment with MDNR grant competitiveness. Projects are organized into Short-Term (0–3 years), Mid-Term (3–5 years), and Long-Term (5+ years) priorities to guide budgeting, scheduling, and grant applications.

Public input helped shape the Township's priorities by highlighting the community's strongest needs. Survey respondents emphasized improving playgrounds, expanding walking paths, enhancing Thompson Pond, and addressing ADA accessibility across all parks. These themes directly guided the short-, mid-, and long-term priorities in this Action Plan.

Short-Term Priorities (0–3 Years)

Short-term priorities focus on safety, accessibility, and essential upgrades that improve daily use and ensure ADA compliance across Township parks. These projects are typically lower-cost, high-impact improvements that can be completed with local funds or small grants.

Short-term priorities include:

- ADA accessibility improvements at all Township parks

- Modernization of playground equipment (ADA-accessible and nature-based)
- Drainage improvements at Memorial Park
- Pavilion updates at Hoover Park and Thompson Pond
- Replacement of aging picnic tables and small amenities
- Lighting upgrades at multiple parks
- Concrete improvements at Michigan Road Little League Park

These projects address immediate needs and improve the safety, accessibility, and usability of existing facilities.

Mid-Term Priorities (3–5 Years)

Mid-term priorities focus on park modernization, expanded recreation opportunities, and infrastructure upgrades that enhance usability and support increased community activity.

Mid-term priorities include:

- Parking lot paving and expansion at Memorial Park and Thompson Pond
- Walking path construction at Memorial Park
- Dock refurbishment and kayak launch relocation at Thompson Pond
- Sand volleyball court installation at Hoover Park
- Storage improvements and restroom upgrades at Michigan Road Little League Park
- Access road improvements at Lions Club Parks
- These projects improve circulation, expand recreational offerings, and support growing community use.

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Long-Term Priorities (5+ Years)

Long-term priorities represent major capital investments that significantly expand recreation opportunities and position Port Huron Township for future growth. These projects are typically best suited for MDNR grants and multi-year budgeting.

Long-term priorities include:

- Accessible walking path loop around Thompson Pond
- Splash pad evaluation and potential construction
- Seasonal ADA-compliant restroom building at Thompson Pond
- Large-scale playground installations
- Major shoreline, dock, and water-access improvements
- Parking expansion at Lions Club Parks

These projects create transformative recreation experiences and support long-term community health, accessibility, and tourism.

Funding Strategy

Port Huron Township will pursue a diversified funding strategy to support the implementation of recreation improvements over the next five years. This strategy includes leveraging local resources, county partnerships, state and federal grants, and community partnerships to maximize investment in park facilities.

Local Funding Sources

Local funding will serve as the foundation for small-scale improvements and required grant match contributions. Sources may include:

- Township General Fund
- Capital Improvement allocations
- Potential future recreation millage
- Donations, sponsorships, and memorial programs
- In-kind labor from volunteers and community organizations
- Partnerships with Little League, Lions Club, and other civic groups

Local funds will primarily support short-term improvements and match requirements for MDNR grants.

County Partnerships

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Port Huron Township will continue collaborating with St. Clair County to support infrastructure improvements such as parking lots, access roads, drainage, and guardrail replacements. County partnerships are especially valuable for projects involving transportation, safety, and stormwater management.

State Funding Sources (MDNR)

MDNR grant programs will be a key component of Port Huron Township's funding strategy, particularly for large-scale improvements at Thompson Pond, Memorial Park, and Hoover Park. Eligible programs include:

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Recreation Passport Grants
- Waterways Program Grants
- Invasive Species Grants
- Snowmobile/ORV Trail Grants (if applicable)

These programs are most competitive for projects that improve accessibility, expand public recreation opportunities, enhance natural resources, and provide regional benefit.

Community Partnerships and Foundations

Port Huron Township will continue working with local organizations such as the Lions Club, Little League, Blue Water Community Action, and other civic groups to support park improvements. Additional funding may be pursued through:

- Community foundations
- Corporate giving programs (DTE, Consumers Energy, Meijer, etc.)
- Service clubs (Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions)
- Partnerships are especially valuable for athletic field improvements, small amenities, and volunteer-driven projects.

Implementation Approach

Port Huron Township will use the priority framework to guide annual budgeting and grant applications. Short-term projects will be completed using local funds, while mid-term and long-term projects will be matched with appropriate MDNR or federal grant programs. The Township will evaluate grant opportunities annually and adjust priorities based on funding availability, community needs, and cost considerations.

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Port Huron Township Parks and Recreation
5 Year Action Plan

Action	Priority/Term	Projected Cost(s)	Anticipated Funding Source
All Parks			
Improve ADA accessibility across all recreation facilities	High (Short-Term)	$50k–$150k per park	MNRTF, LWCF, Recreation Passport
Modernize playgrounds with ADA & nature-based equipment	High (Short-Term)	$250k–$350k per playground	MNRTF, Recreation Passport, Local match
Memorial Park			
Drainage improvements for cornhole area	Medium	$20k–$40k	Local, County
Install cement cornhole boards	Low	$10k–$25k	Local
Expand/pave/mark parking	High	$150k–$300k	MNRTF, County Road Commission
Add lighting to parking	Medium	$40k–$80k	Local, County
Construct walking path	High	$150k–$250k	MNRTF, Recreation Passport
Widen drive entrance	Medium	$60k–$120k	County Road Commission
Add lighting to softball diamonds	Medium	$60k–$120k	Local, Partnerships (AYSO, Little League)
Hoover Park			
Add new lighting	Medium	$40k–$80k	Local
Update pavilions	Medium	$50k–$120k	Local
Add cooking grills	Low	$5k–$10k	Local
Refinish/paint basketball courts	Medium	$30k–$50k	Recreation Passport, Local
Add sand volleyball court	Low	$25k–$40k	Local

DRAFT

Action	Priority/Term	Projected Cost(s)	Anticipated Funding Source
Wm. P. Thompson Pond			
Replace guardrails	Medium	$40k–$80k	County Road Commission
Install new shed	Low	$10k–$20k	Local
Replace boat dock	High	$80k–$150k	Waterways Grant, MNRTF
Move kayak launch	Medium	$20k–$40k	Waterways Grant
Refurbish dock	Medium	$40k–$80k	Waterways Grant
Pave parking lot	Medium	$150k–$300k	MNRTF, County
Remove bridge	Low	$20k–$40k	Local
Add sandy beach	Medium	$80k–$150k	MNRTF, Local
Add playground equipment	Medium	$250k–$350k	MNRTF, Recreation Passport
Construct accessible walking path around pond	High	$300k–$600k	MNRTF, LWCF
Add parking off 32nd Street	Medium	$80k–$150k	County
Update pavilions	Medium	$50k–$120k	Local
Replace picnic tables	Low	$10k–$20k	Local
Evaluate splash pad	High (if chosen)	$400k–$700k	MNRTF, Recreation Passport, Local
Add seasonal ADA restroom	High	$150k–$250k	MNRTF, Recreation Passport
Michigan Road Little League Park			
Concrete around concession	Medium	$20k–$40k	Little League, Local
Construct new restrooms	High	$150k–$250k	Little League, Local
Add new storage	Medium	$20k–$40k	Little League

DRAFT

Action	Priority/Term	Projected Cost(s)	Anticipated Funding Source
New scoreboard + PA	Medium	$30k–$60k	Little League, Sponsorships
Improve batting cages	Medium	$20k–$40k	Little League
Resurface parking	Medium	$80k–$150k	County, Local
Add parking lot lighting	Medium	$40k–$80k	Local
Improve electrical system	Low	$10k–$20k	Local
Drainage improvements	Medium	$20k–$40k	Local
Lion's Club Park			
Expand parking	Medium	$80k–$150k	County, Local
Improve access roads (gravel)	Medium	$40k–$80k	County, Local
Replace picnic tables	Low	$10k–$20k	Lions Club, Local
Bakers Field			
Additional parking	Medium	$120k-$250k	MNRTF; Local
More pickleball courts (2-4 additional)	High	$150k-300k	MNRTF; Recreation Passport; Local
Pavilion near pickleball courts	Medium	$80k-$150k	Recreation Passport; Local
Portable stage	Low	$15k-$40k	Local; Sponsorships; Community partners
Interpretive signage	Low	$10k-$25k	Local; Community foundations
Other			
Plan, fund, and construct a Township recreation building to support year-round recreational programming and community events.	Medium (Long Term)	TBD (Multi-Million-Dollar Capital Project)	Grants, Capital Improvement Program, Recreation Millage, Bonds, Public-Private Partnerships

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Funding Resources:

MDNR = Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Program

MNRTF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund;

LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund

LCF = Local community foundations

Local = Local Funds/General Funds;

County = St. Clair County;

TBD = To be determined

These funding sources will be evaluated annually as part of Port Huron Township's capital improvement planning process to ensure alignment with project priorities and available grant opportunities.

DRAFT

Appendix

- Approving Resolution
- Public Notices
- Transmittal Letters
- Public Survey Results

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Waste Management Port Huron Township Link

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP
MICHIGAN

Community Events

PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY REGARDING PORT HURONJ TOWNSHIP PARKS



TextMyGov
X
Receive Township text notifications!
Text: "PHTWPMI" to 91896
Opt-in

Link to Port Huron Townships Parks and Recreation Community Survey
https://forms.gle/C4qRsMntmsQfMTKBA

Summer Recreation Sign up at Beach Road Park this Saturday 10am – 2pm
Two payment options:
#1 $125 per participant all inclusive
#2 $50 per participant and Field trips are paid separately
For questions call the office 810-987-6600
Email: beachrdsummerrec@gmail.com

Blue Water Fest - Bayview Mackinac Race

Blue Water Fest takes place from July 9-12, featuring live music and family-friendly fun This year's 101st Bayview Mackinac Race on July 12 has already attracted 192 race teams. I've included Google Maps pins to the exact locations of the stages, along with event details, road closures, and the viewing parties in the link below.

- Bayview Mackinac Race
- Blue Water Fest Info
- Blue Water Fest Event Facebook Link
- Visitor Link w/Google Pins, Hotels, Shuttles, Bands, Ticket Links

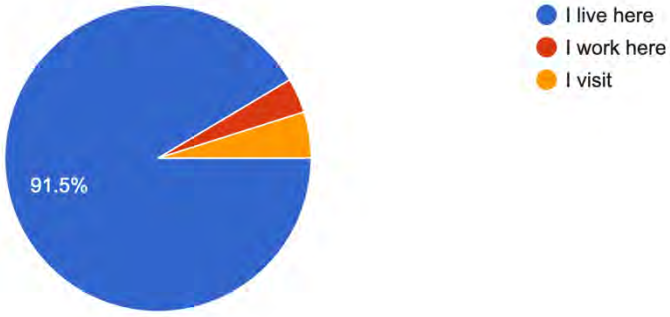
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Port Huron Township Parks & Recreation Survey

83 responses

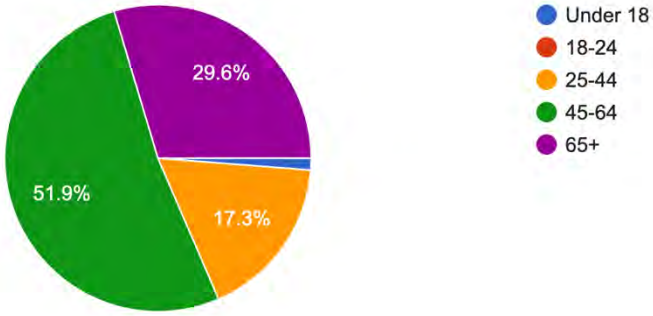
What is your connection to Port Huron Township?

82 responses

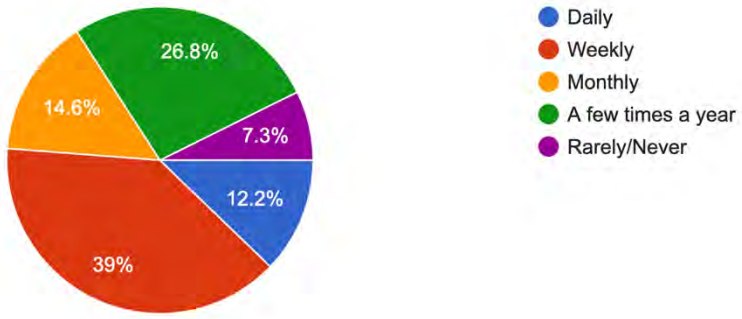


What is your age group?

81 responses



How often do you visit parks or recreation facilities in/near the Township?
82 responses



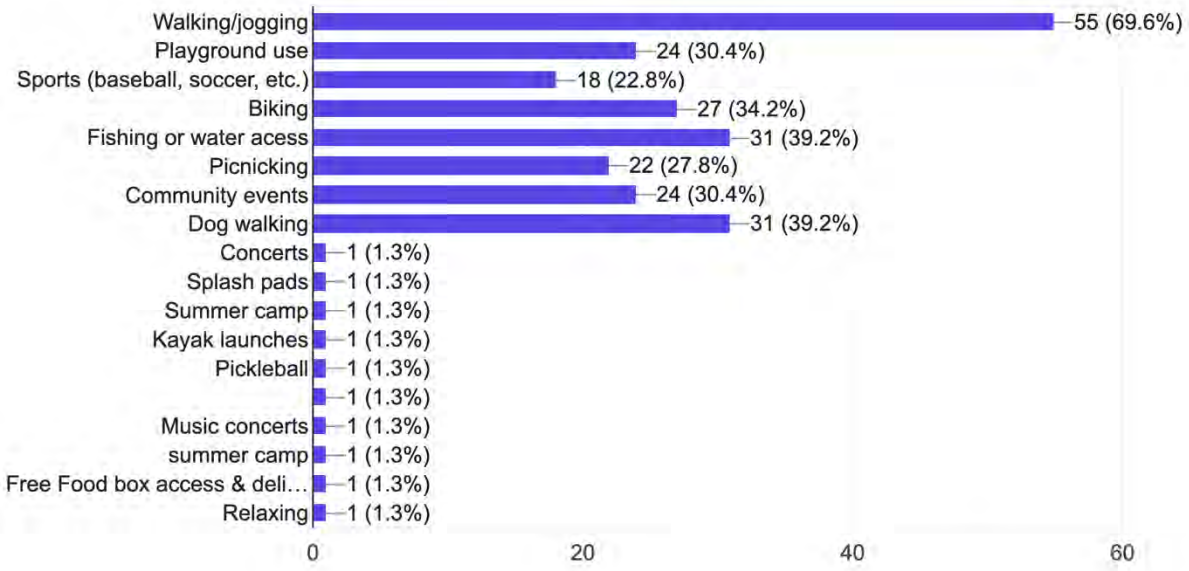
Which parks or recreation areas do you visit most often? (Examples: local township parks, nearby trails, regional parks like Fort Gratiot area, etc.)75 responses

- Local township parks
- Bakers Field
- Beach road
- Bakers field
- Bakersfield
- Township parks
- Nearby trails
- Trails
- Trails in the area
- local parks
- beach road
- Near by trails, pine grove park, marysville park, lakeside park
- Nearby trails, township parks, regional parks
- other parks
- Beach Rd Park and other parks in our area
- Pine grove park, marysville park, lakeside beach
- Beach Rd, Bakers Field
- Wadhams to Avoca Trail
- Nearby County and State Parks, bike trails
- Regional parks
- For kayak launches Port Huron Twp. For walking trails I use other parks nearby or go to the boardwalk. For biking a mixture- Port Huron Twp isn't really bike friendly.
- Bakersfield & Beach Road
- Nearby trails & parks
- 4oth st pond, fort grstiot park, pine grove park and other places.

- Lincoln Park, 40th St Pond, Hoover Park
- Bakersfield
- Local parks, Fort Gratiot and Port Huron trails.
- Bakers
- Thompson
- Trails and Beach Road park
- Bakersfield, pine grove park
- Beach rd park, lakeside beach, fort Gratiot parks
- Memorial Park
- Parks with trails, parks with views of or access to water
- Beach Rd, Baker's Field
- Baker's Field
- Random park hopping
- Local parks and trails
- Memorial (Beach Rd), Bakersfield (Strawberry Ln)
- Beach rd
- Walkway
- Local parks
- Water Street Park & Adjacent
- Baker’s Field
- Local Township
- Bakersfield Park, Avoca Trail off Wahdams
- Thomson Pond & Bakersfield
- We go to the little park by my house but I forgot the name of it
- Port Huron twp only
- 40th street pond
- Local parks and bike trails
- Township Parks
- township parks, city parks
- Ft Gratiot
- Other regional parks
- 40th St Pond, and the one by Stawberry land AND the area by the old lions club
- Bakers field
- Bakers Field. Thompson Pond, Beach Road park, Wadhams to Avoca Trail, Columbus County Park, and others
- None

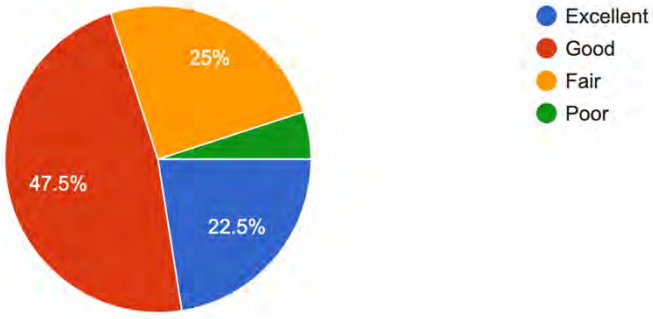
What activities do you typically participate in? (Select all that apply)

79 responses

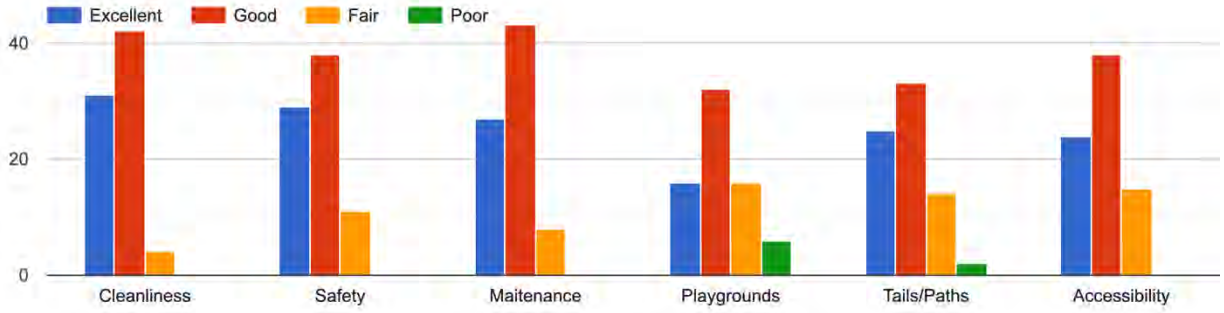


Overall, how would you rate parks and recreation opportunities in Port Huron Township?

80 responses

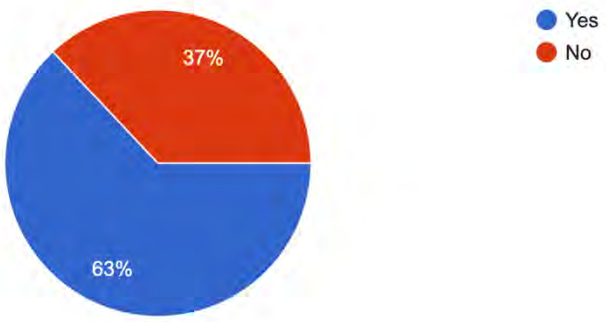


Please rate the following:



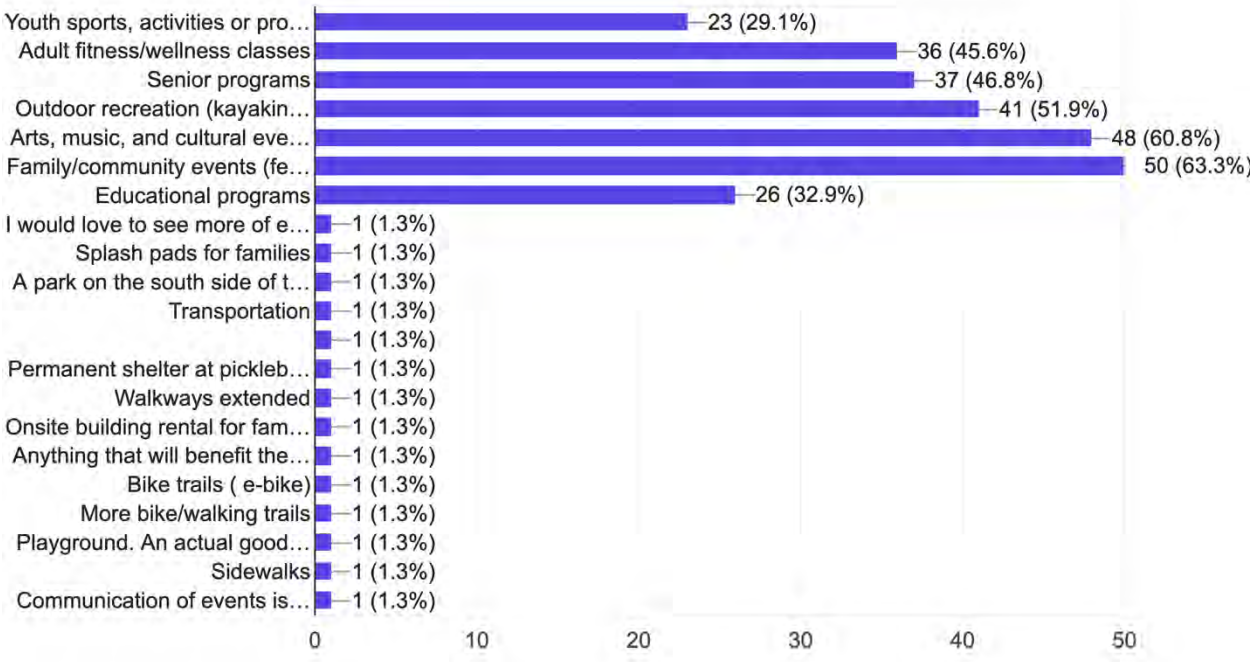
Are you aware of recreation programs/events offered in or near the Township?

81 responses



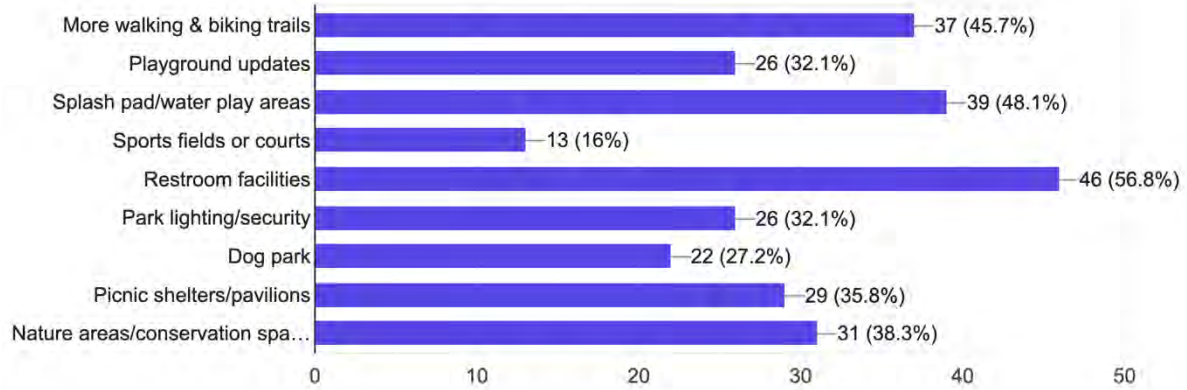
What types of programs would you like to see more of? (Select all that apply)

79 responses



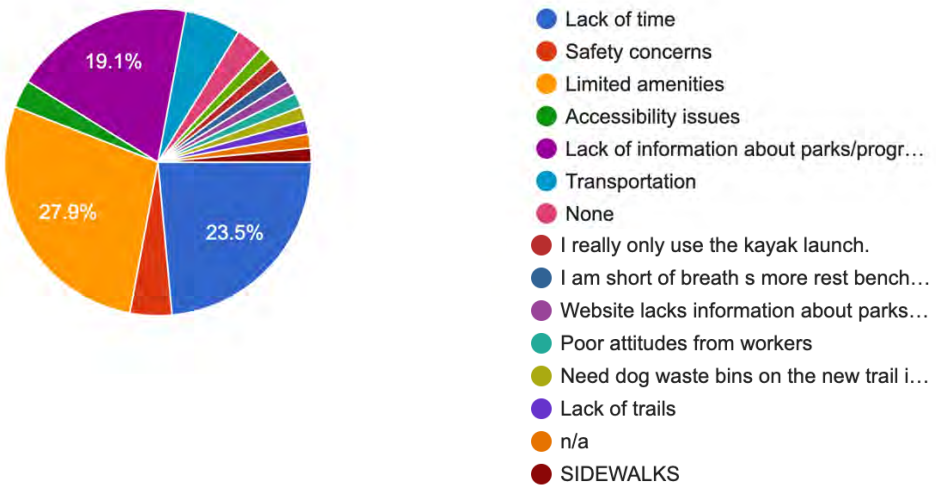
What improvements are most important to you? (Select up to 3)

81 responses



Are there difficulties that prevent you from using township parks more often?

68 responses



What do you like most about parks in Port Huron Township?59 responses

- Clean
- Close to home
- I love that they're all within minutes of each other and they all have for the most part something different to offer. I don't think we need a playground at every park. Bakersfield is the perfect adult/fitness park, Memorial park is a great family park with children's amenities. They others all have their own perks to offer as well.
- That they are connected to water and they have the opportunity to take advantage of this for their residents and visitors.
- Clean, easily accessible
- The summer rec program
- The views of the water
- Their availability close to my home.
- Being able to take my grandchildren somewhere close to home.
- Availability
- The one on Moak street is barely used. Not a nice area so we go elsewhere
- I can plan a fun day of walking my dog at a park and then head into downtown to grab some food!
- Quiet
- I don’t go to any township parks.
- Very clean, kept up nice. Easily accessible
- I like the updates and additions being done at Baker’s Field.

- Close by
- Kayak launch. Clean restrooms or porta Johns.
- The rural, laidback atmosphere
- Cleanliness
- That they are kept up.
- Pickleball
- Distance, they are near my home.
- Black River
- Summer Rec program is great! Melissa and Kizzy are very organized, and there is always something fun going on.
- I wish they were built up more rather than just for selected people like kayakers and boaters
- Closeness to my home.
- Family atmosphere; safe; well-kept yards
- Almost all the parks have views of or access to water! This is underutilized and promoted, especially at Beach Road Park! Beach Road park's trails are not well-signed and river views/access are minimal/non existent considering the large frontage the park has.
- Great job with Baker's Field.
- Trees and trails near water.
- well maintained
- very nicely kept
- Beautiful scenery
- Location
- Events
- Walking near the river
- Rural, non city, a more country feel, relax, community events, free
- Variety
- Boat access
- Our parks are close for biking activities. Fun activities for all ages.
- Bakers Field is where i go the most, it is the eally nice now, or the field by Lions Club on Water St.
- They are close to home for us many programs
- Safety
- That they are clean and close by
- Nature
- Clean, beautiful parks
- Close to hime
- Well maintained
- The pond seems to get the most attention
- Available access
- Easy to get to
- Its for the people of the twp
- Community Awareness and PROFESSIONALISM

- the continuous improvement
- Clean, quiet, peaceful
- Good places for dog walking. Often use kayak ramp at Bakers Field.

What is the biggest improvement we should make? 63 responses

- I think we need to utilize our parks more often highlighting what they have to offer.
- More restrooms
- Help with the canal more, when the black river flows blue it enhances the entire area. It adds value to residents property and all those around. Way worth the investment
- More parks and update Lion’s park besides a paint job
- Make more
- Improve the playgrounds and water access
- Work with Kimball Township on a SAFE way to access the Wadhams to Avoca Trail from the West Water area; possible a trail (not on or along the road) along Allen Road to the Trail. There are a lot of homes along West Water that would benefit for such an improvement.
- Children's areas
- It was suggested by a gal to buy the property by 40th street pond and expand that into a really nice area. I think it is a good idea.
- Improved safety, increased lighting, etc. I walk my dog alone often and have to be very selective where I go to stay feeling safe
- More walking areas- just having basic sidewalks would be nice!
- Build a park on the south side of the township
- Update of playground at Beach Rd, additional court at Bakers Field, perhaps rethink Water St and put in a unique feature. Splash pad? Walking story feature at Bakers Field pathway. Bakers field needs a kids feature but maybe not a traditional play structure. Something that ties in with the fitness or water theme.
- A pool at Bakers Field would be nice as well as making Strawberry Lane and West Water safer for walking
- Accessible playgrounds and splash pad with restrooms.
- Bike lane along West water Move the kayak launch to North side of park to allow two boats to launch at the same time
- Walking trails, biking trails.
- More activities & amenities
- More tennis & pickleball courts
- Work on the park at the end of beach rd. Update play area. And pt some grills in the parks.
- Not sure
- Permanent shelter at pickleball courts
- Patrol the area and enforce rules. Post several signs regarding speed, no smoking or vaping.
- More police patrolling and cameras
- Clean restrooms
- Beach road- fishing dock, maybe easier access to water then climbing up and down bank

- Bring a splash pad for the township, playground for Bakersfield.
- Get more property for more events with easy parking. Community building would be nice. Concert Venue
- Dog park and wheelchair accessability
- Improve views of and access to water, especially at Beach Road Park; offer more family-friendly programming/nature/education events in parks; promote and advertise park facilities better (website); provide year-round access to parks (snow plowing, don't close Beach Road park, clear trail for winter use at Bakersfield). Hoover Park is a hidden gem and sorely underutilized and desperately needs updates and modernization. Maybe the Township should engage in a Park Utilization & Improvement Study.
- West Water is incredibly dangerous for bikes and pedestrians, of which there are many. Creating a safe connection between the neighborhoods and along the entire road should be a priority.
- Upgrade park benches, add small rain covers
- more walking & biking paths
- regular bathrooms and dog park
- More respectful and hard working workers
- Pave Wadhams to Avoca Trail further
- More playground equipment
- Disability access
- More players and workers
- Benches and dog poop bags
- More pickleball courts, tennis courts, basketball courts, walking paths, splash pad, playground equipment, pavilions and picnic areas
- Ways for children to bike to places in the area where they are active
- N/A
- I would like to see a trail like Fort Gratiot has around Kettlewell Pond behind Meijers. That would be give our township some positive exposure from the expressway.
- Playground equipment
- Drinkable water availability
- I'd like to see our parks tied to other county parks.
- Add more community involvement activities
- Not sure
- Splash pads, more pickleball courts. A second boat launch at Bakers Field
- Improve 40th Street pond. It's getting left behind. Focus on a major park on the north side of Port Huron Township and a major park on the south side.
- Better parking
- More trails for walking and biking
- Make sure there is something for everyone
- playgrounds and bathrooms
- More bike paths to businesses
- Drinking water fountains
- A disk golf course

- Signs that say no e bikes or golf carts on trails
- SIDEWALKS
- Updates of playgrounds throughout and more security
- Walking trail 40th st pond
- Extend path all the way around Thompson Pond. Also the pond itself is very weedy making it difficult to fish or swim.

Any additional comments or ideas? 33 responses

- None
- Lions park is not being utilized to is fullest potential. The lions club is getting a steal. We rent the building for pennies considering we get nothing in return while the Lions club rents that space for a minimum $400 per rental(day). Township residents do not even get a discounted rate when renting. To me that's a waste for the township when we could utilize that building or at minimum be the ones who rent it out and bring in money that could be utilized for other park/rec costs. I also hope that they are not allowed to rename. That part the way that they hope to. AYSO at Memorial Park, is another concern. It is another great example of renting a space for pennies and the township gets nothing in return. I have witnessed personally how they take advantage of our park and our park manager. During big tournaments, they end up taking over the entire parking space and our park doesn't get utilized by residents or the community during those times. I personally hope the contract does not get renewed and would love to see the property utilized in a way that would better benefit the township. Perhaps more softball diamonds and a splash pad. That's a great park to grow a volleyball league. All in all our township has some very beautiful parks and programs and it appears by the survey that we are headed in a good direction. Thank you.
- Off Allen Road, the pond (lake) is not very clean
- Have more concerts
- Parks and recreation areas/activities are so important!
- We love all that you guys do for our community and parks!!! Thank you!
- Parks need playground equipment like pine grove and marysville parks have
- I dont think all parks should necessarily have the same things.
- There really aren’t any walking or bike trails here.
- To add more activities, amenities, picnic areas, and maintenance
- The Bakersfield court is nice, but overrun by pickleballers. Perhaps vacant land could be used for more courts
- Permanent shelter at pickleball courts
- Maybe connected Atkins bike and walking path to the park. No shoulder on Beach but Atkins is worst. Especially during soccer and baseball season.
- Would love to have a splash pad in the township and a playground at Bakersfield.
- I heard one gal at a meeting online talk about a Veterans memorial. That would be nice to have. We need to be more patriotic in this township and clear up the junk and blight.

- The parks cannot be adequately and consistently managed by two different entities as they are now. The parks should not be overseen/managed by two different entities. They should all be managed by one department/commission for a more holistic, cohesive and unified approach.
- The lack of safe bike and pedestrian travel between the neighborhoods on West Water is the main reason I consider moving back to the city, which is much more walkable.
- Status of Lions Park should be identified
- July 4th security assistance at lakeside park parking entrance between 350-430pm were rude, disrespectful and hand foul mouths towards me Infront of my Son.
- Good Job
- More amenities and updated structures, more events, maintenance of grounds
- N/A
- It would be nice to connect the Water Street Park and 40th Street Park to the Wadhams/Avoca Trail by means of Water Street, Lapeer Ave. and Michigan Rd/32nd. St./Griswold Rd.
- Loved the music event they had at Bakers Field. More of that please! I think a building rental for parties would be a great thing and would generate income for our township
- Many of our county parks are starting to come together through trail systems. Our residents would benefit by joining this action.
- Keep things free or inexpensive
- we love the summer camp program at beach rd!! melissa and kizzy do amazing with the kiddos!
- Modify boat launching ramp wider.
- thank you for reaching out for the feedback!
- You have typos in your survey. And should've included a link to the survey in the text that went out.