

# BAY TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN



## 2019–2023

*Planning Commission Approval and Recommendation: January 2, 2019*

*Township Board Adoption: January 10, 2019*

## CHARLEVOIX COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Updated with Planning Assistance provided by:

B R ⓘ  
Beckett&Raeder

**RECREATION PLAN  
2019-2023**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Section**

1.	Introduction and History .....	1-1
2.	Community Description.....	2-1
3.	Physical Characteristics .....	3-1
4.	Administrative Structure.....	4-1
5.	Description of the Planning Process .....	5-1
6.	Recreation Inventory.....	6-1
7.	Goals and Objectives .....	7-1
8.	Recreation Action Program.....	8-1
9.	Plan Adoption and Transmittals.....	9-1
	Appendix A: Public Input and Adoption Process- Supporting Documents.....	A-1
	Appendix B: Certification Checklist.....	B-1



# INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

## 1.1 Introduction

Featured for its natural resources, rural character, and waterways, Bay Township offers its residents and visitors excellent recreational opportunities. The adopted 2006 Bay Township Land Use Plan outlines goals and policies guiding the Township's future development, including recreational opportunities. Recreational goals, to further enhance experiences for both residents and visitors, were established from input at planning commission public meetings and input from an earlier community survey which were also considered in the update of the Recreation Plan. These recreational goals and action policies were reviewed and updated at additional public meetings in 2018.

The development of an updated recreation plan, designed in accordance with standards established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), enables Bay Township to be eligible for grant funding for recreational projects through the MDNR. These projects empower the Township to make progress toward attaining the following goals:

- Develop and maintain park and recreation areas to provide a variety of recreational opportunities to residents of, and visitors to, the Township.
- Make full use of local, State, and Federal programs to fulfill the objectives of the Land Use Plan and Recreational Plan.
- Cooperate with other units of government to develop recreational opportunities.
- Prepare and adopt a Community Recreation Plan with clear goals and policies to help guide recreational activities. Work with adjoining communities and Charlevoix County to pursue mutually agreed upon recreation projects.
- Develop Township lands for recreational opportunities
- Maximize public access, both physically and visually, by acquiring prime waterfront open space whenever feasible.
- Maintain and improve existing Township park and waterfront road ends as a means of meeting the needs of area citizens and visitors.
- Minimize the potential for creating conflicts with landowners adjacent to publicly owned recreational facilities by providing appropriate landscaping, parking areas, and hours of operation.
- Implement a capital improvement plan for the Township parks.

To become grant eligible for MDNR funding, a community must have an approved recreation plan. Components of an MDNR approved recreation plan include:

- **Community Description:** This section describes the social and physical characteristics of the Township. The social characteristics include age, employment trends, household sizes, people with disabilities, population, race/ethnic groups, and gender. Physical elements include a discussion of topography, climate, transportation systems, soils/vegetation, water resources, fish/wildlife, and land use patterns and zoning.
- **Recreation Inventory:** An inventory of existing public facilities, lands, parks, beaches, access sites, and services available to residents and visitors in Bay Township.
- **Administrative Structure:** This includes a review of the Township's operating budget, organizational chart, standard operational procedures, commission or advisory boards, relationships with other agencies, and description of township staff.
- **Description of the Planning Process**
- **Action Program:** Development of Capital Improvements and Programs through outlining short-term objectives. Long-term objectives are addressed through administrative policy recommendations and initiatives.
- **Basis for the Action Program:** A rationale for the capital improvement projects and programs addressing the objectives highlighted in the action program.
- **Plan Review and Adoption:** The formal approval process and guidelines are described as each stage of approval is attained.

## 1.2 History

A brief history of Bay Township serves to provide a better understanding of the growth and changes affecting the current and future recreational needs of the community.

Early non-native settlement began in the mid to late 1800's along the waterways serving as primary locations for early development. Attractive natural resources ushered growth for the region as settlers established homesteads for farming and the lumbermen took advantage of the vast timber resource.

The Township's location between Lake Charlevoix and Walloon Lake has had a significant influence on the community's history. As Europeans began to explore and later settle the area, Lake Charlevoix (then called Pine Lake) was plied by voyagers and traders. In the 1870's, the upper river between Lake Charlevoix and Round Lake was dredged to provide a link between Lake Charlevoix and Lake Michigan. This channel was used by small craft and for floating logs.

In 1882 the waterway was opened to large ships. Thereafter, the lake was used to ship logs and lumber from the area to Chicago and other southern Lake Michigan ports. Logs were brought to Lake Charlevoix by a variety of means. A tram railway operated during this era near what is now Sumner Road in the Township. Several small railroad companies also operated in the area. As the forests were logged off, agriculture began to replace the timber industry. The end of the lumbering boom resulted in a massive population drop as jobs declined.

The area's tourism industry began in the early 1900's with visitors traveling by rail or ship, staying in hotels located along rail lines and at ports where Great Lakes ships could be docked. The advent of automobile travel, and later improvements in automobiles and roads, made many

previously inaccessible areas easily reached by tourists. Easy access by car, along with the region's exceptional scenic and natural resources, contributed to the development of the area's modern resort/tourism industry and innumerable summer cottages. With the passage of time the local economy began to diversify with new residents recognizing the opportunity to entice travelers and vacationers to the area. Soon, recreational activities became the featured attraction for the Township as it became a widely recognized resort destination. The proximity of Bay Township to area ski and golf resorts has also contributed to the development of this area as a four-season recreational area.

Bay Township's central village, Horton Bay, was featured in several of Ernest Hemingway's Nick Adams stories, including "The End of Something" as referenced at [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org). The family spent summers at their cottage on Walloon Lake, near Bay Township. Hemingway's father taught him to hunt, fish, and camp in the woods and lakes of Northern Michigan as a young boy. These early experiences in nature instilled a passion for outdoor adventure and living in remote or isolated areas.

Presently, the growth and development of the Township is significantly controlled by recreational uses. The character of the area is best described as a bedroom-resort community. Commercial and business activities were and presently are limited. This helps protect natural resources, however a compromise for some basic services (retail stores such as grocery and dry goods) is necessary for those in the Township. This often requires residents and visitors to travel outside the Township to obtain needed services. The development philosophy of Bay Township, as detailed in the 2006 Land Use Plan, is to maintain the rural character of the Township and provide a desirable place for people to live or visit.

On October 12, 1887, Bay Township was organized as a general law township when it withdrew from Evangeline Township. The first annual meeting was held in "Ohle's Hall" on April 1, 1888.



## 2.1 Location

Bay Township is located in the north central part of Charlevoix County, bordered by Lake Charlevoix on the Southwest and Walloon Lake to the northeast. The Township lies between the cities of Boyne City to the East, Charlevoix to the West, and Petoskey to the North. The Township is approximately 50 miles from the Mackinac Bridge, 50 miles from Traverse City, and 200 miles from the State Capital, Lansing, see Map 2-1.

The Township is approximately 17.4 square miles or 11,136 acres in size, slightly less than half a standard congressional township of 36 square miles, due to Walloon Lake meandering through the Northeast portion of the Township and Lake Charlevoix on the Southwest portion. The northern boundary of the Township is the Emmet/Charlevoix county line and Resort Township. Neighboring Townships include Bear Creek to the north, a small portion of Evangeline and Melrose on the east, Evangeline on the south, and Hayes on the west.

## 2.2 Social and Economic Characteristics

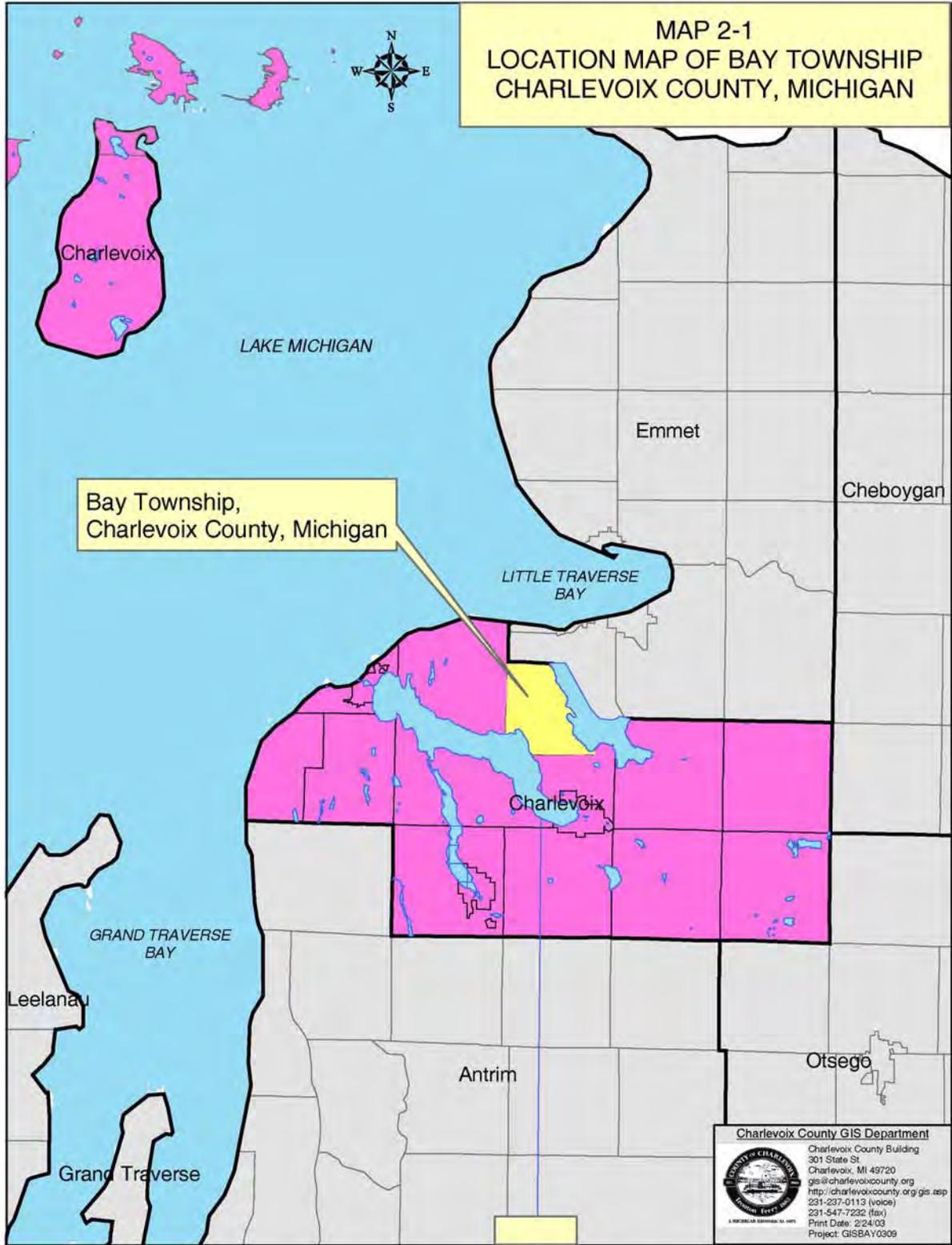
An important component in the recreation planning process is an understanding of the community's social and economic characteristics. This chapter explores population changes, age distribution, household make-up, income, education, employment, disability, and housing characteristics for Bay Township. Where significant, Township data is compared to Charlevoix County and the State of Michigan. The purpose of this section is to identify factors that could influence recreation planning decisions and to assist policy makers with these decisions.

### Population, Employment and Income Characteristics

According to the American Community Survey, the population for Bay Township in 2016 was 1,285 people (612 male, 673 female). This figure represents a 14.5% increase in population over the 2010 census.

In reviewing the population for Bay Township, however, it is important to note that the figures presented do not reflect the actual number of persons residing in the Township during the summer months. This situation can be seen throughout much of northern Michigan, especially in communities with a great deal of waterfront property. The census tally does not count residents who winter elsewhere. Census respondents are asked to declare a permanent residence different from their April location, if more than six months are spent at the alternate address. However, many fail to do so for reasons of misunderstanding or for tax purposes. Therefore, in reviewing the social and economic information derived from the American Community Survey and the Census data, it is essential to remember that this data does not fully describe the characteristics of Bay Township's seasonal and visiting population.

Median Household Income in 2016 was \$65,147 (out of 534 households) according to the U.S. American Fact Finder 2012-2016 Community Survey. Only 2.7% of the families were ranked below the poverty level compared to 6.7% in 2010.



**Table 2-1** compares population trends for the Township and the County for the years 1970 through 2016.

<b>Table 2-1</b> <b>Population Trends for Permanent Residents</b> <b>Bay Township and Charlevoix County 1970-2016</b>				
Year	County	% Change	Township	% Change
1970	16,541	----	456	----
1980	19,907	16.9%	599	31.3%
1990	21,468	7.2%	825	37.7%
2000	26,090	21.5%	1,068	29.5%
2010	25,949	-0.5%	1,122	5.1%
2016	26,172	0.9%	1,285	14.5%

Sources: US Census Bureau (1970-2010) and American Community Survey (2016)

Age Distribution & Racial Composition

Information on age distribution of a population can assist the community in determining what, if any, special recreational needs specific resident groups require as exhibited in **Table 2-2**.

<b>Table 2-2</b> <b>Age Distribution 2016</b> <b>Bay Township – Charlevoix County – State of Michigan</b>					
Bay Township			Charlevoix County		State
Age Group	Population	Percent	Population	Percent	Percent
Under 19 Years	226	17.6%	5,852	22.4%	25.3%
20 – 44 Years	274	21.4%	6,463	24.7%	31.5%
45 – 64 Years	468	36.4%	8,258	31.6%	27.8%
65 Years and Over	317	24.8%	5,599	21.4%	15.5%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>26,172</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: American Community Survey

According to the 2016 American Community Survey, the median age for Bay Township is 53.2 years old, for Charlevoix County it is 47.3 years old, and for the State is 39.5 years old. Note the largest group is found in the 45-64 years old bracket for the Township. The age composition of Township residents is important for policy makers to understand when evaluating the recreational needs of the residents. Therefore, Township officials can ensure the greatest amount of use for existing and future facilities and land improvements. An older population may prefer more passive recreational activities including boating, fishing, picnicking over activities like Nordic skiing, hiking, mountain biking, and sporting events (such as volleyball and basketball).

The Township is ethnically/racially homogenous in nature with 96.5% of the population classified as White with the remaining 1.8% being composed of other races.

### Disability Status

In 2016, the American Community Survey breaks the population into three different age categories for tracking disability status. For Bay Township, of the civilian non-institutionalized population in 2016 the 5-17 years age group, 6.5% have a disability; in the 18-64 years age group, 8.4% have a disability and in the 65 and over age group, 32.5% have a disability.

### Education

Education is an important factor in analyzing the capabilities of the local work force and the economic vitality of a community. The U.S. Census Bureau tracks educational attainment. Statistic from the U.S. Census American Fact Finder 2012-2016 Community Survey indicate that 94.1% of Bay Township residents are high school graduates or higher.

Township residents with a bachelor's degree or higher amount to 41% of the adult population.

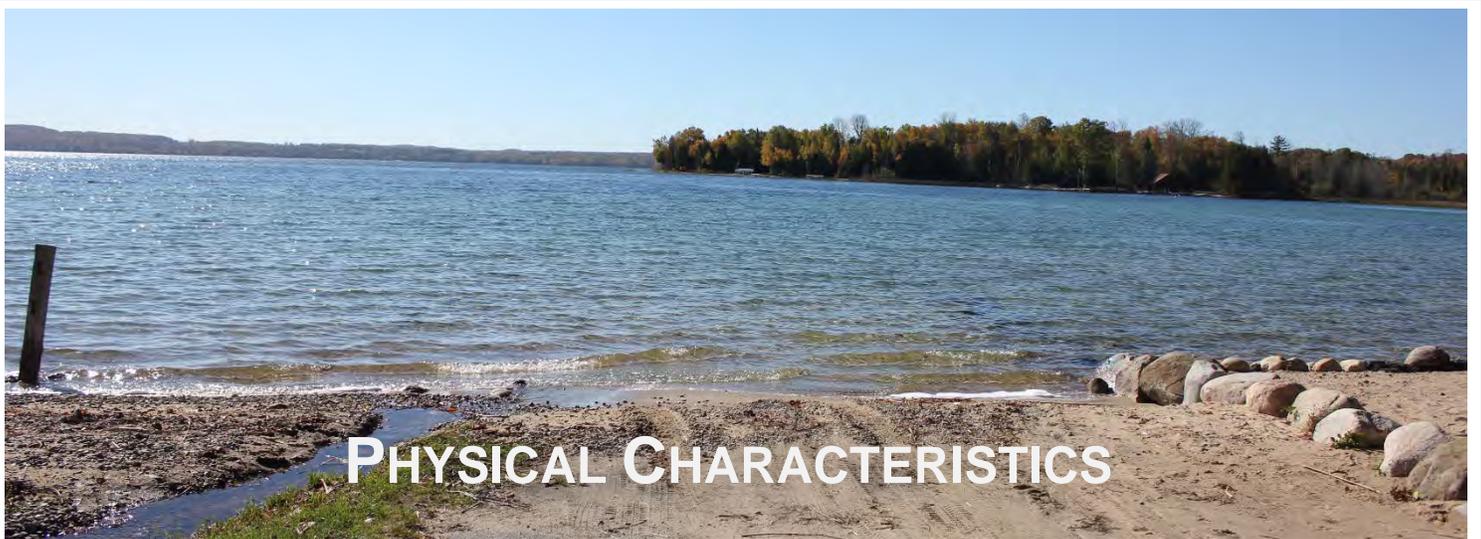
### Households

As of the 2016 American Community Survey shows that Bay Township had 874 housing units, of which 534 (61.1%) were occupied and 340 (38.9%) were classified as vacant. There are 522 owner occupied units. There are 316 of the owner-occupied housing units with a mortgage and 206 units without a mortgage. The average household size was 2.41 persons per household for Bay Township.

### Transportation

Charlevoix County provides a transit service to all of the County's residents at a low fare. The service is available Monday-Saturday. There is an expanded bus service on Friday and Saturday nights. Participants must make reservations for the service in advance. Subscription service is available for participants that need rides on a regular basis.

Charlevoix County Transportation Authority also transports passengers and vehicles across Lake Charlevoix between Boyne City and Charlevoix via the Ironton Ferry. The rates are very reasonable for people of all ages. The ferry is open mid-April through mid-November.



Bay Township's character is defined, in large part, by the community's abundant natural resources, including lakes, streams, woodlands, farmlands, open space, wetlands, dramatic topography, and exceptional scenic beauty. Although these resources influence the suitability of land for various types of development, they also make the Township and county attractive for development.

An analysis of Bay Township's physical environment and existing land use is beneficial in planning for future recreational facilities and activities. The preservation, protection, and enhancement of the natural features within the Township was identified as a central goal in the Township's Land Use Plan, along with preservation of Bay Township's quiet, scenic, rural character as new development occurs. Additional goals included: Acquiring rights to the use or development of areas of environmental or scenic significance for recreational and preservation purposes; Develop and maintain park and recreation areas to provide a variety of recreational opportunities to Township residents and visitors; cooperate with other units of government to develop recreational opportunities.

Bay Township is endowed with extraordinary waterways, and rich natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources. However, Bay Township residents are aware that, lacking voluntary protection, historic structures within private ownership are vulnerable to significant alteration or destruction. Further, absent well-crafted, enforced, and fairly applied regulation, water quality, farmlands, and other natural and scenic resources are also at risk.

It is the position of Bay Township and its residents that the quality of life, economic welfare and environmental well-being of the Township are inherently tied to guiding future growth in a manner that will not negatively impact but conserve and/or enhance these resources. Bay Township also recognizes the need for the identification, application, and maintenance of public and voluntary private conservation tools to these important resources.

### **Existing Land Use Patterns and Zoning**

The relationship between existing park and recreation facilities and other land uses in the community is critical in determining the location of future recreational facilities. This enables decision makers to recognize areas where future growth is anticipated, and/or further expansion of existing facilities may be necessary. This also identifies areas where existing recreational facilities may be insufficient for the recreational needs of Township residents and visitors. **Map 3-1** (located on the following page) exhibits the Major Cover and Uses Map.

### Agricultural/Vacant Lands

This category includes the forested, open/shrubland, and agricultural classes on the land use map. As of the last land use update, one-third of the Township is either vacant or used for agricultural and/or forestry. Approximately half of this land is semi-suited for some type of farming industry, being flat with partially open fields. The other half is more constrained due to steep slopes, wetlands, poor soils and the lack of available infrastructure.

### Residential

Lake residential is located along the shores of Walloon Lake and Lake Charlevoix. The lakeshore is primarily developed, with some limited parcels still available for future splits and development. Medium density residential development exists in several areas of the Township including Villa de Charlevoix, Alpine Hills, Bear Cove Village, Hills of Walloon, Horton Bay, Horton Bay Club, Mar-Jean Charlevoix Shores, Walloon View Brae, and Zenith Heights. A majority of these are platted-developed lots. A majority of the current rural agricultural residential structures are located on fronting parcels and built directly with access to County roads throughout the Township.

### Fish and Wildlife

Fish and wildlife are abundant in Bay Township. It is common to see whitetail deer, wild turkeys, fox, grouse, raccoons, striped skunk, partridge, woodcock, red fox, snowshoe hare, squirrels, opossum, eastern cottontail, porcupines, mink, weasels, and coyote in the Township. Residents of Bay Township express interest in viewing and/or preserving habitat for all existing species.

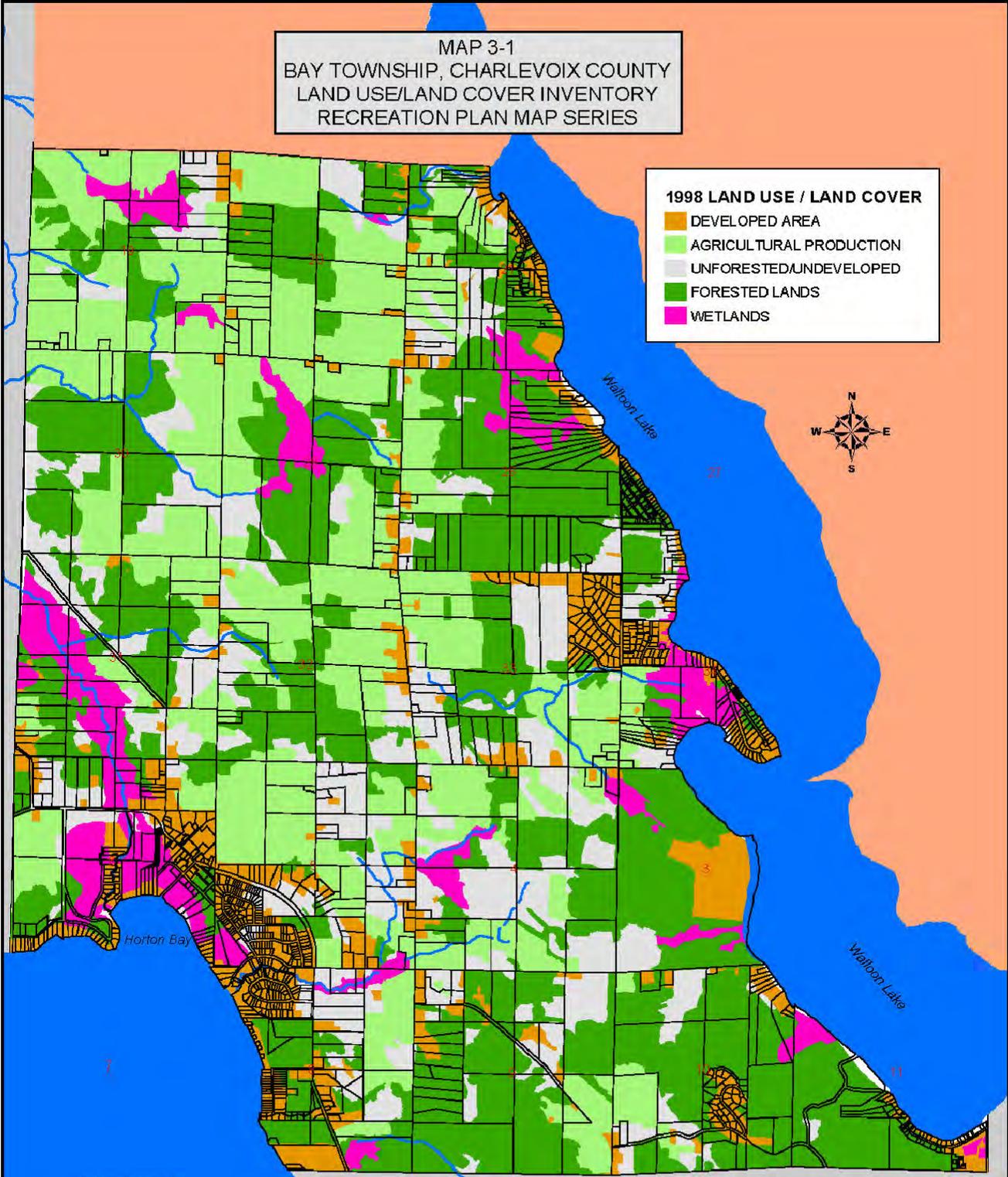
Fishing on nearby waterways is an important recreational activity enjoyed by residents and visitors. Township-owned boat ramps are located on Lake Charlevoix at the end of Lake Street in Horton Bay, and at the end of Sumner Road on Walloon Lake. Several public access and put-in points for boats exist within neighboring Townships and communities, including two public access on Lake Charlevoix at Springwater Beach approximately two miles south of Horton Bay within Evangeline Township. Nearby Young State Park, Boyne City, and Ironton possess publicly-owned boat ramps and/or marinas on Lake Charlevoix.

Recreational fishing and the viewing of wildlife are important components of the quality of life in Bay Township. There are several protected birds, plants, and animals that can be found within the Township.

MAP 3-1  
 BAY TOWNSHIP, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY  
 LAND USE/LAND COVER INVENTORY  
 RECREATION PLAN MAP SERIES

**1998 LAND USE / LAND COVER**

- DEVELOPED AREA
- AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
- UNFORESTED/UNDEVELOPED
- FORESTED LANDS
- WETLANDS



Sources: 1998 Land Use/Cover Update Developed by the  
 Charlevoix County Planning Department  
 2002 County Equalization Parcel Base/Ownership Layer  
 Base Reference Maintained by the Michigan Center for  
 Geographic Information

Charlevoix County GIS Department  
 Charlevoix County Building  
 301 State St.  
 Charlevoix, MI 49720  
[gis@charlevoixcounty.org](mailto:gis@charlevoixcounty.org)  
<http://charlevoixcounty.org/gis.asp>  
 231-237-0113 (voice)  
 231-547-7232 (fax)  
 Print Date: 2/24/03  
 Project: GISBA Y0308

### Commercial/Industrial

The Township does not have a substantial amount of commercial development of any kind. General commercial property is limited to the Village of Horton Bay (Horton Bay General Store and the Red Fox Inn) and the Bear Cove Marina on Walloon Lake off St. Louis Club Road. There are a number of home-based retail, professional and service businesses (antique and craft shops, building and heating contractors, attorneys, consultants, etc.) located throughout the Township. Residents and visitors presently leave the Township to purchase all but the most basic essentials and supplies. Industrial activities are not present in the Township. According to a Township survey, Township residents expressed disinterest in encouraging commercial and industrial growth, but instead favored limited, planned, and controlled growth.

### Public Lands and Facilities

The State of Michigan owns an unimproved 223-acre parcel with frontage on Walloon Lake. The Township only owns a few acres of land and several lake front road ends. The Sumner Road access, Lake Street access and Wildwood Drive access to Walloon Lake have all been improved. There is a history of unimproved road end lake access sites being lost due to encroachment by adjacent property owners, resulting in a renewed interest to improve the road end access sites that the Township does have.

The Bay Township Hall and the Horton Bay United Methodist Church are located in Horton Bay. Township owned Sherwood Park, located on Walloon Lake at the foot of Camp Sherwood Road, is the community's only public park facility. Additionally, the Township has a dock in Lake Charlevoix with recent improvements at the end of Lake Street.

### Zoning

Zoning is another factor that needs to be considered in determining the location for expansion of existing and development of new recreational facilities. Zoning is a locally adopted ordinance which delineates the municipality into districts within which uniform regulations and requirements govern the use, placement, spacing, and size of land and buildings. As illustrated in **Map 3-2**, the Township is divided into three zoning districts. There are also two overlay districts, a Waterfront Overlay and a Village Overlay.

### Topography

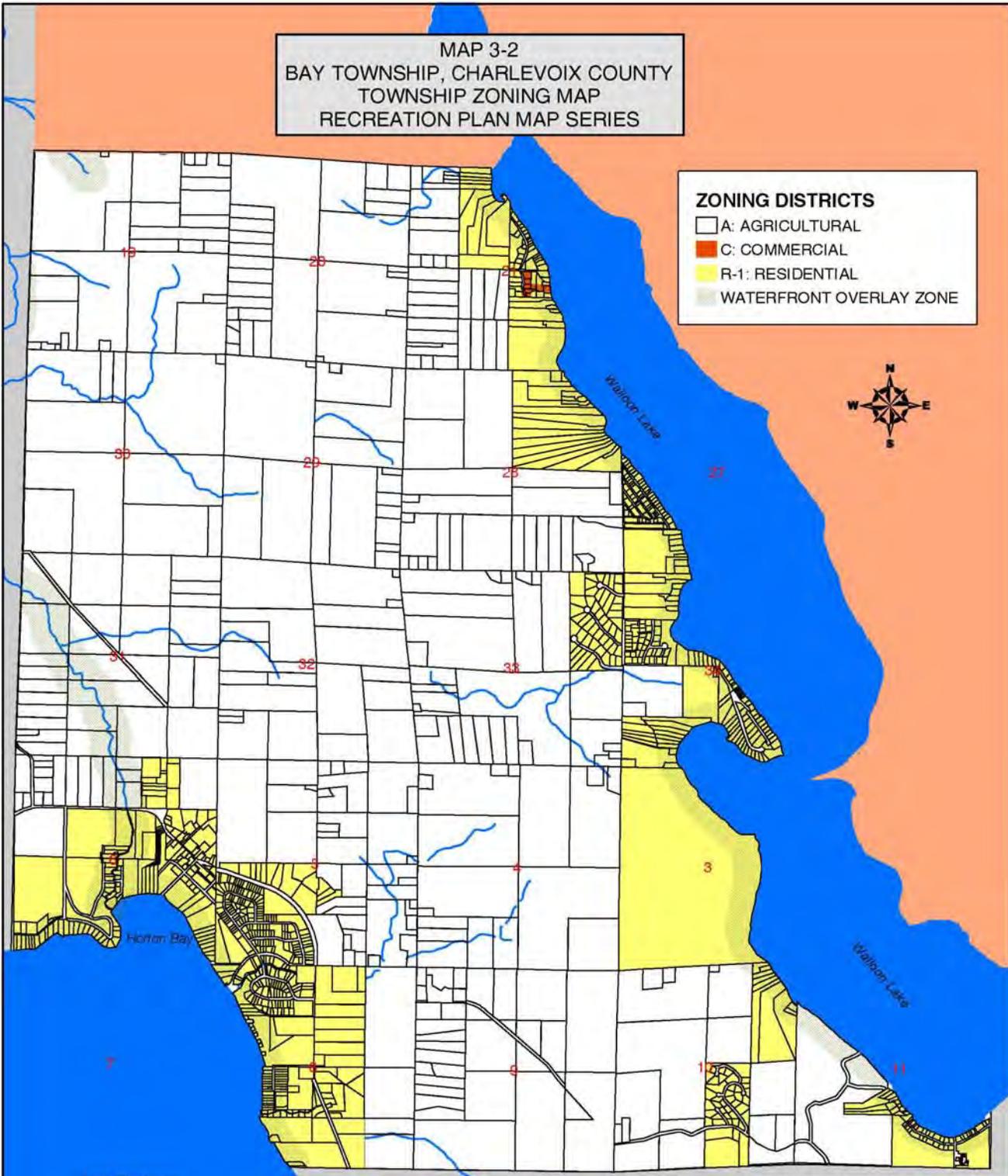
**Map 3-3** exhibits a topographic map for Bay Township. The Township and all of Northern Michigan was subjected to glacial ice sheet advances and retreats 10,000 – 12,000 years ago which greatly influenced the relief of the land. The glacial action had a large impact on the formation of the parent material or unconsolidated mass in which soils were formed.

The relief of the land in the Township ranges from flat, post-glacial lake meltwater plains (existing as wetland and lowland areas currently) to very steep slopes (>25%). **Map 3-4** exhibits the steep slopes as percentages for the Township. To judge slope steepness, it is important to note the contour interval. This interval gives the change in elevation between successive contour lines. On **Map 3-4** the contour interval is 5 meters or about 16.4 feet. The steepness of slopes is usually referred to as the slope gradient. This is found by dividing the change in elevation between two points by the distance between those same points. Taking this number and converting it to a percentage allows you to find the percent slope. Elevations range from a high of 990 feet to a low of 578 feet at the shore of Lake Charlevoix.

MAP 3-2  
 BAY TOWNSHIP, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY  
 TOWNSHIP ZONING MAP  
 RECREATION PLAN MAP SERIES

**ZONING DISTRICTS**

- A: AGRICULTURAL
- C: COMMERCIAL
- R-1: RESIDENTIAL
- WATERFRONT OVERLAY ZONE



Sources: 2002 Bay Township Planning Commission Zoning Review  
 2002 County Equalization Parcel Base/Ownership Layer  
 Base Reference Maintained by the Michigan Center for  
 Geographic Information

**Charlevoix County GIS Department**  
 Charlevoix County Building  
 301 State St.  
 Charlevoix, MI 49720  
 gis@charlevoixcounty.org  
 http://charlevoixcounty.org/gis.asp  
 231-237-0113 (voice)  
 231-547-7232 (fax)  
 Print Date: 2/24/08  
 Project: GISBAY0308



**MAP 3-3  
BAY TOWNSHIP, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP  
RECREATION PLAN MAP SERIES**



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles  
 Sources: USGS 7.5 Minute Digital Raster Graphic Topographic Map Series  
 2002 County Equalization Parcel Base/Ownership Layer  
 Parcel Base Reference Maintained by the Michigan Center for  
 Geographic Information  
 Page 17

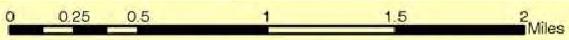
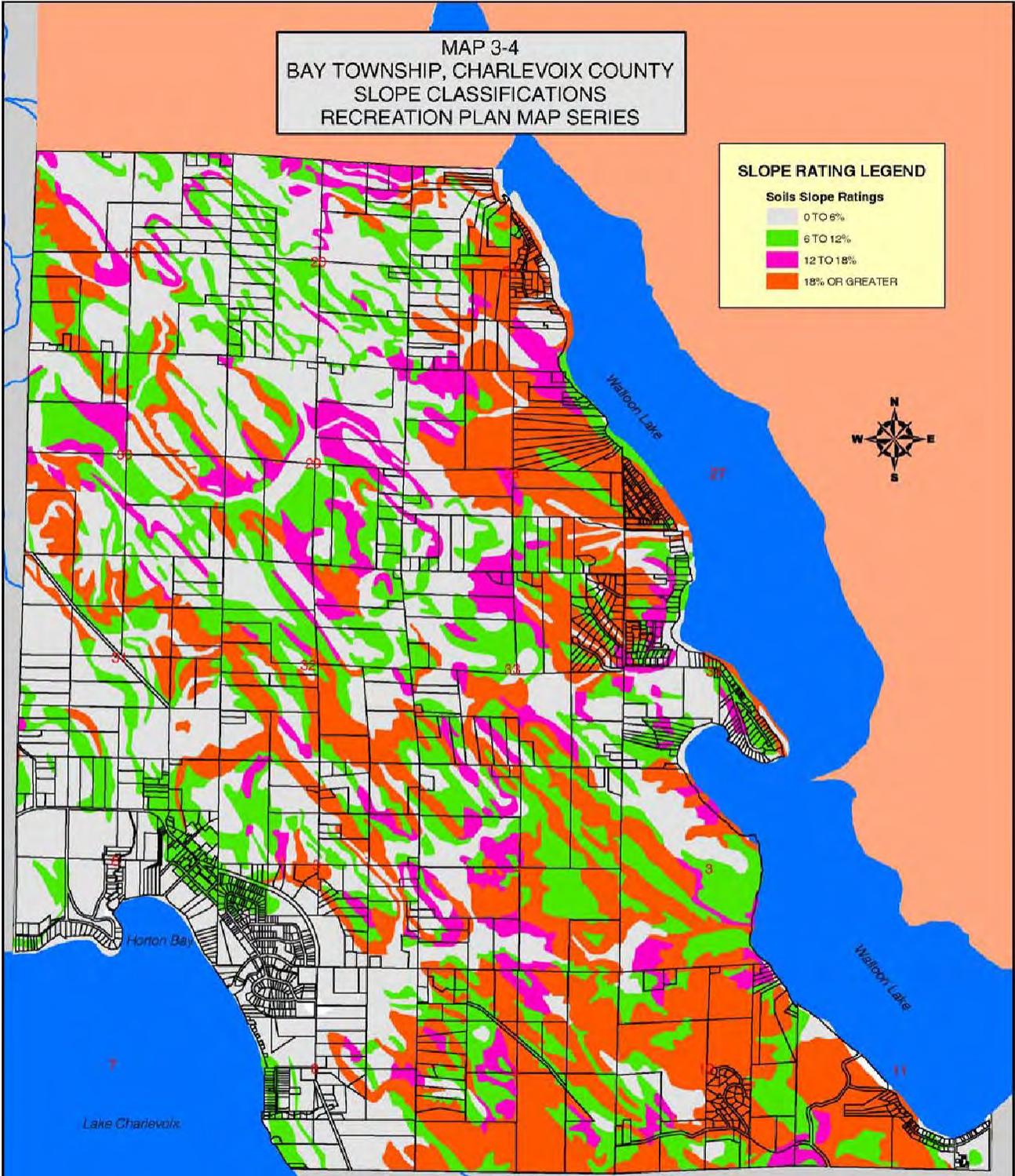
**Charlevoix County GIS Department**  
 Charlevoix County Building  
 301 State St.  
 Charlevoix, MI 49720  
[gis@charlevoixcounty.org](mailto:gis@charlevoixcounty.org)  
<http://charlevoixcounty.org/gis.asp>  
 231-237-0113 (voice)  
 231-547-7232 (fax)  
 Print Date: 2/24/03  
 Project: GISBA0308

**MAP 3-4  
BAY TOWNSHIP, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY  
SLOPE CLASSIFICATIONS  
RECREATION PLAN MAP SERIES**

**SLOPE RATING LEGEND**

**Soils Slope Ratings**

- 0 TO 6%
- 6 TO 12%
- 12 TO 18%
- 18% OR GREATER



Sources: NRCS Soil Survey of Charlevoix County Published in 1974  
2002 County Equalization Parcel Base-Ownership Layer  
Parcel Base Reference Maintained by the Michigan Center for  
Geographic Information

**Charlevoix County GIS Department**

Charlevoix County Building  
301 State St.  
Charlevoix, MI 49720  
gis@charlevoixcounty.org  
http://charlevoixcounty.org/gis.asp  
231-237-0113 (voice)  
231-547-7232 (fax)  
Print Date: 2/24/08  
Project: GISBAY0308



## Water & Wildlife Resources

Bay Township abuts 2 ¼ miles of Lake Charlevoix's 60-mile shoreline, and 7 ½ miles of Walloon Lake's shoreline. Land along and adjacent to the Township shorelines exhibit the highest densities of residential development in the community. Horton Creek traverses the Township for approximately three miles before emptying into Lake Charlevoix at Horton Bay. Land at the creek's mouth is densely developed. Several small ponds are scattered throughout the Township. Wetlands border much of Horton Creek and occupy a portion of the northern part of the Township in Sections 19, 30, and 29, and an area fronting on Walloon Lake in Section 34 on both sides of Eagle Island Road.

There are several other small creeks and streams in the Township that feed into either Walloon Lake or Lake Charlevoix. These offer limited public use because of their size, but they do provide vegetation and habitat for wildlife.

Water activities are a well-known recreational attraction in the Township and include swimming, boating, and sport fishing in the summer months, and ice fishing in the winter months. Both Lake Charlevoix and Walloon Lake are and should remain protected as a natural resource as well as an attraction.

## Soils and Vegetation

Soil characteristics help to define the land capacity to support certain types of land uses. Soils most suitable for development purposes are well-drained and are not subject to a high-water table. Adequate drainage is important to minimizing storm water impacts and the efficient operation of septic drain fields. Adequate depth to the water table is necessary to prevent groundwater contamination from septic systems. A high-water table also limits the construction of basements. Though civil engineering techniques can be employed to improve drainage and maintain adequate separation from the water table, such techniques are expensive to construct and maintain. Planners and public officials should carefully consider any development proposal which threatens this nonrenewable resource.

For planning purposes, Bay Township's soils are divided into three categories: Hydric Soils, Hydric Inclusions, and Upland Soils. Please reference **Map 3-5** to review where these soil conditions exist and the extent of the Township within each class. Note the areas not designated as hydric or hydric inclusions on Map 3-5 are classified as upland soils.

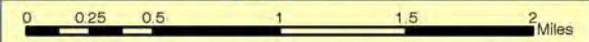
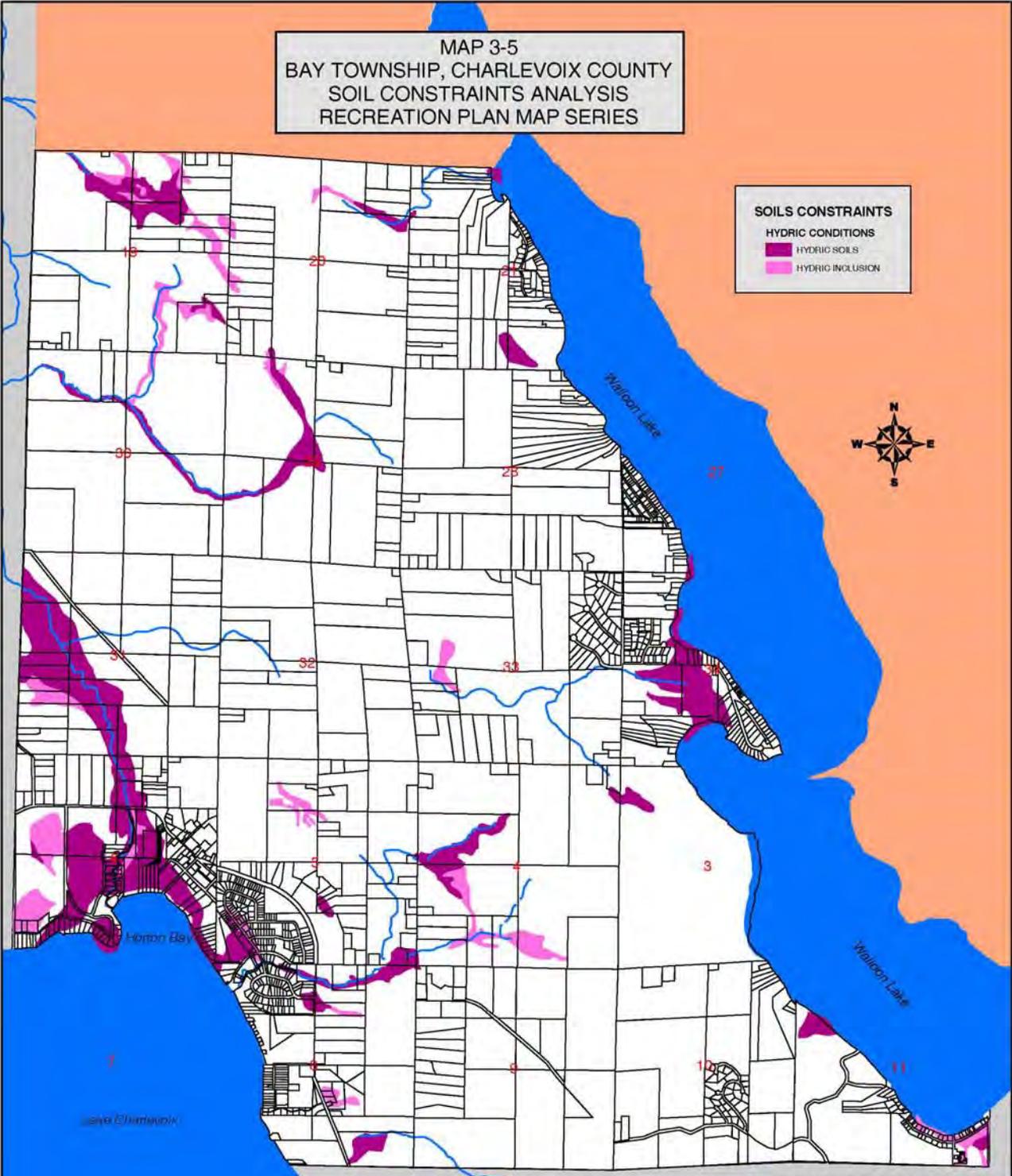
Hydric (wetland), very poorly drained soils, are generally unsuited for septic system installations, road construction, and building site development. These soils tend to be of insufficient strength to support building foundations. Shrinking and swelling of soils during freeze/thaw cycles can damage building foundations unless soils are modified with the appropriate fill materials. There are several areas of the Township where these soils occur, primarily adjacent to Horton Creek. Areas noted as Hydric Inclusions are generally poorly or somewhat poorly drained soils which means these soils tend to be wet for significant periods of time but not continuously. Development in these areas should be reviewed on a site-specific basis. A thorough investigation should be made to determine the soil's ability to provide necessary drainage for on-site septic systems and support for foundations as determined by the ponding frequency of the soil. Upland Soils tend to have qualities suitable for most types of developments. The primary consideration when developing areas with Upland Soils is the slope gradient, which is a notable concern for the Township.

**MAP 3-5  
BAY TOWNSHIP, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY  
SOIL CONSTRAINTS ANALYSIS  
RECREATION PLAN MAP SERIES**

**SOILS CONSTRAINTS**

**HYDRIC CONDITIONS**

- HYDRIC SOILS
- HYDRIC INCLUSION



Sources: NRCS Soil Survey of Charlevoix County Published in 1974  
2002 County Equalization Parcel Base Ownership Layer  
Parcel Base Reference Maintained by the Michigan Center for Geographic Information

**Charlevoix County GIS Department**

Charlevoix County Building  
301 State St.  
Charlevoix, MI 49720  
gis@charlevoixcounty.org  
http://charlevoixcounty.org/gis.asp  
231-237-0113 (voice)  
231-547-7232 (fax)  
Print Date: 2/24/03  
Project: GISBAY0308

Climate

The climate in Bay Township is greatly influenced by Lake Michigan. The Lake tends to moderate temperatures during the year by keeping them slightly warmer in the Autumn and cooler in the Spring. This is in contrast to areas further inland in Northern Michigan.

<b>Table 3-1 Bay Township Climate Summary</b>	
<i>Temperature Summary</i>	
January Average Minimum Temperature	14°F
January Average Maximum Temperature	30°F
July Average Minimum Temperature	55°F
July Average Maximum Temperature	82°F
<i>Precipitation Summary</i>	
Average Annual Rainfall	31.58"
Average Annual Snowfall	121"
<i>Growing Season Summary</i>	
Date of Last Spring Occurrence (90% of the years recorded – May 9)	<32°F
Date of First Fall Occurrence (90% of the years recorded – September 10)	<32°F
Average Length of Growing Season (90% of the years recorded)	140 Days
Sources: U.S. Climate Data	



#### **4.1 Township Organization**

Townships are explicitly organized under the provisions of the Michigan Constitution. They can only deliver services authorized by state statute and their operations must conform to procedures established by the Michigan Legislature or state administrative rules. Within their constitutional limitations, townships can perform a wide variety of services such as law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, water, sewer, storm drainage and parks and recreation programs. Many other services are also provided including planning, zoning, and economic development. The Michigan Constitution and state statutes limit the amount of property tax millage that townships can levy for general township operations. There are two types of townships in Michigan, general law and charter. General Law Townships are allocated one mill from the constitutionally limited 15 mills allocated among townships, the county, public schools, and the intermediate school district. Charter Townships do not share in this allocated millage but are authorized to levy additional millage of up to 5 mills, or 10 mills with voter approval. Townships also utilize other sources of revenue to support services. User fees, permits, fines, special assessments and grant programs are the most frequently used.

Bay Township operates under the General Law Township form of government. The township's legislative body is a five-member elected board of trustees consisting of a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and two trustees. Additional support is provided through the offices of the Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, Auditors, Legal Counsel, Zoning Administrator, Planner, and Sexton.

The Supervisor and Township Board have appointed the following boards, commissions, and committees to guide in the delivery of government services:

- Board of Review
- Planning Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Cemetery Board
- Lot Split Committee

### Recreation Services Organization

Bay Township may ultimately establish a Parks and Recreation Committee to oversee the general operation of township parks and recreation programs. At the present time, the Planning Commission is also serving as the Parks and Recreation Committee. This body will provide recommendations regarding park policies and projects to the Township Board.

The Parks and Recreation Committee and Township staff will serve as a community sounding board on recreation matters and bring the concerns of the residents to Township Board for consideration. Routine park maintenance is handled by the Township staff, contractors and volunteers, operating under the direct authority of the Township Board. The ultimate decision-making authority and responsibility for all park related projects resides with the Township Board.

The Township contracts local services to maintain Township properties, including recreational facilities. Recreation maintenance duties include grass mowing, trash removal, the opening, closing and cleaning of restroom facilities, snow removal and general maintenance of equipment and facilities.

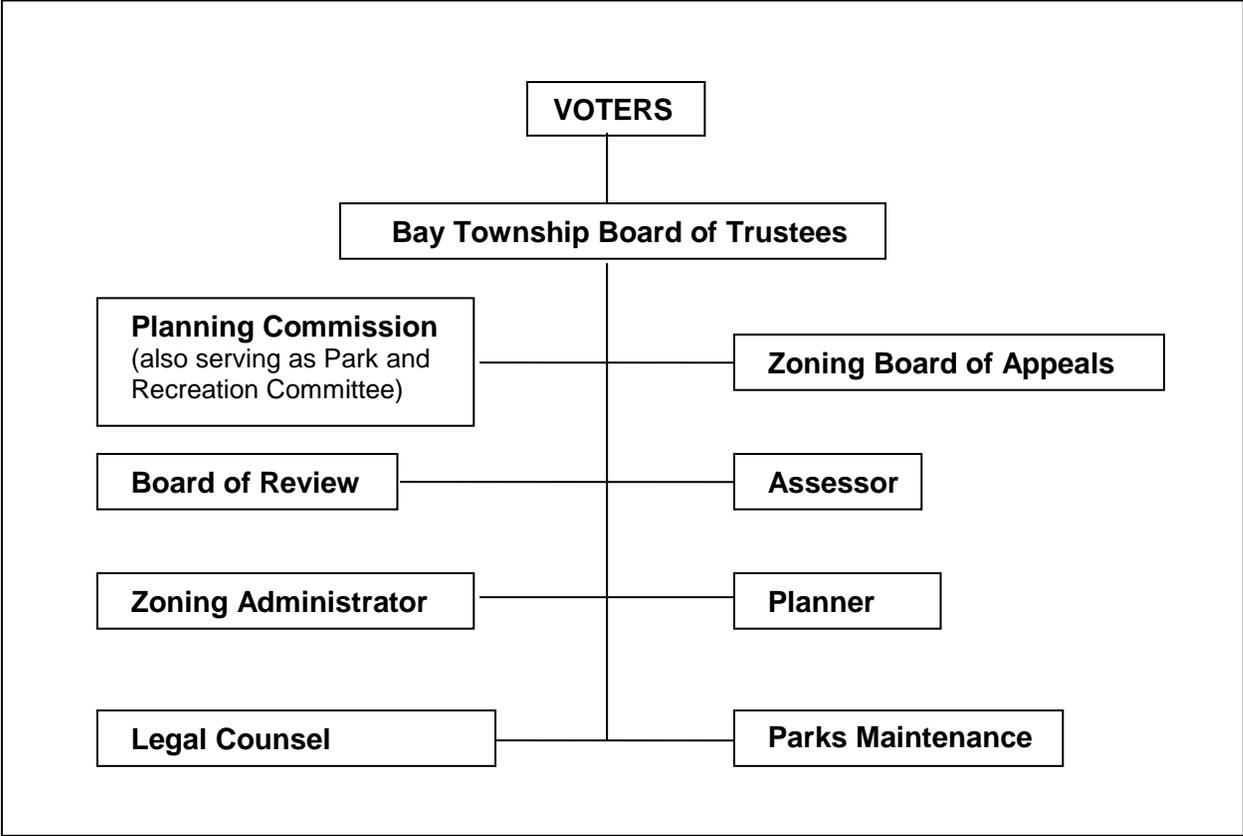
### **4.2 Recreation Expenditures**

The recreation budget and expenditures can be found in table 4-1.

## **BAY TOWNSHIP**

Year Ending March 31				
<b>Parks and Accesses</b>	<b>2015-2016 Actual</b>	<b>2016-2017 Actual</b>	<b>2017-2018 Budgeted</b>	<b>2018-2019 Proposed</b>
<b>Wages</b>	\$2,397	\$1,825	\$3,500	\$3,500
<b>Maintenance</b>	\$1,228	\$2,039	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	\$197	\$17,836	\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,822</b>	<b>\$21,700</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>

4.3 Organizational Structure



#### 4.4 Relationships

Bay Township does not have a school in its political boundaries but is served by the Boyne City School District. Therefore, students from the township can participate in the school recreation and sports activities, community Little League and Hockey teams.

Bay Township will be working cooperatively with the Top of Michigan Trails Council and Charlevoix County to pursue development of non-motorized trails and bike lane, in order to most effectively develop local routes that connect to the larger trail system of northern Michigan.

Charlevoix County adopted a recreation plan in 2015, however for Bay Township to pursue Township recreation goals on an accelerated timeframe, the Township has decided to maintain a Township level recreation plan.

The Bay Township Recreation Plan does include provisions to continue and enhance the working relationship with Charlevoix County, the Little Traverse Conservancy, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, the Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy, local Tribal governments and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as related to recreational opportunities and facilities in Bay Township. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council put together a report with recommendations to the water access sites throughout Bay Township. The report includes information and resources to help protect the water quality in Bay Township.

Bay Township utilizes volunteers to help with general maintenance and park improvements. Volunteers routinely dispose of waste at the road ends and at Sherwood Park. People also give their time to help with clean up at the Lake Street access site.

#### Status Report of all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

The following is a summary of the grant assistance received by Bay Township, through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for recreational purposes.

<u>Bay Township</u>	
<b>Project No. TF87-222</b>	<b>Project Year: 1987</b>
<b>Project Title:</b> Eagle Island/Walloon Lake	
<b>Project Status:</b> Closed	<b>Grant Amount: \$90,000.00</b>
<b>Project Description:</b> Acquire 1.22 acres of Eagle Island property with 300 feet of frontage on Walloon Lake.	
<hr/>	
<b>Project No. BF89-647</b>	<b>Project Year: 1989</b>
<b>Project Title:</b> Bay Township Park	
<b>Project Status:</b> Closed	<b>Grant Amount: \$27,225.00</b>
<b>Element</b>	
Parking Lot	
Vault Toilet	
Gazebo	
Handicap Trail	
<b>Project Description:</b> To construct a parking area, vault toilet, gazebo, and handicap access trail on a township park.	



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Bay Township

PROJECT TF87-222 PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Eagle Island/Walloon Lake

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquire 1.22 acres of Eagle Island Property with 300 feet of frontage

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Bay Township, Wendy Simmons, Township Clerk, 05045 Boyne City Road, 231-582-3594, Boyne City, MI 49712, clerk@baytownship.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [X]Yes [ ]No
An overlook deck, vault toilets, and parking area were added.

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ]Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ]Yes [X]No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [ ]Yes [X]No
Accessibility improvements are listed in the new Recreation Plan for 2019.

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.
Present use is for water access and picnicking. Accessibility upgrades and new picnic amenities are listed in the new Recreation Plan for 2019.

## POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

### SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?  
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.

Yes  No

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

### GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities?  
(i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes  No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Dawn until Dusk

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

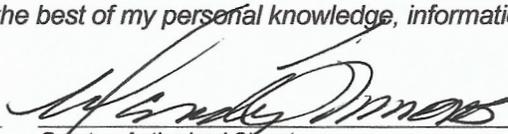
**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Wendy Simmons

Please print

  
Grantee Authorized Signature

11-17-18

Date

Carrie Klingel Smith

Please print

  
Witness Signature

11-17-18

Date

**Send completed report to:**

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

**POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)**

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

Bay Township is in the process of purchasing a Trust Fund Plaque to display at the park.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

Wendy Simmons

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

11-17-18

Date

Carrie Klingelsmith

Please print



Witness Signature

11-17-18

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

## POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT (CONT'D)

### SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?  
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Are there any features near the site which would detract from the use and enjoyment of the site or would pose a health or safety problem? If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.

Yes  No

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

Yes  No

Grass is mowed on a regular basis. Restrooms are cleaned and trash is picked up on a regular basis.

### GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities?  
(i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes  No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Dawn until Dusk



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [ ] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [X] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Bay Township

PROJECT BF89-647 PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Bay Township Park (now known as Sherwood Park)

PROJECT SCOPE: To construct a parking area, vault toilet, gazebo, ADA access trail

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Bay Township, Wendy Simmons, Township Clerk, 05045 Boyne City Road, 231-582-3594, Boyne City, MI 49712, clerk@baytownship.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

Please refer to the attached boundary map. Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

Is the site and all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities? If no, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No
The accessibility improvements are in the new Recreation Plan for 2019.

List all additional existing development/facilities at the referenced project site. If the site is undeveloped, please describe the present use and provide a schedule for future development, including a list of proposed facilities.
Facility upgrades are listed in the new Recreation Plan for 2019.

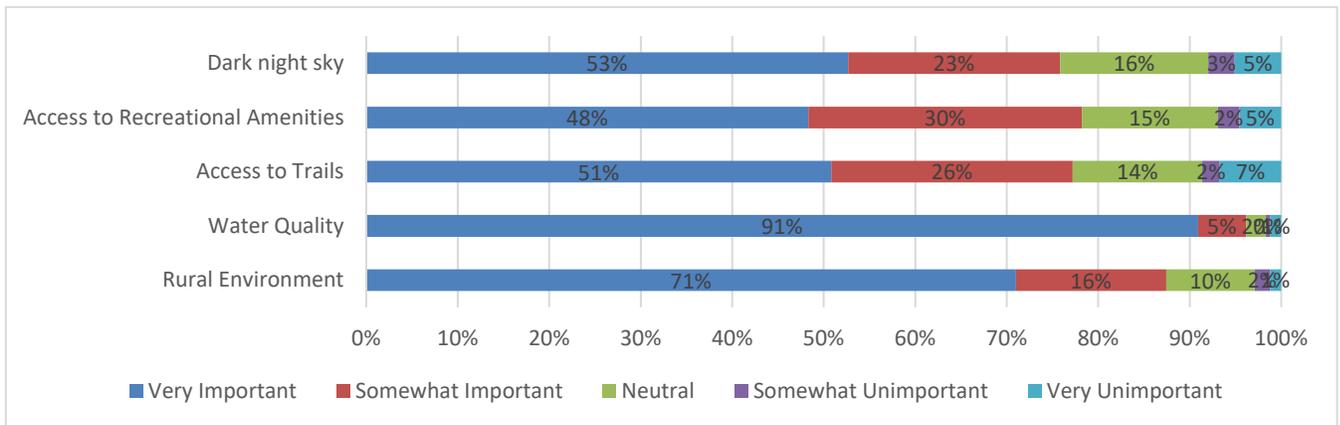
## Public Input

In February of 2018, a total of 1,103 surveys were mailed to Township residents. Addresses were compiled from the list of registered voters and from the County Equalization office. Due to the seasonal nature of many Bay Township residents, it was common for residents to receive a copy of the survey at their permanent address and at their Bay Township address. Every effort was made to reach all residents, including renters.

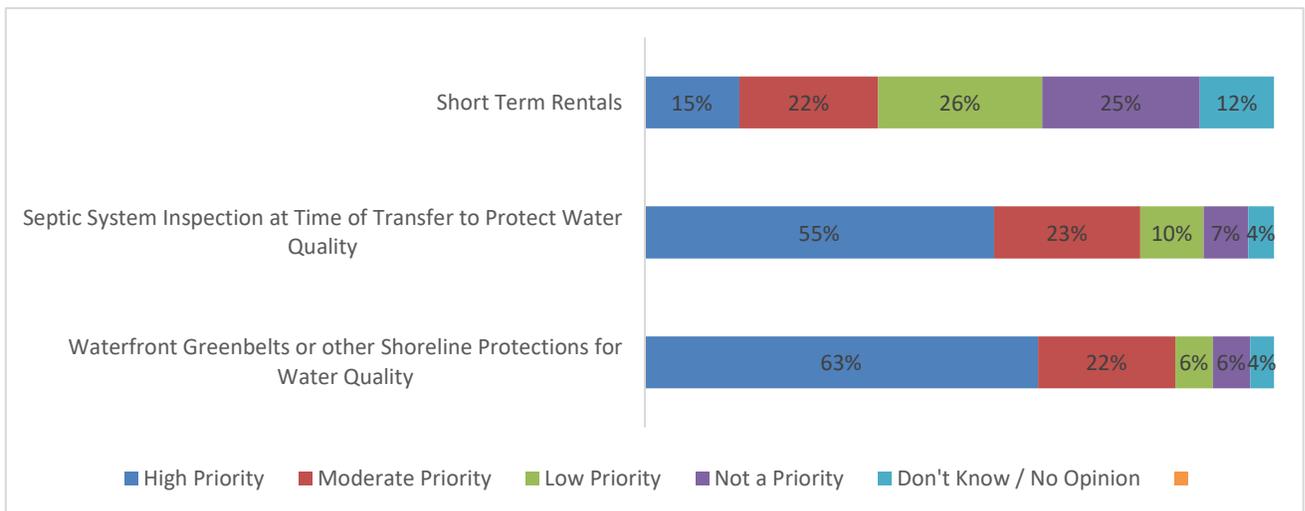
A total of 421 individuals completed the survey. Because one survey was mailed to each household (including seasonal property owners living outside the Township), we can estimate the response rate to be approximately 51%. This is based on the fact that there are 847 housing units in the Township (2016 American Communities Survey 5-year estimates). While 340 of the housing units are classified as vacant, the Census estimates that 92% of all vacant housing units are actually occupied seasonally. The vast majority of the surveys were returned by mail (92%), while 8% of surveys were completed online.

Listed below are some of the highlights from the survey. A full survey can be found in the appendix of this Recreation Plan.

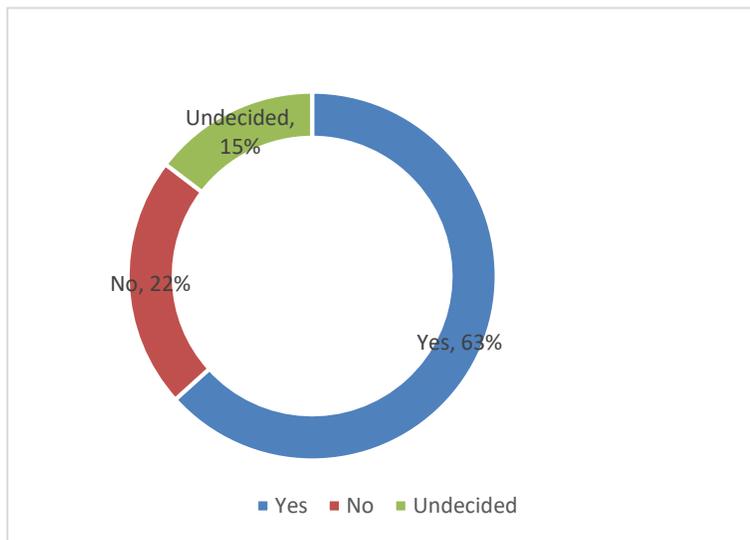
### How important are the following in Bay Township?



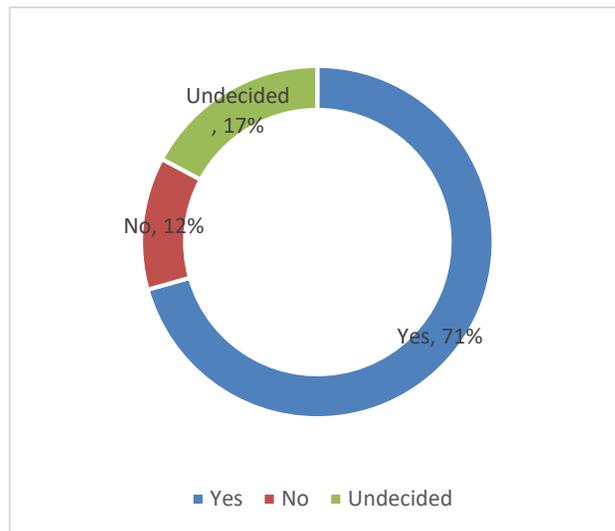
### Rate each of the following issues as a priority for regulation in the Township.



**Would you be supportive of non-motorized trails and expanded recreational opportunities for Township residents?**



**Should Bay Township partner with conservancies and others to protect farmland and other important natural features?**



78% of the survey respondents say that access to recreational amenities are somewhat important to very important. 77% of the survey takers said that access to trails is somewhat important to very important. Bay Township residents feel that Water Quality should be a high priority (96%) for Township regulation.

The survey specified that 85% of people rated waterfront greenbelts or other shoreline protections for water quality as priorities. 264 people said they would support non-motorized trails and expanded recreational opportunities for Township residents. Over 70% of the survey respondents said that Bay Township should partner with conservancies and other to protect farmland and other important natural features.

The draft Bay Township Community Recreation Plan was initially made available for public review at the Township Hall and via the Township website beginning December 1, 2018. A public hearing on January 2, 2019, was held to gather input from the community.

No additional public comments were received at or before the Planning Commission meeting on January 2, 2019.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

This plan is an update of the Bay Township Recreation Plan as revised and adopted in 2013. This updated plan includes minor revisions and updates.

The Bay Township Planning Commission serving as the parks and recreation committee began a comprehensive review of the earlier Recreation Plan in 2018 and determined much of the earlier plan was still applicable.

A community survey was sent out in collaboration with the Master Planning process. A total of 421 individuals completed the survey. Because one survey was mailed to each household (including seasonal property owners living outside the Township), we can estimate the response rate to be approximately 51%.

After updating sections of the plan as needed, the Planning Commission scheduled and held a public hearing on January 2, 2019 to solicit additional public input on the draft. A notice was published in the Petoskey News Review on November 17, 2018, posted on the township website and at the following typical posting locations in the township.

The Bay Township Board of Trustees reviewed the plan at their December 2018 meeting, and then adopted the plan by Resolution #2013-01-1 on January 10, 2019.

The minutes of the public hearing and copies of the resolutions and corresponding meeting minutes for the adoption process are provided in Appendix A.



## 6.1 Bay Township

A large number of the recreational facilities located in Bay Township are privately owned or are non-profit and available only to a limited number of citizens. The recreation inventory **Table 6-1** lists all existing facilities, and **Map 6-1** shows the location of the public, quasi-public and some of the non-profit recreation facilities in the Township. With the exception of Sherwood Park, the remainder recreational sites are roads ending at the water's edge. The only other public land is the state-owned parcel on Walloon Lake which functions as a natural area. No facilities are available on this 222-acre site.

**Table 6-1**  
Existing Recreational Facilities in Bay Township

MAP KEY	FACILITY NAME	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC	APPROX SIZE	FACILITIES AVAILABLE	ACCESSIBILITY RATING
Township Owned						
T-1	Sherwood Park/ County Easement	Township/ County	Yes	1 acre	Swimming, Restrooms, Picnic facilities	2
T-2	Eagle Island Rd.	Township	Yes	¼ acre	Public Access	1
T-3	Township Hall	Township	Yes	½ acre	Meeting Room	3
Road Commission Owned						
RC-1	Franklin Avenue, Walloon Lake	Road Commission	Yes	Road width	Public Access	
RC-2	Stolt Rd. Access, Walloon Lake	Road Commission	Yes	¼ acre	Public Access, Boat Launch	
RC-3	Sumner Rd Access, Walloon Lake	Road Commission	Yes	¼ acre	Public Access, Boat Launch	
RC-4	Wildwood Dr. Access, Walloon Lake	Road Commission	Yes	¼ acre	Public Access, Boat Launch	
RC-5	Lake St. Access, Lake Charlevoix	Road Commission	Yes	¼ acre	Public Access, Boat Launch	
P-5	Sumner Road Easement, Lake Charlevoix	*Private; Limited public access.	Partial	¼ acre	West end of Sumner Road on Lake Charlevoix. Kayaking allowed.	
State Owned						
S-1	DNR – Walloon Lk	State	Yes	222	Swimming, hunting, hiking	

\* Limited public access provided via an easement per court order.

### Protected Recreation Facilities in Bay Township

Facility	Description	Affiliation	Location	Acres
Rufus Teesdale Preserve	Hiking, Horton Creek Access, nature study, X-C skiing and snowshoeing	Little Traverse Conservancy	C-1 - Boyne City Road just west of Horton Bay Road	10
Nick Adams Preserve	Hiking, nature study, X-C skiing and snowshoeing	Little Traverse Conservancy	C-2 - Between Horton Creek Rd and Pincherry Road	39.1
Church Preserve	Hiking, nature study, X-C skiing and snowshoeing	Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy	C-3 - Corner of Camp Daggett Rd and Camp Sherwood Rd	10
Bois LeDuc Preserve	Hiking, nature study, X-C skiing and snowshoeing	Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy	C-4 - Wildwood Harbor Road and Wildwood Drive	30.4
Bauerle Preserve	Hiking, nature study, X-C skiing and snowshoeing, hunting with permission	Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy	C-5 - Between Reycraft Rd and Church Rd	25.9
Keenley Preserve	Hiking, nature study, X-C skiing and snowshoeing	Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy	C-6 - Camp Daggett Rd and St. Louis Club	3.4



<b>Private Recreation Facilities in Bay Township</b>			
--	--	--	--

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Bear Cove	Private Marina, 20 slips; ½ acres	On Walloon Lake	½
Camp Michigania	Non-profit camp; swimming, fishing, boating, volleyball, tennis, campsites, hiking, kitchen, meeting rooms; 380 acres. No public access.	Entirety of Section 3	380
Eagle Island Club	Private club; boating, swimming, picnic area; ½ acre. No public access.	End of Eagle Island Rd, Section 34	½
Hills of Walloon	Private club; swimming, fishing, boating, tennis; 5 acres. No public access.	NE of Eagle Island and Zenith Heights Rd in Section 34	5
Horton Bay Club	Private club; boating, swimming, tennis, hiking trails; No public access.	West of Horton Bay, east of Vanhoesen Road, Section 6	250
Villa De Charlevoix	Private; boat launch, docks, swimming, boating, children's playground, picnic sites; No public access.	SW part of Section 5, NW part of Section 8	5
Walloon View Brae Association	Private; swimming, fishing, boating; No public access.	NE of Section 33 and parts of Section 34, including frontage.	5
Wildwood on Walloon	Private; 50' of beach frontage, boat docks; No public access.	Southeast corner of Bay Township, east of Wildwood Drive, Section 11	35

<b>Non-Profit Recreation Facilities in Bay Township</b>			
---	--	--	--

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Camp Daggett	Various indoor & outdoor; swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, campsites, nature study, kitchen, meeting rooms	Camp Daggett Road and Church Road on the shores of Walloon Lake	98
Park of the Pines Church Camp	Various outdoor, swimming, kitchen, all-purpose rooms, hiking	Boyne City Road and Springwater Beach Road near Lake Charlevoix	25

**Accessibility Assessment**

An assessment of the accessibility of each park was done. This assessment evaluated the accessibility of both the facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them. Barrier-free accessibility in parks and recreational facilities is extremely important for current and future programming.

The following Michigan Department of Natural Resources ranking system for each park was used.

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

Bay Township Road Ends and Parks



Stolt Road Access



Stolt Road Access – Boat Launch



Franklin Avenue Access



Franklin Avenue Access



Eagle Island Road Access



Eagle Island Road Access

Bay Township Road Ends and Parks



Sherwood Park



Sherwood Park Vault Toilets



Sherwood Park – Overlook Deck



Sherwood Park - Green Space



Sherwood Park - Water Access



Sherwood Park - Grill

Bay Township Road Ends and Parks



Sumner Road Access – Walloon Lake



Sumner Road Access Boat Launch – Walloon Lake



Wildwood Drive Access



Wildwood Drive Access - Boat Launch



Sumner Road Access – Lake Charlevoix



Sumner Road Access – Lake Charlevoix

## Bay Township Road Ends and Parks



Lake Street Access – Boat Launch



Lake Street Access - Parking Area



Bay Township Hall



Bay Township Hall



Bay Township Hall

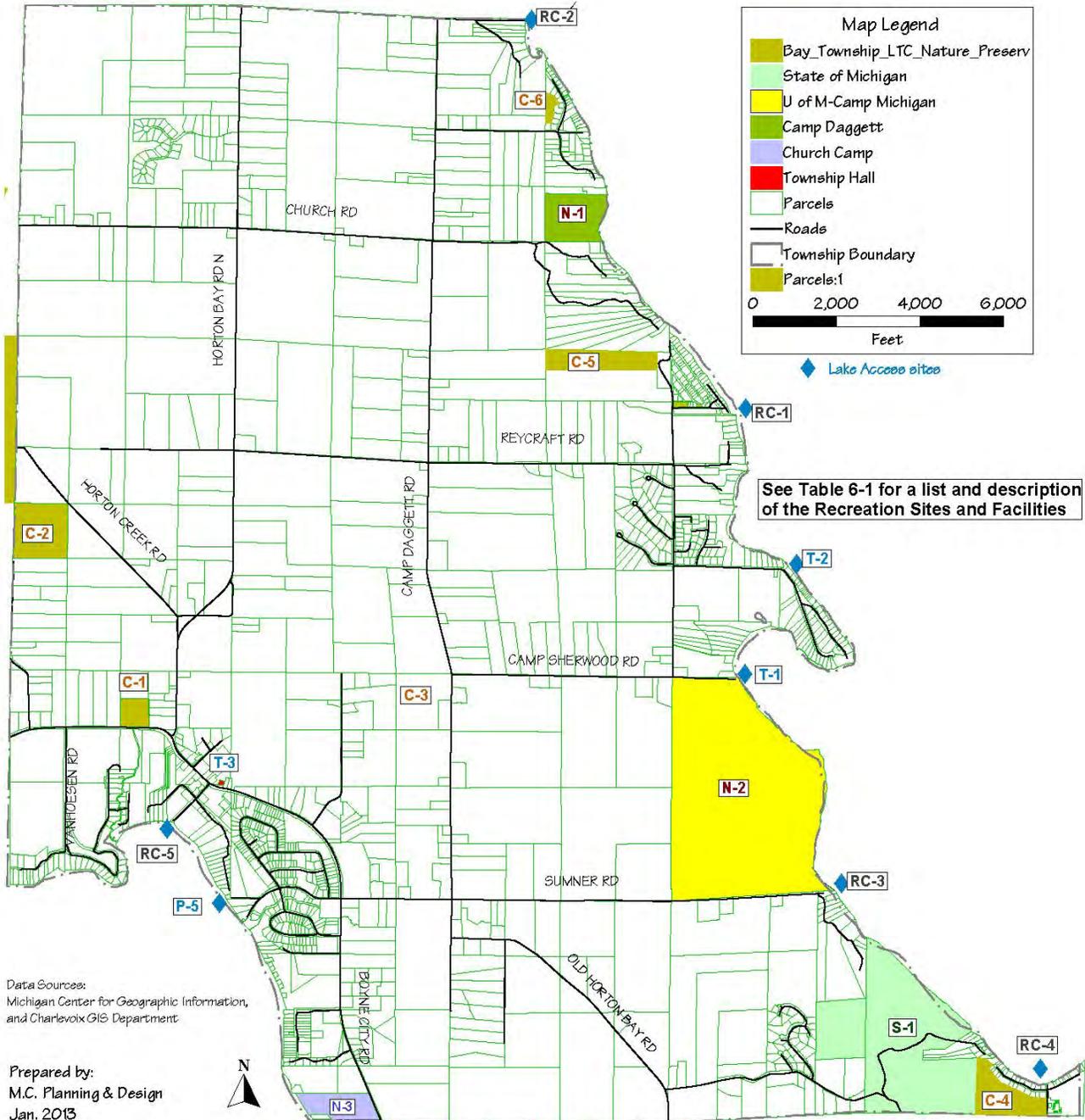


Bay Township Hall

# Bay Township

## Recreation Sites and Facilities Location Map

Map 6-1



## Other Nearby Recreation Sites

### 6.1 Evangeline Township

Evangeline Township is located immediately south of Bay Township along the southeastern shore of Lake Charlevoix. The Township contains Young State Park, a primary recreation destination for many (described below). The Township has no state forestland; however, the state park offers 563 acres of land for hiking or skiing.

Facility Name	Ownership	Open to Public	Approximate Size	Facilities Available
Glenwood Beach	Township	Yes	½ Acre	Picnic Area, swimming
Kim Park	Township	Yes	1 Acre	Accessible beach access, playground, picnic areas, grills
Young State Park	State	Yes	536 Acres	Picnic sites, campsites, swimming, boating, fishing, playfields, children's play equipment, hiking trails
Boyne River Access Site	State	Yes	20 Acres	Fishing, canoeing, swimming
Evangeline Township Hall	Township	Limited Hours	N/A	Meeting Room, kitchen
Springwater Beach Road	Township	Yes	1/10 acre	Swimming
Pinehurst Shores	Township	Yes	1/10 acre	Swimming

Young State Park is located just a few miles south of Bay Township. The park offers 563 acres of land for modern camping, day use facilities, and year-round recreational activities. The park offers boating access to Lake Charlevoix and Lake Michigan from a launch site with a paved ramp which can accommodate most recreational watercraft. The park offers 240 campsites and is designated as a handicapped accessible facility. The day use area contains a picnic area, swimming beach, beach house, concession, and playground. Activities within the park include interpretive programs, fishing, hiking, and Nordic skiing. The park is located on Boyne City Road in Evangeline Township.

### 6.2 Boyne City

Boyne City is at the eastern end of Lake Charlevoix. Boyne City's water resources are the focal point of its park system and require careful planning and implementation for proper development. These significant water features include City land holdings providing 3,000 feet of frontage on Lake Charlevoix and the Boyne River flowing through the center of the City. The City's Sunset and Veterans Parks are in the central section of the City, along the shores of Lake Charlevoix, adjacent to the Central Business District, and the public multi-use dock in Sunset Park. The City's Municipal Marina is also located in Veterans Park. The Boyne River flows through the

City's business district and empties into Lake Charlevoix at the point where Sunset and Veterans Parks meet. Avalanche Preserve is at the southern boundary of the city. This 320-acre complex is a focus for long-term improvements in City parks.

**Table 6-3** is a summary of the existing recreation facilities in Boyne City as presented in the 2015 Boyne City Recreation Plan.

<b>Table 6-3 Boyne City Existing Recreation Facilities</b>					
<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Open to Public</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>ADA Compliance</b>
North Lake Street (Mol) Park	City	Yes	1/2 Acre	Open space, Swing set.	Grassy mowed area. On street parking only.
Sunset Park	City	Yes	5 Acres	Rest Rooms, Multi-Use Dock, Fishing, Boating.	Restrooms are barrier free, dock access and fishing pier are not barrier free.
Avalanche Preserve	City	Yes	320 Acres	Cross Country Ski Trail, Hiking Trails and bike trails. Shelter House, Rest Room, Nature Preserve, Sledding Hill, Lighted Ice Skating & Hockey Rink, Disc Golf, Stairway to Summit Viewing Deck, Snowmobile Trail.	Restroom is not barrier free and no designated barrier free parking. Summit viewing deck is not wheel chair accessible.
Lake Charlevoix Boat Launch	City	Yes	1 Acre	Boat Launch, Rest Rooms.	Restrooms are barrier free
Rotary Park	City	Yes	40 Acres	Tennis Courts, Picnic Sites, Children's Play Equipment, Nature Study Trails, Lighted Ball Diamonds, Heart Trail & Rest Rooms.	Restrooms are barrier free. Play equipment is old and not barrier free. Picnic area is accessible, no barrier free tables.
Veterans Memorial Park	City	Yes	10.5 Acres	Boating, Picnic Sites, Community Play Ground, Open space, Fishing, Ball Diamond, Benches, Rest Rooms, Pavilion, Boat Launch.	Sidewalks around park and Parking are ADA compliant. Picnic area barrier free. Play equipment is barrier free, Rest rooms are barrier free.
Old City Park	City	Yes	1.0 Acres	Picnic Sites, Benches, Fishing, Gazebo, Concerts, Farmers Market.	Parking is designated. Gazebo is not barrier free. Ground cover for play area is needed.
Elementary School	School	Limited Hours	1/2 Acre	Playfields, Basketball Courts, Children's Play Equipment, Meeting Rooms, Gymnasium, Kitchen, All Purpose Room, Library.	Barrier free
Middle School	School	Limited Hours	12 Acre	Basketball Courts, Children's Playground, Indoor Gym.	Barrier free
High School	School	Limited	20 Acres	Playfields, Organized Sports Field, Ball Diamonds, Meeting Room gymnasium, Kitchen, All Purpose Room, Weight room, Library.	Barrier free
Peninsula Beach	City	Yes	6 Acres	Swimming, Volleyball Courts, Rest Rooms, Picnic Sites, Children's Tot Lot, Benches.	Rest rooms meet current barrier free standards. Picnic area is accessible, beach is not.

Riverside Park	City	Yes	5 Acre	Fishing, Canoe Launch.	Rustic site with limited improvements
City Hall	City	Limited Hours		Meeting Room, Museum.	Barrier free compliant
Library	City	Yes	N/A	Library, Meeting Room.	Barrier free compliant
Tannery Park	City	Yes	0.5 Acres	Picnic Area, Sunset View, Swimming	Picnic area and viewing area are barrier free.
Minor League Ball field	City	Yes	1 Acres	Ball field & Rest Rooms	Barrier free
City Marina	City	Members / Rental	0.5 Acres	49 Boat Slips, Picnic Area, Bathhouse, Lighthouse	Picnic area and bathhouse is barrier free.
Woodland St. Road Ends	City	Yes	.25 Acres	Water access	Not barrier free
Shady Lane Road End	City	Yes	.25 Acre	Water access	Not barrier free
Bay (West) St. Road End	City	Yes	.25 Acre	Water access	Not barrier free
John St. Road End	City	Yes	.25 Acre	Water access	Not barrier free
Charlevoix St. Road End	City	Yes	.25 Acre	Viewing deck with benches, water access, bike rack	Barrier free
Lower Lake St. Road End	City	Yes	.25 Acre	Water access	Not barrier free
S. Lake and Cherry Mini Park	City	Yes	.5 Acre	Open space	Barrier free
West and Pleasant Mini Park	City	Yes	.5 Acre	Open space with picnic table	Barrier free
Bike/Pedestrian Path	City	Yes	3 Miles	Paved path	Barrier free
Industrial Park Open Space	City	Yes	85 Acre	Wooded natural area	Not Barrier free compliant
Dog Park	City	Yes	3 Acres	2 Fenced dog play areas, benches, water fountains, dog agility course.	Barrier free
The Hill	Little Traverse Cons.	Yes	107 Acres	Natural area, hiking trails, cross country ski trails	Not barrier free

### 6.3 Melrose Township

Melrose Township Park –The Township Park is accessed from M-75 just South of the Village of Walloon Lake. The park is approximately four acres in size and offers a variety of day use activities. It is open to the public year-round from 4 AM to 11 PM daily. Currently, the park has no organized club activities or leagues. Future park facilities should include more team sport opportunities as outlined in the future recreation goals. Amenities at the site include:

- Picnic Pavilion
- Outdoor Grills and Picnic Tables Dispersed Throughout the Park
- Paved Basketball Half-Court
- Public Restroom Building
- Veterans Memorial for Those Serving in WWII
- Tot Lot (Balance Beam, Merry-Go-Round, Slides, Swing Sets, Jungle Gym)
- Bear River Frontage Along the Park's South Side
- Park is Situated on 22 Acres of Township Land, Most of Which is Undeveloped
- Gravel Parking Area for Approximately 40 Vehicles

Melrose Township Beach on Walloon Lake – The Township Beach Area is located directly West of the Township Park across from M-75. The combined usage at the park and beach exceeds 300 people on a Summer weekend day.

- 200 Feet of Beach Frontage on Walloon Lake
- Defined Swimming Area with Buoys Extending to a 6-8 Foot Depth
- Both Grass and Sandy Beach Areas Maintained for day users
- South End of Beach Area Provides a Natural Feature Attraction at the Outfall of Walloon Lake and Start of the Bear River

Melrose Township Boat Launch, Walloon Lake – The access on Walloon Lake is a popular facility for visitors and guests in the Township. It is the only public boat launching access point in the Township on Walloon Lake. The site offers a cement pad for managing larger watercraft on the waterway. The site can reasonably accommodate boats of up to 20 feet in length and as a ramp extending 10 feet from the waterline.

Challenge Mountain – Challenge Mountain of Walloon Hills is recreational opportunity designed for physically and mentally impaired children. The Mountain hosts a Winter Special Olympics on a ski hill where these youth are presented with a chance to compete, demonstrate, and be recognized for their talents. The location has two rope tows designed to accommodate special needs children. Facilities also include a lodge with a kitchen, restroom area, and eating area. In the summer, horseback riding is the primary activity at the site. Considerations for future activities may include snowmobile and mountain-bike trails. The location is open to families with special needs children or those working with these children.

#### 6.4 Hayes Township

Hayes Township is immediately to the West of Bay Township and is bordered by Lake Michigan to the North and Lake Charlevoix to the South. **Table 6-5** lists existing recreational facilities in Hayes Township.

#	Facility Name	Ownership	Open to Public	Size, acres	Facilities Available
1	Elzinga Roadside Park	MDOT	Yes	14.6	Picnic Sites
2	Boat Launch, Lake Michigan	DNR	Yes	4.4	Boat Launch
3	Boat Launch, Susan Lake	DNR	Yes	½	Boat Launch
4	Ransom Preserve	Little Traverse Conservancy	Yes	80	Hiking
5	State of Michigan	State	Yes	170	
6	Susan Shores Sub	Private	No	½	Swimming, Children's Play Equipment

7	Spiritualist Camp	Non-profit	No		All purpose room, picnic sites, playfields
8	Charlevoix Rod & Gun	Non-profit	No	106	Fire arms range, kitchen, all purpose room
9	Camp Seagull	Private	No	20	Swimming, boating, fishing, campsites, play fields, tennis, volleyball, ball fields, archery, basketball, bridle trails, kitchen
10	Townline Rd. Access	Twp/Rd Comm.	Yes	1/10	Swimming
11	Townline Rd. Park	Township	Yes	2.5	Swimming
12	Eastern Ave	Twp/Rd Comm.	Yes	1.5	Swimming
13	Dunmaglas	Private	Yes		Golfing, concerts
14	Nine Mile Point	State	Yes		Picnic Tables
15	Michigan Shores Sub	Private	No	½	Children's play equipment, swimming, picnic sites
16	Oyster Point Club	Private	No		Tennis, Marina, Horse Stables
17	Nathan Driggers Preserve	Little Traverse Conservancy	Yes	75	Hiking, Nordic Skiing and snowshoeing
18	Charlevoix Swimming Pool	Friends of the Pool	Yes	5 acres	Indoor Swimming Pool

## 6.5 Recreation Sites Owned/Operated by Charlevoix County

The Charlevoix County Recreation Plan was consulted to review current facilities and recreation improvements available to all County residents, including Bay Township. The Plan describes three primary sites where the County is both the owner and is responsible for the maintenance of these locations. The recreation plan was prepared by the County to serve as the local recreation plan for many communities in the County as well. The Plan acknowledges that the sites described serve more than just the local community in which the facility is located. Therefore, a coordinated effort on the part of the cities, villages, townships, county, and state governments is encouraged to benefit the interests of everyone and foster cooperation between all units of government.

Whiting Park – Whiting Park continues to experience an increase in usage during the spring, summer, and fall months. It has an area of 118 acres in Eveline Township that was donated to the County for use as a county park, by Perry Whiting in 1923. The park is bisected by Ferry Road. The lakeshore parcels contain 48 campsites, a swimming beach, boat launch and dock capable of handling shallow draft boats, a toilet-showing building, and a parking area for day use. The majority of the property is located on the west side of Ferry Road and offers a ball field, picnic facilities, two community buildings, and two open area pavilions. The park is located four miles southwest of Boyne City along the southwestern shore of Lake Charlevoix.

Thumb Lake Park – Thumb Lake Park is composed of approximately 10 acres of land on the East end of Thumb Lake which was acquired in 1993. It is located in Hudson Township. The park includes over 1500 feet of frontage on Thumb Lake. This is a popular swimming beach used by residents and visitors of the eastern third of Charlevoix County. Minimal improvements have been made to the park since its acquisition, which includes the development of a temporary parking area, and installation of portable toilet facilities. The property is bisected by Magee Road, with the parking area and toilets on the East side of the road, and the beach area on the West side of the road.

Porter Creek Park – In 1996, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources transferred the ownership of 100 acres of land in Wilson Township to Charlevoix County. In 1997 the County assumed ownership and the land became known as the Porter Creek Park, located along Porter Creek and is characterized by a mixture of wetlands and wooded uplands. The undeveloped park can be accessed from Lee Road and is located two miles West of Boyne City. Short-term future plans for this park includes the development of non-motorized trails, including hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoe trails.

## 6.6 Barrier Free Compliance

Bay Township has evaluated the accessibility of existing recreational facilities and noted the following physical barriers or potential barriers to handicapped persons. To mitigate the existing barriers, all new construction and improvements to existing facilities will incorporate barrier free design and meet applicable code standards.

Sherwood Park – The developed portion of the park is generally level ground. The entrance drives and parking areas are not graded, graveled, or paved. However, because of the level topography, the area is basically wheel chair accessible. At a minimum, handicap-parking spaces need to be indicated by signage. The restroom building is at ground level. However, the facility does not meet ADA requirements. Bringing this building into ADA compliance is an important priority for the Bay Township Recreation Action Plan.

Road Ends – Generally these are not paved or ramped, and access is limited by the slope and ground surface. Some form of hard surface is a priority.

## 6.8 Park Land Analysis

Bay Township has a sufficient amount of public park land recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association. The number of acres provided by the Conservancy Preserves and Road End Access sites gives Bay Township a surplus of 341.8 acres.

*Table: Park Land Analysis based on a population of 1,285.*

Classification	NRPA Recommended Size per 1,000 People	Recommended Acreage for Bay Township	Bay Township	County/ State Park	Surplus/ Deficiency
Mini Park	.25-.5 Acres	.25-.5 Acres	5	0	5
Neighborhood Park	1.0-2.0 Acres	1.0-2.0 Acres	1	0	1
Community Park	5.0-8.0 Acres	5.0-8.0 Acres	0	3.4	-1.6
Regional Park	5.0-10.0 Acres	5.0-10.0 Acres	0	337.4	337.4
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>340.8</b>	<b>341.8</b>



The recreational goal and objectives presented below are the result of the Planning Commission planning process, the public input received during that process, and the further refinement and expansion of recreation goals during the subsequent recreation plan development.

### ***Recreation Goal***

***Provide and maintain recreation lands and facilities for safe access and enjoyment by residents and visitors.***

#### OBJECTIVES:

- Maintain parks and existing road end lake access sites on a regular basis.
- Monitor road end lake access sites and complete annual inventory reports.
- Support efforts to develop non-motorized pathways, trailheads and routes through Bay Township to connect with other existing and planned pathways.
- Collaborate with Charlevoix County regarding recreation lands, facilities and opportunities as appropriate.
- Work cooperatively with adjacent townships to create recreational opportunities for the region.
- Research and seek grant funding for property acquisition and recreation developments and improvements.
- Work cooperatively with Little Traverse Conservancy, Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy, Walloon Lake Association, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, other organizations and agencies for the protection of lands, monitor water quality, invasive species and encourage overall health of the surrounding lakes.
- Acquire unique natural and/or cultural resource property for public use, such as lake access, scenic vista lands and overlooks.



## **Recreation Action Program & Capital Improvement Schedule**

### **8.1 Coordination with Non-Profit Organizations and Local Governments**

Greater recreational opportunities will be realized with the involvement of local groups having direct interests in the future of Bay Township's recreational plans and ideas. Therefore, the Township will continue to work with area organizations that share our goal of ensuring lands are available for outdoor recreation and appreciation. These organizations include the Little Traverse Conservancy, the Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy, Walloon Lake Association, Charlevoix County Planning Department, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and along with neighboring communities.

The Little Traverse Conservancy works to acquire lands either through fee simple ownership or by establishing conservation easements with private landowners. The purpose of these land acquisitions is to preserve environmentally sensitive land and open space to protect significant ecological, scenic, and recreation resources. The Conservancy lands are open to the public for activities which are consistent with protecting the natural features of each property it owns.

The Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy permits local members of the community to access property it owns. The organization receives donations of land and purchases fee simple ownership of property with the intent of preserving them in their undeveloped state. The organization promotes low impact use of its lands and encourages people to use these lands for hiking trails and scenic enjoyment.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council works to maintain environmental integrity and economic and aesthetic values of the Great Lakes, inland lakes, river and streams, wetland and groundwater. The organization protects our natural resources through water quality monitoring, research and restorative actions.

Bay Township has pledged to work closely with the Charlevoix County Planning Department, the County of Charlevoix, and neighboring townships to explore future recreational opportunities. By working together, an opportunity to secure mutual recreational objectives can be more successfully achieved.

## **8.2 Recreational Action Program**

A number of recreational goals have been identified and prioritized for this plan. These goals have developed and been refined for several years.

Maintenance and improvements to the existing facilities such as Sherwood Park and road end lake accesses are priorities. Keeping these properties maintained and available for the public is important to the Township in achieving their goals.

Bay Township is extremely fortunate to border Lake Charlevoix and Walloon Lake. Monitoring the water quality and maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems is significant to the quality of life for the Bay Township residents.

The development of non-motorized trails to access regional recreational areas, such as Young State Park, from Horton Bay is also important. This could be a joint effort with the County Road Commission, Conservancies, civic groups and private landowners. Bay Township will support the continued efforts to develop a trailhead in Horton Bay to provide trail users the opportunity to have a place to rest, have a picnic and potentially have access to restroom facilities.

The Township is also monitoring properties as they become available in the Township, in order to evaluate and potentially pursue the acquisition of other properties for recreational purposes. The exact type of recreational use would be based on the nature of the given property.

### 8.3 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Year	Recreation Facilities	Project	Cost and Anticipated Funding
2019	Sherwood Park	Park Improvements to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Access</li> <li>• Picnic Facilities</li> <li>• Play Equipment</li> <li>• ADA improvements</li> <li>• Landscaping with native plants</li> <li>• Water Trail</li> <li>• Enhance Shoreline, greenbelt</li> <li>• Turf grass management</li> </ul>	Local grants/ foundations, MDNR Grants, WAVE, Little Traverse Bay Protection and Restoration Fund, CZM, DEQ 319, Aquatic Habitat, Road Commission and Township
2019	Road End Lake Access	Improvements and developments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADA improvements</li> <li>• Picnic Facilities</li> <li>• Play Equipment</li> <li>• Water Trail</li> <li>• Kayak Slides</li> </ul>	Local grants/ foundations, MDNR Grants, WAVE, Little Traverse Bay Protection and Restoration Fund, CZM, DEQ 319, Aquatic Habitat, Road Commission and Township
2021	Parks and Road Ends	Signage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directional and informational</li> <li>• Amenities</li> <li>• Parks and Road End designation</li> <li>• Water Trail</li> </ul>	Local grants/ foundations, MDNR Grants, WAVE, Little Traverse Bay Protection and Restoration Fund, CZM, DEQ 319, Aquatic Habitat, Road Commission and Township
2019-2023	Multipurpose Nonmotorized pathways	Support efforts to develop a trailhead in Horton Bay	Local grants/ foundations, MDNR Grants, Road Commission and Township
2019-2023	Road End Lake Access	Water quality and invasive species monitoring. Native plantings, control erosion, improve greenbelts.	Local grants/ foundations, MDNR Grants, WAVE, Little Traverse Bay Protection and Restoration Fund, CZM, DEQ 319, Aquatic Habitat, Road Commission and Township
2019-2023	Multipurpose Nonmotorized pathways	Support efforts to provide connectivity to other nonmotorized pathways in the region.	Local grants/foundations, MDNR Grants, Road Commission and Township

# Appendix A

## Recreation Plan Public Input & Adoption Process Supporting Documents

**BAY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**

**October 2, 2012 MEETING MINUTES**

**BAY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**

**October 2, 2012 MEETING MINUTES**

**BAY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**

**November 7, 2012 MEETING MINUTES**

**BAY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**

**November 7, 2012 MEETING MINUTES**

**BAY TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN  
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION AND  
RECOMMENDATION TO TOWNSHIP BOARD FOR ADOPTION**

**BAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**JANUARY 10, 2013 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Bay Township Resolution 2013-01-1**  
**BAY TOWNSHIP, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION**

Letters of Transmittal

# Recreation Plan Certification Checklist

# Public Input Survey

# BAY TOWNSHIP 2018 SURVEY SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

The following report summarizes the 2018 Bay Township Community Survey results. The Planning Commission developed the 2018 Community Survey to better understand the needs and desires of the residents of Bay Township. The results from the survey will be used to update the Bay Township Zoning Ordinance and will also help identify future land use practices and provide guidance to the Township Board.

## METHODOLOGY

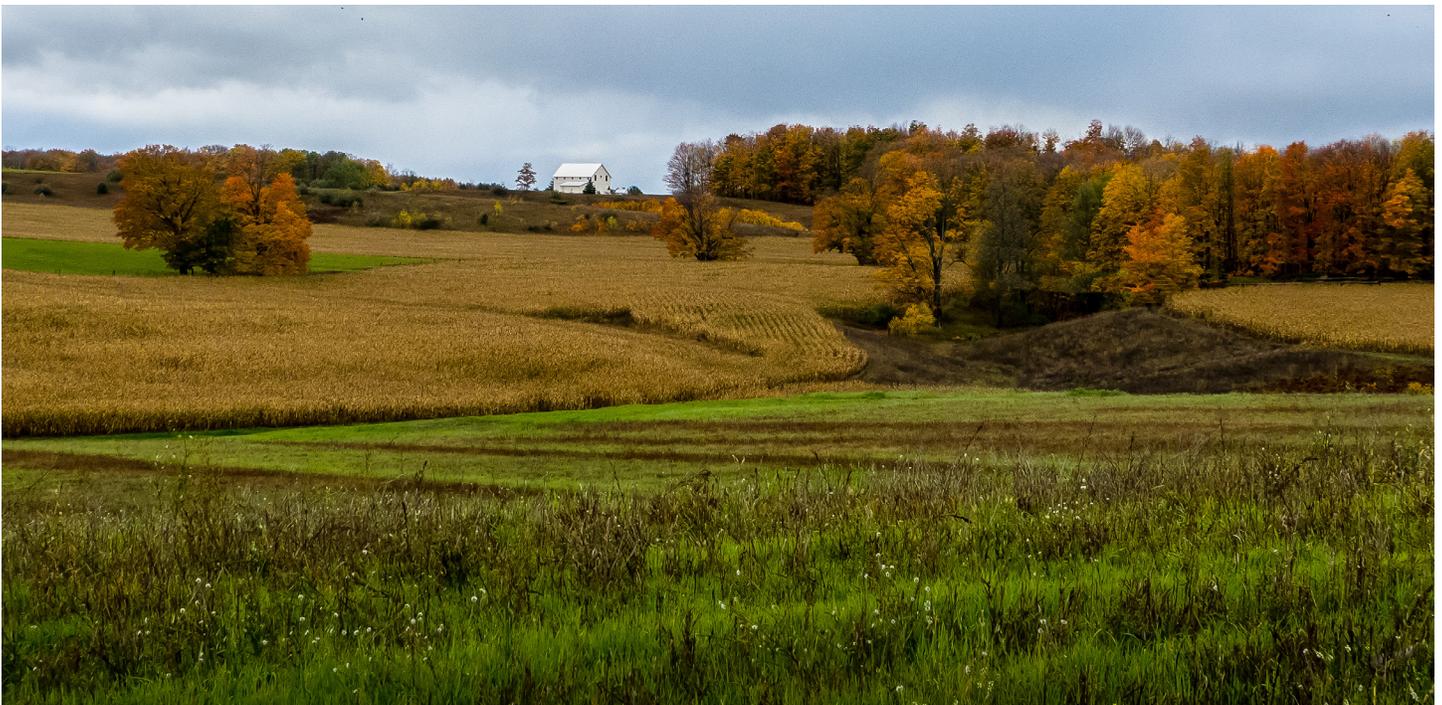
In February of 2018, a total of 1,103 surveys were mailed to Township residents. Addresses were compiled from the list of registered voters and from the County Equalization office. Due to the seasonal nature of many Bay Township residents, it was common for residents to receive a copy of the survey at their permanent address and at their Bay Township address. Every effort was made to reach all residents, including renters.

A total of 421 individuals completed the survey. Because one survey was mailed to each household (including seasonal property owners living outside the Township), we can estimate the response rate to be approximately 51%. This is based on the fact that there are 847 housing units in the Township (2016 American Communities Survey 5-year estimates). While 340 of the housing units are classified as vacant, the Census estimates that 92% of all vacant housing units are actually occupied seasonally. The vast majority of the surveys were returned by mail (92%), while 8% of surveys were completed online.

## CONTEXT

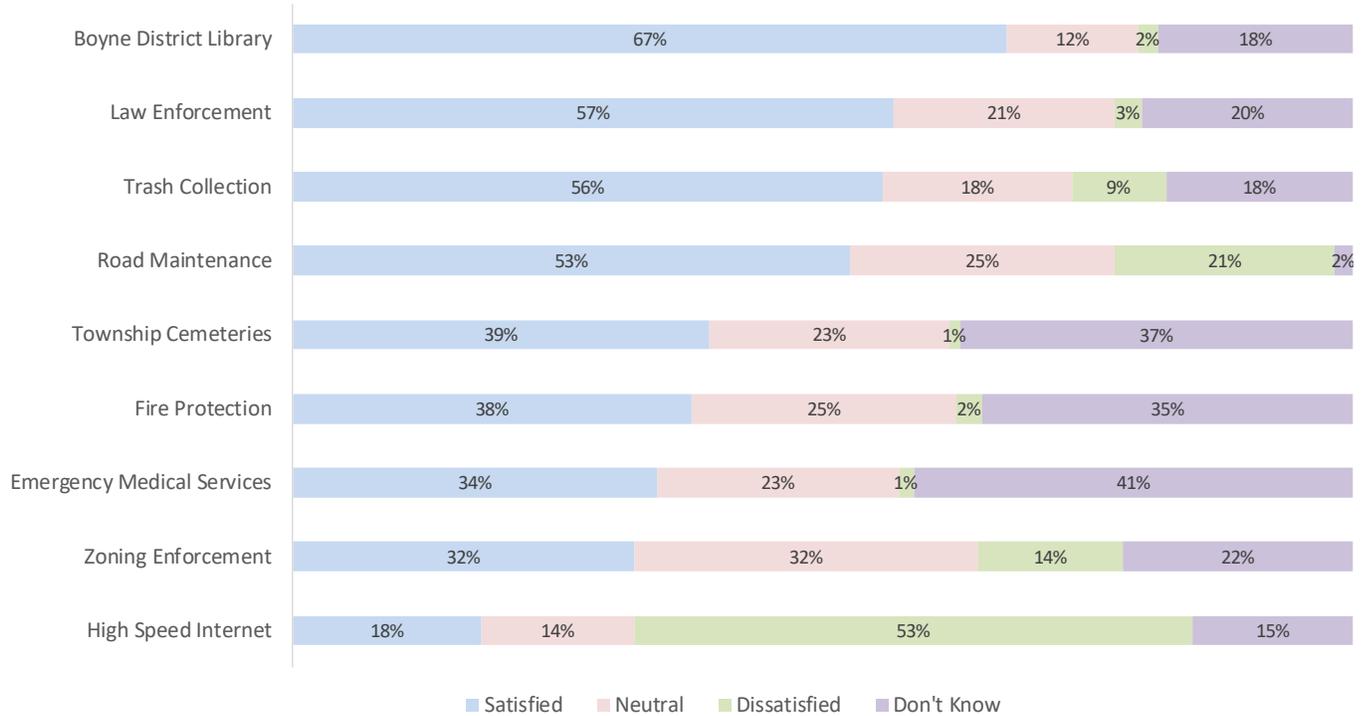
The Bay Township Planning Commission is continually examining its planning and zoning goals and policies. The Bay Township Master Plan was last updated in 2006. During this update process, the Planning Commission developed a similar survey to inform goals, policies, and objectives for the 2006 Master Plan, and ultimately the Zoning Ordinance. As applicable, results from the 2018 survey are compared with results from the last community survey, which was conducted in 2004.

A full compilation of all long answer responses to the survey questions is available upon request at the Township.

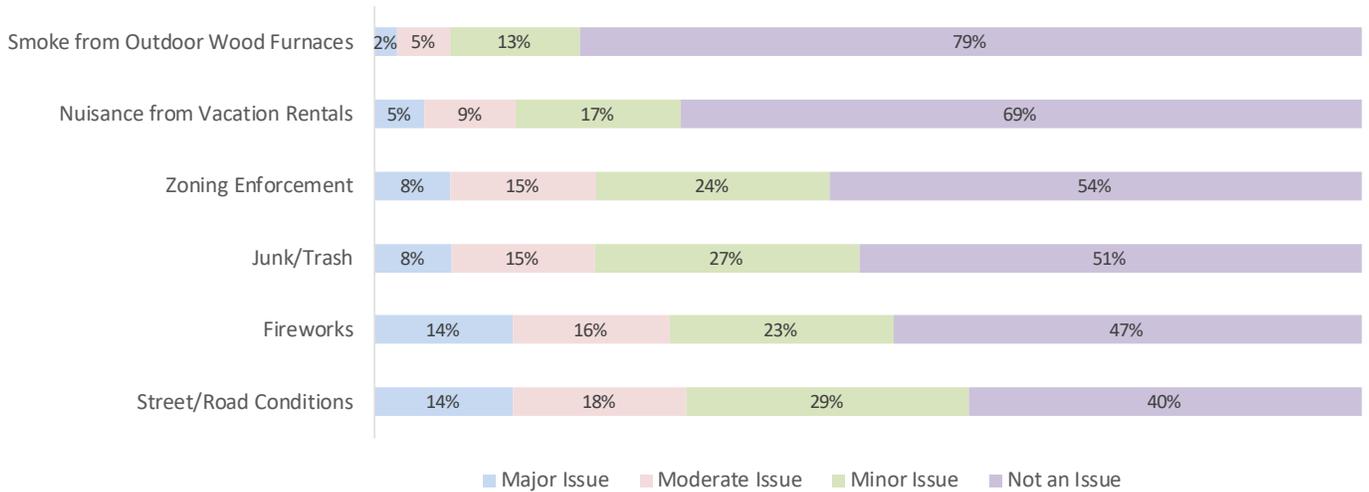


*Photo courtesy of Rob Maxwell*

**Question 1:** How would you rate your satisfaction with the following public services?



**Question 2:** Please rate how much of a problem, if at all, each of the following are in the Township:

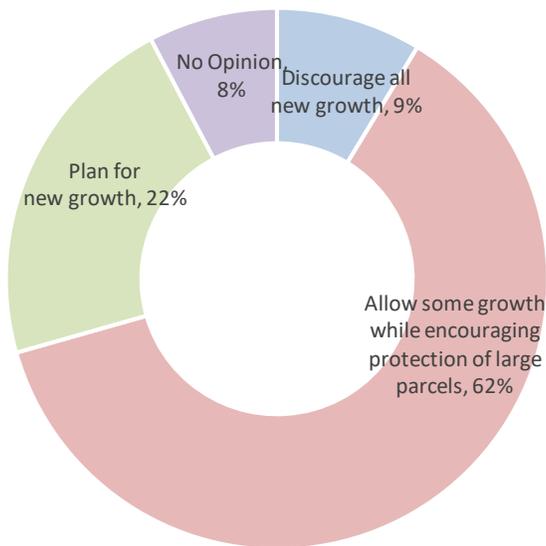


**Question 3:** Please expand on any items you identified as an issue in Question #2.

- Street/Road Conditions: 67 people provided additional comments about roads. Comments focused on paving County roads that are currently dirt, snow removal, removal of dead/dangerous trees, speed enforcement, culverts and drainage, signage, and general road maintenance.
- Fireworks: 56 individuals provided additional comments about fireworks. The primary concern surrounding fireworks was that they occur well beyond the 4th of July period. People noted that they go off all summer into the late evening hours, causing noise and light pollution, and scaring children and pets. Some people expressed a sentiment that fireworks are simply a part of living in a resort community.
- Junk/Trash: 56 people provided additional comments about junk and trash. Many of these comments were about the importance of the annual junk pick-up, as well as a desire for regular trash collection and recycling services. Numerous comments also focused on areas of the Township with junk in yards, along with poorly maintained structures and properties.

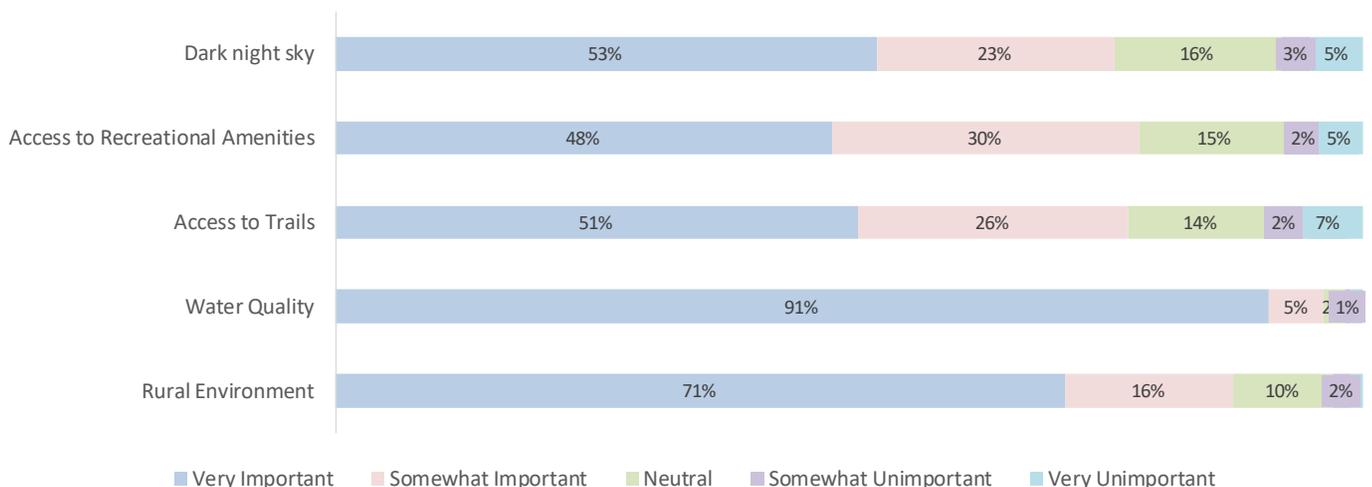
- **Zoning Enforcement:** 27 people provided additional comments about zoning enforcement. These comments focused on the need for enforcement, particularly along the waterfront. Respondents also articulated a desire for more consistent administration of the zoning ordinance.
- **Smoke from Outdoor Wood Furnaces:** 15 people provided additional comments about smoke from Outdoor Wood Furnaces. Four of the responses indicated that it is not a problem, while 11 comments indicated concerns about public health and general nuisances.
- **Nuisance from Vacation Rentals:** 15 people provided additional comments about vacation rentals. Key concerns focused on enforcement, noise, and excessive partying. On the other hand, some people expressed support for people visiting the Township and focused on the economic benefits of vacation rentals.
- **Other:** There were 23 “Other” comments. These comments focused on Internet and cellular services, the bike path and other recreational facilities, taxes, and various aspects of land use control.

**Question 4:** Please select the one statement below that most closely matches your views on growth and development in the Township. “I would prefer the Township to . . .” (Please choose only one)

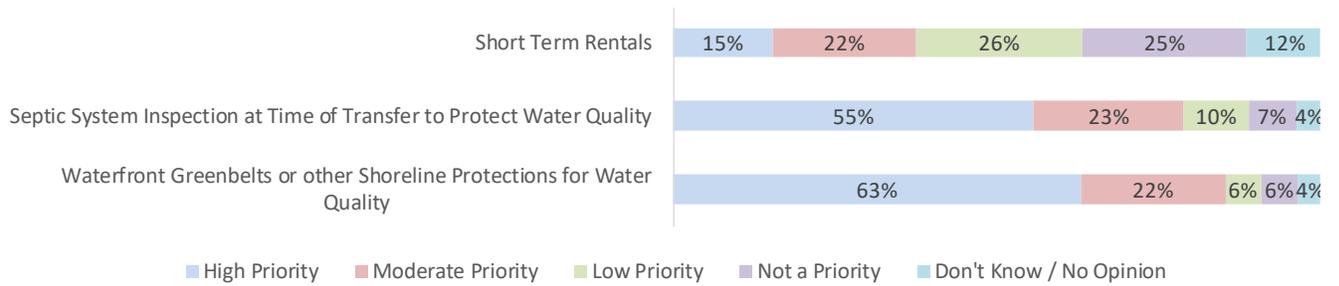


A question very similar to question #4 was posed in the 2004 Community Survey. 57.8% of respondents in 2004 wanted to see limited, controlled growth; which is similar to the 2018 sentiment of 62% of respondents who want to allow for some growth while encouraging protection of large parcels. In both 2018 and 2004, there seems to be a strong desire to protect the Township’s open space and natural resources, while still allowing for controlled growth and development in targeted areas.

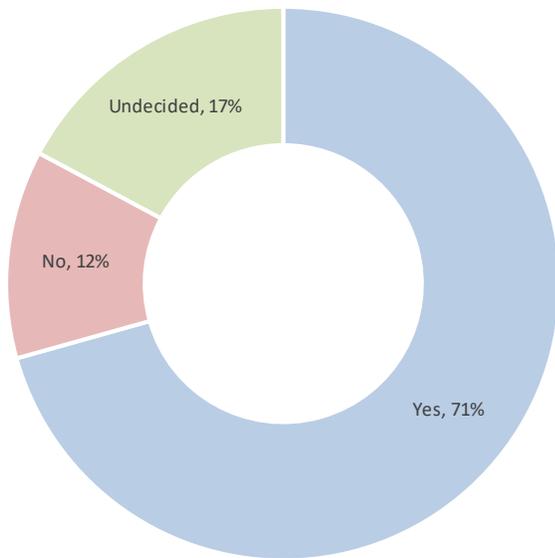
**Question 5:** How important are the following in Bay Township?



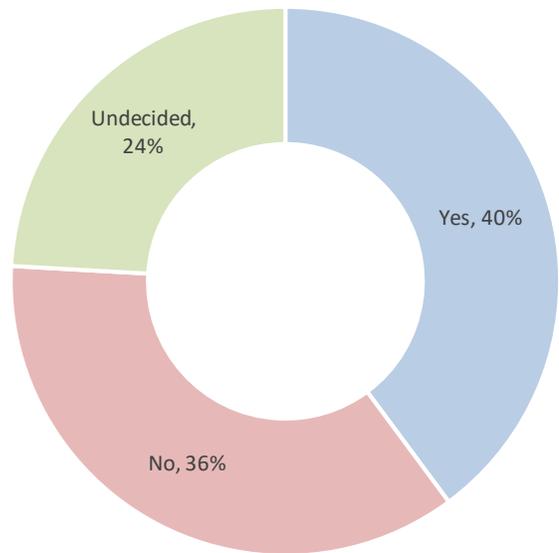
**Question 6:** Rate each of the following issues as a priority for regulation in the Township.



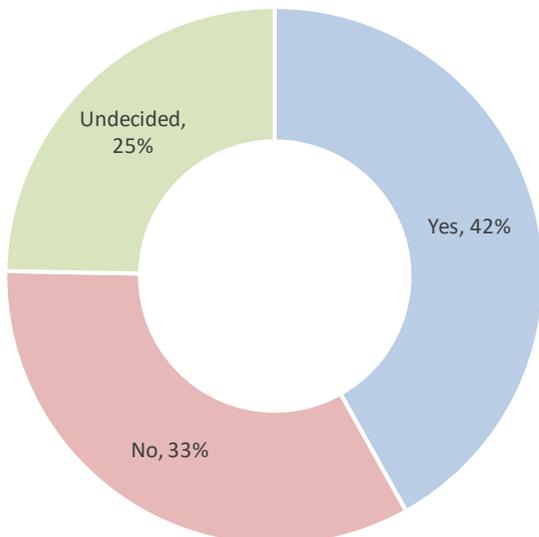
**Question 7:** Should Bay Township partner with conservancies and others to protect farmland and other important natural features?



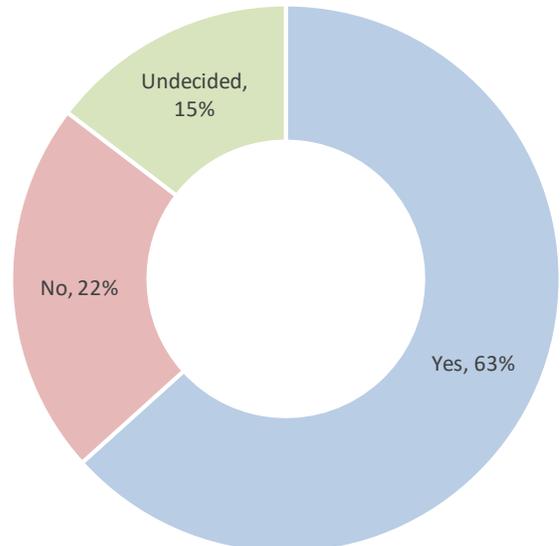
**Question 8:** Would you support an increased Township millage to repair and upgrade roads in the Township?



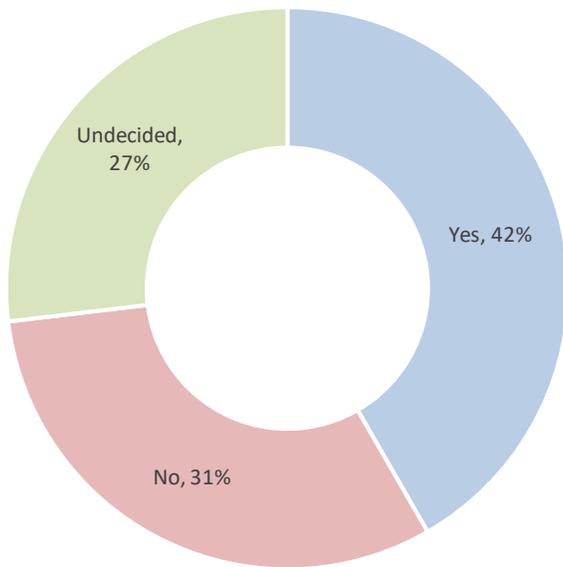
**Question 9:** Would you support an increased Township millage to support fire and ambulance services in the Township?



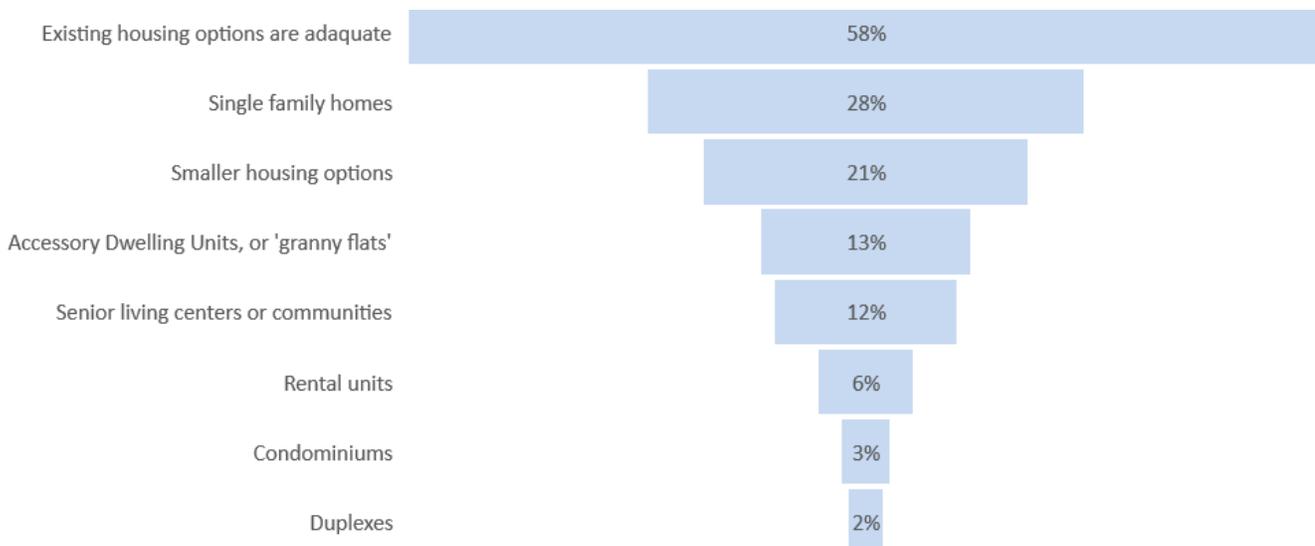
**Question 10:** Would you be supportive of non-motorized trails and expanded recreational opportunities for Township residents?



**Question 11:** If you answered yes to Question #10, would you be willing to support these expanded facilities through a Township millage?



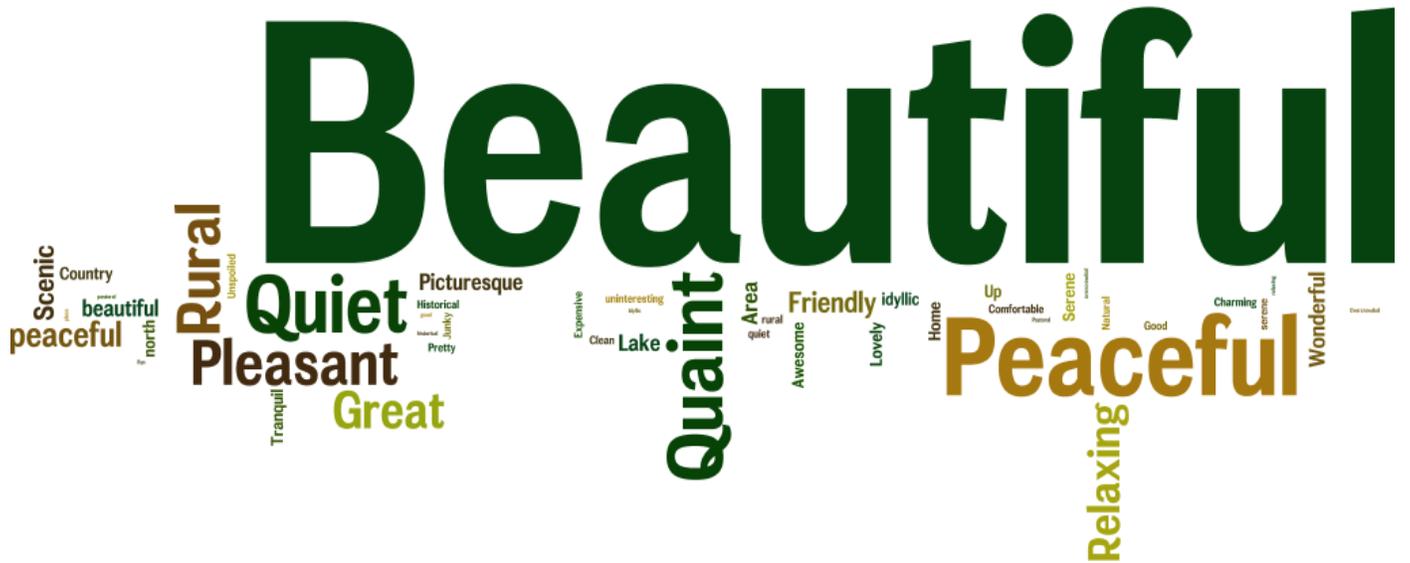
**Question 12:** What type of housing (if any) does Bay Township need more of? Please check all that apply



Although the most common responses as to the need of new housing was (1) that existing options are sufficient, and (2) that there is the most support for new single family homes, there seems to be acknowledgment in the Township that there is a place for other types of housing formats. Interestingly, 21% of respondents felt Bay Township would benefit from smaller housing options and 13% were supportive of (more) accessory dwelling units. According to the Census, the average household size has declined in Bay Township by 4% from 2000 to 2010 to 2.41 people. Additionally, demographic research indicates an aging population will likely desire smaller housing formats (missingmiddlehousing.com).

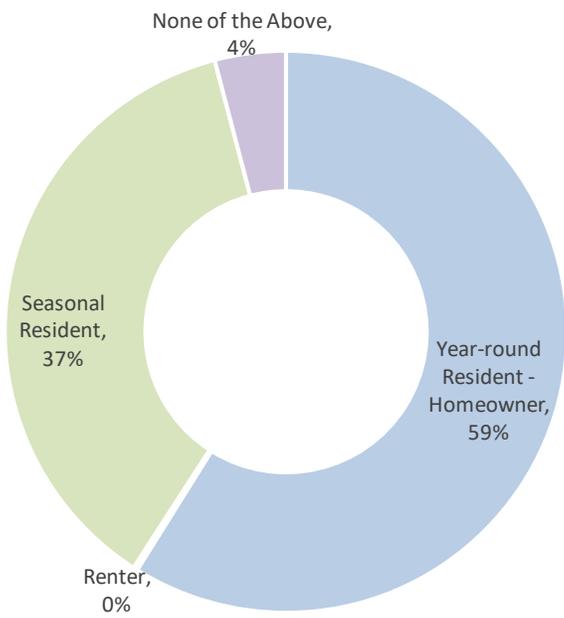
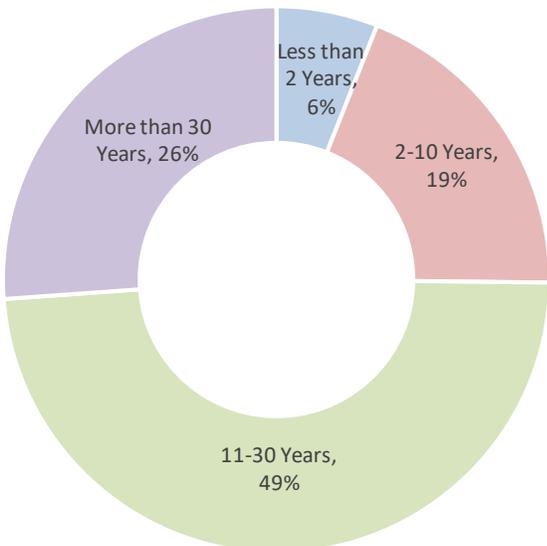
**Question 13:** What is one word you would use to describe Bay Township to someone planning a visit?

Answers to this question were fairly varied. 63 people chose the word "beautiful," 25 people chose the word "peaceful," 16 people chose the word "quiet," 14 people chose "quaint," 13 chose "rural," and 11 chose "pleasant."

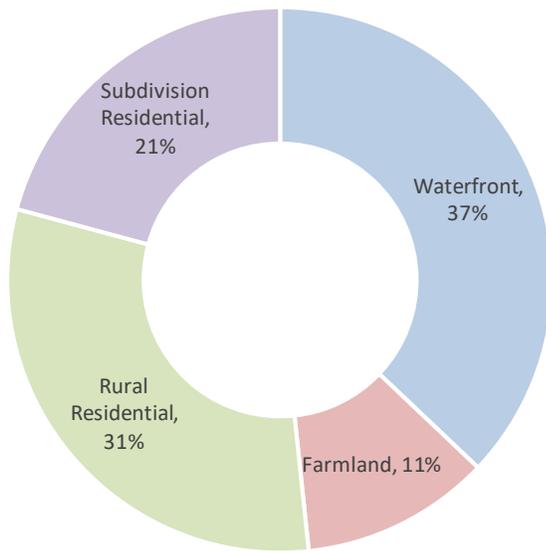


**Question 14:** How long have you lived in Bay Township?

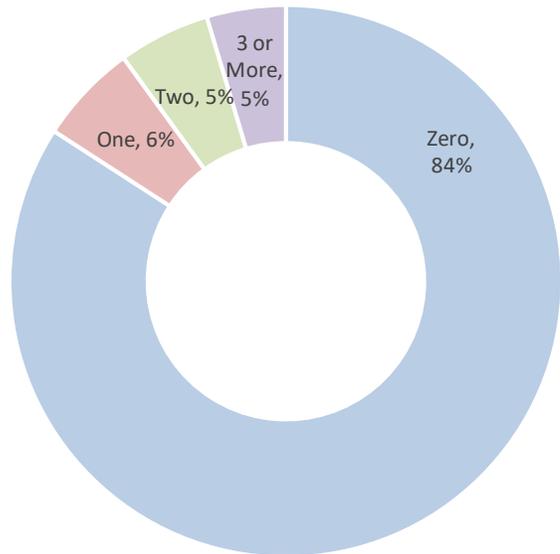
**Question 15:** Please classify your residency in Bay Township



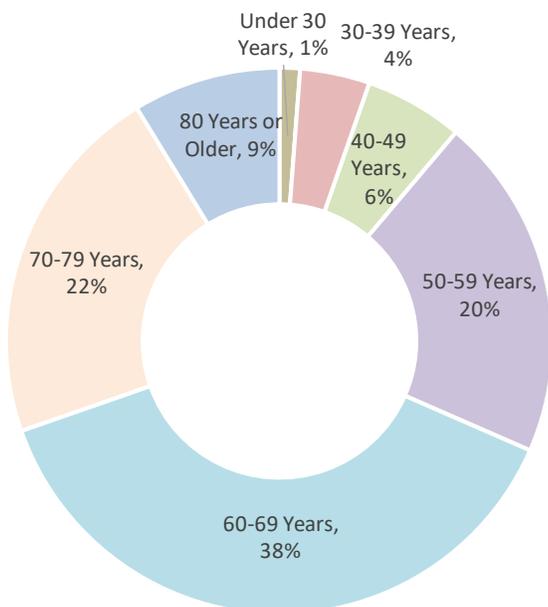
**Question 16:** Which best describes your property in Bay Township?



**Question 17:** How many children age 17 or younger live in your household?



**Question 19:** What category is your age?



It is useful to compare the demographics of survey respondents with the demographics of the general population.

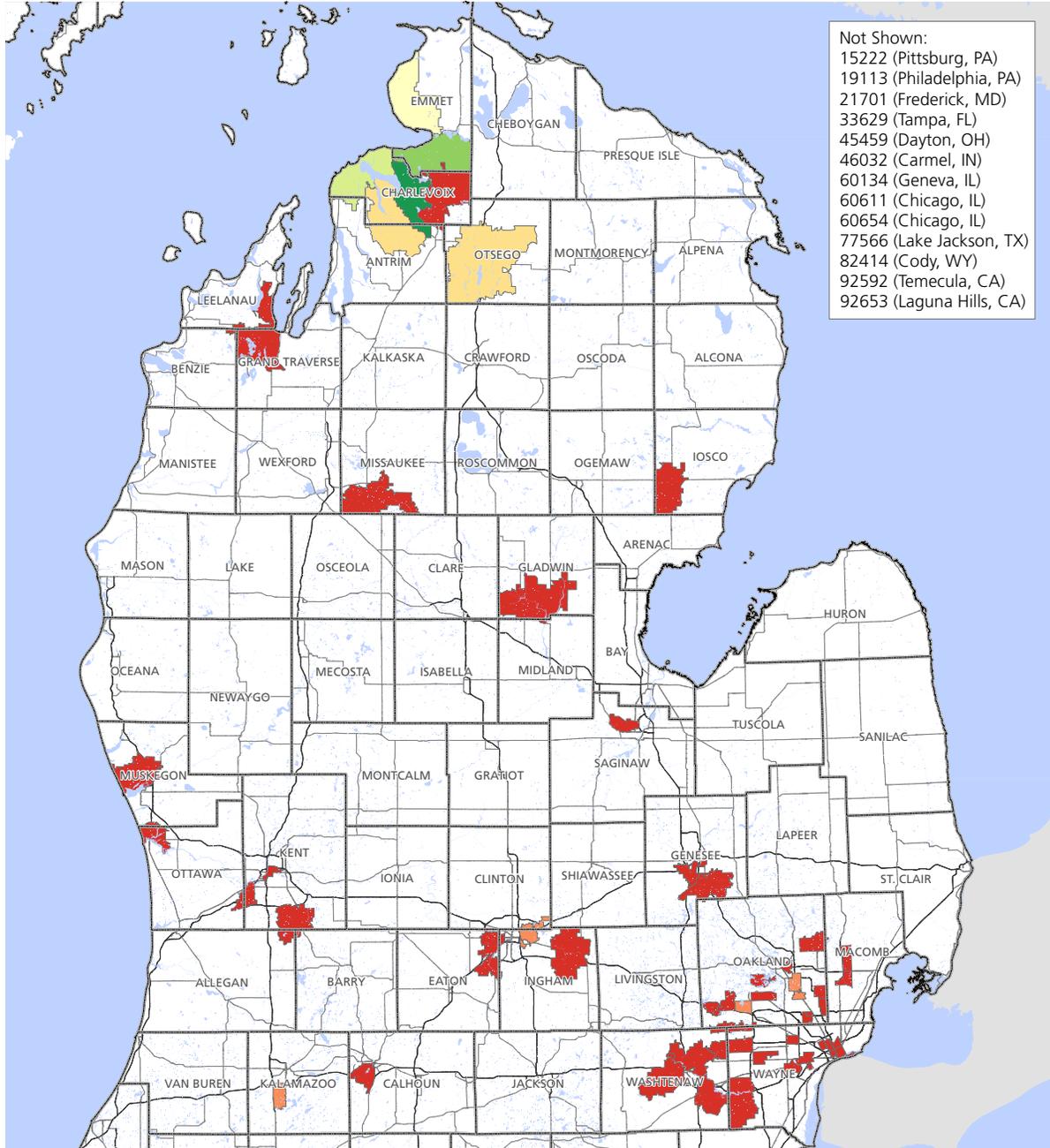
The 2016 American Community Survey estimates that 39% of total housing units in Bay Township are vacant. This is likely due to the fact that most of these housing units are used for seasonal residents. This number mirrors the 37% of surveys respondents who said they are a seasonal residents.

The 2016 ACS estimates that 2.2% of the residential housing units in the Township are renter-occupied. This number is higher than the fraction of one percent (.24%) of survey respondents who identified as a renter. Due to the difficulty of reaching renters, this population was likely underrepresented in the survey results.

Survey respondents appear to be older in general when compared with Bay Township residents. According to the 2010 Census, 27.6% of Bay Township residents are 60 years or older. However, 69% of survey respondents reported being 60 years or older. This discrepancy could partially be attributed to the fact that many of the seasonal residents are older on average.

**Question 18:** Please indicate the zip code where you work (if applicable).

Of the 421 survey respondents, 71 individuals provided a zip code of employment. As illustrated by the map, places of employment are concentrated in an around Bay Township, although many respondents reported working out of the region and even out of the state. This is likely due to the fact that 37% of respondents are seasonal residents as well as the fact that working remotely is becoming increasing more common.



Not Shown:  
 15222 (Pittsburg, PA)  
 19113 (Philadelphia, PA)  
 21701 (Frederick, MD)  
 33629 (Tampa, FL)  
 45459 (Dayton, OH)  
 46032 (Carmel, IN)  
 60134 (Geneva, IL)  
 60611 (Chicago, IL)  
 60654 (Chicago, IL)  
 77566 (Lake Jackson, TX)  
 82414 (Cody, WY)  
 92592 (Temecula, CA)  
 92653 (Laguna Hills, CA)

BAY TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SURVEY  
**Place of Employment by Zip Code**

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Michigan DNR Open Data Portal

- Freeways
- State Trunklines
- County Boundary
- Lakes / Ponds
- Rivers / Streams

**Employment by Zip Code:**

- 59 Residents (49712)
- 44 Residents (49770)
- 12 Residents (49720)
- 4 Residents (49740)
- 3 Residents (49735 & 49727)
- 2 Residents (Multiple)
- 1 Resident (Multiple)



Beckett&Raeder

**Question 20:** Please feel free to comment below regarding any concerns or suggestions you may have that were not addressed in the survey.

A total of 146 individuals provided additional comments. There were a variety of topics covered; ranging from zoning issues, to development, to Township leadership and services. In general, most respondents seem satisfied with the Township's efforts to provide services and communicate with residents.

Many people articulated a desire for high speed Internet service, as well as better cable and cellular services. People noted safety concerns and called for the Township to work with potential private providers to improve services.

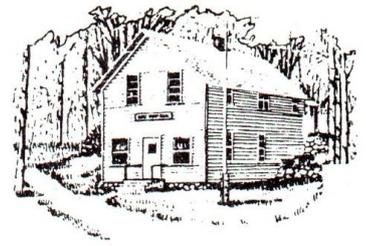
There was a wide variety of opinions expressed in terms of development and zoning regulations. A number of people said they wanted less regulation, while others supported more zoning protections on waterfront property and to protect against blight and trash.

As is the case in most communities, road maintenance and upkeep was an important issue. There was also widespread support for recycling services and more frequent garbage/junk pick-up. Other topics that reemerged from earlier in the survey included the bike path, short-term rentals, outdoor wood burning, and fireworks.



*Photos courtesy of Rob Maxwell*

The Bay Township Planning Commission is continually examining its planning and zoning goals and policies and would like community input. Your feedback is instrumental in helping the Township update its zoning ordinance to better reflect the needs and desires of all residents. Results from this survey will also help identify future land use practices and prioritize Township services. Please complete this survey by March 16, 2018. This survey can also be completed online at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/baytownship](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/baytownship). Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Thank you!



1. How would you rate your satisfaction with the following public services?

	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Don't Know
Emergency Medical Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire Protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Law Enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zoning Enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Road Maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
High Speed Internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trash Collection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boyne District Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Township Cemeteries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Please rate how much of a problem, if at all, each of the following are in the Township:

	Not an Issue	Minor Issue	Moderate Issue	Major Issue
Zoning Enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Junk/Trash	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street/Road Conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Smoke from Outdoor Wood Furnaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nuisance from Vacation Rentals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fireworks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Please expand on any items you identified as an issue in Question #2.

4. Please select the one statement below that most closely matches your views on growth and development in the Township. "I would prefer the Township to . . ." (Please choose only one)

- Discourage all new growth
- Allow some growth while encouraging protection of large parcels
- Plan for new growth
- No Opinion / Don't Know

5. How important are the following in Bay Township?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Rural Environment	<input type="radio"/>				
Water Quality	<input type="radio"/>				
Access to Trails	<input type="radio"/>				
Access to Recreational Amenities	<input type="radio"/>				
Dark night sky	<input type="radio"/>				

6. Rate each of the following issues as a priority for regulation in the Township.

	Not a Priority	Low Priority	Moderate Priority	High Priority	Don't Know / No Opinion
Waterfront Greenbelts or other Shoreline Protections for Water Quality	<input type="radio"/>				
Septic System inspection at Time of Transfer to Protect Water Quality	<input type="radio"/>				
Short Term Rentals	<input type="radio"/>				

7. Should Bay Township partner with conservancies and others to protect farmland and other important natural features?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

8. Would you support an increased Township millage to repair and upgrade roads in the Township?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

9. Would you support an increased Township millage to support fire and ambulance services in the Township?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

10. Would you be supportive of non-motorized trails and expanded recreational opportunities for Township residents?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

11. If you answered yes to Question #10, would you be willing to support these expanded facilities through a Township millage?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

12. What type of housing (if any) does Bay Township need more of? Please check all that apply

- Condominiums
- Single-family homes
- Smaller housing options
- Duplexes
- Accessory Dwelling Units, or 'granny flats'
- Senior living centers or communities
- Rental units
- Existing housing options are adequate

13. What is one word you would use to describe Bay Township to someone planning a visit?

14. How long have you lived in Bay Township?

- Less than 2 Years
- 2-10 Years
- 11-30 Years
- More than 30 Years

15. Please classify your residency in Bay Township

- Year-round Resident - Homeowner
- Year-round Resident - Renter
- Seasonal Resident - Primary Residence in another Community
- None of the Above

16. Which best describes your property in Bay Township?

- Waterfront
- Farmland
- Rural Residential
- Subdivision Residential

17. How many children age 17 or younger live in your household?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3 or More

18. Please indicate the zip code where you work (if applicable)

19. What category is your age?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 20 Years Old | <input type="radio"/> 50-59 Years       |
| <input type="radio"/> 20-29 Years        | <input type="radio"/> 60-69 Years       |
| <input type="radio"/> 30-39 Years        | <input type="radio"/> 70-79 Years       |
| <input type="radio"/> 40-49 Years        | <input type="radio"/> 80 Years or Older |

20. Please feel free to comment below regarding any concerns or suggestions you may have that were not addressed in the survey.

Thank you for completing this survey! If you would like to get more involved in the Township, please visit the Bay Township Website at [www.baytownshipmi.org](http://www.baytownshipmi.org)