



**ACME TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS MEETING**  
**Acme Township Hall**  
**6042 Acme Road Williamsburg, MI 49690**  
**June 19, 2023 4:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**Committee:**

	Danca		Jenema		LaPointe		DeVogel
	Schmitz		Morrison		Wielenga		
<b>Advisory:</b>	Kushman		Lamott		Calcutt		
<b>Staff:</b>	Wolf		Danca				

**A. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**C. INQUIRY AS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:**

**D. CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. None

**E. ACTION:**

1. Approve Draft Parks & Trails Minutes 4.17.2023

**F. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Solar Lights
2. Life Jacket Library

**G. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Parks & Recreation Plan – 5 year plan

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURN:**

**DRAFT UNAPPROVED**



**ACME TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
6042 Acme Road  
US 31 N Williamsburg, MI 49690  
April 17, 2023 4:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER at 4:04 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Committee Members present:** Huffer, LaPointe, Morrison, Schmitz, Wielenga

**Committee Members excused:** DeVogel, Jenema

**Advisory present:** None

**Staff present:** L. Wolf, Planning & Zoning Administrator, R. Lamott, C. Danca

**A. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Brian Kelley, Acme resident

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by LaPointe supported by Schmitz to approve the Agenda as presented with addition of G. 2. E bike workshop update. (New Business) No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

**C. INQUIRY AS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None**

**D. CORRESPONDENCE: None**

**E. ACTION:**

**1. Approve *Draft Parks & Trails Minutes 3.20.2023***

**Motion by LaPointe, supported by Schmitz, to approve the *Draft Parks & Trails Minutes 3.20.2023* as presented. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

**F. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Solar Lights**

Discussion resumed from the previous meeting in March. Wielenga will research solar light options including cost.

**2. Life Jacket Library**

Wolf will contact Life Jacket Library and provide an update at the next meeting.

**G. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Parks & Recreation Plan – 5-year update**

Wolf led discussion and the committee reviewed the draft survey questions. Wolf noted Sara Kopriva (Beckett & Raeder) reviewed the questions and did not suggest any changes. Discussion included methods of output, promotion and distribution. TART will attend May meeting and provide updates.

**2. E-Bike Workshop Update**

Schmitz and Huffer provided E-bike safety and etiquette information from the workshop.

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Brian Kelly, Acme resident

**ADJOURN: Motion by Schmitz, supported by Morrison to adjourn. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully,  
Cristy Danca



# I. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

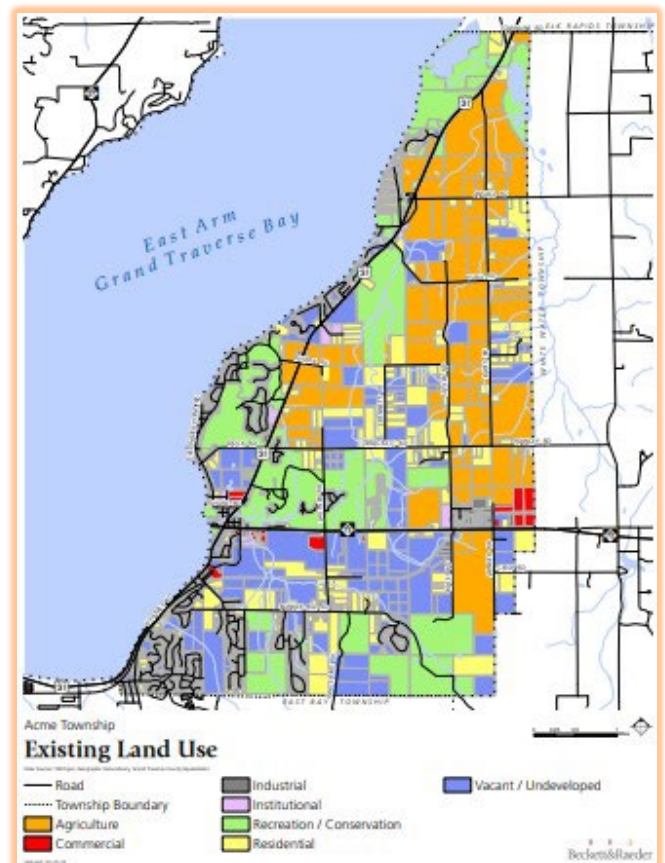
## INTRODUCTION

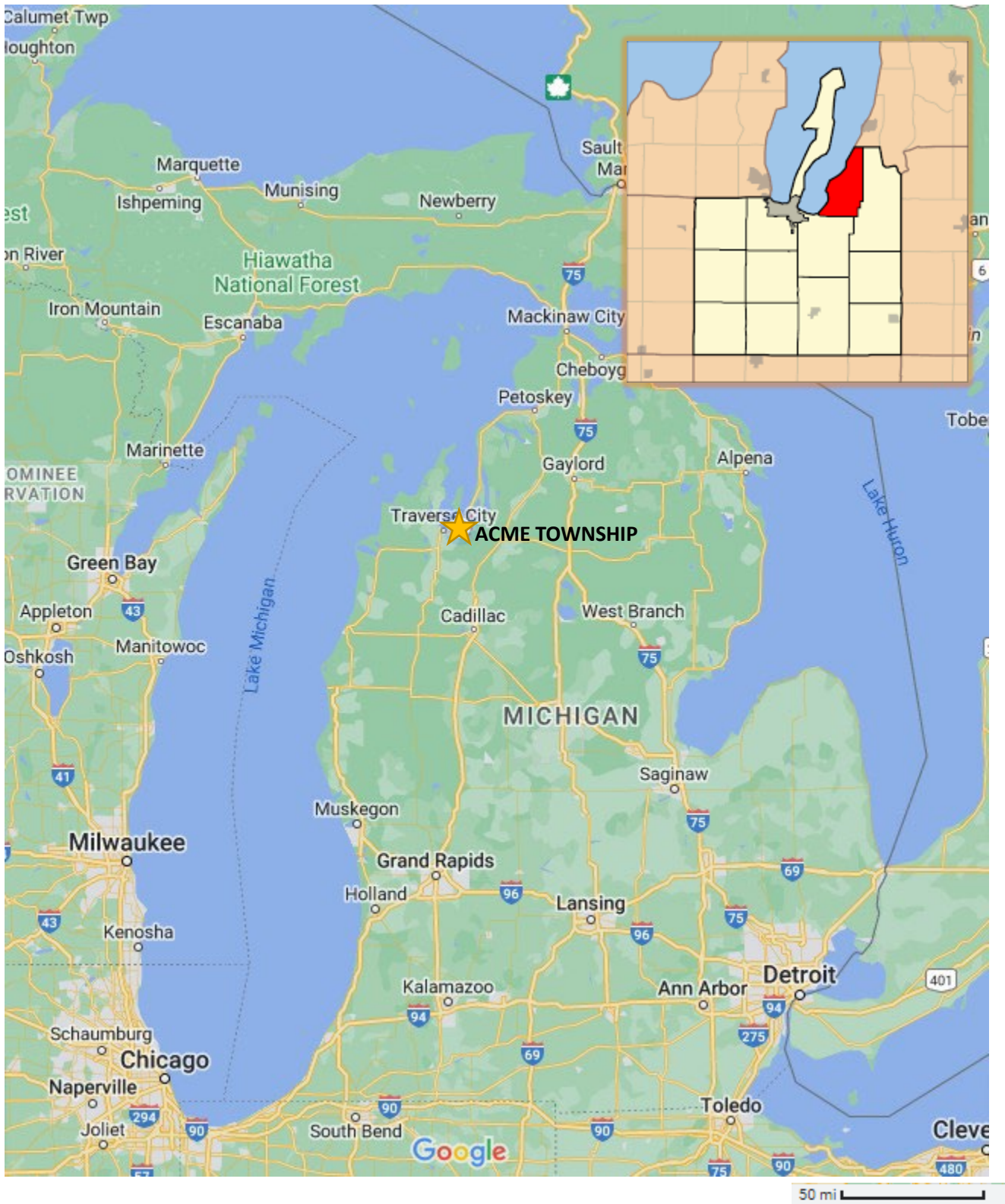
Acme Township recognizes that an ongoing commitment to its parks and recreational areas is a vital investment in its future. Public parks and recreational service areas serve an important societal function as recreational spaces for diverse communities of people, with well documented physical and mental health benefits. Acme Township strives to cultivate and maintain parks and recreation services in an effort to both enhance quality of life for residents and visitors, fostering a greater appreciation for the community.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a guide to recreational development in Acme Township over the next 5 years. The plan includes parks, natural areas, trails, and other recreational amenities within the Township, emphasizing properties owned and maintained by the Township. This plan is vital for the pursuit of future grant funding to assist with the expansion and advancement of recreational opportunities within Acme Township.

## IDENTITY & LOCATION

Acme Township is located in the northwest quadrant of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula, approximately six miles northeast of Traverse City. There are two major highways running through the Township: US 31 runs south to north, and M-72 runs primarily east to west. Commercial development exists along US-31 and at the US-31 and M-72 intersection. A variety of residential developments are scattered throughout the Township, generally south of M-72 and along the Grand Traverse Bay. The Township maintains a rural character with the interior of Acme boasting rolling hills and agricultural farmland. Adjacent communities include: Elk Rapids (north), East Bay (south), Whitewater (east), and Peninsula (west).





ACME TOWNSHIP

REGIONAL LOCATION MAP

## DEMOGRAPHICS & ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

In order to develop a parks and recreation plan that is in tune with the current and future needs of Acme Township, a comprehensive demographic and economic analysis of the community is necessary. The following subsections highlight a number of significant population and household trends that have shaped the Township:

- Population change and projections
- Population characteristics – age, race, persons with disabilities, education
- Household characteristics – units, income, employment

The most current demographic data available for the Township was obtained from the following sources: U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey. Whenever possible, comparable data for Grand Traverse County has been included for the purpose of understanding the relationship between Acme Township to the larger geographical area.

### POPULATION

The 2020 Decennial Census found that Acme Township’s population was 4,456 persons. The average household size was 2.98 persons per household.

Population changes for Acme Township and its neighboring communities over the 30-year period between 1990 and 2020 are shown in the table below. During this period, the Township’s population increased from 3,447 persons in 1990, to 4,456 persons in 2020, an increase of 1,009 residents.

Table 1: Population of Acme Township and Comparable Municipalities, 1990-2020

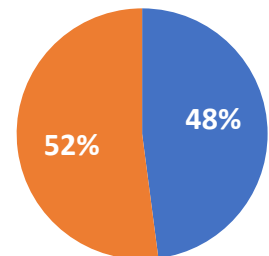
Community	1990	2000	2010	2020
<b>Acme Township</b>				
Population	3,447	4,332	4,375	4,456
% Change		25.7%	1.1%	1.9%
<b>East Bay Township</b>				
Population	8,307	9,919	10,663	11,559
% Change		19.4%	7.5%	8.4%
<b>City of Traverse</b>				
Population	15,116	14,383	14,674	15,678
% Change		-4.9%	2.0%	6.8%
<b>Whitewater Township</b>				
Population	1,833	2,467	2,597	2,688
% Change		34.6%	5.3%	3.5%
<b>Grand Traverse County</b>				
Population	64,273	77,654	86,986	92,640
% Change		20.8%	12%	6.5%

Source: U.S. Decennial Census 1990-2020



Figure 1: Population Male - Female

Total Population 4,469



■ Male ■ Female

Source: 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, DP05

Acme Township’s population has continually increased since 1990. It is increasing at a slower rate than the neighboring communities of East Bay, Traverse City, Whitewater, and Grand Traverse County as a whole.

## MEDIAN AGE

The steady aging of the region’s population is among the more important trends illustrated by the Census. Between 2010 and 2020, the median age in Acme Township increased from 43.2 to 44.6.

Table 2: Median Age, Acme Township and Comparable Communities

Community	2010	2020
Acme Township	43.2	44.6
East Bay Township	40.2	45.5
City of Traverse	38.7	40.4
Grand Traverse County	40.5	43.4

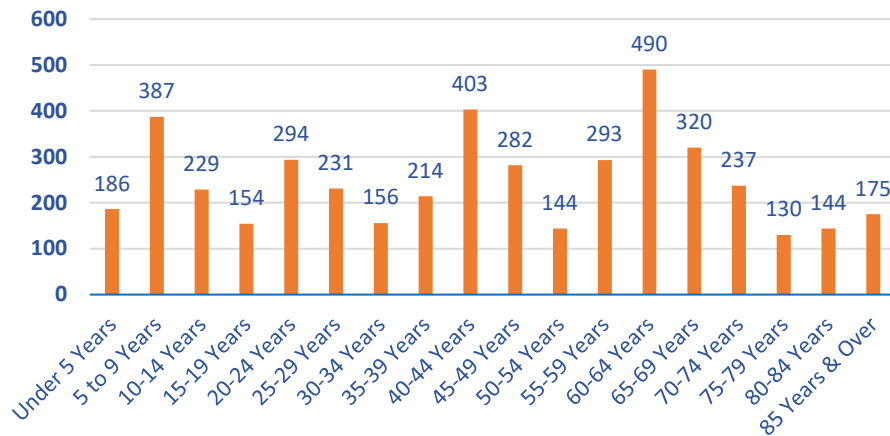
Source: U.S. Decennial Census 1990-2020

An increase in the median age reflects that the Township has a greater concentration of older individuals than it had previously – this could be attributed to a multitude of factors, including the aging of residents living in the area, a result of younger people moving out of the area, or an increased number of older individuals moving to the Township.

## POPULATION BY AGE

By reviewing the various age groupings that make up the population of Acme Township, it is possible to ascertain how various segments of the Township’s population have changed over time and what impact these changes have on growth. Further examination of these age groups can also provide insight as to the present and future demand for age specific programming, services and facilities.

Table 3: Population Pyramid by Age: Acme Township



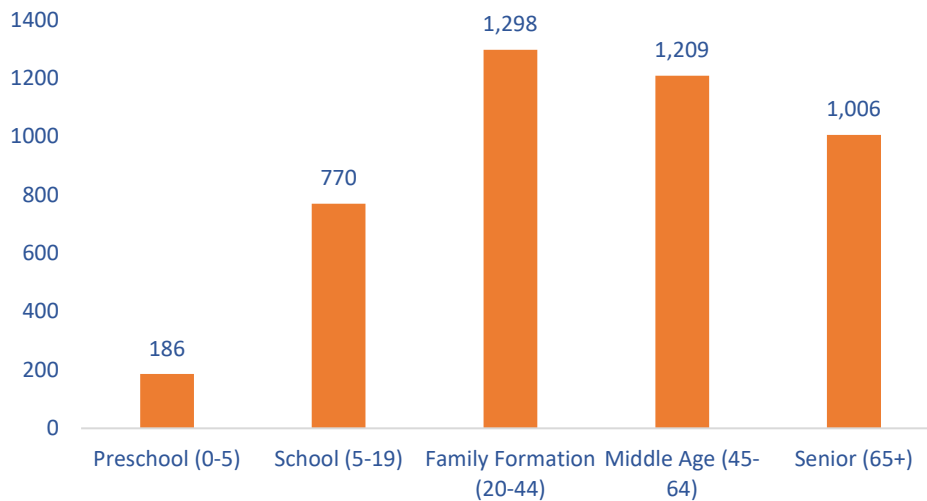
Source: 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, DP05

## AGE BY LIFE CYCLE

Obtaining a more expressive picture of the Township’s population age distribution is possible when the individual age categories shown on Table 3 are combined into smaller age-related groups, which more closely resemble identifiable stages of a normal human life cycle. Selected categories and the age intervals that they represent include: pre-school (0-4); school (5-19); family formation (20-44); middle-age (45-64); and seniors (65+).

The percent of the Township’s population that falls into each of these categories is shown in Table 4. Each of the life cycle categories shown in Table 4 has an important meaning for planning. The pre-school and school-age categories, for example, offer useful indicators of future school enrollment trends and the adequacy of existing educational facilities to meet these needs.

Table 4: Age By Life Cycle



Source: 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, DP05

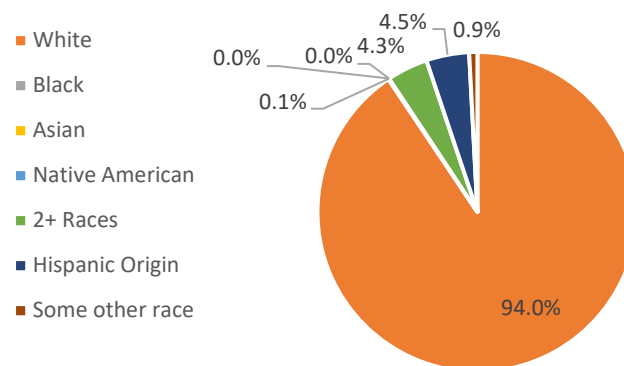
## RACE

Acme Township, like the surrounding area, has a predominantly white population. It is comparable to East Bay (94.3%) and Grand Traverse County as a whole (94.5%).

Acme Township has seen a slight increase in the population of Hispanic Origin (from 1.7% to 4.5%) and in the population of those individuals that are two or more races (from 1.3% to 4.3%).

There has been a slight decline in the proportion of the population that is white, Asian, Black, and Native American.

Figure 2: Race & Ethnicity



Source: 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, DP05



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Individuals with disabilities are one of the special population groups community leaders must consider when planning for the future of Acme Township. Ensuring all residents, regardless of physical ability, can actively be engaged in community life is a major factor when considering community prosperity. A high proportion of disabled individuals requires an increased focus on accommodation needs, although accessibility needs should be incorporated whenever possible even with a smaller proportion of disabled individuals.

Approximately 14.6% of Acme Township residents have a disability, which is higher than the State of Michigan’s percentage of population with disability of 14.2%. Of these, the majority of those with a disability are those who cannot live independently (i.e., have difficulty doing necessary tasks alone, such as running every day errands, and attending appointments).

Table 5: Percentage of Population with Disabilities

Disability Type	Percentage of Population
Hearing	4.7%
Vision	0.4%
Cognitive	5.1%
Ambulatory	7.6%
Self-Care	3.1%
Independent Living	8.6%

Source: 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Acme Township has a higher proportion of individuals with a bachelor’s degree (24.7%) than in Grand Traverse County as a whole (23.7%), and a higher proportion than the State of Michigan (18.3%). Acme Township also has a higher proportion of individuals that have obtained a graduate degree (20.6%) than in Grand Traverse County (14.7%) and the State of Michigan (11.3%).

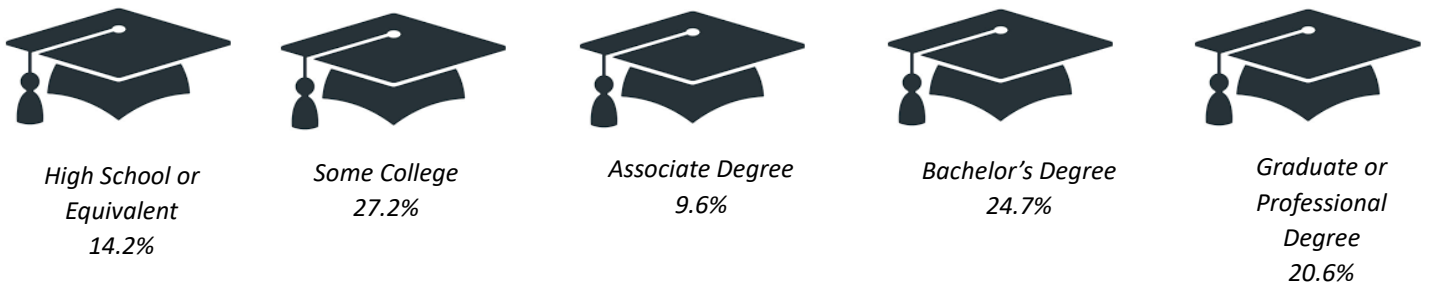


Figure 3: Educational Attainment; Source: U.S. Decennial Census 2020

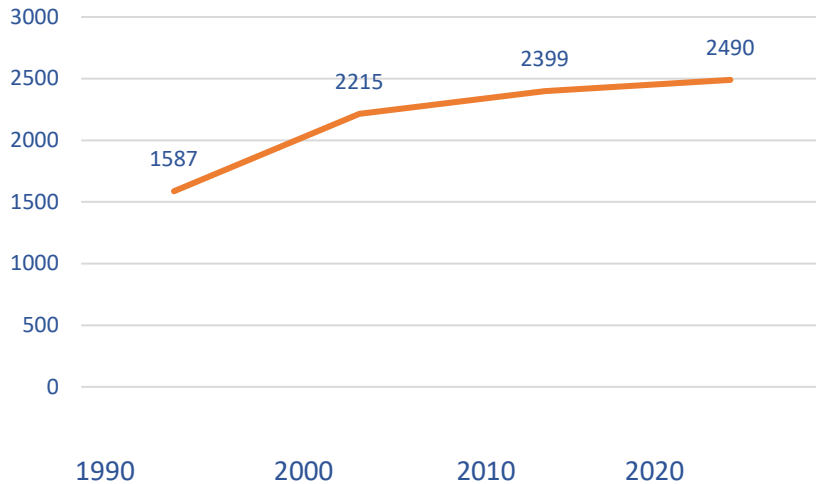
## HOUSING UNITS

Household growth within the Township generates property tax revenues, creates demand for goods, and increases the population. Each of these factors has the ability to positively impact economic growth.

Household growth also impacts municipal services, especially the need for public utilities, emergency services, general community administration, and the need for future transportation system improvements.

Acme Township experienced a 56.8% increase in the number of housing units between 1990 and 2020. The largest increase in housing units was between 1990 and 2000, with 628 units constructed at that time (39.5% increase). In contrast, the lowest increase in housing units was between 2010 and 2020, with 91 units constructed (3.8% increase). Single-family dwellings make up a majority of the Township’s housing stock.

Table 6: Number of Housing Units



Source: 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020 U.S. Census

Acme Township has grown at a slower rate than the neighboring municipalities of East Bay (8.9%), Traverse City (14.3%), and Grand Traverse County as a whole (10%) between the years 2010 and 2020.

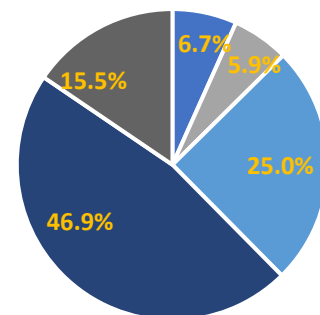
## INCOME & POVERTY

The household median income of Acme Township has increased by 15.1% between 2010 (\$74,827) and 2020 (\$86,153). This reflects a decrease in the lower income brackets. Between 2010 and 2020, the proportion of the population with household incomes of \$75,000-\$149,000 grew at the fastest rate.

Acme Township’s household median income is greater than that of East Bay Township (\$76,711), Grand Traverse County as a whole (\$61,056) and the State of Michigan (\$59,234).

Acme Township has a lower percent of households in poverty (4.3%) than that of of East Bay (6.0%), Grand Traverse County (10.2%), and the State of Michigan (13.7%)

Figure 4: Household Income



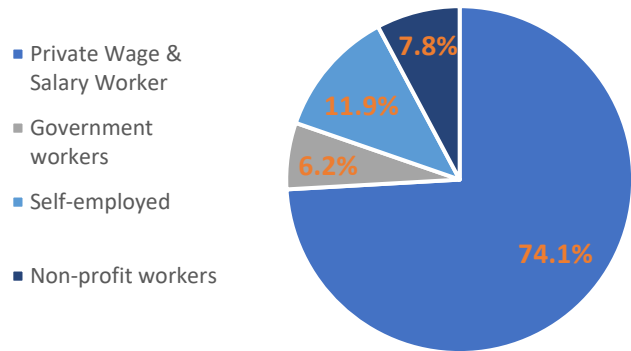
- Very Low (less than \$25,000)
- Low (\$25,000-\$34,999)
- Moderate (\$35,000-\$74,999)
- High (\$75,000-\$149,000)
- Very High (\$150,000 and up)

Source: 2020 U.S. Census

## EMPLOYMENT

There are a total of 3,619 people that are recorded as employed within Acme Township. A majority of the individuals employed are those that work as a private wage and salary workers. The average commute time is 20.4 minutes, with 64.7% of those individuals commuting to work alone.

Figure 5: Work



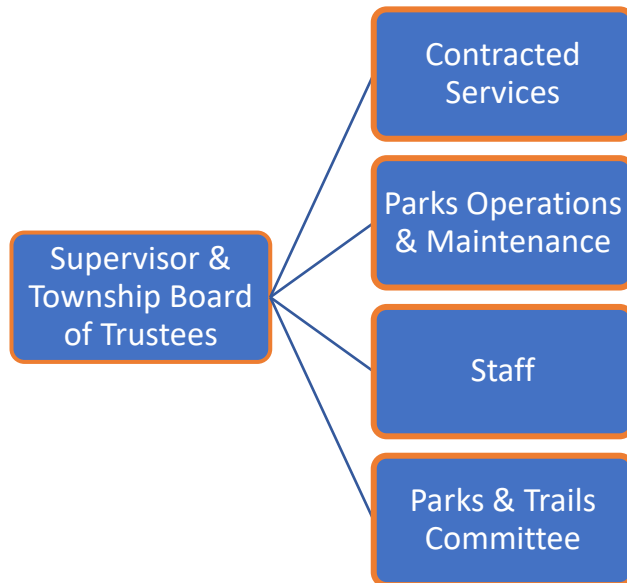
Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles



## II. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

### ORGANIZATION

Without a unified administrative structure, the planning, development, and maintenance of a comprehensive parks and recreation system cannot be accomplished. Acme Township’s parks and recreation programs and operations are administratively aligned under a traditional local government organizational structure.



The Township Supervisor and Board of Trustees provide governance, establish public policy, adopt the annual budget and millage rates, accept grants, and are the approval authority for community plans and projects. Specifically, the Township Supervisor is responsible for the execution and implementation of Board policies, budgets, and plans as well performing oversight for day-to-day operations within the Township.

Township staff, which includes the Planning and Zoning Department, Parks Operations Manager, as well as any contractors, report to the Supervisor. Planning and Zoning Department staff act as a liaison between the Parks and Recreation Committee and Township Board of Trustees. The staff is also responsible for ensuring that essential ordinances and plans are up to date. The Parks and Maintenance Operator is responsible for

maintenance and construction occurring within the Township parks. Services are contracted as needed to perform any additional duties.

The Parks and Trails Committee is an advisory committee that provides citizen input into the Acme Township park and recreation program. A combination of citizens, staff, and elected officials participate on this committee. Recommendations are presented at the meetings of the Township Board of Trustees.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERS

Acme Township is privileged to have partnered with numerous groups and organizations who share the goal of preserving and enhancing the Township's recreational assets.

These partnerships include (are not limited to):

- Acme Business Association
- Acme Historical Society
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC)
- Networks Northwest (NNW)
- Public Schools (Elk Rapids, Traverse City)
- TART Trails/Iron Bell
- The Watershed Center for Grand Traverse Bay
- Scouts (Boy, Girl, Eagle)
- Sweetwater Evening Garden Club

The Acme Business Association has been responsible for the execution of the Acme Fall Festival, hosted on the Grounds of the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival (Flint Fields).

The Acme Historical Society has been influential in the restoration of the Yuba School House. The Acme Historical Society provides continued historical support as needed.

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians have been instrumental in the planning and development of Acme Township parks and recreational facilities through Tribal 2% grant allocations. A representative currently sits on the Township's Planning Commission.

Acme Township has partnered with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to raise funds for parkland acquisition, to remove private structures, and to plan for future improvements. GTRTC has played an essential role in acquiring land and grants to further support recreational planning and development efforts.

Networks Northwest has been a valued partner, providing grant assistance for engineering of the Acme Connector Trail. NNW has also been a lead in coordination of Grand Traverse County as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as of the 2020 U.S. Census, Acme Township is included within the MPO boundaries.



Elk Rapids and Traverse City Schools students offer their time to aid in the betterment of Township recreational facilities to fulfill civic requirements for schools. Several opportunities are available on an annual basis.

TART Trails and Acme Township have a successful relationship when it comes to trailways. The Acme Connector Trail was established in 2022, made possible by generous grants through the MDNR Trust Fund and Iron Belle, collaboration and funds from TART Trails, and generous donations. The trailhead to the Traverse to Charlevoix Trail (TC>TCH Trail – also known as the Nakwema Trailway) is located at Bayside Park. The Township and TART continue to work on the connection through Deepwater Point – the latest segment of the Nakwema Trailway.



The Watershed Center of Grand Traverse Bay has partnered with Acme on testing for E.coli at two swimming beaches between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Most recently, an Eagle Scout delivered a flag retirement box down at Bayside Park; this is one example of the commitment of the scouts to Acme Township. Other initiatives have included the clearing of pathways, beach cleanup, plantings, invasive species removal, painting – to name a few.

The Sweetwater Evening Garden Club plays a vital role in the beautification of Acme Township. Their plantings can be found at the Acme Township Hall, Bayside Park, at the corner of 5 mile and US 31. Their meetings are open to the public, held monthly at the Acme Township Hall. New members are always welcome.

Acme Township has and continues to receive donations towards park and recreation initiatives.



## BUDGET

The Acme Township annual parks and recreation budget for 2023-2024 is around \$139,314. Funds come from the General Fund, plus grants and donations. In fiscal year 2022-2023, the Nakwema Trailway Fund received a \$325,000 grant from the Iron Belle Trail Fund, a \$300,000 grant from the MDNR Trust Fund, and \$786,218 in funds from TART Trails. In fiscal year 2023-2024, the Nakwema Trailway Fund received a \$25,000 grant from The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Capital expenditures for larger projects and grant contributions are budgeted annually when the funds are expensed.

Table 7: Budget

Maintenance and Recreation Expenditures		
Item	2022-2023	2023-2024
Maintenance & Parks Expenditures	\$9,266	\$90,314
Capital Improvements	\$9,000	\$9,000
Contributions & Endowments	\$13,000	\$15,000
Nakwema Trailway Fund	\$1,411,218	\$25,000

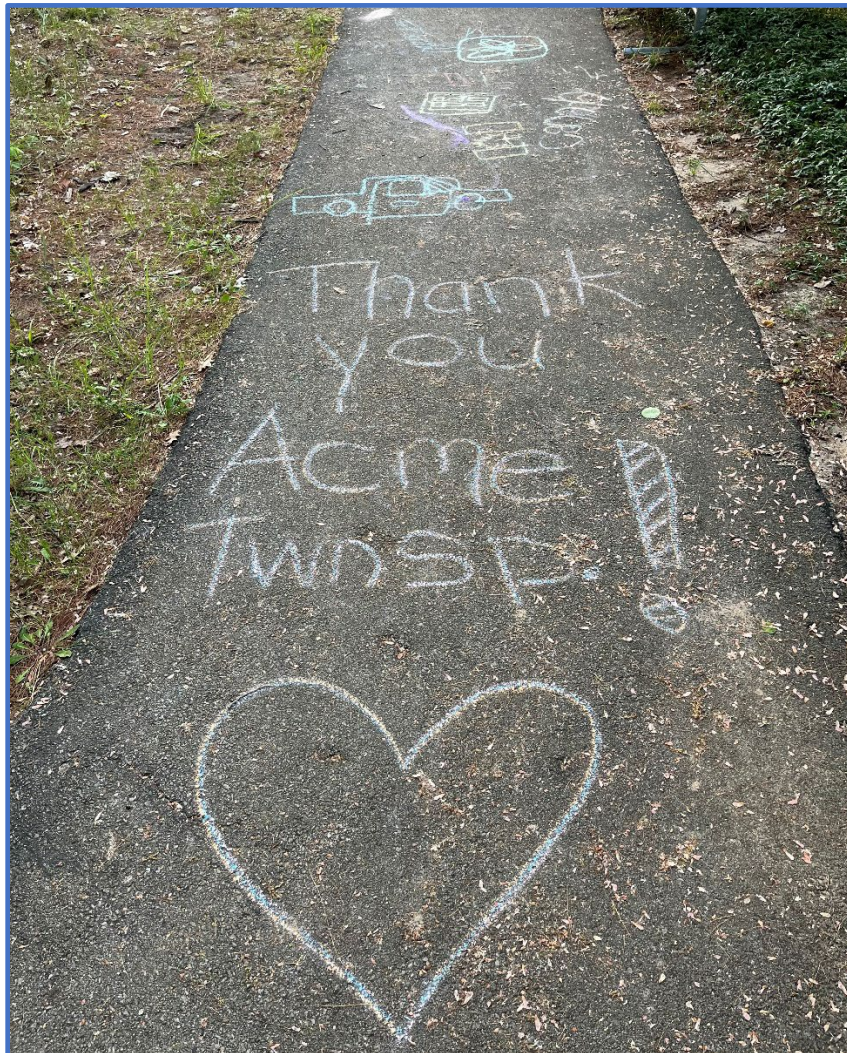


Image: Sidewalk Art at Bayside Park



## III. INVENTORY

### OVERVIEW

When developing a comprehensive parks and recreation master plan it is imperative to catalog existing park and recreational facilities. A thorough inventory allows the Township to highlight its assets, develop linkages, and note any gaps in services. The recreational inventory describes all parks, natural areas, public spaces, and recreation facilities within the Township – highlighting land and facilities the Township owns and operates.

Overall, Acme Township has an immense amount of recreational opportunities, both public and private. With the updating and implementation of the recreation plan, the current opportunities can only be improved, resulting in the greater ease and use for everyone throughout the community.

