

**DRAFT UNAPPROVED**



**ACME TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
6042 Acme Road  
US 31 N Williamsburg, MI 49690  
August 21, 2023 4:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER at 4:03 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Committee Members present:** Danca, DeVogel, Morrison, Schmitz, Wielenga

**Committee Members excused:** Jenema expected to arrive late

**Advisory present:**

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

**A. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Brian Kelley, Acme resident

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Schmitz, supported by DeVogel, to approve the Agenda as presented. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**D. CORRESPONDENCE: Brian Kelley, regarding Park Lighting**

Committee discussion about solar lighting at Saylor Park and Bayside Park occurred. It was decided to put this item to rest and not pursue it at this time.

The Committee discussed **OLD BUSINESS F. 2. Life Jacket Library**. It was decided that Wolf would reach out one final time and if there was no response, this item would be put to rest.

Wolf added *Election of Officers* to the agenda under **G. New Business #3**.

**E. ACTION:**

**1. Approve Draft Parks & Trails Minutes 6.19.2023**

**Motion by Morrison, supported by Danca, to approve the Draft Parks & Trails Minutes 6.19.2023 as presented. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

**F. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Solar Lights**

Previously discussed under Correspondence.

**2. Life Jacket Library**

Previously discussed under Correspondence.

**G. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Parks & Recreation Plan – Survey Results**

Wolf gave a power point presentation reviewing survey results with the Committee and discussion occurred throughout.

Schmitz departed at 4:28 p.m.

**2. Review DRAFT of 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan**

Wolf highlighted changes from the previous plan. She indicated that the short-term goal of adding trees near the Shell gas station will be added to the plan. The plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees and Planning Commission in September, and a public hearing is expected to occur in November. At this time, Wolf does not expect Parks & Trails to have a meeting in September. Committee discussion occurred and consensus was positive for the plan with regards to the photos, cover, color branding and graph colors. Committee members agreed to review the plan content and contact Wolf with any issues.

**3. Election of Officers**

Jenema arrived at 4:40 p.m.

Chairperson Wielenga opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

**Motion by Jenema, supported by DeVogel, to nominate Wielenga for Chair. Wielenga accepted the position. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Wielenga, supported by DeVogel, to nominate Morrison for Vice Chair. Morrison accepted the position. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Jenema, supported by Wielenga, to nominate DeVogel for Secretary. Brief discussion occurred. DeVogel accepted the position. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Brian Kelley, Acme resident

Amy Jenema shared that the Mountain Bike Association is seeking a letter of support from the Acme Township Board to have some currently unmarked single-track trails in the Pere Marquette Forest area recognized by the State and by VASA, and to have them marked. Marking the trails would create logging boundaries for any future logging projects in that area.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully,  
Cristy Danca



**ACME TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS MEETING**  
**Acme Township Hall**  
**6042 Acme Road Williamsburg, MI 49690**  
**August 21, 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. Kelley

**E. ACTION:**

1. Approve Draft Parks & Trails Minutes 6.19.2023

**F. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Solar Lights
2. Life Jacket Library

**G. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Parks & Recreation Plan – Survey Results
2. Review DRAFT of 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURN:**

From: Brian Kelley, Acme resident  
To: Acme Parks and Trails committee

July 17, 2023

Re: Park Lighting

Good afternoon,

The topic of Sayler Park boat launch lighting has been discussed at many P & T meetings. The stated problem to solve has varied, with no accurate meeting minutes to document needs and the range of potential solutions. For approximately one year, no members of the public in attendance have asked for lighting. No members of the public have proposed viable solutions.

With the on-going question of whether the Sayler Park boat launch needs lighting, I was curious how Peninsula Township illuminates their multiple boat launches. I contacted the township and learned that their boat launches have no lighting.

Compared to decades ago, for navigation, we all have GPS in every cell phone. And we have inexpensive, lightweight high power battery powered LED lighting, including headsets and portable lamps, for tying down boats, and doing work. For emergency preparedness, every boater on the water in the dark is expected to have their own lighting.

The boat launch at Bunker Hill remains an illuminated option, in addition to the Dock Road boat launch.

Peninsula township also mentioned that boat launch lighting would likely violate their Dark Sky ordinance.

In regard to Bayside Park, the question of walkway lighting has been mentioned. No member of the public has asked for this lighting. Anyone who visits Bayside park at night will find the light intensity from some nearby shoreline businesses is extreme and overwhelming, with some using intensity that is brighter than car headlights, to draw attention. If not a violation of our signage and dark sky ordinance provisions, it should be. Any addition of lighting should be carefully considered, along with whether our ordinances and enforcement are adequate.

At the last Parks and Trails meeting, a PT member expressed some frustration that their past request for Shuffleboard in Bayside Park has been ignored. They were oblivious to the 2022 restoration of Shuffleboard at the park, and that the equipment for play was being made available every day by Parks staff.

I can't help but wonder if this lighting question is a similar situation, and an expense and solution that is looking for a problem.

Thank you, Brian Kelley



**DRAFT UNAPPROVED**



**ACME TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
6042 Acme Road  
US 31 N Williamsburg, MI 49690  
June 19, 2023 4:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER at 4:03 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Committee Members present:** Danca, Jenema, LaPointe, Morrison, Wielenga

**Committee Members excused:** DeVogel, Schmitz

**Advisory present:** E. Calcutt, Trail Development Director for TART

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

**A. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Brian Kelley, Acme resident

Pat Salathiel, Acme resident

Wolf introduced Radu Danca as the newest member of Parks and Trails Committee (serving the remainder of Huffer's term). Wolf introduced Elizabeth Calcutt of TART and requested her update presentation be added to the agenda ahead of Old Business.

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by LaPointe supported by Morrison to approve the Agenda as presented with addition of Calcutt update to occur after Correspondence. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**D. CORRESPONDENCE:** None

Calcutt provided a draft map of the proposed redesign of the pedestrian intersection at M 72 and US 31. TART and MDOT are working together on safety improvements and the next step is an onsite meeting. Other topics she mentioned regarding the pedestrian crossing included easements with landowners, fundraising, and whether Shores Beach Lane would remain as is or be paved. Committee discussion occurred. Calcutt also provided an update on the Acme Connector Trail stating the KOTI section is complete and they are ordering wayfinding now. Calcutt will provide another update when there is more information.

**E. ACTION:**

**1. Approve *Draft Parks & Trails Minutes 4.17.2023***

**Motion by LaPointe, supported by Wielenga, to approve the *Draft Parks & Trails Minutes 4.17.2023* as presented. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

**F. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Solar Lights**

Discussion resumed from the previous meeting in April. Wielenga contacted Smart Era Lighting Systems and is waiting to hear back. He will present information at the next meeting. Committee discussion occurred.

**2. Life Jacket Library**

Wolf has received no new information and will attempt to contact Life Jacket Library again.

**G. NEW BUSINESS:**

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

Wolf provided an overview of the Parks Plan update so far. At the next meeting she expects to have over half the document updated and available for review. The Park survey is available at this time and people can participate through July 31<sup>st</sup>. Survey postcards have been mailed to Acme residents, the survey is on the township website acmetownship.org, it will be on the back of summer tax bills, and flyers have been posted at the parks and some businesses. The survey is intended for anyone to complete, not just Acme Township residents. At the August Parks and Trails meeting, the committee will review survey results.

Wolf asked committee members for input regarding additional public engagement ideas. A recent presentation at Samaritas provided helpful feedback from some of the dozen residents in attendance. Committee discussion occurred. Some committee members and staff agreed to hand out postcards at various locations. Wolf will contact Beckett & Raeder regarding hosting on Open House July 17<sup>th</sup> and will follow up with the committee on Beckett & Raeder's suggestions.

The committee reviewed the park plan update, Wolf invited them to share additional photos for inclusion. Committee discussion occurred.

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Pat Salathiel, Acme resident

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

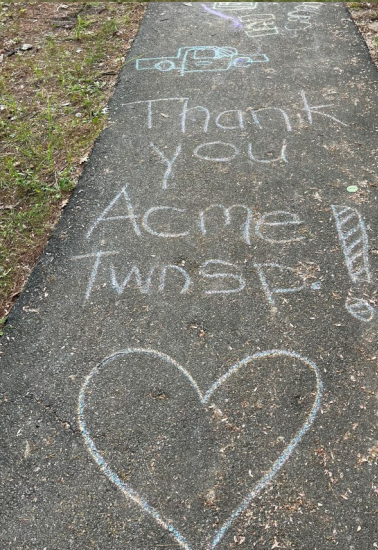
Respectfully,  
Cristy Danca





# Parks and Recreation Master Plan

2024-2029





# Contents

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# I. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

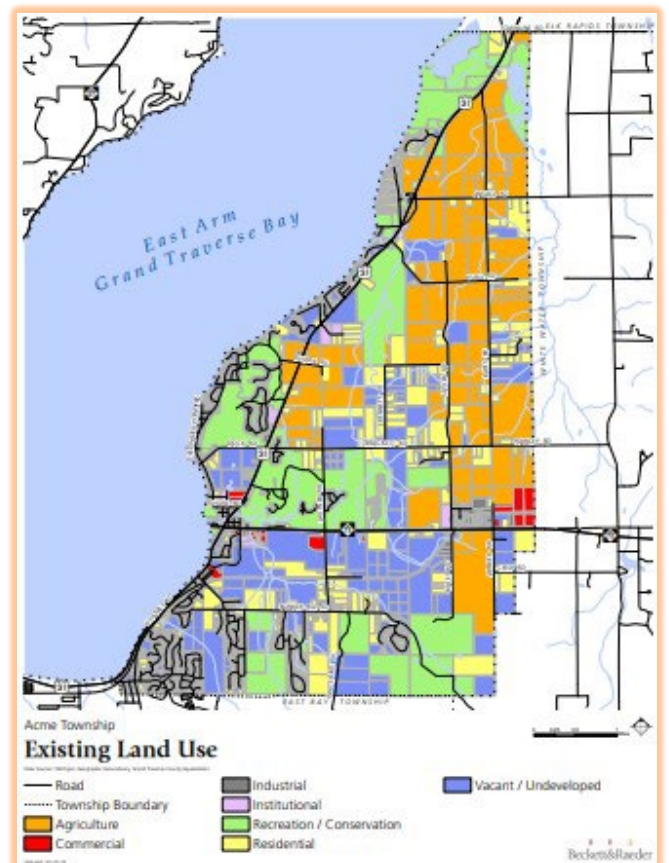
## INTRODUCTION

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 enhance quality of life for residents and visitors, fostering a greater appreciation for the community.

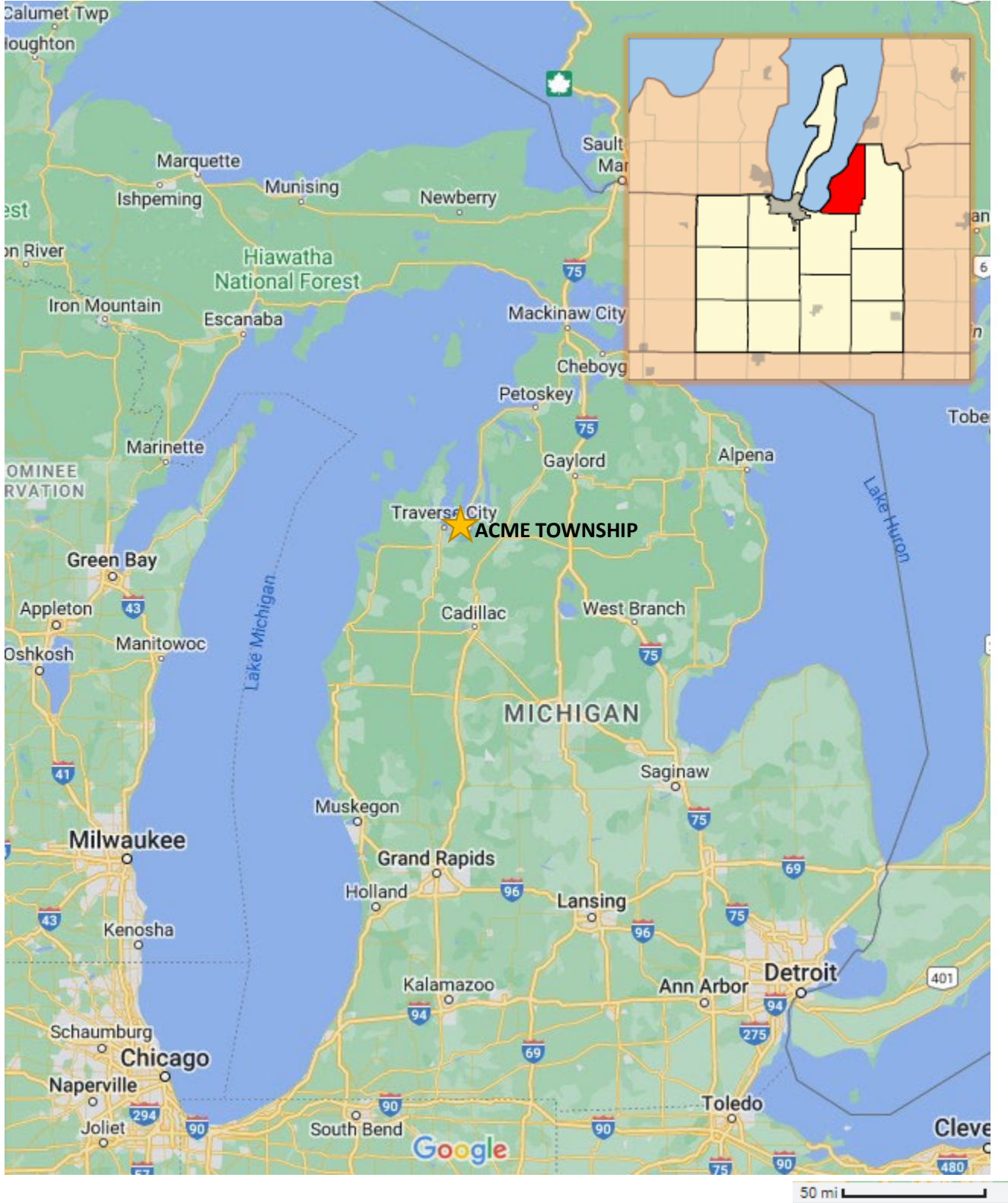
The Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a guide to recreational development in Acme Township over the next 5 years. The plan includes parks, natural areas, trails, and other recreational amenities within the Township, emphasizing properties owned and maintained by the Township. This plan is vital 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).



Regional Location Map: Acme Township



## 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

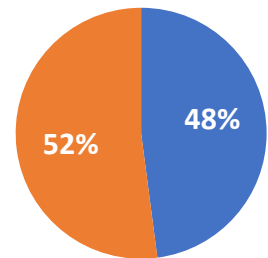
Community	1990	2000	2010	2020
<b>Acme Township</b>				
Population	3,447	4,332	4,375	4,456
% Change		25.7%	1.1%	1.9%
<b>East Bay Township</b>				
Population	8,307	9,919	10,663	11,559
% Change		19.4%	7.5%	8.4%
<b>City of Traverse</b>				
Population	15,116	14,383	14,674	15,678
% Change		-4.9%	2.0%	6.8%
<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

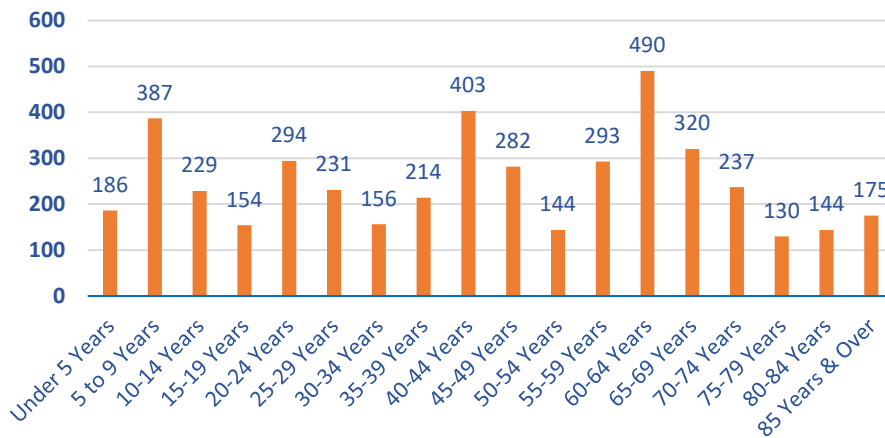
Source: U.S. Decennial Census 1990-2020

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

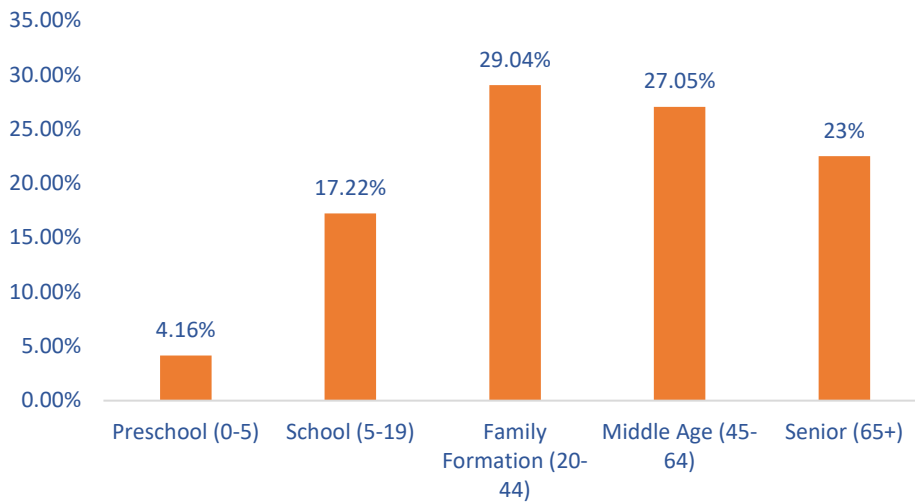


## AGE BY LIFE CYCLE

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

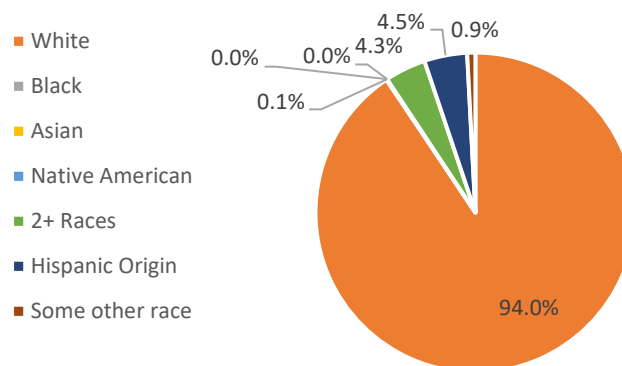
## RACE

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 a population group 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%).

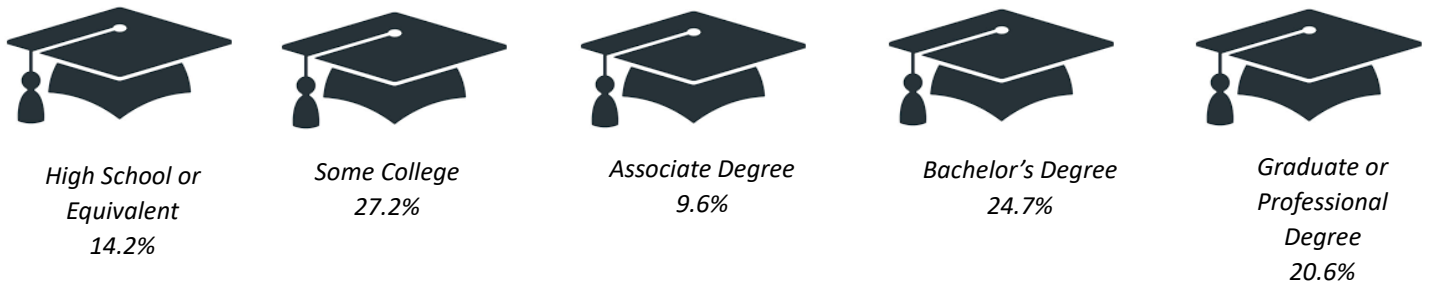


Figure 3: Educational Attainment; Source: U.S. Decennial Census 2020

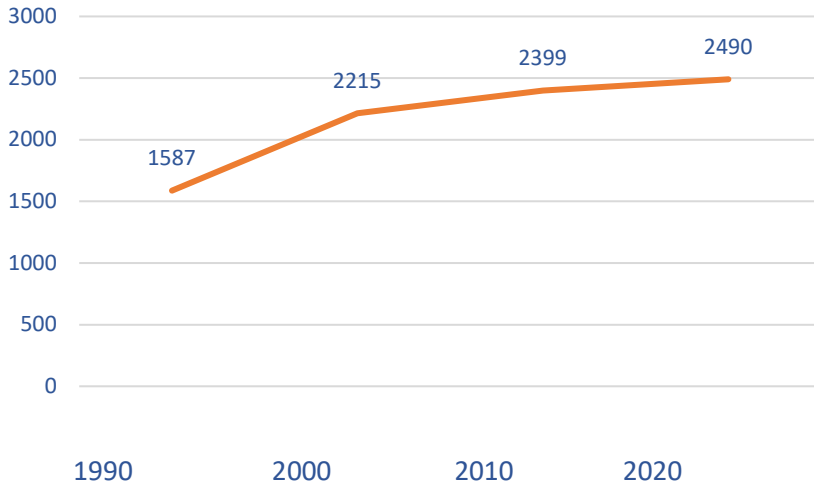
## HOUSING UNITS

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.

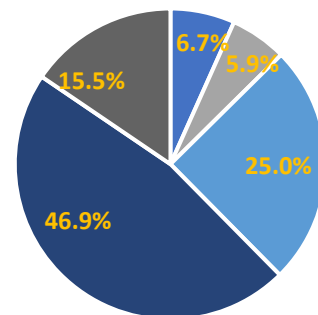
## INCOME & POVERTY

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 East Bay (6.0%), Grand Traverse County (10.2%), and the State of Michigan (13.7%).

Figure 4: Household Income



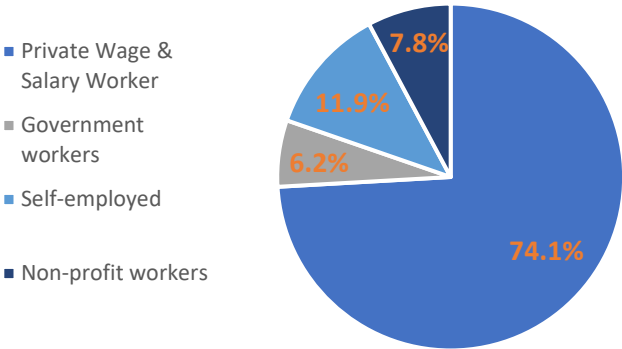
- Very Low (less than \$25,000)
- Low (\$25,000-\$34,999)
- Moderate (\$35,000-\$74,999)
- High (\$75,000-\$149,000)
- Very High (\$150,000 and up)

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 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



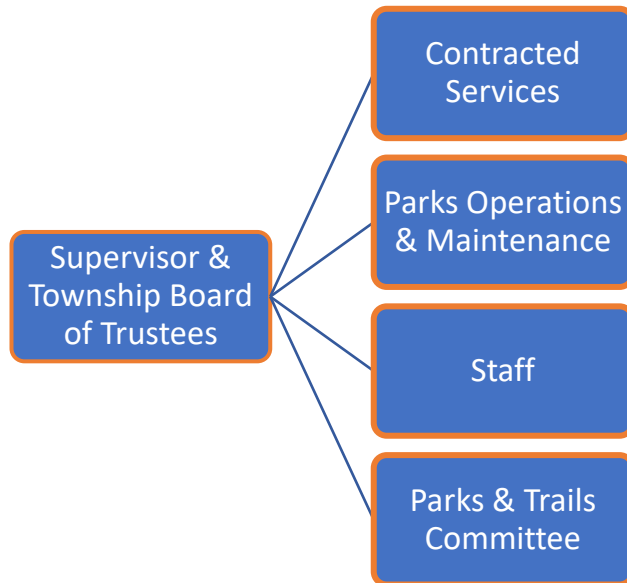
Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles



## 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 as performing oversight for day-to-day operations within the Township.

Township staff includes the Planning and Zoning Department, Parks Operations Manager, and any contractors, all of whom 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 for Acme Township parks and recreation programs. 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 (but 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. GTRLC 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 leader in coordinating efforts towards Grand Traverse County becoming 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 School students offer their time to aid in the betterment of Township recreational facilities to fulfill school civic requirements. Several opportunities are available annually.

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 of 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.

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, and 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 and at the corner of 5 mile and US 31. Their monthly meetings are open to the public and held at the Acme Township Hall. New members are always welcome.

Acme Township has and continues to receive donations toward 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, as well as 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

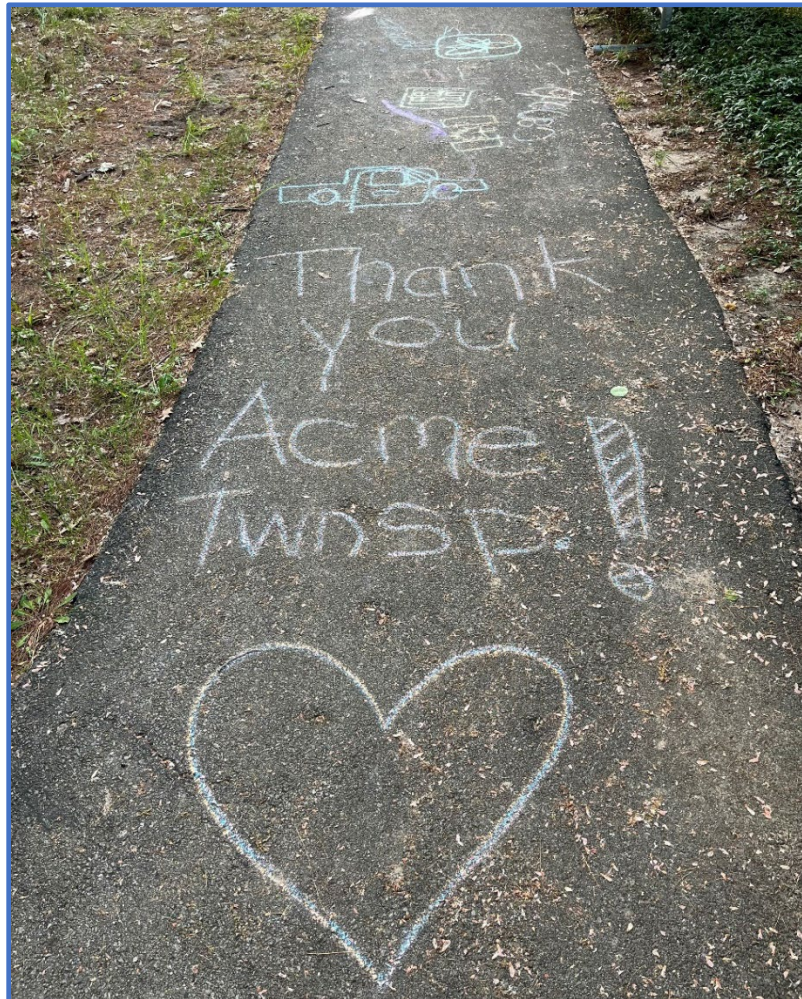


Image: Sidewalk Art at Bayside Park





### III. INVENTORY

#### OVERVIEW

When developing a comprehensive parks and recreation master plan it is imperative to catalog existing park and recreation facilities. A thorough inventory allows the Township to highlight its assets, develop linkages, and note any gaps in services. The recreation inventory describes all parks, natural areas, public spaces, and recreation facilities within the Township – highlighting land and facilities the Township owns and operates. In total, there are 21 parks and recreation facilities within the Township. Of these 21 facilities, there are 6 under the control of the Township.

Acme Township has over 3,979 acres of public recreation land, much of which is composed of the Yuba Creek Natural Area, Petobego State Game Area, Pere Marquette State Forest and Maple Bay County Park. These facilities account for 90% of the Acme Township public recreation acreage. Acme Township has 37 acres of recreational land not dedicated to natural areas and preserves. Privately owned recreational land is expansive in Acme totaling about 1,510 acres of land. The private facilities offer a wider variety of uses, such as golf courses, equestrian facilities, swimming pools, tennis courts, and campgrounds, in addition to many of the same opportunities available at the public facilities. The Grand Traverse Land Conservancy also has 37.5 acres of recreational land within Acme Township. They also assist in the management of Deepwater Point and Yuba Creek Natural Area.

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

Entity	Acres
Acme Township	465
Grand Traverse County	531
State of Michigan	1,427
Private Entities	
Grand Traverse Land Conservancy	37.5
Total	

Table 8: Total Acreage



Image: Grand Traverse Resort & Spa

# Existing Recreation Facilities

Data Sources: Grand Traverse County GIS, Acme Township

Acme Township

1. Bayside Park, Bunker Hill Road Boat Access
2. Deepwater Point Natural Area
3. Saylor Park & Boat Launch
4. Yuba Creek Natural Area
5. Bunker Hill Boat Access

Grand Traverse County

6. County Park Land
7. Dock Road Water Access
8. Maple Bay County Park
9. Shores Beach Lane Water Access

Private

10. East Bay Harbor Marina
11. Everflowing Waters Campground
12. Grand Traverse Resort
13. Flintfields Horse Park
14. Lochenheath Golf Course
15. New Hope Community Church
16. Traverse Bay RV Park

State of Michigan

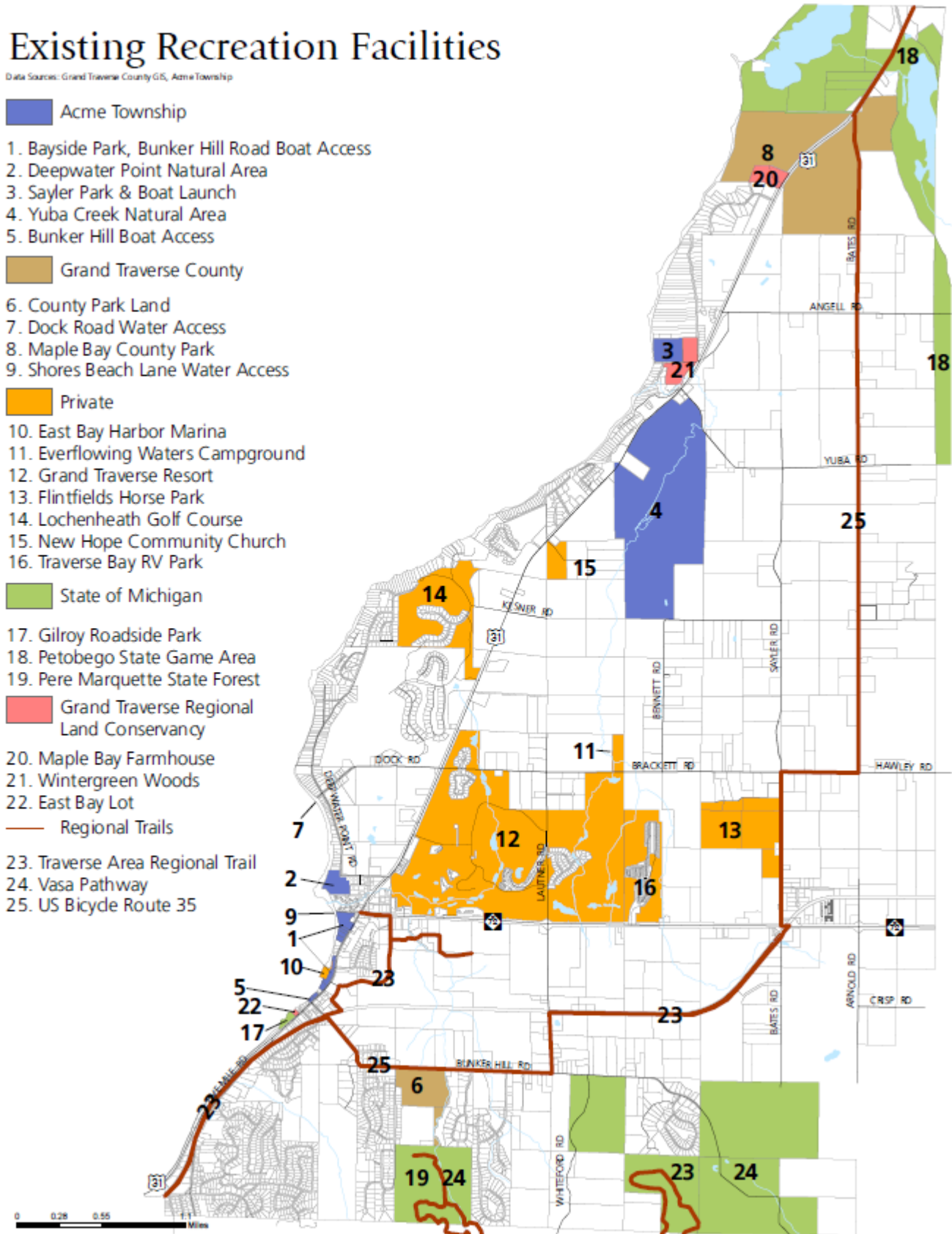
17. Gilroy Roadside Park
18. Petobego State Game Area
19. Pere Marquette State Forest

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

20. Maple Bay Farmhouse
21. Wintergreen Woods
22. East Bay Lot

Regional Trails

23. Traverse Area Regional Trail
24. Vasa Pathway
25. US Bicycle Route 35



## REGIONAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Acme Township, located in Grand Traverse County, is nestled in a region that has a wealth of parks and recreation destinations. There is a diversity of recreation facilities available within the County under the ownership of public and private enterprises. These include local parks and recreation facilities, private golf courses, public and private marinas and boat liveryes, and state parks and forests.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

It is essential that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy these facilities and any programs provided. Each of the four parks owned by Acme Township was evaluated for its current level of accessibility. The evaluation was performed by Township staff, which includes the Planning and Zoning Department and Parks Operations Manager by visually evaluating the amenities available at each park. Each of the four parks owned by Acme Township was evaluated for its current level of accessibility on a scale of 1-5. The accessibility evaluation score can be found on the inventory sheet for each park.

*Table 9: Accessibility Grading System*

DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of these facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

## PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

During the Spring of 2023, Township staff, which includes the Planning and Zoning Department and Parks Operations Manager, conducted a detailed inventory of the facilities owned and operated by Acme Township. Recreation facilities in Acme Township are made up of three different elements: Public Recreation Facilities (Township, County, and State), Private Recreation Facilities, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. Table 10 summarizes the recreation facilities found within Acme Township.



*Image: Sayler Park Boat Launch*



Table 10: Recreation Facilities in Acme Township

ACME TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES		
Facility Name	Facility Description	Acres
Acme Connector Trail/Nakwema Trailway	1.8 miles of trail from Bunker Hill Road to the intersection of M-72 and US 31. A section also runs east towards Meijer.	n/a
Bayside Park	Beach Frontage on Grand Traverse Bay, Picnic Tables and Grills, Overlook Deck, Swimming, Wash Rooms/Changing Area, Play Equipment, Pavilion, Walking Paths, Gardens, Shuffleboard Court, Volleyball Court	14.7
Bunker Hill Road Boat Access	Boat Access for watercrafts under 16 feet	0.3
Deepwater Point Natural Area	Frontage on Grand Traverse Bay, Trails and Parking	14.9
Sayler Park	Beach Frontage on Grand Traverse Bay, Picnic Tables and Grills, Swimming, Wash Rooms/Changing Area, Play Equipment, Horseshoe Pits, Shelter 1 (48 people), Shelter 2 (80 people), Shelter 3 (80 people), Boat Launch, and Volleyball Courts	22
Yuba Creek Natural Area	Frontage on Yuba Creek, Benches, Trails and Natural Area, Hunting	413
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY		
Facility Name	Facility Description	
Dock Road Water Access	Unimproved Boat Launch and Gravel Parking Area	0.3
Maple Bay	Beach Frontage on Grand Traverse Bay, Swimming, Hiking, Skiing and Snowshoeing, Hunting	450
Shores Beach Lane Water Access	Unimproved Boat Launch	0.3
VASA Pathway	Trailhead VASA Trail, Restrooms and Trails	80
STATE OF MICHIGAN		
Facility Name	Facility Description	
MDOT Gilroy Roadside Park	Beach Frontage on Grand Traverse Bay, Picnic Tables and Grills, Toilets	2.2
Pere Marquette State Forest	Forest encompasses a section of the VASA Trail	812
Petobego State Game Area	Natural Area, Hunting	612.3
PRIVATE FACILITIES		
Facility Name	Facility Description	
East Bay Harbor Marina	Offers boat slips, Gasoline, Water, Electricity, Restrooms/Showers and Laundry	0.72
Everflowing Water Campground	Rustic Campground	12
Flintfields Horse Park	Stables, Riding and Competition Fields	101.5
Grand Traverse Resort	Golf Course (54 Holes), Hotel and Conference Center, Indoor/Outdoor Tennis (5), Indoor/Outdoor Pools (4), Beach Frontage on Grand Traverse Bay, Salon and Spa, Restaurants	1400
New Hope Community Church		20.5
GRAND TRAVERSE REGIONAL LAND CONSERVANCY FACILITIES		
Facility Name	Facility Description	
East Bay Lot	Open Undeveloped Lot	0.5
Maple Bay Farm	Farm house, Root cellar, Sugar shack and Pole barn	16
Wintergreen Woods Conservancy	Natural pine forest and 0.6 miles of trail	21





*Image: Acme Connector Boardwalk*



## PARK CLASSIFICATION

The following table indicates the general park categories, location criteria, and size criteria that the National Recreation and Park Association follows as a general guideline. Acme Township exceeds the recommended criteria for each park category except the mini parks. The Township goals and objectives highlight potential acquisition of inland parkland.

Table 11: Park Classification

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than 1/4 mile in residential setting	2500 sq ft to 1 acre
Neighborhood Park	Serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and interrupted by nonresidential roads and other physical barriers	5-10 acres
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs.	Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3-mile distance	Usually between 30-50 acres
Large Urban Park	Serves a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community.	Usually serves the entire community	Usually a minimum of 50 acres, 75 acres or more is optimal
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable

Source: Adapted From: Lancaster, R. A., Ed. *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983. Mertes, J. D. and J. R. Hall. *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1995.

## PARK LAND ANALYSIS

Properties that are within Acme Township are summarized in the following table based upon a total population of 4,456. Acme Township has a surplus of acreage based upon the population per the National Park and Recreation Association standards.

Table 12: Park Land Analysis

	NRPA	Recommended Acreage for Acme Township	Acme Township Parks	County Parks	Surplus/ Deficiency
Mini Park	.25 - .5 Acres	1.2 - 2.3	0	-	-
Neighborhood Park	1.0 - 2.0 Acres	4.6 - 9.2	14.9	-	5.7
Community Park	5.0 - 8.0 Acres	23-36.9	33	-	3.9
Regional Park	5.0 - 10.0 Acres	23-46	413	531	898
Totals		51.8 - 94.4	461	531	911.45

## TYOLOGY OF PARKS IN ACME TOWNSHIP

When determining what types of features and amenities belong in a particular park, it is useful to first determine the classification of the park in question. The Michigan Department of Recreation has created “A Recommended Classification System For Local And Regional Recreation Open Space and Trails,” which outlines 16 types of open spaces and their descriptions.

For use in Acme Township, a classification system has been devised that consists of just four types of open spaces: Natural Parks, Linear Parks, Rural Parks, and Urban Parks. Each type of park has a different use and subsequently different types of amenities typically found in them. This is useful for determining what kinds of features should be planned for and developed in each park, which maintains a diversity of uses between parks. In this way, each park can develop a unique character and identity within the community.



Natural Park – Yuba Creek Natural Area



Linear Park – Acme Connector/TART Trail



Rural Park – Saylor Park



Urban Park – Bayside Park

Typology of Parks in Acme Township		
Park Type	Characteristics	Example
Natural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Minimally developed</li> <li>*Low-impact design features such as woodchip paths, grass, or gravel parking lots</li> <li>*The goal is to preserve the natural beauty of the landscape or natural features</li> <li>*Typically includes interpretive signage and walking paths</li> </ul>	Yuba Creek Natural Area Deepwater Point Natural Area
Linear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Long, narrow</li> <li>*Used for non-motorized transportation</li> <li>*Connects destinations</li> <li>*Typically includes wayfinding signage and mile markers, paved paths, occasional benches, and water stations</li> </ul>	Acme Connector/TART Trail VASA Pathway
Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Provides recreational amenities for small to medium gatherings in a rural setting</li> <li>*Universally accessible but lower-impact design features such as gravel paths are typical</li> <li>*Located away from the town core</li> <li>*Typically includes playgrounds, shelters, restroom facilities, outdoor grills, benches, picnic areas, and athletic courts</li> </ul>	Saylor Park
Urban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Provides recreational amenities for a wide range of users</li> <li>*Located in the town core</li> <li>*Universally accessible amenities used throughout</li> <li>*Can be used for larger gatherings and community events</li> <li>*Can include concrete paths, pavilions, play structures, pools or splash pads, plazas, amphitheaters, lighting, restrooms, athletic courts, and a wide variety of other recreational facilities</li> </ul>	Bayside Park

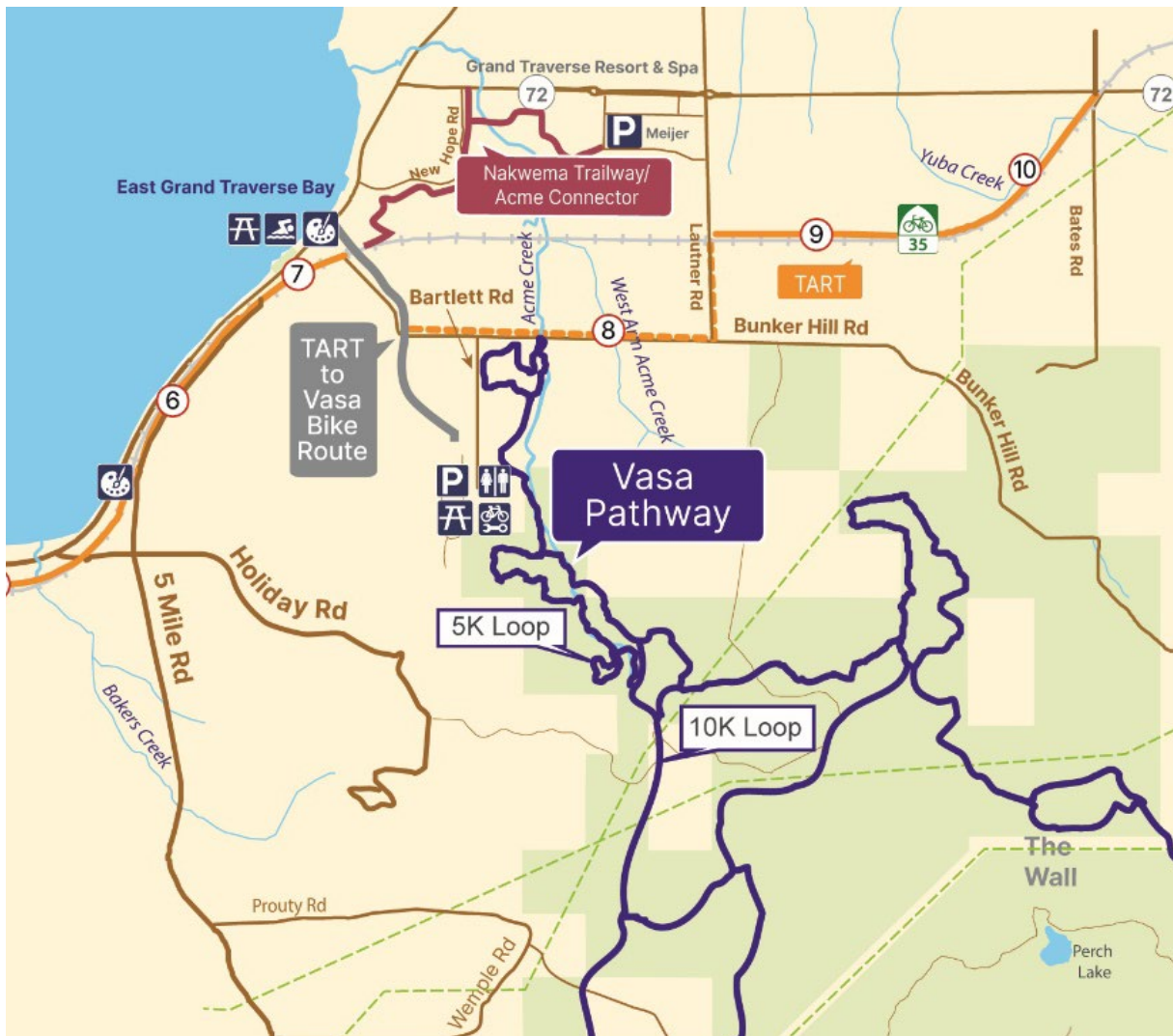


## PATHWAYS AND TRAILWAYS

The VASA Pathway is a significant recreational facility in Acme Township. It is a year-round recreational pathway for hiking, running, mountain biking, winter fat biking, groomed cross country skate and classic skiing, snowshoeing, bird watching, and hunting.

The VASA Pathway is maintained through a collaborative effort between TART Trails, DNR, Grand Traverse County, and Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association. One of the trailheads has a warming hut located off Bartlett Road. The 2.5 mile VASA snowshoe trail is very popular and widely used.

The 1.8 mile Acme Connector portion of the TART Trail in Acme allows for safe access to businesses, existing trails, and recreation opportunities. The trail connects the current TART Trail terminus at Bunker Hill Road to the intersection of M-72 and US-31 in Acme. A section of the trail runs east toward the Acme Meijer store and Grand Traverse Town Center development. This is the southernmost segment of the Nakwema Trailway.



## BAYSIDE PARK

Size: 14.7 acres

Location: Intersection of US-31 and M-72

Ownership Entity: Acme Township

Accessibility Score: 4



Table 13: Bayside Park Inventory

Facilities/Activities/Landscape				
Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes/Suggested Action	
Benches Metal : Wood	9:11	Good-Excellent	2 concrete benches (1 near bathhouse & 1 in butterfly garden) both courtesy of The Sweetwater Evening Garden Club	
Bike Rack	7	Excellent		
Bottle Filler	1	Excellent	Newest feature to the park	
Butterfly Garden	1	Excellent		
Dog Waste Bag Dispenser	2	Good		
Flag Retirement Box	1	Excellent		
Garbage Cans	10	Fair-Excellent	4 metal cans (newest) in excellent condition	
Groomed Swimming Area	3	Good		
Metal Play Structures	4	Good	1 UA swing	
Mobi-mat	2	Excellent	2 mats available	
Native Plant Garden	1	Fair-Good		
Net Climber	1	Good	Surface under climber has soft/sinking spots especially around the polls creating uneven surface	
Open Lawn	1	Good	Irrigation system in place	
Park Grills	7	Good		
Parking Lots - Paved	2	Excellent	UA Accessible	
Picnic Tables	26	Good	18 regular/8 accessible; a couple boards need replacement; most in need of paint	
Restrooms	Yes	Fair	UA Accessible: Roof assessment needed	
Shelter - Small	1	Fair	Roof in good shape, needs paint and lattice removal	
Shuffleboard	1	Excellent		
Signage - Interpretive	5	Poor-Good	2 DNR signs (good); Large wood sign near bathroom (poor), Kiosk near bathroom (poor); Viewing platform (fair)	
Signage - Road	1	Excellent	Located at the main entrance	
Swing Benches	2	Excellent		
TART Trailhead				
Walking Paths - Concrete	1	Excellent	Connected through the park/(2) 4x4' sections near net climber are uneven	
Walking Paths - Dirt	Multiple	Good	Flat	
Viewing Platform - Wood	1	Good	Weathered, needs sealing	
Volleyball Court	1	Good		

Bayside Park is located in the heart of Acme Township, near the intersection of US-31 and M-72, and was established in 1987. Bayside Park is used by locals and tourists as it is the most visible park to passing vehicles. The park grew over time through a collaborative acquisition campaign to obtain adjacent land.



Two paved parking areas provide convenient entry to the park. A universally accessible trail leads from the parking lot past an accessible restroom facility and into the woods. Nestled in the woods are a few sturdy play structures, shuffleboard court, and many park grills and benches. A winding paved trail leads to a deck looking out over the beach and the beautiful Grand Traverse Bay; the shoreline is a mix of groomed and natural areas that minimize erosion while providing space for swimmers to enter the pristine water. On the west side of the parking lot, an open lawn dotted with trees stretches from the road to the beach. Other park features include a net climbing structure, pavilion, native and butterfly gardens maintained by the Sweetwater Evening Garden Club and interpretive signage.

The most recent improvements include an asphalt trail along US-31 that connects to adjacent sidewalks and businesses. Sidewalks and benches are located throughout the park. Bike racks are located near the parking area and restroom facility for access to the park from a variety of transportation modes.

The park is available for year-round use, providing snowshoers and ice fishers access to the bay front. Boaters can access the water on Shores Beach Lane. The park's close proximity to the Deepwater Point Natural Area affords greater recreation opportunities; active uses such as swimming and picnicking can take place in Bayside Park, and passive uses such as nature walks and birding are only a short walk down the beach. Dogs are allowed in Bayside Park on a leash and owners are required to clean up after their pets. The trailhead to the Traverse to Charlevoix Trail (TC>TCH Trail – also known as the Nakwema Trailway) is located at Bayside Park.

### Accessibility Notes

- Three barrier-free spaces marked next to restroom facility
- Several accessible picnic tables
- Paved path to accessible restroom facilities
- Asphalt path through woods to wooden deck near beach
- Paved path down to the beach. A Mobi-Mat is installed to improve access to the water.

### Comments

- Parking lot maintained in winter months.
- Playground equipment primarily for ages 6+







*Acme Bayside Park has become a treasured community gathering place.*

PHOTO BY RICK WANE



## DEEPWATER POINT NATURAL AREA

Size: 17 acres

Location: Intersection of Deepwater Point Road and Shore Road

Ownership Entity: Acme Township

Accessibility Score: 1



Table 14: Deepwater Point Natural Area Inventory

Facilities/Activities/Landscape			
Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes/Suggested Action
Parking Lot - Gravel	1	Good	4-5 parking spots available
Signage - Park Name & Rules	6	Poor-Good	2 signs near parking lot (fair-good); 1 near subdivision illegible; 3 no campfire poor (1 is on the ground)
Walking Paths - Woodchips	Multiple	Good	In need of woodchips replacement, paths are interconnected
Waterfront/Beach		Good	Lots of misc. wood pieces, sections of docks, etc. have washed up onto beach

Deepwater Point Natural Area, located just down the beach from Bayside Park, is accessed by Shore Road off US-31. This property, an old pine plantation, is more removed from US-31 than Bayside Park and has a peaceful and contemplative atmosphere. The natural area boasts 17 acres of woods and .7 miles of woodchip trails that wind from the parking area to the bay shore and is a springboard for activities such as kayaking, birdwatching, or quiet walks through the tall pines. The area is primarily used by local residents.



Image Credit: Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

Deepwater Point Natural Area has a beautiful waterfront shoreline along East Bay near the mouth of the Acme Creek. This park is best used for hiking, walking, and being one with nature.

### Accessibility Notes

- Paths are woodchips—not accessible to persons in wheelchairs

### Comments

- No current management plan
- A trail map at entrances may be useful to visitors for orientation
- Parking area may be difficult to find for first-time visitors



## YUBA CREEK NATURAL AREA

Size: 413 acres

Location: Intersection of US-31 and Yuba Road

Ownership Entity: Acme Township

Accessibility Score: 4



Table 15: Yuba Creek Natural Area Inventory

Facilities/Activities/Landscape			
Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes/Suggested Action
<i>(Upper Section)</i>			
Benches - Wood	2	Fair	1 bench in need of replacement boards
Blue Bird Nesting Boxes	Many	Fair	
Information Kiosk	1	Good	In need of paint
Parking Lot – Grass/Gravel	1	Good	
Walking Trail Loop		Good	Mowed, foot path connects the upper and lower mowed walking trails
Walking Paths - 2 Miles Mowed		Good	Mowed
Walking Path Maps		Fair	
Wood Fencing		Good	In need of stain
Garbage Can	1	Good	
Dog Waste Dispenser	1	Good	
<i>(Lower Section)</i>			
Benches	3	Poor	2 benches in need of replacement boards
Blue Bird Nesting Boxes	Many	Fair	
Information Kiosk	1	Good	
Parking Lot - Gravel	1	Good	
Walking Path - 2 Miles		Good	Mowed
Walking Path Maps			
Wood Fencing		Good	In need of stain
Dog Waste Dispenser	1		
Garbage Receptacle	1		
Plaque	1	Good	

Yuba Creek Natural Area has no shortage of beautiful vistas to enjoy; at 413 acres, it is Acme Township’s largest Township-owned natural area. Two access points allow visitors to experience the natural beauty of the area; one grass parking lot at the highest point in the park affords panoramic views of the Yuba Creek valley below, and the other gravel parking lot off of Yuba Road leads to a path that runs the length of the valley. Yuba Creek



is primarily used by Acme Township residents, but its adjacency to US-31 increases opportunities for regional users.

A management plan for the Yuba Creek Natural Area was adopted in November of 2002. The plan outlines several goals and objectives for the care of several natural features of the area, including protecting and improving existing wetlands, creating and improving upland habitat, protecting existing eagle nest sites, preserving the water quality of Yuba Creek, and providing birdhouses for bluebirds and kestrels. The plan also provides for the continuation of hunting opportunities, additional land preservation, and public outreach and education.



Acme Township has partnered with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) to implement trail improvements at Yuba Creek Natural Area. Previously, an out-and-back hiking trail existed off Yuba Road through the creek valley. Additionally, a small hiking loop was accessible from the parking lot off US-31. Through the help of the GTRLC’s Americorps workers and community volunteers, the two trails are now connected. Future plans include another connection between the two existing trails on the south side of the property to create a large interior hiking loop.

#### Accessibility Notes

- Access to YCNA is limited for persons in wheelchairs—mowed paths are not ideal, but other improvements are not intended per the Management Plan

#### Comments

- Management Plan in place—2002
- Panoramic views
- Hunting is allowed
- Add new benches
- Update kiosks
- Invasive species management will be implemented in an annual maintenance plan. Autumn Olive will be eradicated with the help of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.





## SAYLER PARK

Size: 22 acres

Location: Yuba Park Road

Ownership Entity: Acme Township

Accessibility Score: 3



Table 16: Saylor Park Inventory

Facilities/Activities/Landscape			
Type	Quantity	Condition	Notes/Suggested Action
Benches - Wood	9	Good	1 bench near the beach needs removal
Beach		Good	Groomed
Boating Access Site	1	Good	
Horseshoe Pits	2	Good	In need of replacement stakes
Park Grills - Metal/Stone	16/2	Good	
Parking Lot - Dirt/Paved	2	Good	Accessible spaces paved - 2 smaller spots near shelter #1, and 1 spot in the large lot with trailer access
Picnic Shelters	3	Good	#1 = 6 wood picnic tables; #2 & #3 = 10 metal picnic tables in each; fire pit in #1 & #3; fire extinguisher in #2
Picnic Tables - Metal/Wood	20	Good	
Play Structures	7	Good	Wood swing set is weather worn
Restrooms - Accessible	Yes	Good	Water fountain and 2 benches in front; Doors in need of paint
Sand Volleyball Courts	2	Fair-Good	
Sidewalk	1	Good	
Trails		Good	
Access to Wintergreen Trail	1	Good	
Chain Link Fence		Poor	In disrepair largely due to downed trees
Money Box at Boat Launch	1	Good	
Signage Near Boat Launch	5	Good	
Walking Paths	Multiple	Good	Natural, mowed
Waste Disposal	Multiple	Good	3 dumpsters (located near each of the 3 shelters); 3 garbage cans; 2 dog waste bag dispensers
Water Pumps	3	Good	2 in working condition, the 3rd does not work
Wooden Kiosk at Entry	1	Fair	(Eagle scout project); currently empty
Wood Sign at Entry	2	Good	In need of paint

Saylor Park is located off Yuba Park road in Yuba. This 22-acre rustic park is a fantastic place for family recreation. The park has three shelters that can be rented for gatherings, play equipment, outdoor grills, horseshoe and volleyball areas, and accessible restrooms. The park also has access to the beach and Grand Traverse Bay. Saylor Park, out of all of the parks owned by Acme Township, is best equipped for family

gatherings and group recreation due to the number of amenities in place. Sayler Park’s location is not as visually prominent as Bayside Park is but it still receives many visits from residents and visitors.

The Sayler Park Boating Access Site was completed in 2018. The site has been very popular since being opened to the public. The facilities include a concrete boat launch pad, paved entrance, and roundabout for the launching of boats. The site is posted and advertised on the Acme Township website. Sayler Park Boating Access Site is included in the Acme Township annual maintenance schedule.

Asphalt paving leads from US-31 to the launch. There is also a gravel parking area with a concrete pad for handicap accessible parking. An accessible trail was also developed within the park. The boat launch is not staffed, therefore there is an honor box located to the side of the boat launch area where individuals can drop the requested \$5 fee. Annual passes are made available with a discount offered to residents. The suggested fee helps to offset the cost for annual maintenance. The project was funded through the Great Lakes Fishery Trust.



The dock is put in place in April and removed in October. Dredging will be completed on an as needed basis and monitored regularly. Infrastructure and large-scale maintenance and replacement schedules will be reviewed on an annual basis and budgeted accordingly.

#### Accessibility Notes

- Paths are firm and stable—gravel, asphalt, or brick
- Bathrooms are accessible
- There are a few barrier-free parking spaces designated near the park entrance with a paved path down to the boat launch.
- Few barrier-free amenities along shore bluff

#### Comments

- Lots of amenities—tables and grills, numerous play structures. Wood swing set needs replacing. Play structures include one ADA swing
- Barrier-free parking exists at the restroom facility and at shelters. No designated individual barrier-free sites
- Play equipment primarily for ages 6+









## PREVIOUS GRANT ASSISTANCE

### [Deepwater Point Natural Area: TF96-110](#)

Year: 1996

Description: Acquisition of approximately 1335' of rocky beach frontage on Grand Traverse Bay

Grant Award: \$1,968,000

Status: Rustic trails and a gravel parking lot have been constructed on the acquired property and remain in good condition.



### [Yuba Creek Natural Area Acquisition: TF00-162](#)

Year: 2000

Description: Acquisition of over one mile of frontage on Yuba Creek

Grant Award: \$1,576,201

Status: Rustic trails, gravel parking lots, and trailhead signage were installed and remain in good condition.



### [Acme Waterfront Park Acquisition Phase I: TF08-095](#)

Year: 2008

Description: Acquisition of 540' of shoreline properties

Grant Award: \$3,006,200

Status: Existing buildings on acquired property have been demolished and small improvements have been made.



### [Acme Waterfront Park Phase II: TF09-171](#)

Year: 2009

Description: Acquisition of 900' of shoreline properties

Grant Award: \$2,266,500

Status: Existing structures on acquired property have been demolished.

[Acme Waterfront Park Phase III: TF11-082](#)

Year: 2011

Description: Acquisition of 337' of frontage on East Grand Traverse Bay in two parcels.

Grant Award: \$862,500

Status: The property is part of the Bayside Park development to provide access to Grand Traverse Bay.

[Waterways Grant for Saylor Park Boating Access Site Great Lakes Fisheries Trust Grant](#)

Year: 2014, 2015, 2016

Description: Boating access site improvements

Grant Award: \$94,485, \$91,485, \$77,698

Status: A new paved boat launch was developed, along with accessible paved pathways and parking to accommodate everyone.



[Bayside Park Development: TF16-0061](#)

Year: 2016

Description: Development of Bayside Park, and a trailhead for the Lake Michigan Water Trail.

Grant Award: \$300,000

Status: Universally accessible walkways throughout the park, playground, shade structures, parking, amenities, and trailhead signs.





[Traverse City-Charlevoix Trail: Bunker Hill to M-72 Segment: TF19-0086](#)

Year: 2019

Description: Development of the first segment of the Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail.

Grant Award: \$300,000

Status: Traverse Area Recreational Trail (TART) terminus at Bunker Hill Road to new Meijer Store and other businesses along the M-72 corridor to Bayside Park, an official trailhead with parking, bathrooms, and bottle filler(via crosswalk and light at US-31/M-72).



## GRANTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

Table 17: Grants From Outside Agencies

Cherry Capital Cycling Club		
Project Title	Description	Grant Award
Acme Connector Trail	Development of the Acme Connector Trail	\$10,000
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians		
Project Title	Description	Grant Award
Sayler Park Playground Equipment	Replaced outdated and unsafe playground equipment and added ADA-compliant features	\$14,350
Sayler Park Boat Launch	Construction of new boat launch	\$7,000
Acme Connector Trail	Engineering ACT	\$15,000
UA Net Climber	Installation of safety surfacing for climber	\$15,000.81
Acme Connector Trail	Funding towards TART Trails for essential maintenance to critical transportation and recreational connections	\$2,500
Acme Connector Trail	Construction of the Acme Connector Trail	\$25,000
Iron Belle Trail Fund		
Project Title	Description	Grant Award
Traverse City-Charlevoix Trail/Acme Connector	Development of the Traverse City-Charlevoix Trail/Acme Connector (a key connector to the Iron Belle)	\$300,000
Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative, Community Growth Grant		
Project Title	Description	Grant Award
Acme Connector Trail	Design and Construction Engineering	\$20,000
Rotary Charities of Grand Traverse		
Project Title	Description	Grant Award
Waterfront Visioning Plan	Financed the preparation of a waterfront visioning plan	\$5,000



# Resource Inventory

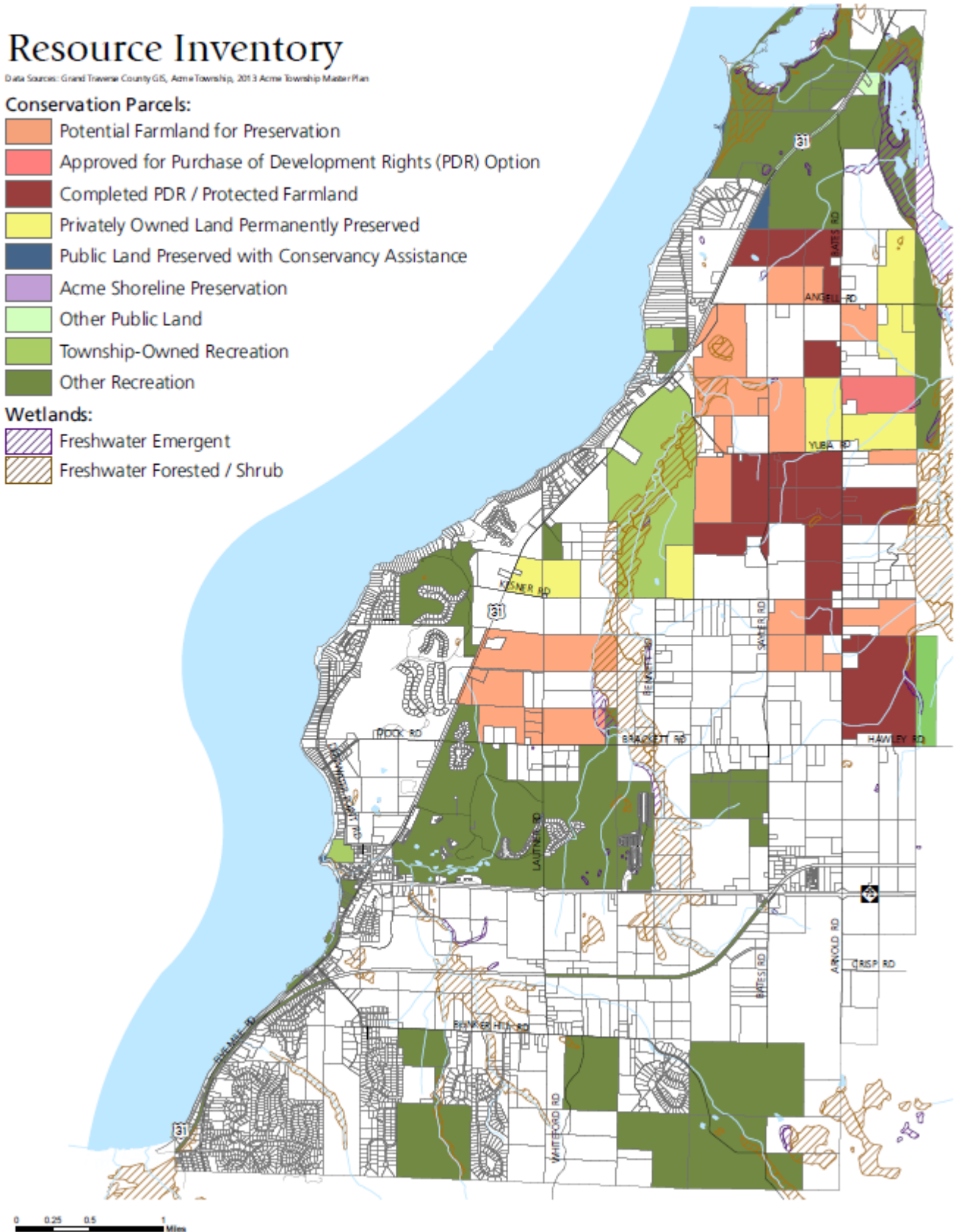
Data Sources: Grand Traverse County GIS, Acme Township, 2013 Acme Township Master Plan

## Conservation Parcels:

- Potential Farmland for Preservation
- Approved for Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Option
- Completed PDR / Protected Farmland
- Privately Owned Land Permanently Preserved
- Public Land Preserved with Conservancy Assistance
- Acme Shoreline Preservation
- Other Public Land
- Township-Owned Recreation
- Other Recreation

## Wetlands:

- Freshwater Emergent
- Freshwater Forested / Shrub



## RESOURCE INVENTORY

Acme Township's natural environment undoubtedly has an impact on the character of the existing and future development trends. Resource inventories provide a method to identify open-space land that may be desirable for future protection and/or public access through acquisition or other means due to the natural features present, as well as accounting for land that is already protected.

Further, it is important to develop a resource inventory to assist in identifying the most desirable lands for acquisition in terms of their ecological significance, location, proximity to other natural areas, and other factors. Specific features considered in this inventory include topography, water, climate, woodlands, wetlands, and cultural resources. Ignoring physical features during development can have significant, long-term negative consequences for the individual land owner, the municipality, and the environment as a whole.

### Topography

Topography can have a significant influence on land development patterns. Where slopes are extreme, concerns exist relating to both the ability of the land to bear the weight of buildings and the danger of erosion. Acme Township's topography is relatively flat, ranging in elevation from 580 feet at the Bay to 860 feet at the southern boundary of the township. Areas that are of high-risk for erosion are located on the northern boundary along the shore of the East Arm of the Grand Traverse Bay. Coastal communities need creative and adaptive solutions when addressing the challenges associated with the unpredictability of the Great Lakes water levels, increased storm intensities and frequency associated with climate change.

### Water

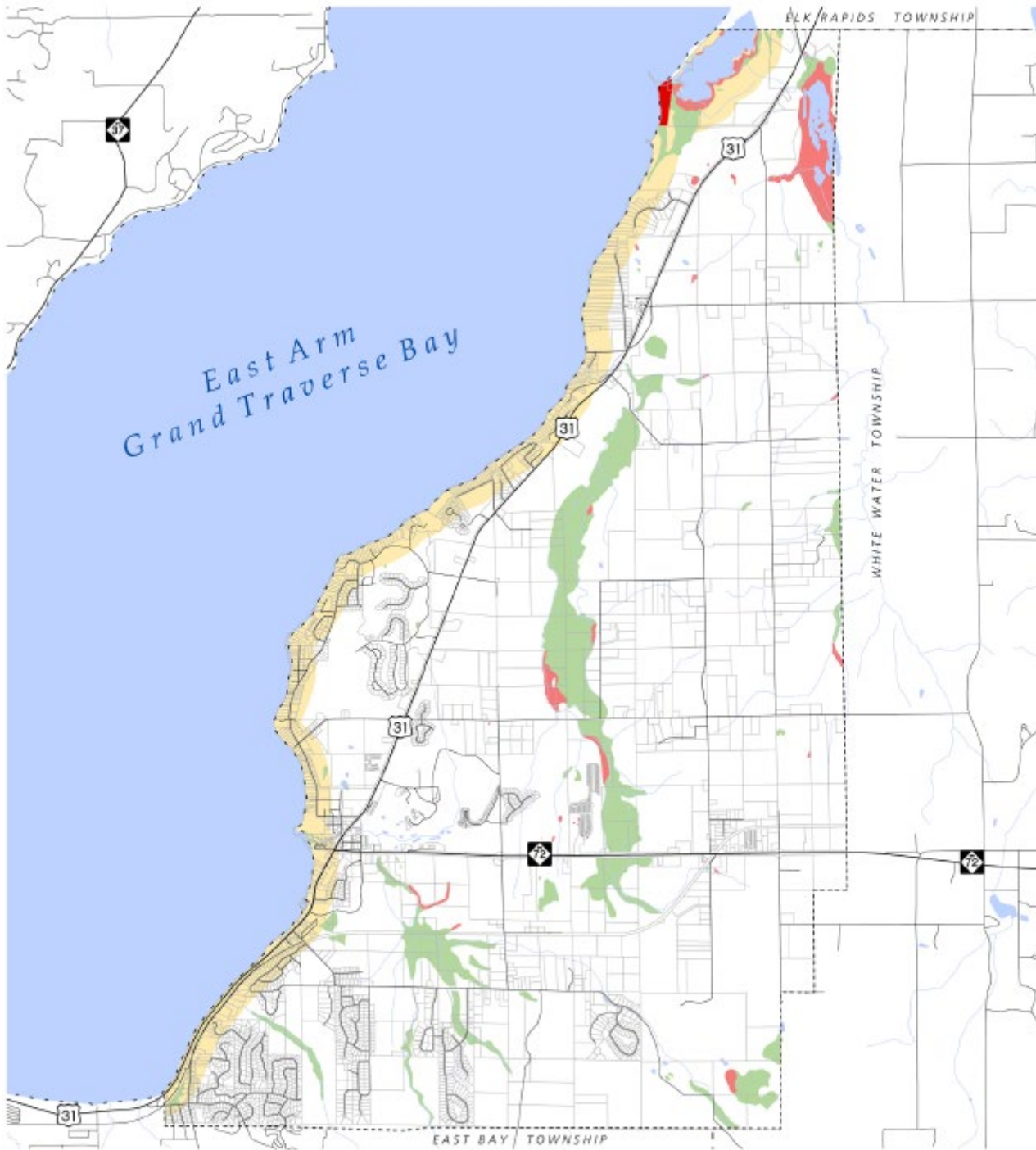
Acme Township's land area is 24.17 square miles and located within the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed. There are four sub-watershed areas in the Township, and these include Acme Creek, East Bay Shoreline, Petobego Creek, and Yuba Creek. The Acme Creek (13.2 square miles) and Yuba Creek (8.4 square miles) sub-watersheds are located within the interior of the Township, and many of the operable orchards and farms are located within this geographic zone. The East Bay Shoreline sub-watershed is adjacent to Grand Traverse Bay, and this area has witnessed significant residential development. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council provides resources for protection and management of the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed.

### Climate

Acme Township's climate is affected a great deal by its location near Grand Traverse Bay. It simulates a marine-like climate that moderates temperature and precipitation, allowing for a longer frost-free growing period for plants that would not normally be feasible at this latitude. The average maximum and minimum temperatures in January are 27 degrees and 17 degrees, and in July they are 77 degrees and 64 degrees. The average rainfall is 32 inches and the average snowfall is 70–80 inches.

### Woodlands

Forests cover about a sixth of the Township and are the primary land cover in the southern portion of Acme Township. Forestry is also abundant in the northern part of the Township, where forests surround the Petobego swamp and wildlife areas. Woodlands provide slope stabilization and erosion control, conserve water quality, help maintain a micro-climate, filter pollutants, decrease noise, and provide a habitat for wildlife.



Acme Township

## Natural and Sensitive Landscapes

Data Sources: Michigan Geographic Data Library, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Grand Traverse County Equalization, Grand Traverse County GIS

- |                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Parcel Boundary   | DNR Coastal Zone Management Area  |
| Township Boundary | High-Risk Area for Erosion        |
| Major Road        | Emergent Wetland                  |
| Minor Road        | Lowland, Shrub, or Wooded Wetland |





## Wetlands

Some of the major existing areas with highly sensitive ecosystems in the Township include Acme Creek in the south, Yuba Creek and its extensive greenways and wetlands in the middle region, and the Petobego wetlands and pond in the far north. Land uses adjacent to the streams and wetlands of Yuba Creek should use sound environmental stewardship and ecological practices in order to conserve natural resources and protect highly sensitive ecosystems as well as ground and surface water.

## Cultural Resources

One significant historic property in Acme Township, the John Pulcifer house, was built in 1883. John Pulcifer organized Acme Township and served as the Town Supervisor from 1891 to 1919. John's niece occupied the house until 1964; it sat abandoned until restoration began 35 years later in early 1999. In 2000, the John Pulcifer House was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Currently, it operates as a bed and breakfast.

## Public Resource Summary

Acme Township is a diverse natural landscape influenced by topography, climate, wetlands, forests, and Lake Michigan. Urban land cover constitutes approximately 11% of the geographic area, while the remainder consists of forested and agricultural uses. For example, the predominant land cover for the Acme Creek sub-watershed is forested land, while the principal land cover in the Yuba Creek sub-watershed is agriculture. Influenced by growth in Grand Traverse County, the natural assets of the Township, if not managed and developed properly, will come under continued pressure, possibly leading to their degradation.



*Image: Acme Creek*



## What would *you* like to see in Acme Township?

The Acme Township Parks & Trails Committee invites you to a

### Public Engagement Event

Where you can interact and share your thoughts on recreational development in the Township.



## IV. PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for the Acme Township Parks System is not an isolated event; rather, it is part of a multiyear planning effort to forge a vision for the Township derived from community input. In the previous Parks System Plan, the three goals were: Access to Grand Traverse Bay (ensure that future generations have access to the East Grand Traverse Bay shoreline), Attractive Waterfront Parks (ensure that waterfront facilities are well maintained and have a diversity of activities) and Connectivity between uses (require non-motorized trail connections between parks, retail and residential developments). These goals are still relevant today.

To facilitate a professional and impactful planning experience, the Acme Township Board of Trustees tasked staff, which includes the Planning and Zoning Department and Parks Operation Manager to tabulate data, assess existing resources, and facilitate the public input process. Staff from Beckett and Raeder, Inc. provided a forum for a public survey, mapping, and review of the plan. Parks and Trails Committee meetings were open to the public and held several times during the planning process to review the plan. In addition, there were two public engagement events to gather further community input.

A system's-based method of planning was used to assist with the assessment of the Township's park, recreation and open-space needs. The system's approach to planning was developed by James D. Mertes and James R. Hall for the National Recreation and Park Association in 1995. This planning approach is a process of assessing the park, recreation, and open space needs of a community and translating that information into a framework for meeting the physical, spatial, and facility requirements to satisfy those needs. As planning efforts are implemented, the system can be re-evaluated to measure success and guide future planning goals.

In order to effectively utilize this system-based approach, Acme Township developed this Parks and Recreation Master Plan based on an extensive inventory of all the Township owned and operated parks and recreation facilities (presented in Section III). This inventory, coupled with the demographic analysis created for the Community Description, has become the baseline for future planning and investment. In the following section the plan will highlight a series of goals and objectives that will lead Acme Township into the next 5 years of

parks and recreation prosperity. The goals and objectives will then be linked to a strategic plan of action that recommends specific parks and recreation projects to be undertaken over the lifespan of this document. Each goal, objective and subsequent action plan was crafted with the intent of creating a more comprehensive system of parks and recreation services within Acme Township.

## PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

### Open Meetings

Acme Township took great strides to engage the public in the development of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Over the span of 7 months the Parks and Trails Committee and staff completed the following:

- Reviewed a proposed timeline for plan completion
- Drafted a public survey
- Engaged with the public
- Reviewed survey data
- Reviewed relevant plan sections as completed
- Presented draft text to the Planning Commission and Township Board

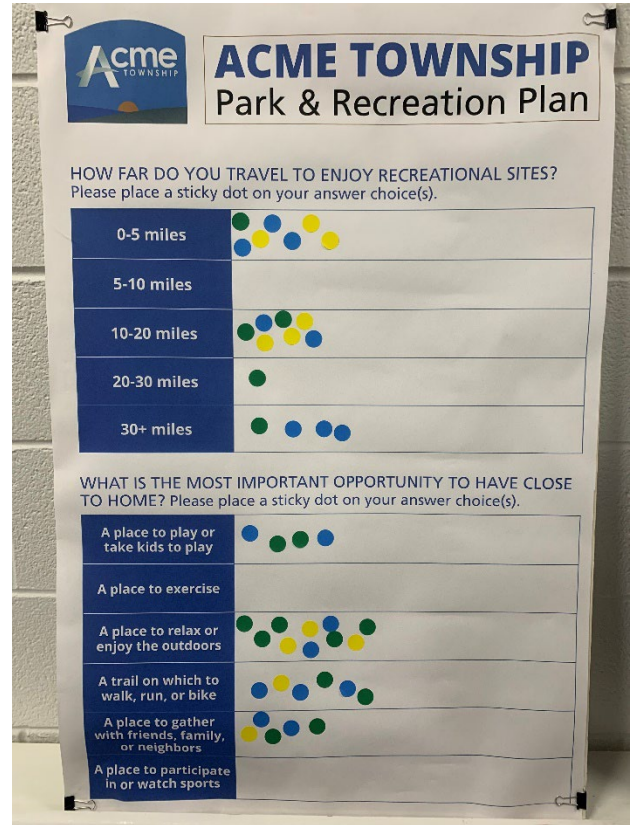
Parks and Trails Committee meetings are typically held on the third Monday of the month. The meeting agenda and packets are posted on the Township website. Meetings are open to the public with recorded meeting minutes.

### Public Engagement Sessions



During the course of the planning process the Parks and Trails Committee and staff held two public engagement sessions. The first session was held June 13, 2023, at Samaritas Senior Living Facility. At this event senior community members gave staff their feedback on current and potential future recreational opportunities. Twelve community members were in attendance. A presentation, survey, and chocolates were provided by the Township.

On July 17, 2023, the Parks and Trails Committee and staff hosted an engagement session at Bayside Park. Members of the public were encouraged to attend and give their feedback via survey and a variety of interactive message boards. This event was promoted on the Township website, and through posters at the Township Hall and Acme owned and operated facilities. There were 32 individuals in attendance at Bayside Park and valuable feedback was received.



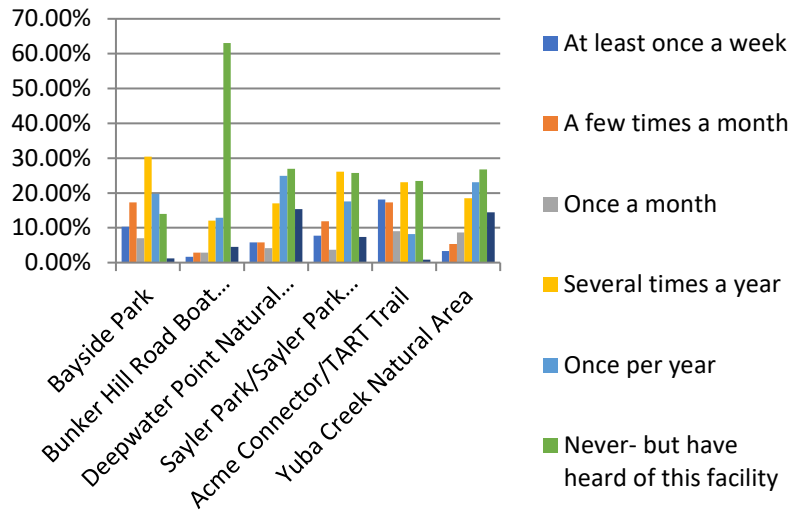
## Public Survey Results

Beginning in May of 2023 and ending on July 31, 2023, an online survey was open for the public. The survey was promoted on the Township website, hard copies were available during business hours, posters were located at Acme Township owned and operated facilities, a mailer was distributed to each tax payer in the Township, and it was highlighted on the summer tax bills. The survey received 250 responses; this was double the feedback received from the previous parks plan survey (125 responses). Responses provided valuable feedback regarding current and future facilities and programming. The survey results in this section reflect those facilities that are owned and operated by Acme Township. A copy of the survey and results in their entirety can be found in the appendix of this plan.

## Usage

Under the Acme Township owned and operated recreational areas/facilities, the Acme Connector Trail is most frequently used, followed by Bayside Park. Just over 18% use the trail at least once per week; and 17% use it a few times a month. Just over 10% use Bayside Park at least once a week; and 17% use it a few times a month. Most respondents have never used but have heard of the Bunker Hill Road Boat Access (63.07%).

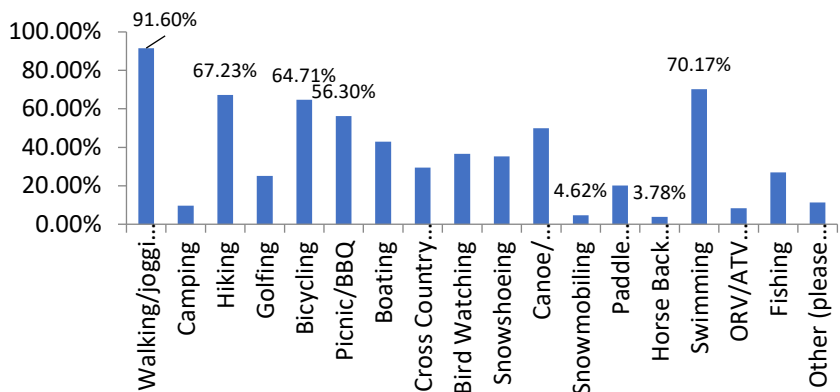
**How often do you use the following recreational areas/facilities in Acme Township? (Acme Owned/Operated)**



## Activities

Walking/jogging is the activity that most respondents enjoy doing in the township (91.6%). Other popular activities include swimming (70.17%), Hiking (67.23%), Bicycling (64.71%), and Picnic/BBQ (56.30%). Horseback riding and snowmobiling received the lowest response rates.

**Please select all recreational activities you enjoy doing in Acme Township.**

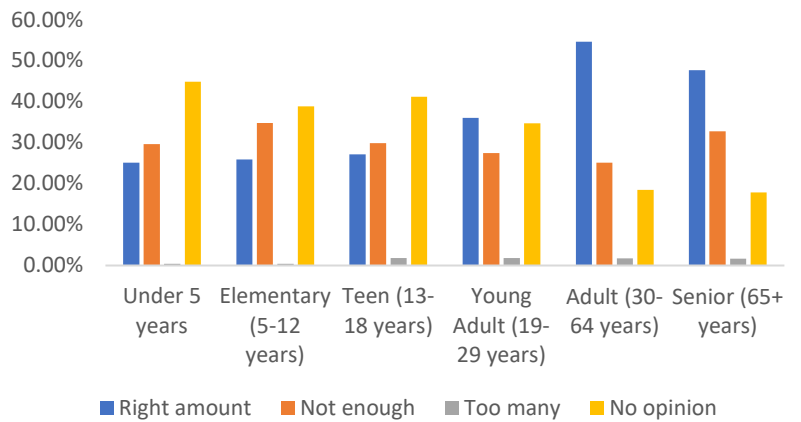




### Availability by Age Group

Most respondents thought there was the right amount of recreational facilities and activities for adults (30-64 years) and seniors (65+). In contrast, few respondents felt there were too many.

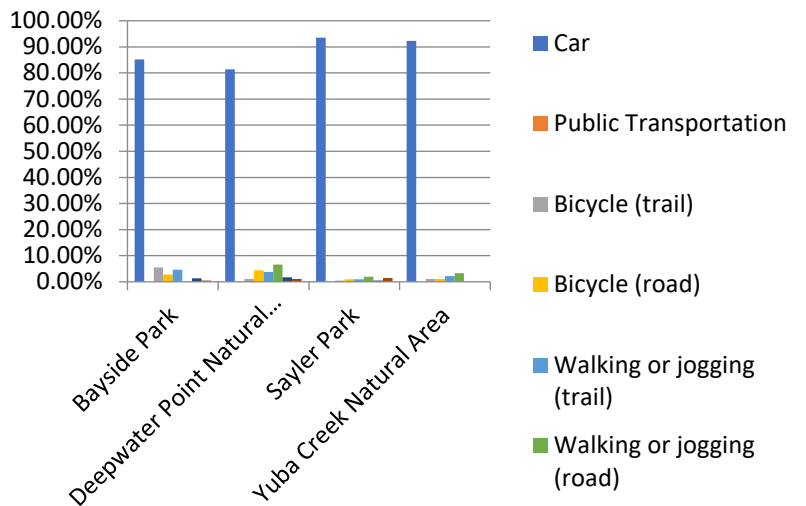
**Please rate the availability of recreation facilities and activities within the Township for the following age groups.**



### Transportation

Over 80% of respondents use a car as their method of transportation to Acme Township parks.

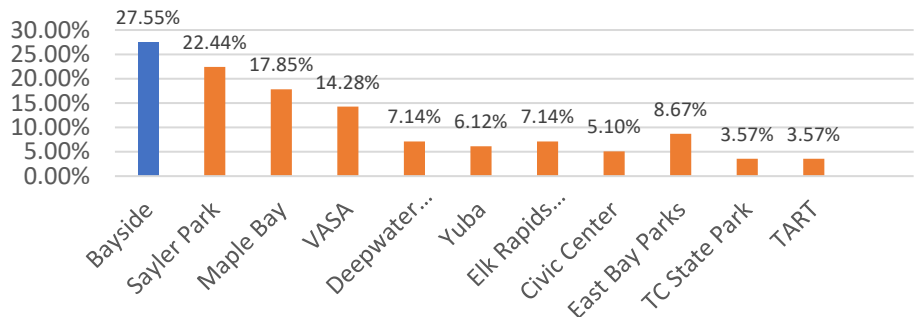
**Please describe the methods of transportation you use to get to the following parks owned and maintained by Acme Township:**



### Frequency of Visits

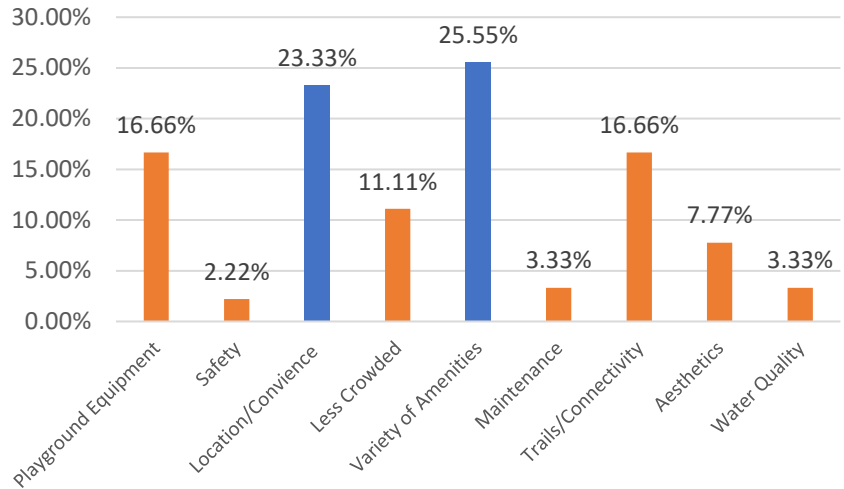
Most respondents use Bayside Park (27.55%) most frequently within Acme Township, followed by Sayler Park (22.44%). Outside of the Township, parks located within East Bay Charter Township received the highest response rate (8.67%).

**Which park do you visit most frequently? (Please include parks not in Acme Township, if those are visited most frequently)**



Preference for those who visit parks outside of Acme Township include a variety of amenities (25.55%), and location and convenience (23.33%). Playground equipment and trails and connectivity were also noted (16.66%).

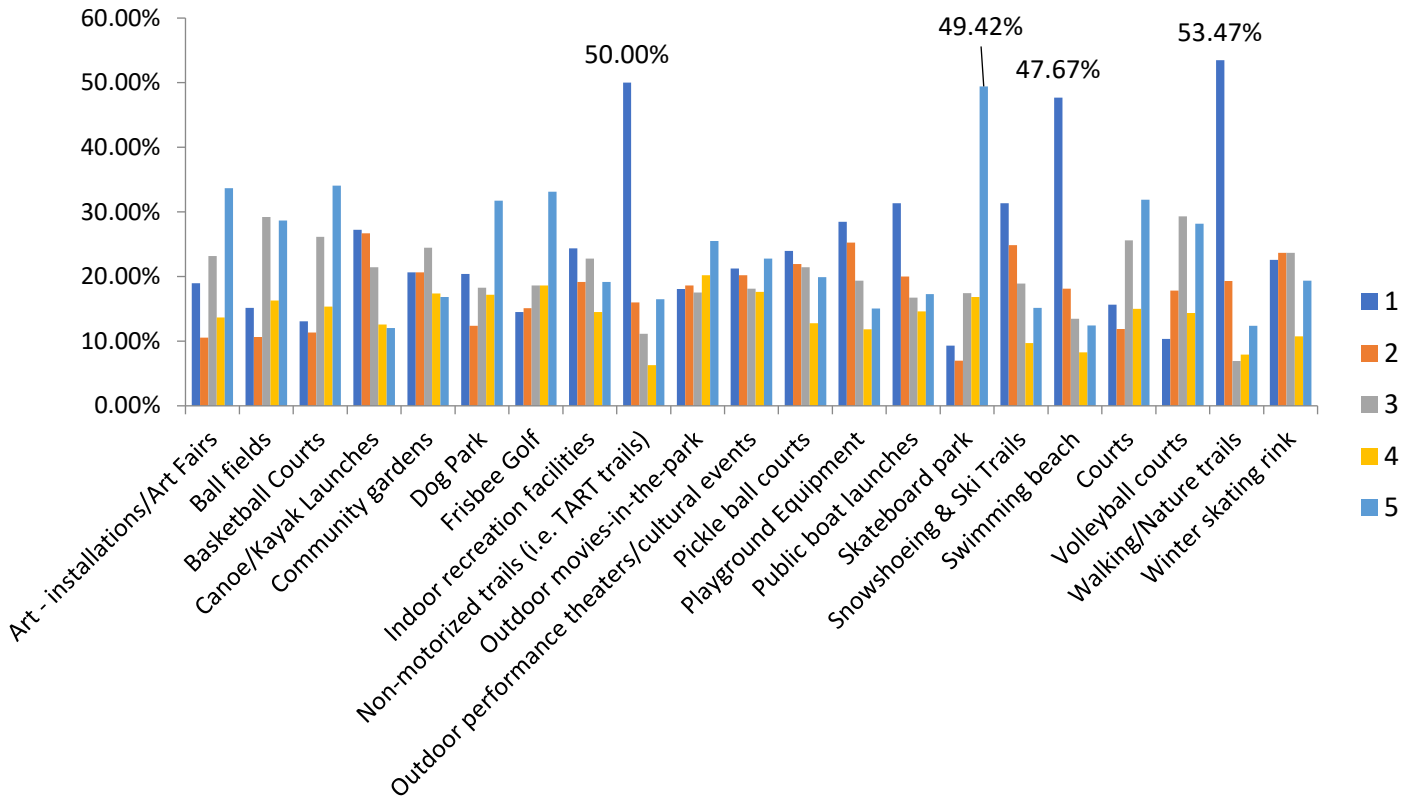
**If the park you visit most frequently is outside of Acme Township, why do you prefer this park?**



**Planning and Development**

Most respondents indicated that walking/nature trails were a top priority (53.47%). Non-motorized trails were a close second (50%), followed by swimming beaches (47.67%). A majority of respondents did not view a skateboard park as a top priority (49.42%).

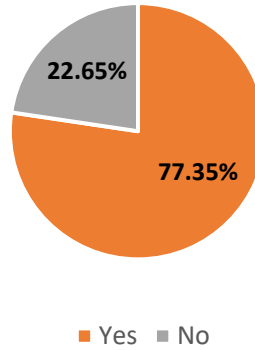
**Please indicate which of the following recreation facilities and activities Acme Township should plan for and develop. Please rate each category individually 1-5.**



### Dedicated Parks Millage

Respondents replied that 77.35% would support a millage dedicated for maintenance and improvements to the Township’s recreational assets.

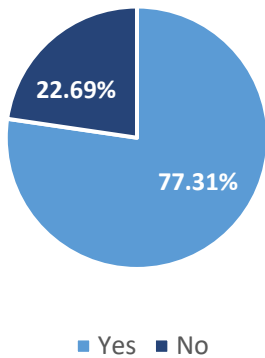
**Would you support a small, dedicated millage levied specifically for maintenance and improvements to the Township's recreational assets, including parks and trails?**



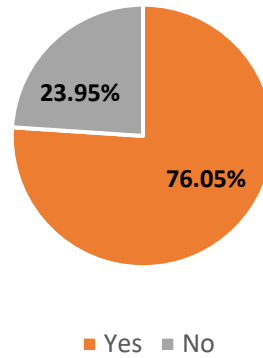
### Land Acquisitions

Most respondents agree that the Township should continue land acquisitions to provide access to the Grand Traverse Bay (77.31%), and to provide access to more lands for parks (76.05%).

**Acme Township should continue additional land acquisitions to provide greater access to Grand Traverse Bay?**



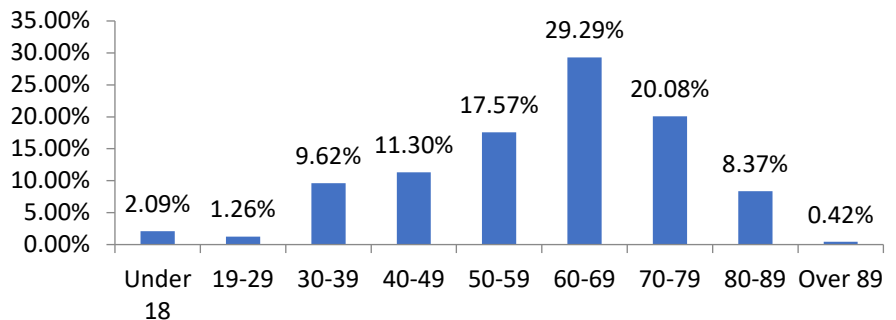
**Acme Township should continue additional land acquisitions to provide access to more lands for parks?**



### Demographics

Most respondents were in the 60-69 age group (29.29%). The smallest percentage of respondents included the 19-29 age group (1.26%) and those over 89 age group (0.42%).

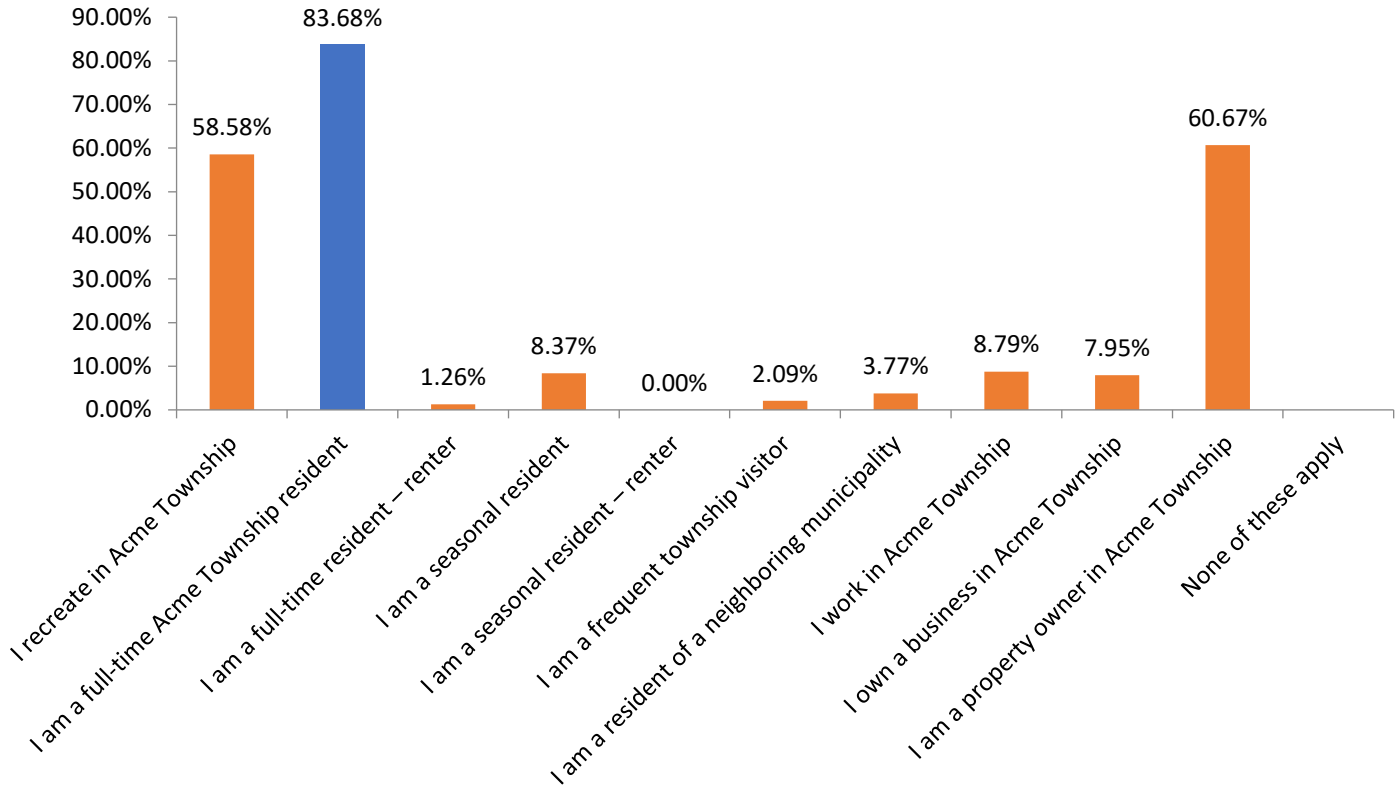
**Which category below includes your age?**





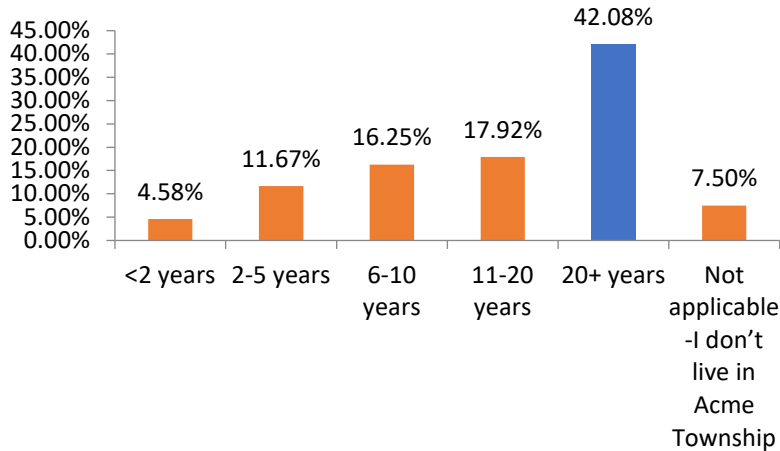
Most respondents are full-time residents of Acme Township (83.68%), followed by property owners in the Township (60.67%).

**Please describe your relationship with Acme Township (select all that apply):**

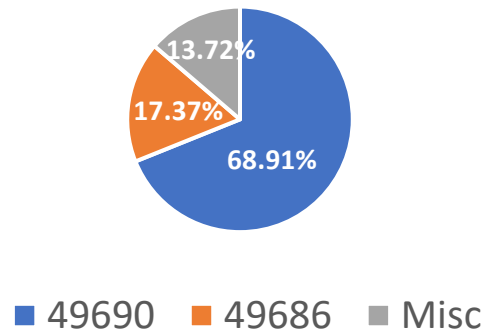


Most respondents have been long-time Township residents of 20+ years, with a zip code of 49690 (68.91%)

**How long have you lived in Acme Township?**



**In what zipcode is your primary (homesteaded) place of residence?**



Additional Comments

30-Day Public Review Period

Insert publication and notification information here

Public Hearing and Resolution of Adoption

Insert publication, hearing information, date of resolution information here





[Nakwema Trailway – Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail](#)

The Nakwema Trailway will traverse through Traverse City, Acme, Elk Rapids, Eastport, Norwood, and Charlevoix. TART Trails and Top of Michigan Trails Council, together with Networks Northwest and in cooperation with local and state governments, are collaborating to close the 45+ mile gap between the Little Traverse Wheelway in Charlevoix and the TART Trails’ networks in Acme. By closing this gap, the landmark trail will create a continuous 415+ mile trail network, including the statewide Iron Belle Trail, helping Michigan lead the nation as “The Trails State.”

A year-round destination for outdoor recreation and transportation, the Nakwema Trailway will be accessible by individuals of all ages and abilities for work and play. The trail will connect over 25 protected natural areas, granting unmatched access to the region’s iconic shoreline. The Trailway will offer a safe, non-motorized option to move through communities and explore the beauty of northwest Lower Michigan. Community benefits and trail user experience will drive the design of the trail. Trail development will ensure the goals of elevating our region’s rich cultural and natural resources, and providing important access in harmony with the natural environment.



[Nakwema Trailway – Deepwater Connector](#)

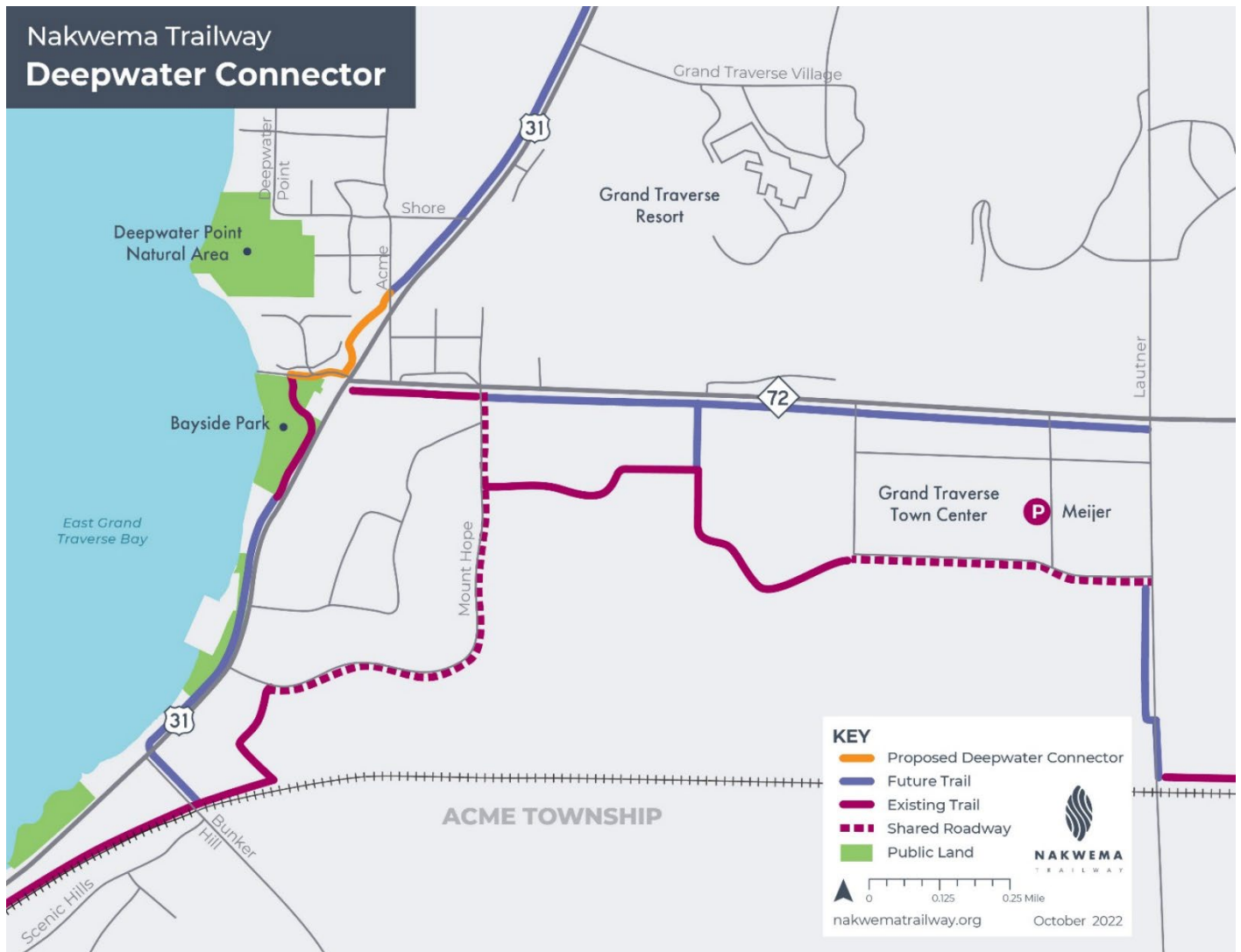
Trail planners at TART are working with Acme Township and partners on this essential connection between Bayside Park, the recently completed Acme Connector, and Acme Road. This section of trail will begin at the southernmost Nakwema trailhead at Bayside Park, follow a scenic stretch of Acme Creek, and provide non-motorized access to the Deepwater Point Natural Area via shared roadway. In addition, the Deepwater Connector will create a connection for a densely populated area to our regional trail network. Schematic design was completed in 2022. TART is working to advance engineering to get the project shovel ready in 2023. If project fundraising goals are met, TART anticipate trail construction in 2024.

**Status**

Schematic Design: Complete

Engineering: Underway

Anticipated Construction: 2024



### [VASA Trailhead](#)

The VASA trailhead on Bartlett Road is located within Acme Township boundaries. Plan project improvements include increasing the parking lot capacity, improving landscaping, and upgrades to the existing warming hut that include greater accessibility.

### [United States Bicycle Route 35](#)

US Bicycle Route 35 is part of the US Bicycle Route system, first established in 1982 and revived in 2003. USBR 35 connects Sault Ste Marie to New Buffalo along a 501-mile route, portions of which are on non-motorized trails. In Acme Township, it travels north along Five Mile Road, takes a detour down Bunker Hill Road, and connects back up to Lautner Road before turning north onto Bates Road, followed by a quick left to travel east on Hawley Road, and then north to US-31 along Bates Road.

### [Maple Bay Park and Natural Area](#)

Maple Bay Park and Natural Area has a tremendously diverse landscape with significant natural and scenic resources including: 2,583 feet of Great Lakes shoreline, sand dunes, wetlands, and farmland. There are no remaining undeveloped private parcels of land in the Grand Traverse region with its characteristics and size. The park provides a habitat for a number of rare and endangered bird and plant species. From the pristine shoreline on the west, the property extends one mile east to the Petobego Marsh and State Game Area. A development plan for this park is critical to maintain wildlife habitats, provide hunting and fishing opportunities, and to protect the integrity of the regionally important coastal wetlands. The same is true for the nearby Petobego watershed.

Maple Bay Park is open year-round to the public for recreational activities including swimming, kayaking, parasailing, kite boarding, bird watching, paddle boarding, canoeing, hiking, hunting, observing wildlife, snowshoeing and cross country skiing in winter, and nature education.

Grand Traverse Parks and Recreation's primary goals are to: preserve the natural features of the property, provide public access to Grand Traverse Bay, maintain and enhance the value of the property for the wildlife of the Petobego watershed corridor, use the property as a source for environmental education, and provide additional opportunities for hunting.

### [Acme Shoreline Placemaking Plan](#)

In the fall of 2012, Acme Township began a Placemaking Plan to develop strategies for future development. The Placemaking Plan started out as a citizen-driven strategy for the existing and newly acquired shoreline park properties and shoreline corridor along US-31. The community anticipated forging beneficial connections between local businesses and the emerging new public space, therein providing mutual economic, functional and aesthetic benefits. Early in the planning process, it was evident that the shoreline corridor was and will be greatly influenced by traffic and development plans outside of the immediate area. As such, the planning study geographic boundary was expanded to include the M-72 corridor east to Lautner Road and south on US-31 to the Township Boundary.





## V. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### OVERVIEW

The goals and objectives for Acme Township are derived from the inventory of existing recreation facilities, public input, and community demographics, and they serve as a guide for future planning decisions.

### GOAL 1: ENHANCE COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY

Vision: Connect community assets through non-motorized transportation routes.

#### Objectives:

- Improve pedestrian circulation and safety throughout the Township.
- Incorporate cohesive circulation systems.
- Designate local non-motorized spurs that connect existing parks, various community points of interest, and residential/commercial areas to the designated regional routes (US Bike Route 35 and the TART Trail), as well as to intra-township trails to be identified in the action plan.
- Create opportunities for everyone to participate in active living and healthy lifestyles through year-round outdoor recreation and active transportation, while providing access to the Grand Traverse Bay.
- Engage neighboring local units of government, MDOT, TART, and land owners to connect Acme Township to the expanding network of regional trails.
- Engage private developers to extend/enhance the network of trails within the community by providing linkages through their developments.

#### Support from Public Input:

- Per survey results, under the Acme Township owned and operated recreational areas/facilities, the Acme Connector Trail is most frequently used. Just over 18% of survey respondents use the trail at least once per week; and 17% use it a few times a month.

- 91.60% of survey respondents reported walking/jogging as the activity they enjoy doing in Acme Township. Other noteworthy items respondents reported include hiking (67.23%) and bicycling (64.71%).
- 53.47% of respondents indicated that walking/nature trails were a top priority for planning and development (1<sup>st</sup> on the list of priorities). 50% indicated that non-motorized trails were a priority (2<sup>nd</sup> on the list of priorities).

## GOAL 2: ACCESS TO GRAND TRAVERSE BAY

Vision: Increase access to Grand Traverse Bay for people of all abilities.

### Objectives:

- Improve ADA accessibility to the water along the Acme Township shoreline.
- Promote the Lake Michigan Water Trail Northwest – East Grand Traverse Bay Trail.
- Provide at least two accessible canoe/kayak launches along the blueway.
- Continue to maintain and improve boat launches.
- Continue selective property acquisition as shoreline properties become available.

### Support from Public Input:

- 70.17% of survey respondents reported swimming as the activity they enjoy doing in Acme Township. Other noteworthy items respondents reported include canoe/kayak/paddle boarding (50%), boating (42.86%), and fishing (26.89%).
- 47.67% of respondents reported that swimming beaches were a top priority for planning and development. 31.35% indicated that boat launches were a priority (4<sup>th</sup> on the list of priorities). 27.23% reported canoe/kayak launches (6<sup>th</sup> on the list of priorities).
- 77.31% of respondents reported the Township should continue additional land acquisitions to provide greater access to the Grand Traverse Bay.

## GOAL 3: PROVIDE A VARIETY OF AMENITIES

Vision: Offer park users a meaningful experience that promotes healthy lifestyles.

### Objectives:

- Incorporate cohesive circulation systems.
- Explore opportunities to include the addition of playground equipment for children of all ages and abilities.
- Explore opportunities for additional amenities such as ball courts, performance theaters, gardens, and art installations.

Support from Public Input:

- 91.60% of survey respondents reported walking/jogging as the activity they enjoy doing in Acme Township.
- 53.47% of respondents indicated that walking/nature trails were a top priority for planning and development (1<sup>st</sup> on the list of priorities). 50% indicated that non-motorized trails were a priority (2<sup>nd</sup> on the list of priorities).
- 28.49% of respondents indicated that playground equipment is a top priority for planning and development (5<sup>th</sup> on the list of priorities). Pickle ball courts were 8<sup>th</sup> on the list (23.98%), followed by community gardens (20.65%), and dog parks (20.43%).
- 25.55% of respondents reported that they visit parks outside of Acme Township because of the variety of amenities.

## GOAL 4: PROVIDE FOR PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Vision: Explore future opportunities to expand park and recreation facilities and programs.

Objectives:

- Identify areas where Acme Township can establish new, or expand existing, parks and recreation facilities, programs, partnerships and services.
- Continue selective property acquisition as shoreline properties become available.
- Continue selective property acquisition to provide access to more land for parks.
- Explore opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreational space.

Support from Public Input:

- 77.31% of survey respondents reported the Township should continue additional land acquisitions to provide greater access to the Grand Traverse Bay.
- 76.05% of respondents reported that Acme Township should continue additional land acquisitions to provide access to more land for parks.
- 22.33% of respondents provided additional comments focused on improving and acquiring additional indoor and outdoor recreational spaces.

## GOAL 5: MAINTENANCE AND FUNDING

Vision: Provide a maintenance plan and funding sources for the Acme Township Park System.

Objectives:

- Create and implement an annual maintenance plan for the entire park and trail system.
- Establish a campaign for a dedicated Parks millage for future funding.
- Implement a rental and reservation system to create sustainable revenue.



- Establish procedures for invasive species management and education.
- Maintain or improve water quality through stormwater runoff mitigation.

Support from Public Input:

- 77.35% of survey respondents reported they would support a small, dedicated millage levied specifically for maintenance and improvements to the Township's recreational assets, including parks and trails.
- 33.06% of respondents indicated that upkeep and maintenance and grounds could be improved at Bayside. 30.84% indicated that maintenance and grounds could be improved at Saylor, Yuba Creek (30.38%), Bunker Hill (28.24%), and Deepwater Point Natural Area (20.22%).



## VI. ACTION PLAN

Acme Township has developed a set of action items to be considered for implementation over the next five years. Input from the public survey and public comment have established these goals and objectives with an achievable action plan. In the next five years, there are concrete steps that Acme Township can take to work toward the goals of enhancing community connectivity, accessing the Grand Traverse Bay, providing a variety of amenities, providing for parks and recreation opportunities, and maintaining and funding parks. The action items have also been prioritized as items to be addressed in the next 1-2 (short term), 3-5 (long term) years, or as ongoing tasks.

The highest priority is the completion of local non-motorized connections to enhance community connectivity. This item will require continued coordination with TART Trails, VASA Pathway, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, land owners and other agencies along the US-31 corridor route.

Another priority is to keep implementing access to the Grand Traverse Bay for people of all abilities. The Township will need to maintain and improve upon the current boat launches. Designated shore access zones, located in township parks or road-end boat launches, give paddlers a range of access points to the blueway. Two additional accessible canoe/kayak launches would allow access to the water for paddlers of all abilities.

Providing a variety of amenities will offer park users a meaningful experience that promotes healthy lifestyles. This will promote increased park usership for people of all ages and abilities. Residents won't have to travel outside of the Township when their favorite amenities are located close to home.

Identifying areas where Acme Township can establish new, or expand existing, parks and recreation facilities, programs, partnerships and services will provide for more parks and recreation opportunities. Acme Township will acquire new properties as they become available if the opportunities align with the goals and objectives the Township has put in place. Acquiring trail easements are planned upon availability if the option arises and the connectivity is part of an integral part of the overall scope of Township priorities, and it is supported by respondents.

It should be noted that with additional park amenities come additional maintenance costs. These costs will need to be factored into the future general fund. Acme Township will create and implement an annual maintenance plan that will create policies and procedures to complete preventative maintenance on a regular basis. Developing a millage campaign that will directly support maintenance and improvements to the Township’s recreational assets, including parks and trails was supported by a majority of survey respondents.

**Enhance Community Connectivity**

Action Item	Parks & Trails Committee	Township Board	Township Staff	Community Partners	Short-term, Long-term, or Ongoing
Incorporate a cohesive circulation at Bayside Park	X	X			Long-term
Engage developers to extend/enhance trails within their developments			X	X	Ongoing
Coordinate with TART and MDOT on the Nakwema Trailway	X	X	X	X	Ongoing
Acquire necessary trail easements as they become available		X			Ongoing

**Access to Grand Traverse Bay**

Action Item	Parks & Trails Committee	Township Board	Township Staff	Community Partners	Short-term, Long-term, or Ongoing
Construct ADA Kayak/Canoe Launch with parking based on the design funded through the Coastal Zone Management Program	X	X			Long-term
Continue selective property acquisition as shoreline properties become available.		X		X	Ongoing
Repair sidewalk at Bayside Park for Mobi-Mat placement			X		Short-term

**Provide a Variety of Amenities**

Action Item	Parks & Trails Committee	Township Board	Township Staff	Community Partners	Short-term, Long-term, or Ongoing
Installation of a modern playground area at Bayside Park	X	X			Ongoing
Develop a new pavilion/gazebo structure at Bayside Park	X	X	X		Long-term



**Provide for Parks and Recreation Opportunities**

Action Item	Parks & Trails Committee	Township Board	Township Staff	Community Partners	Short-term, Long-term, or Ongoing
Identify areas where the Township can establish new or expand existing parks and facilities	X	X	X	X	Ongoing
Continue selective property acquisition as shoreline properties become available.	X	X	X	X	Ongoing
Acquire property for an inland park.	X	X	X	X	Ongoing

**Maintenance and Funding**

Action Item	Parks & Trails Committee	Township Board	Township Staff	Community Partners	Short-term, Long-term, or Ongoing
Explore a dedicated funding source for parks and recreation equipment and programming			X		Ongoing
Repair wooden signage at Bayside and Saylor Park		X	X		Short-term
Replace roof on bathhouse at Bayside Park		X	X		Short-term
Replace cracked sidewalk at Bayside Park			X		Short-term
Replacement of benches at Yuba Creek Natural Area			X		Short-term

## References:

<http://www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/us-bicycle-route-system/usbrs-101/>

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US Census

American Factfinder - American Community Survey - [www.factfinder.census.gov](http://www.factfinder.census.gov)

[www.traversetrails.org](http://www.traversetrails.org)

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