

Recreation Plan 2023-2027

# Village of Alanson / Littlefield Township







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Village of Alanson/Littlefield Township  
Recreation Plan 2023-2027

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# CHAPTER 1:

## INTRODUCTION AND COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

### Purpose of the Village of Alanson / Littlefield Township Recreation Plan

The Recreation Plan provides citizens of the Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township the means to identify and define opportunities for recreational activities and development and to ensure that the recreational infrastructure sustains access to such opportunities now and into the future.

Since many of the recreational opportunities are directly related to the area's natural resources, the importance of ensuring public access to these assets is central to the Plan's purpose. The goals and policies of the Plan center on encouraging development to conform to standards and guidelines necessary to protect the rural character and natural resources of the Village and Township. These goals and policies also include the provision and development of recreation infrastructure that enables tourist-based activities, that directly serves the interests and needs of Village and Township residents, and that encourages and facilitates, where and when possible, to integrate the full spectrum of private and public opportunities.

This Plan conforms to the guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Approval of this Plan by the MDNR qualifies the Village and Township for recreation grants administered by the MDNR's Recreation Grants Section. The grant eligibility period is set for five years from the acceptance date by this department.

### Community Description

#### Regional Setting

Littlefield Township is located in the east-central portion of Emmet County, which is situated in the northwest region of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Littlefield Township comprises 21.7 square miles of the County's 468 square miles. The Township is smaller than a standard geographic township in land area (21.7 square miles versus the standard 36 square miles) and encompasses the northern portion of T35N-R4W. The Township's irregular size and shape is due to the southern boundary being the approximate centerline of Pickerel Lake and Crooked Lake. The distance from the north boundary to the south boundary is approximately four miles, with the east to west distance at approximately six miles. In addition to the Village of Alanson, the unincorporated communities of Ponshevaing and Oden, both located on the north shore of Crooked Lake, are under Littlefield Township jurisdiction.

The Village of Alanson is one square mile in size, consisting of the east ¼ of Section 9 and the west ¾ of Section 10.

Littlefield Township is bounded on the north by Maple River Township, on the east by Cheboygan County's Tuscarora Township, on the south by Springvale Township, and on the west by Little Traverse Township. The City of Petoskey is approximately 12 miles west of Alanson and Littlefield Township. The cities of Charlevoix and Traverse City are approximately 25 and 75 miles southwest of the Township, respectively. Figure 1-1

illustrates the Village and Township's location in relation to Emmet County and the State of Michigan. Figure 1-2 and Figure 1-3 present 2008 aerial photography of the Village and Township and detail the transportation routes serving the communities.

### **Population Characteristics**

According to the 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, the population for Littlefield Township (including the Village of Alanson) in 2021 was 3,171 persons (1,635 male - 1,536 female), averaging 146.1 persons per square mile for the Township's 21.7 square miles of land area. The most recent census includes the population for the village within the township, but also lists the village's population independently. Therefore, the Littlefield Township population of 3,171 includes the Village of Alanson, whose population is 852 (432 male - 420 female).

Alanson's population density is 852 persons per square mile.

In discussing the population for Littlefield Township and the Village of Alanson, however, it is important to note that the figure presented by the 2017-2021 ACS does not reflect the actual number of persons residing in the community during the summer months. The Census tally only counts residents who spend more than six months of the year in the Township or Village. In reviewing the housing information from the 2017-2021 ACS data, figures show that 337 of the 1,313 total housing units (25.6 percent) in Littlefield Township (figure includes the Village) are vacant for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. With this in mind, it can be assumed that the Township's resident population increases during the summer months, possibly more than 20 percent during the peak vacation dates. Based on the average household size in Littlefield Township of 2.59, the expected peak seasonal increase would be roughly 873 persons. Additionally, many summer visitors stay at private lodging places, campgrounds, or at the homes of family or







friends.

Emmet County is a travel destination for many Michigan residents and visitors throughout the Midwest. The combination of seasonal residences, ski resorts, campgrounds, and outdoor activities/events draws many non-residents into the region. A 2022 study produced by Networks Northwest suggests a potential seasonal increase of nearly 46,000 persons over the base population of the County. This increase accounts for seasonal housing, campgrounds, bed and breakfast establishments, cabin/cottage/condo rentals, hotels, motels, and other lodging places. Many of these seasonal visitors are likely to use Alanson and Littlefield Township's recreational facilities and other services during their stay.



Figure 1-2

# Village of Alanson 2022 Aerial Map

-  State or U.S. Highways
-  County Primary Roads
-  County Local Roads
-  City Major Roads
-  City Minor Roads
-  Municipal Boundaries

Base Source: Michigan Geographic Framework v.10.  
Aerial Source: Michigan Geographic Framework, 2022.



## Recreation Plan 2023-2027

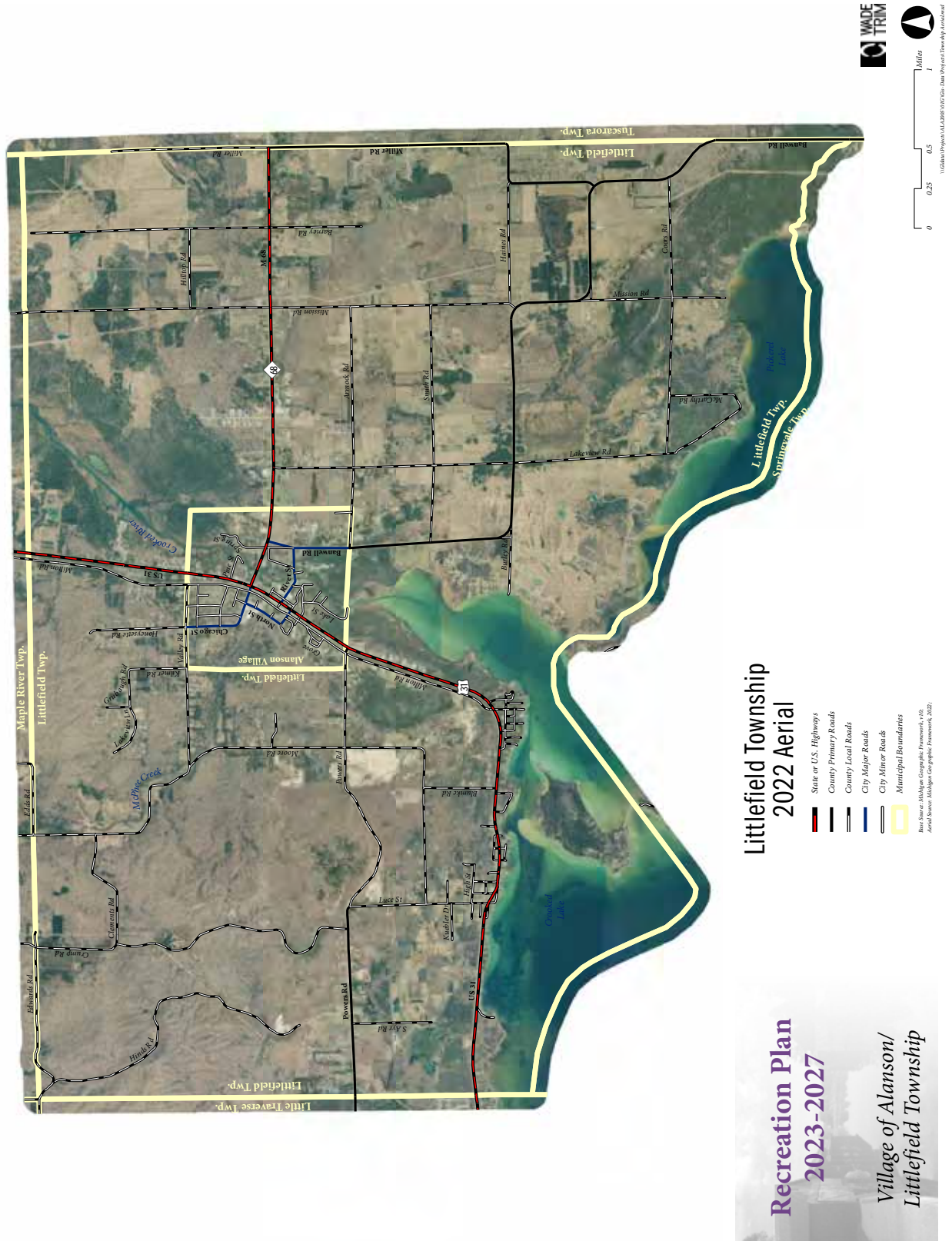
### Village of Alanson/ Littlefield Township

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Figure 1-3



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## CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

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### Village Organization

The Village of Alanson was incorporated in June 1882 under the State of Michigan’s General Law Village Act. Local government consists of a Village President and Village Council. Additional support is provided through the offices of Clerk, Attorney, Treasurer, Assessor, Zoning Administrator, and Street Administrator. The Village Council has appointed several committees to guide in the delivery of government services. Village committees include parks, ordinances, nuisance, street administration, grants, sewer, finance, and personnel. Because the Village enforces community zoning, the Council also relies on a Planning Commission and a Zoning Board of Appeals.

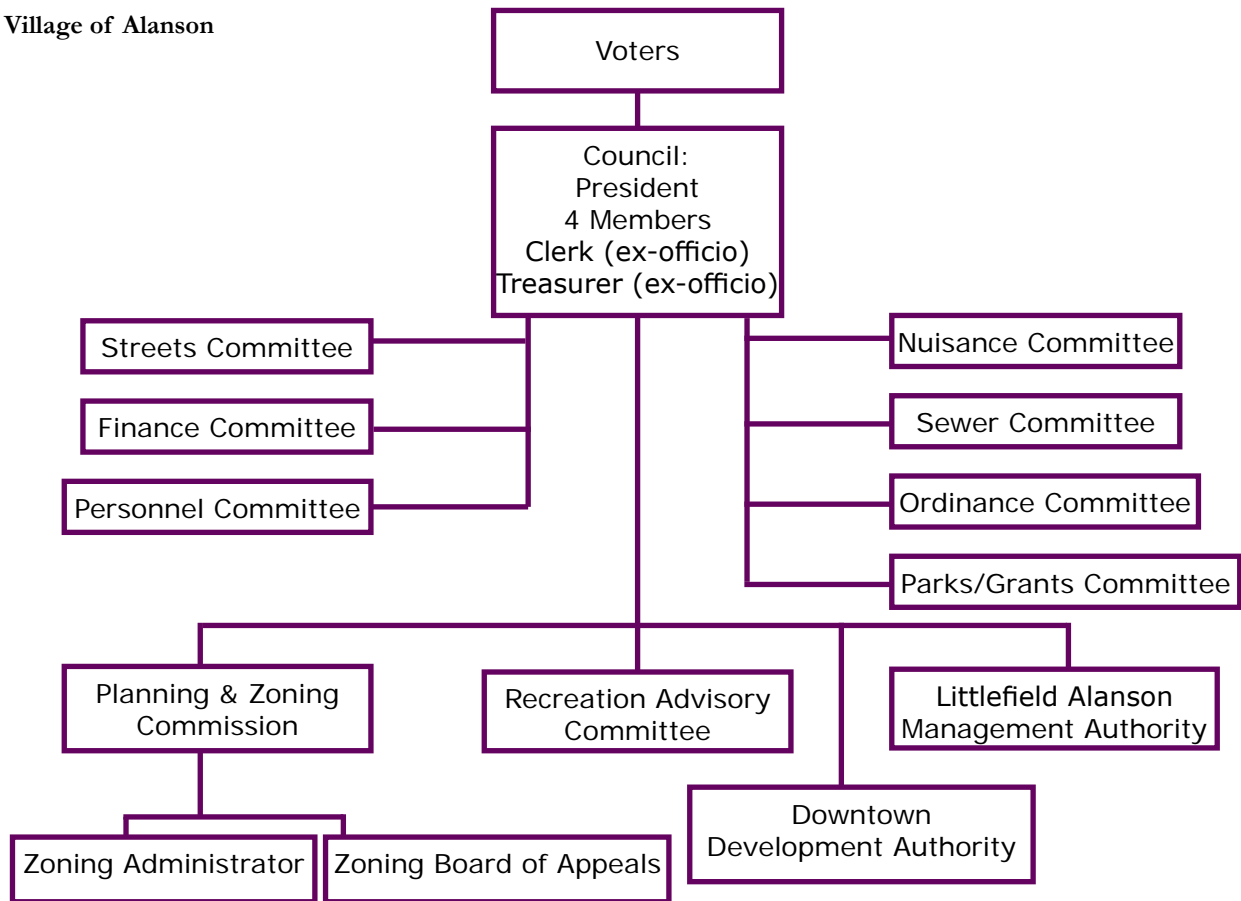
With regard to the administration of recreational services, the Village Council may be assisted from time to time by the parks, grants, and street committees. An organizational chart for the Village administrative structure for recreational planning and administration is shown as Figure 2-1. While the Council relies on committee recommendations in administrative matters, the Council has final authority. The Village of Alanson does not operate any recreation programs.

The Village employs one full-time Department of Public Works employee and a part-time Park Superintendent for the summer months. They maintain all Village properties, including recreational facilities. Recreation maintenance duties include grass mowing, trash removal, restroom cleaning, snow removal, and general maintenance of equipment and facilities. A summer Bridge Tender is retained under contract to operate the “Swing Bridge” across the Crooked River at River Street, allowing recreational boat traffic to pass between Burt Lake and Crooked Lake, a major part of the Inland Water Route.

A Village Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was established in 2005 under the authority of Public Act 197 of 1975, as amended. The DDA Plan outlines the following Project Improvements:

- Consultation and Operational Expenditures
- Promotional and Cultural Development
- Street and Sidewalk Improvements
- Parking Expansions
- Streetscape Enhancements
- Safety and Security
- Parks and Recreation
- Construction

**Figure 2-1 Organizational Chart for Village of Alanson**



**Village Recreation Expenditures**

For fiscal year 2023/2024, the Village showed a general fund budget of \$487,772. Of that total budget, the Village paid out \$37,485.72 in DPW staff wages, \$4,245.76 for park maintenance and \$39,300 for Bridge Tender from the Major Street Fund.

The Village expects to continue similar spending on recreational facilities maintenance and improvements in the future and will provide the required local match for grants awarded for recreation capital improvements.

**Township Organization**

Littlefield Township was organized as a General Law Township in 1874. The five-member governing body, the Township Board, consists of the following elected

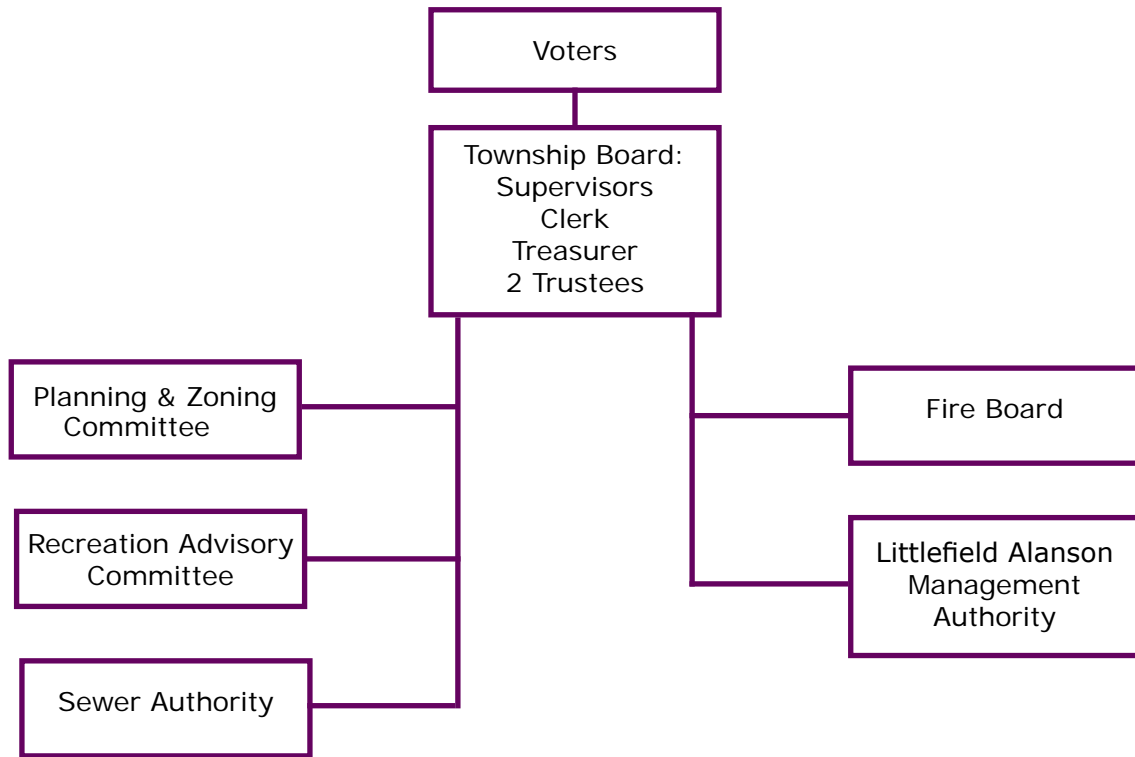
officials: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and two Trustees. The Township Board relies on the recommendations of several appointed committees, including planning and zoning, recreation advisory, sewer authority, and fire board. Figure 2-2 illustrates an organizational chart for Littlefield Township. Littlefield Township does not operate any recreation programs, nor does it employ any staff. Rather, park maintenance and other facility maintenance operations are contracted out.

**Township Recreation Expenditures**

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022, Littlefield Township showed General Fund Revenues of \$573,067.24 and General Fund Expenditures of \$784,627.26. In 2017, the Township received two grants from the MDNR Trust Fund - wA development grant



Figure 2-2 Organizational Chart for Littlefield Township



### Past MDNR Grants and Other Funding Sources

In the past 10 years, the Village and Township have received several grants and funding related to parks and recreation as follows:

- 01/01/15 TF15-0218 Hay Lake Water Access Site Acquisition \$167,800 Crooked River/Hay Lake Property Purchase
- 01/01/16 TF16-0072 Hay Lake Marina Park and Watertrail Trailhead \$280,000 Park Development
- 01/01/16 TR16-0073 Blumke to Milton Road Trail Acquisition \$99,000 Corridor Property Purchase - Trail Extension
- 01/01/21 TR21-0060 Milton to Alanson \* Road Trail Acquisition \$865,300.00 Corridor Property Purchase - Trail Extension

\*At the time of this report, this project is still in progress

for the construction of improvements to the Admiral's Pointe (Hay Lake) Marina in the amount of \$280,000 and a trail acquisition grant for the purchase of the railroad grade between Blumke and Milton Roads in the amount of \$99,000.

For 2020-2021, \$16,500.00 was budgeted for contracted park maintenance. Contracted park maintenance expenditures totaled \$16,168.61.

Littlefield Township expects to continue expending necessary amounts for recreation planning and maintenance. The Township will commit to the required local match for any grants awarded for recreation capital improvements.

## Village and Township Cooperation

The Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township work cooperatively in the provision of several community services including the public sewer system, the fire department, recreation planning and the community building.

### Recreation Advisory Committee

Under the provisions of the Inter-municipality Committees Act (Public Act 200 of 1957, as amended), the Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township created a joint Recreation Advisory Committee "for the purpose of studying area governmental problems of mutual interest and concern" - recreation and parks, in this case.

The Alanson/Littlefield Recreation Advisory Committee consists of two Village Council members, two Township Board members, and one citizen-at-large. The Committee meets monthly and is charged with making recommendations for recreation planning, recreation goal setting and exploring possible funding sources for recreation improvements for both communities. The Village and Township equally share expenses incurred by this Committee.

### Community Building

The Village and Township joined together to establish the Littlefield Alanson Management Authority. The Authority (a legally separate entity from the Township and Village) was created for the construction and maintenance of the Community Building to be used by both governments. The building was financed by the issuance of general obligation bonds, which are now retired. Ownership of the building has reverted from the Authority to the joint property of the Village and Township. The Authority presently maintains the Community Building and invoices the Village and Township. The Township and Village each appoint one member to the two-member Authority Board. Each unit of government contributes one-half of the Authority's annual expenses. The Authority employs one person for building management.

### Alanson Area Public Library

The Alanson Area Public Library, a member of the Northland Library System, is located in the Community Building. The library is open to the public 38 hours each week and is managed by the Alanson Area Public Library Board. The Village and Township equally contribute annual funding to the Library Board, who then pays annual rent to the Alanson Littlefield Management Authority for use of space in the Community Building. Essentially, the Village and Township are providing rent-free space for the library.

## Relationship with Other Agencies and Organizations

Networks Northwest (formerly the Northwest Michigan Council of Government) retains and strengthens local home rule by coordinating efforts in resolving problems, politics, and plans that are common and regional. Currently, Networks Northwest's staff is involved in the following areas:

- Economic development
- Community development

- Recreation
- Tourism
- Historic preservation
- Transportation
- Land use planning
- Solid waste planning

Technical assistance for local recreation planning and other kinds of help for special recreation projects is sought as appropriate from the following organizations and agencies:

- Oden Community Association
- Harbor Springs Snowmobile Club
- Alanson Beautification Center
- Alanson Improvement Group
- North Emmet County Little League Association
- Alanson Area Public Schools
- Emmet County Office of Planning and Zoning
- Emmet County Board of Commissioners
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
- Michigan State University Extension Service
- Northern Michigan Women's Club
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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## CHAPTER 3: RECREATION INVENTORY

An inventory of existing recreational facilities located in the Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township and surrounding area is detailed in this chapter. Facilities are grouped according to jurisdictional management and operations. Figure 3-1 illustrates the location of recreational sites in the Village while Figure 3-2 displays sites in the Township. Figure 3-3 shows recreation sites operated by Emmet County.

A barrier-free compliance evaluation was conducted for each recreation site under the jurisdiction of the Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township and is included with the description of each site. This barrier-free compliance evaluation utilizes a numerical rating of 1 to 5, based on the following definitions:

1. None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5. The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Finally, this chapter includes an inventory of past MDNR grants that have been received for the Township and Village for recreation purposes.

### Village of Alanson

#### Island Sanctuary Park

This island in the Crooked River is roughly in the center of the Village. Mr. Derry Williams donated the island to the Village with the stipulation that it never be sold and will continue to be a permanent part of Alanson's park system. Improvements to the park include a self-propelled chain ferry and docking platform, a parking lot, a boardwalk system on the island, a fishing platform, gazebo, and a boathouse with a bathroom.

Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.44 acres

ADA Compliance Rating: 4 – Park boardwalks meet accessibility guidelines.

Opportunities: Wayfinding and interpretive signage; linkages to Morgan Park and potential walkways to the north.

#### Alanson Village Park

This neighborhood park is located directly behind and on the same parcel as the Community Building. Amenities at the park include playground equipment, picnic tables and grills, pavilion, bandstand, two shuffleboards, two basketball courts, horseshoe pit, and tennis court.

Playground equipment conforms with current safety standards. Rubberized mulch for the surface beneath the playground equipment is in place as a safety surface, but has been displaced over time and is not an accessible surface. The basketball/tennis courts have recently been

resurfaced. The most recent park improvements were the addition of ADA compliant water fountains and restrooms.

*Park Type:* Neighborhood Park

*Size:* 1.45 acres

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 2 – Limited parking is available, but the only handicap accessible parking is adjacent to the library/community building. The park is generally flat, but no pathways or walkways are provided. Restrooms for the park are available through a rear entrance to the Community Building. The restrooms and water fountains have recently been brought into ADA compliance.

*Needs:* All features should be made ADA compliant including parking and pathways/walkways. A connecting walkway from Morgan Park is recommended. Wayfinding signage depicting local park and trail networks would be a valuable addition.

### **Morgan Park**

Morgan Park is located just off River Street, with water frontage on the Crooked River, and features a 24-hour boat dock for seven watercraft, walkway, park bench, two picnic tables, grill and flowing well/drinking fountain. Several mature trees are located on this mini-park site. Plans are in progress to upgrade the boat dock.

*Park Type:* Mini-Park

*Size:* 0.48 acres

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 2 – Parking is on the street and is accessible to the sidewalk. The drinking fountain is not ADA compliant, and no restrooms are provided at this site.

*Needs:* Upgrade walkway to ADA standards, improve landscaping and add in-ground irrigation system.

Provide connecting walkway to the Alanson Village Park. Upgrade dock. Develop opportunities for small gatherings and passive enjoyment of the river such as a small pavilion, bench swings, a fire circle, and so on. Provide linkages to Island Sanctuary Park. Wayfinding

signage depicting local parks and trail systems would be a valuable addition.

### **Crooked River Swing Bridge**

Provided as a Crooked River street crossing at River Street, the bridge swings open to accommodate recreational boating traffic. Watercraft use the Crooked River to access Crooked Lake as part of the Inland Water Route, which will be further described in Chapter 4. The Village hires a Bridge Tender to operate the bridge during the regular boating season. Total bridge reconstruction was completed in 2006, with funding provided through the Critical Bridge Program.

*Park Type:* Not a park

*Size:* n/a

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 4 – The newly reconstructed bridge is ADA compliant.

*Opportunities:* Wayfinding signage depicting local park and trail networks. Interpretive signage telling story of Inland Water Route.

### **Bass Street Property at Crooked River**

This small property is located at the end of Bass Street with water frontage on the Crooked River. It includes two picnic tables and a drinking fountain. Two large mature trees are located at the water's edge.

*Park Type:* Not a developed park

*Size:* 0.43 acres

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 1

*Opportunities:* Potential boat dock and riverside boardwalk and/or overlook. Wayfinding signage depicting local park and trail networks. Interpretive signage telling story of Inland Water Route.

## **Littlefield Township**

### **Hay Lake Marina Park**

In 2016 The Township acquired this waterfront park that provides access to the Crooked River/Hay Lake waterway.

The site was recently developed using a grant from the MDNR. The former private marina serves as a trailhead for the Inland Waterway Trail. Other developments to the new public marina include a small boat launch, universally accessible canoe/kayak launch, elevated wetland overlook, water trailhead with car-trailer and car parking, and universally accessible restroom/shower building and amenities.

*Park Type:* Community Park

*Size:* 24.75 acres

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 4 – Park amenities meet accessibility guidelines

*Opportunities:* Plans to add an additional restroom building.

#### **Walter Dow Roadside Park**

This mini-park has been under Township jurisdiction since 1999, having been obtained from the Emmet County Road Commission. It is located on Crooked Lake in the unincorporated community of Oden, at the intersection of U.S. 31 and Rose Street. The park's main attraction is a swimming beach on Crooked Lake. In addition to swimming, park visitors often use the beach as a wind surfing launch site. The park also features a stone and brass memorial to Walter Dow. The Township recently installed a new well and drinking fountain with local funds and paved the parking lot. The Township provides a portable restroom during the summer season.

*Park Type:* Mini-Park

*Size:* 0.29 acres

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 1 – Limited parking is available, but no handicap parking sites are marked. The land is generally flat, but no walkways or pathways are provided.

*Opportunities:* Provide ADA access to water's edge from parking. Explore means to control parking.

#### **Woodruff Park (Roadside Park)**

The Township recently acquired this property from the MDOT, which is a small roadside park on the north side of U.S. 31 in Oden. The park is designed for passive recreation and includes a picnic area and a memorial to Oden residents who have served in the Armed Forces. The Township would like to restore the existing flowing well/drinking fountain.

*Park Type:* Mini-Park/Roadside Stop

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 1

*Size:* 0.76 acres

*Opportunities:* Improve accessibility; potential to improve veteran's memorial rest stop functions, and flowing well/drinking fountain.

#### **Oden Gazebo Park**

Littlefield Township acquired the Oden Gazebo from the Oden Community Association in 2013. The Township acquired surrounding properties from private owners between 2014-2015 to expand the park into a larger mini-park. This site is a passive recreational site north of Oden Road, between Luce and Main streets, and features sidewalks and a gazebo. The park adjoins the North Western State Trail. The gazebo has a new foundation, roof and lighting and was recently repainted with local funds. The gazebo and flowing well have recently been restored.

*Park Type:* Mini-Park

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 1

*Size:* 0.89 acres

*Needs:* Update access to comply with ADA standards.

#### **Blumke to Milton Road Trail**

The Township recently acquired this 1/2 mile-long corridor from private property owners, which is immediately north of the North Western State Trail. In the winter, the trail can be used by snowmobiles and offers protection away from the highway. Preserving this

open space as part of a recreation trail will protect the scenic character of the area for future generations. The property purchase was funded, in part, through a grant from the MDNR.

*Park Type:* Not a developed park

*Size:* 5.97 acres

*ADA Compliance Rating:* N/A

*Opportunities:* Acquire applicable land from Milton to Powers Road for trail extension.

### **Littlefield Township Fire Department**

Constructed in 2006, the Township Fire Department building is located on approximately eight acres in the Village of Alanson near the intersection of West and Cantrell Streets.

*Park Type:* Not a developed park

*Size:* 7.67 acres

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 4 – For parking to building.  
1 – No accessible access to site.

*Opportunities:* Develop site as passive park with local trails and connections to regional trails. Consider facilities for group gatherings, fitness, health and play.

## **Joint Village and Township**

### **Village/Township Community Building**

The Community Building is jointly owned by the Village and Township. The organization and funding for the Community Building are discussed in Chapter 2. Both units of government use the building for office space and meetings. The Community Building is made available for use by public service groups, The Alanson Area Public Library is located in the building. The building is available for rental by residents for private parties, receptions, reunions, showers, and the like. The building is also provided at no cost for annual special community events, such as Fourth of July Celebration, Holiday Community Sing-Along, Santa Claus Visit, and Boy Scouts Fund Raiser Dinner. In all, over 20 different entities use the

building during the course of a year.

*Park Type:* Not a park

*Size:* 1.01 acres

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 2 – Handicap parking is designated. The building is a one-story structure. The restrooms and front door are semi-accessible (could be used with assistance).

*Needs:* Building and access to building should be totally upgraded to ADA compliance.

## **Alanson-Littlefield Public Schools**

### **School Site**

Located in the Village of Alanson at the corner of Chicago Street and North Street, the school provides K-12 education for approximately 500 students from the Village of Alanson, Littlefield Township, and a portion of Maple River Township. The school also owns 80 acres in Section 8 and 40 acres in Section 9 in Littlefield Township. These parcels make up the school forest and are undeveloped. However, the school provides snowmobile trail right-of-way through the school forestland under an agreement with the Harbor Springs Snowmobile Club.

In addition to the educational facilities, the school site features an indoor gymnasium and playground. The gymnasium is used for K-12 physical education class and school organized sports. Because the gymnasium is generally fully scheduled for school activities, it is rarely available for community use. Should private funding be found, the school wishes to build another gymnasium, which would relieve some of the scheduling conflicts and make it available for community use, such as for walking during the winter, adult basketball, exercise classes, and similar uses. The school also provides space for a structured and organized after school program.



This site is currently being considered for acquisition by the Village of Alanson with an initial idea to improve ballfields.

*Park Type:* Not a park

*Size:* 9.89 acres

*Opportunities:* Explore cooperative ventures between school system, Township, Village and private entities to improve facilities.

### **School Ball Fields and Track**

The Alanson-Littlefield Public School maintains a large property on the west side of Chicago Street, in close proximity to the school building, which features a cinder track, softball field and baseball field. The cinder track is only used for practice and is not suitable for sanctioned events. The ball fields are used for organized Little League play in addition to school functions.

*Park Type:* Neighborhood Park

*Size:* 20.57 acres

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 1

*Opportunities and Needs:* Needs include compliance with ADA standards, ball field upgrades to fencing, field turf and infields, and spectator facilities. Opportunities are numerous since considerable open, undeveloped space is available for activities such as a skate park, ice skating, recreational fields, larger group gatherings, walking loops, and so on.

### **Alanson Beautification Center**

The Alanson Beautification Center, a non-profit organization, was established in 1982 for the purpose of developing the Hillside Garden in downtown Alanson. The Center has approximately 20 active members and meets monthly. Funding is obtained through membership dues, donations, grants, memorial funds and fundraisers.

### **Hillside Garden**

The award-winning site is adjacent to the west side of the former railroad grade and consists of landscaped gardens, two stairways, compacted gravel pathway, flag pole, memorial plaque, automated irrigation and lighting. The Village of Alanson provides an extensive lighted Christmas display at the Hillside Garden during the holiday season, having purchased the display items and paying for the electricity.

*Park Type:* Mini-Park

*Size:* 1.32 acres

### **Oden Community Association**

The Oden Community Association, an organized group of property owners in the community of Oden at Crooked Lake, owns and operates several recreational facilities in the Oden area.

### **Oden Community Association Park**

This site is located in Littlefield Township's Section 17 at the corner of Luce Street and Moore Road. The park contains a ball field with dugouts, fencing, bleachers and manual scoreboard, which is used by the local Little League teams, and a two-hoop basketball court. The park is maintained by volunteers from the Association, Little League, Village and Township.

*Park Type:* Neighborhood Park

*ADA Compliance Rating:* 1

*Size:* 5.71 acres

*Needs:* Update access to comply with ADA standards.

### **Oden Community Hall**

The Association also owns the Oden Community Hall, a former school, on Luce Street. It is used for community gatherings, but is not open during the winter months.

*Park Type:* Not a Park

*Size:* 0.89 acres

Figure 3-1

# Village of Alanson Recreation Inventory

- Recreation Uses:**
- Village or Township Park or Recreational Facility
  - Other Park
  - Village Owned Vacant Land
  - Other Facility
  - Nature Preserve (LTC)
  - State Owned Land
  - State or U.S. Highways
  - County Primary Roads
  - County Local Roads
  - City Major Roads
  - City Minor Roads
- Trails:**
- Existing Trail
  - Shared Road Route
- Base Layers:**
- Water Features
  - Water Bodies
  - Municipal Boundaries
  - Parcel Lines

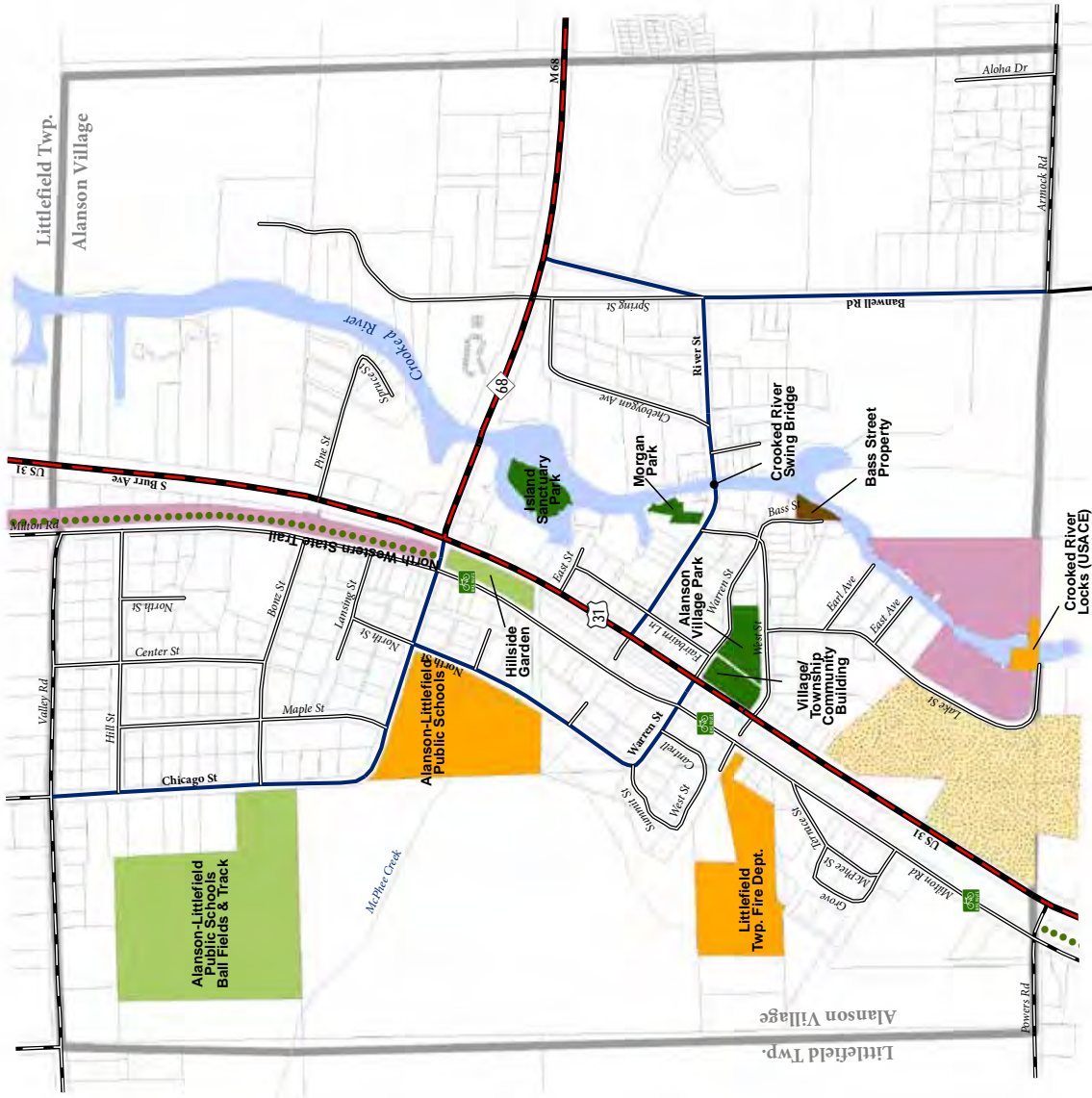
Parcel Source: Juniper County GIS, 2011;  
Base Source: Michigan Geographic Framework, 1:0  
Inventory Source: 2006-2010 Recreation Plan,  
updated by Wade Trimm, 2011.



## Recreation Plan 2023-2027

### Village of Alanson/ Littlefield Township

© 2011 Juniper County GIS, 2011 Michigan Geographic Framework, 2011 Wade Trimm



## Street End Access to Crooked Lake

Several streets dead-end at the Crooked Lake shoreline in the unincorporated community of Ponshewaing, including Park Street, Birch Street, Lake Street, Wildmen Street and Jefferson Street. Though they are not “developed,” they are often used for small watercraft launch and swimming. These sites fall under the jurisdiction of the Emmet County Road Commission.

*Opportunities:* Consider and explore opportunities to acquire additional land at these sites so to better accommodate boat launching, swimming access, and so on. Wayfinding and interpretive signage about local park, boating and trail networks and facilities and interpretive signage about the Inland Water Route, history of the lakes, and so on are potentially valuable additions.

## Little Traverse Conservancy Nature Preserves

There are currently eight Nature Preserves within the Village of Alanson/Littlefield Township jurisdiction. These Preserves are itemized below with a brief description of listed characteristics as provided by the Conservancy:

- *Oden Island Preserve*  
50 acres (Township contributed to acquisition of Preserve)  
1 mile frontage on Crooked Lake  
Large old-growth trees  
Fragile wetlands  
Trails
- *Black Hole Preserve*  
5.5 acres (Township contributed to acquisition of Preserve)
- *Ponshewaing Preserve*  
21 acres
- *Clements Preserve*  
16 acres  
Views of Crooked Lake
- *Kreag Preserve*

18 acres

- *Drayton Preserve*  
40 acres  
Primarily wetlands
- *Lossing-Harrington Preserve*
- *Inland Waterway Nature Preserve*

These Preserves significantly contribute to the preservation and conservation of the area’s natural resources and to the integrity and continuity of open, wild space that benefits wildlife, biodiversity and water resources. The benefits to direct, active recreation are limited. Their critical value from a recreation perspective is in maintaining the characteristics and integrity of the environment that draws people to this area.

## Emmet County

The 2023 Emmet County Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a detailed analysis of the opportunities available for recreational activities. The recreation inventory in this document emphasizes the importance of the land resource assets, protecting wildlife habitat, protecting community open space, and ensuring scenic views are preserved. The following is a description of each County operated recreational facility.

### Camp Petosega

This 275-acre parcel was acquired in 1992 and is considered to be the “flagship” park in the county park system. The northern portion of this park is located in Littlefield Township and the southern portion in Springvale Township. Existing facilities include a recreation hall, bathhouse, cabins, nature trails, 2,500 feet of Pickerel Lake beach, tennis courts, campground, a trout stream, as well as habitat for various species of wildlife. Since its opening as a county park, Camp Pet-O-Se-Ga has been very successful, and the cabins and recreation hall are rented steadily throughout the summer months. The campground is also used to capacity on some weekends.



*Park Type:* Community Park

*Size:* 275 acres (Approximately 150 acres within Littlefield Township)

### **Cecil Bay Park**

This 900-acre park along Lake Michigan in Wawatam Township includes over one mile of shoreline as well as a major river within its perimeter. The park includes fragile dune and river mouth environments. The park also includes a picnic shelter, a parking area for day visitors, and controlled access to the river to protect the banks.

### **Dow Road**

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

### **Emmet County Community Center/Fairgrounds**

The Community Center site contains about 29 acres of land situated along U.S. 31 on Petoskey's west side. Emmet County owns the land and the site is used for numerous functions throughout the year, including the Emmet/Charlevoix County Fair, horse and livestock shows, antique shows, animal clinics, soccer tournaments, farmer's market, and various other civic, government, and private group meetings, shows, exhibitions, and convention uses.

### **Headlands Park**

This 511-acre park on the Straits of Mackinac was acquired in cooperation with several entities including: the Village of Mackinaw City, Wawatam Township, Emmet County, The Little Traverse Conservancy, The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, The Schott Foundation, and The McCormick Foundation. The property offers the opportunity to experience pristine woodlands, almost two miles of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline, many species of rare and threatened plants, a small lake, and 100-foot ridge that parallels part of the shoreline. The property also includes a beach house, guesthouse, nature

trails, as well as a paved basketball court.

### **Krause Road**

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

### **Maple River Forest**

This 315-acre parcel in Maple River Township currently has no development, but does have the Maple River traversing the entire property, offering opportunities for fishing and wildlife enjoyment.

### **McGulpin Point Lighthouse**

The lighthouse is situated on 11.5 acres of land off Headlands Road. The land includes 336 feet of shoreline on Lake Michigan. The lighthouse and surrounding property is being renovated and is now open to the public.

### **North Conway Road**

This 116.4 acre parcel came under County ownership in 1971. No trails exist on the property, however, it is open to the public for hunting, bird watching, and other wildlife enjoyment.

### **Pellston Parcel**

Emmet County obtained this forested 38.4 acre parcel through a land swap with the MDNR in 2007. The parcel is undeveloped and currently serves as a natural resource area.

### **Resort Bluffs**

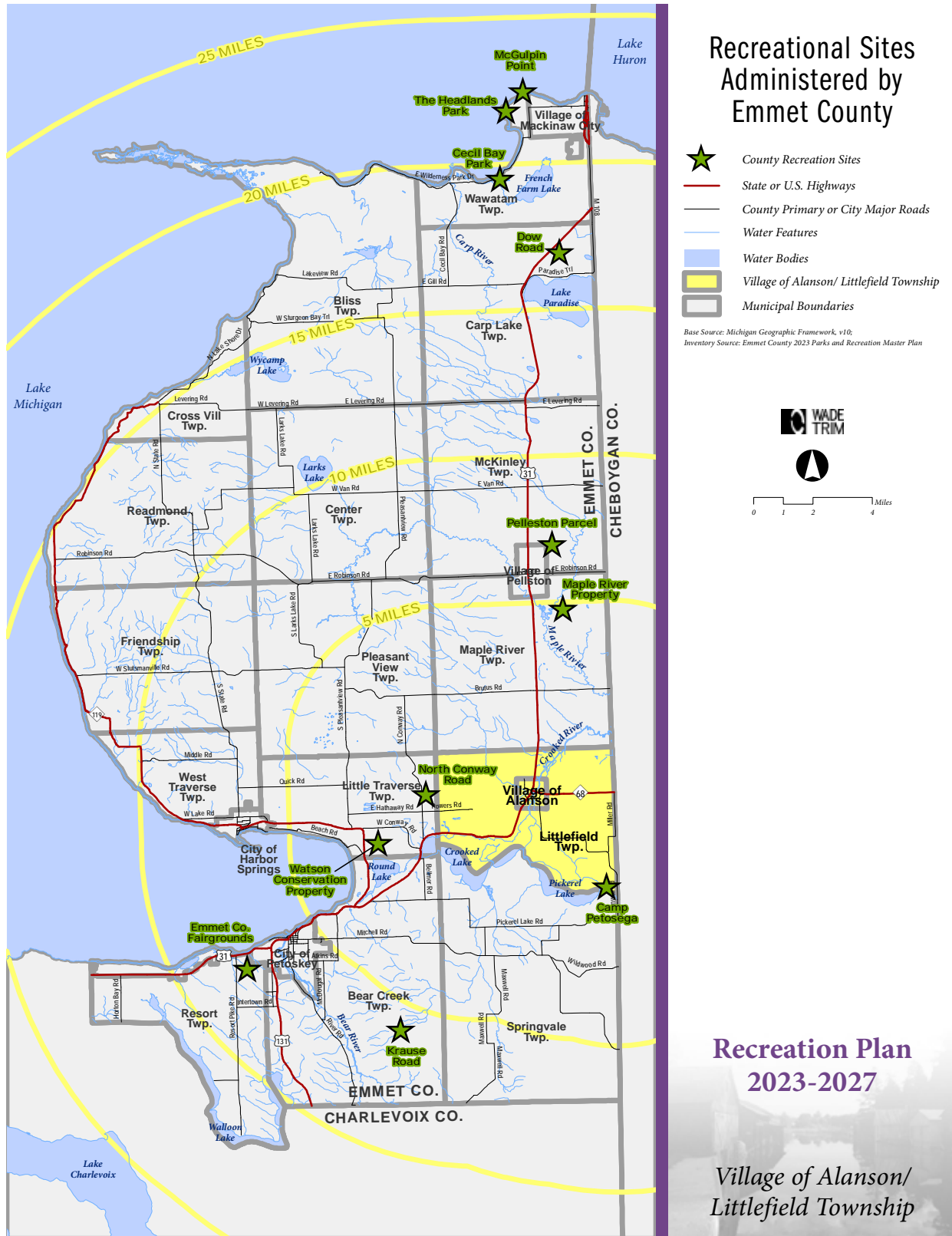
This undeveloped 4.3 acre parcel along Little Traverse Bay protects and provides a viewshed of Lake Michigan for residents of Emmet County. A portion of the Little Traverse Wheelway Bike Trail goes through this parcel.

### **Watson Preserve**

Located halfway between Harbor Springs and Petoskey



Figure 3-3





along M-119, the County and Little Traverse Conservancy jointly manage this 82.6-acre property. The property has nearly flat fields, formerly part of a farm, and slopes southward toward Round Lake making this a fragile and important watershed under the conservancy's care. Presently the parcel contains public administrative buildings and offices housing the Sheriff's Department, Planning and Zoning Department, Building Department, Health Department, and others. The site also has a domed hockey arena with one sheet of ice known as Griffin Arena.

## City of Petoskey Regional Parks

The City park system is well developed and offers a variety of recreational programs and activities for people throughout the County. Selected parks are highlighted below to identify key features attracting participants and visitors.

### Arlington Park

This 2.5 acres parks serves as an entryway to the City's downtown core. The park features a gazebo, rail passenger platform, site furnishings, historical marker, and the Napoleon Howitzer Cannon.

### Bates Park

Bates park is 7 acres and located on Howard Street. The park was constructed in 1999 and has been open since 2000 as a modern baseball facility.

### Bayfront Park

This 30-acre park features 4,800 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline and contains a 100-slip marina, bike path, arboretum, museum, softball field, concession, and children's playground. Special events and concerts are held in two, designated festival areas. The City Hall Complex is also located within the park.

### Bear River Park

This scenic park offers 1.5 miles of frontage along the

Bear River, where it empties into Little Traverse Bay. The park has both walking and cross-country ski trails in the downtown area for people to enjoy.

### Magnus Park

This park features a 72-site modern campground on 21.2 acres of land located at the end of West Lake Drive in Petoskey. The campground also has water/sewer hookups and shower facilities for campers. There is about 1,000 feet of available shoreline frontage along Little Traverse Bay.

### River Road Sports Complex

This 60-acre site features a Frisbee/Disc golf course, three soccer fields, adult softball field, and canoe launch for access to the Bear River.

### Winter Sports Complex

This complex is very unique to winter sports facilities in northern Michigan. The complex offers a speedskating and outdoor skating rink, skate rental, hockey programs, downhill skiing, sledding, concession, and warming building. Summer programs and facilities include day camps and soccer fields.

## North Western State Trail

This trail consists of 32 miles that passes through the communities of Petoskey, Alanson, Pellston, and Mackinaw City. Completed in 2016, the trail section between Petoskey and Alanson is composed of asphalt and from Alanson to Mackinaw City, the trail is a packed crushed limestone surface. The trail is available for non-motorized users year-round, and snowmobilers can access the trail from December 1 to March 31. It runs along the former Grand Rapids and Indiana line of the Pennsylvania Railroad that opened in 1882.

The trail also connects to other regional trails. The northern trailhead in Mackinaw City accesses the North Central State trail which runs south to Gaylord, and also

creates a connection to the North Eastern State Trail that runs to Cheboygan. From Petoskey, users can connect to the Little Traverse Wheelway which connects to Charlevoix. In all, the trail creates a regional connection that allows recreational users travel from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan by trail.

## State of Michigan

The State of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNR) owns, operates and maintains (either independently or under cooperative agreements with other organizations) several natural resource related recreation facilities in or near the Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township. The most heavily used sites are detailed below.

### Crooked River Locks

The Crooked River Locks located just inside the Village's southern boundary allows the passage of recreational and other boating traffic between Crooked Lake and Burt Lake. Emmet County sub-leases the lock from MDNR who, in turn, sub-leases the lock from Corps of Engineers. A new consortium including Emmet County, Littlefield Township, Little Traverse Township, Bear Creek Township, Springvale Township and the Village of Alanson (Crooked River Lock Consortium) has formed to achieve the following objectives:

- Promoting the Crooked River Lock
- Supporting the continuation and improvement of the Crooked River Lock
- Protecting property values in the communities surrounding the Crooked River Lock
- Enhancing the economic impact of the Crooked River Lock

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Pickerel Lake - Crooked Lake Association will be requested to appoint one member each to the Consortium Board. It is the intent of the Consortium

to work toward these objectives in cooperation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The Village of Alanson maintains the street to the lock and empties the trash receptacle. The Village and Littlefield Township recognize this location as an opportunity for the acquisition of adjacent lands for the development of a park and/or boat launch.

### Oden Fish Hatchery

The Oden State Fish Hatchery is operated by the MDNR at a site in Section 18 on the north side of U.S. 31. The hatchery has been completely renovated. A new main hatchery building, manager's residence, broodstock building, raceways, wastewater treatment facilities, and retention pond are among the project improvements. The facility is open to the public for observation.

The "Friends of Oden Fish Hatchery Visitor Center" sponsor an annual free-fishing weekend in February. This ice fishing event is focused on children in grades K-8. Fishing gear, bait, and refreshments are provided. The fishing takes place on Crooked Lake.

### State Forestland

The State also owns 720 acres of state forestland in the northwestern portion of Littlefield Township. These lands are open to the public for recreational uses, such as hunting, hiking, sightseeing, photography, and nature study. Snowmobile trails pass through this land.

### State Parks

Wilderness State Park encompasses approximately 8,000 acres of land in northern Bliss Township with access to Lake Michigan, and is located approximately 11 miles west of Mackinaw City and less than 40 miles from Alanson. The park offers 250 modern campsites, swimming, hiking, picnicking, boating, hunting,

**Private Recreational Facilities**

Name	Location	Amenities
El Rancho Alanson Campers Country Club	Littlefield Township, Section 10, south side of M-68	137 campsites, permanent & transient, full hook-up, swimming pool, 2 tennis courts, 3 shuffleboards, 2 horseshoe pits, playground
Crooked River RV Park	Alanson, Spring St. & M-68	25 sites, full hook-up, 2 boat docks
Spanky’s	Alanson, U.S. 31	Sporting goods sales, watercraft rentals
Windjammer Marina & Sports Center	Littlefield Township, Section 18, U.S. 31 (Oden)	Recreation equipment sales, watercraft sales and rentals, boat launch, dock and storage
Ryde Marine	Littlefield Township, Section 16, Ponshewaing	Watercraft rental, boat dock and storage
Hidden River Golf & Casting Club	Maple River Twp., 5 miles north of Alanson	18-hole golf course, food service, driving range, pro shop and golf lessons
Numerous restaurants and resorts	Throughout Alanson and Littlefield Township	Food service, lodging, water-related recreational features

playground, fishing, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing.

Petoskey State Park is located six miles from Petoskey on M-119 between Petoskey and Harbor Springs in northern Bear Creek Township, approximately 15 miles from Alanson. This 304-acre park with access to Lake Michigan’s Little Traverse Bay has 170 modern campsites, sandy beach, swimming, hiking, picnicking, biking, cross-country skiing, and playground.

Burt Lake State Park is located in Indian River on Burt Lake, approximately 10 miles west of Alanson. The park features 374 campsites, one mini-cabin, four modern toilet/shower buildings, 2,000 feet of sandy beach and a one-mile hiking trail. Activities available include boating, fishing, swimming, picnicking, hiking, and cross-country skiing.

**Private Recreational Facilities**

Nearby privately owned commercial recreational facilities

in Alanson and Littlefield Township are shown on the next page in tabular format.

**Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance**

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. The ultimate goal is to provide recreation opportunities that include everyone regardless of physical or mental impairment.

When evaluating the accessibility of parks and facilities, barriers should be recognized from the perspective of the participant. These perspectives aid in preparing the design and planning future improvements to both current and existing facilities. Therefore, we can determine whether a site, building, and/or facility is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

Perspectives to Consider:

- Could a person with vision impairment have a reasonable means of identifying the facilities?
- If a person is physically disabled, is there a means to access all facilities and if there are barriers, is an alternate route available?
- If a person has a reading disability, could the person recognize standard symbols indicating parking, restrooms or trailways?
- If a person uses a walking aid such as crutches or braces, could the person participate with a group in facilities and move from the arrival place (parking area) to the activity area?

Consideration should also be given to accessibility for people with physical limitations that are not considered handicaps, but are increasingly prevalent in a society with a growing number of aging but active adults.

An evaluation of the Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township parks and recreation system accessibility to persons with disabilities has been conducted as a component of the recreation inventory found in this chapter. Each site was assessed relative to accessibility status, and it is noted under the discussion for each site in this chapter.

### **Transition Plan**

Much of the transition plan for the Village and Township consists of removal of small-scale accessibility barriers, which is readily achievable through using general fund expenditures. This would include the systematic upgrade of play areas, the removal of uneven surfaces and sidewalk obstructions, the placements of accessible parking space signage, and the procurement of wheelchair accessible picnic tables, and the provision of accessible pathways to all facilities.

Capital improvement expenditures are targeted for more comprehensive accessibility remediation projects, which will be incorporated into the overall improvements

of existing facilities. All new playground equipment, site furnishings, landscaping, and facilities included in the capital improvements plan should be designed and installed in compliance with the most current federal, state and local accessibility standards.



## CHAPTER 4: NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

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### Water Resources

One of the most valuable natural resources of the Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township is water. The Township is located within the Cheboygan watershed, and its lands drain directly into three water courses: the Crooked River, Pickerel Lake, and Indian River. Figure 4-2 illustrates watershed boundaries and drainage courses within Emmet County.

Both groundwater and surface water are vital resources within the Village and Township. The two major surface water resources in Littlefield Township are Crooked Lake and Pickerel Lake, in addition to the Crooked River. These water resources are an important component of a popular natural feature, the Inland Water Route. The waterway runs from Crooked and Pickerel Lakes to Burt Lake via the Crooked River. From Burt Lake, the waterway enters Mullet Lake by way of the Indian River. Leaving Mullett Lake at the north end, the waterway terminates at Lake Huron, via the Cheboygan River. The waters of these resources are very important to the Northern Lower Peninsula Region and contribute to recreational activities such as fishing, boating, swimming and wildlife/scenic viewing.

### Fish and Wildlife

Fish and wildlife resources are fairly abundant in the community and Emmet County in general. Fish and wildlife are a critical component and barometer of the area's environmental health and integrity. Therefore, wildlife management practices have a direct bearing on recreation.

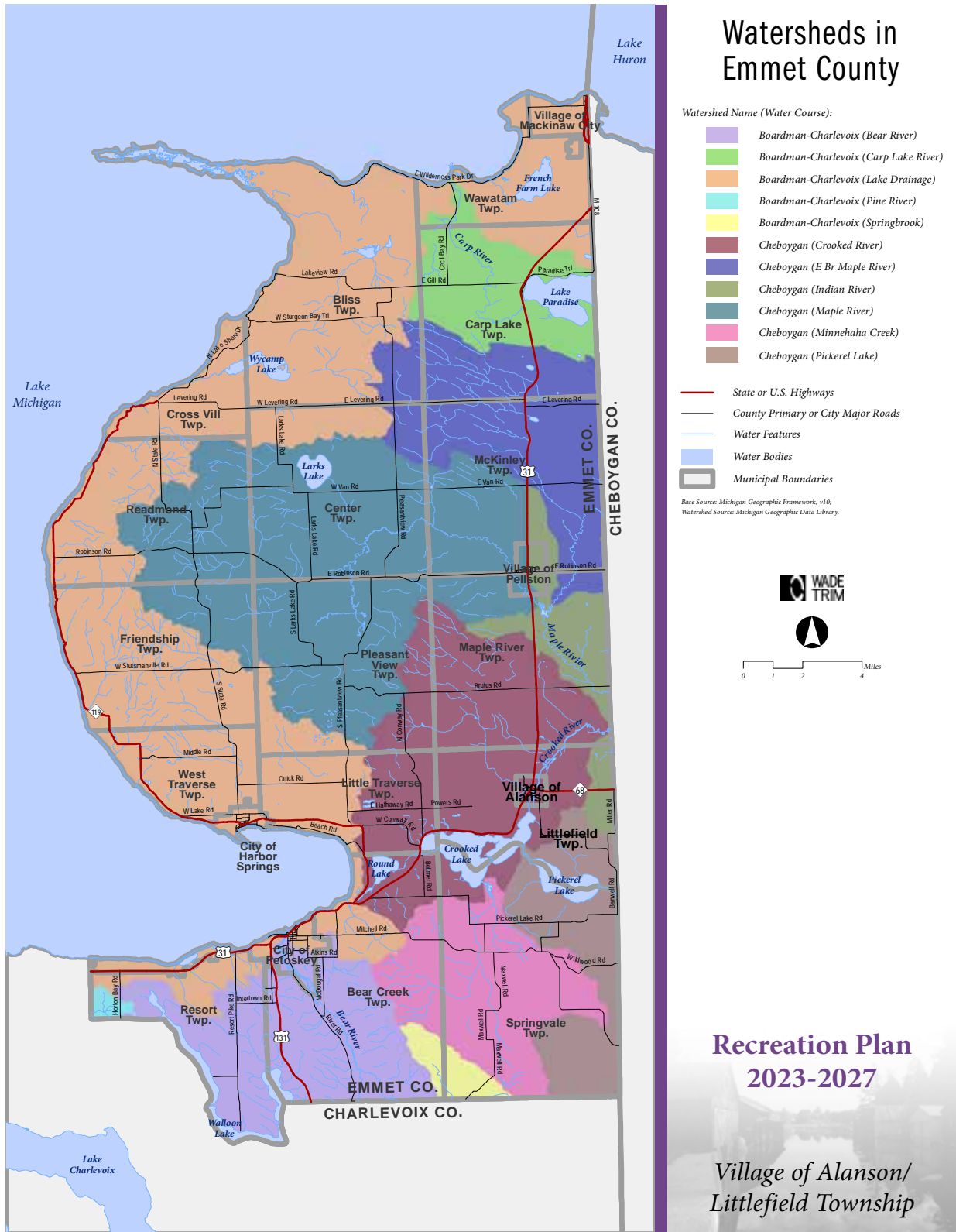
Wildlife found in this portion of Emmet County include deer, bear, fox, coyote, bobcat, rabbit, wild turkey, raccoon, grouse, woodcock, squirrel, and migratory waterfowl, as well as numerous songbirds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Crooked Lake is noted for its abundant swan population. Major fish species found in the Township's waterways include varieties of trout, pike, bass, perch, walleye, and assorted panfish.







Figure 4-2



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## CHAPTER 5: DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township have consistently engaged in recreation planning over the past decade. The Village Council and the Township Board developed a joint recreation plan in 2001, both appointing members to the newly-formed Alanson/Littlefield Recreation Advisory Committee. Wade Trim assisted in preparing the 2001, 2006, 2012, and 2018 plans. This current plan update is also being prepared with Wade Trim assistance.

*With no further input received at this public hearing, the plan was adopted by both the Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township on February 22, 2018.*

This 2023 Plan is based on the 2018 Plan, and outdated sections have been revised to current conditions. The community description sections have been updated utilizing information from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and other resources as necessary.

The Township Supervisor and Village President have provided updates to their records of budget and expenditures. The Village identified all grants, donations, and funding sources that were used over the past five years for recreation purposes. The public was invited to give input through an online recreation needs survey. This part of the process is described in Chapter 6.

A draft plan was made available for public review and comment for a minimum period of 30 days.

Upon completion of this review period, the plan was then presented at a public hearing on **January 8, 2024**.

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# CHAPTER 6: DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Public input during the development of this updated Recreation Plan was primarily sought through two means: a recreational needs survey and a public hearing. In particular, the Alanson/Littlefield Parks and Recreation Survey provided key insight into strengths, weaknesses, needs and opportunities related to recreation within the Village and Township.

## Alanson/Littlefield Parks and Recreation Survey

Below is a summary of the results of the recreational needs survey. The detailed survey results summary is provided in the Appendix.

Participants were first asked to consider whether additional recreation programming is needed within the community (for the purposes of the survey, the “community” represented both the Village and the Township).

When asked how they felt about the current number of recreational activities and facilities provided in the community, 36% said many more were needed, 33% said somewhat more were needed, and 26% said enough are currently available. The most common write-in comment was a desire for a dog park. Among the Newer Resident and Younger Respondents segments, somewhat more facilities and activities were needed was the most popular answer, as opposed to many more facilities and activities.

Respondents were then asked to write-in what programs, activities, or facilities they think should be provided that are not currently offered. The most popular topics were



free/more accessible boat access and more activities/programs for children.

When asked if the community has sufficient parkland, 44% of participants said they felt enough parkland is available now. 41% said they felt somewhat more parkland is needed. Village Residents and Long-time Residents were the two highest segments that felt much more parkland is needed at 24% and 20%, respectively.

As a follow-up to the previous question, participants were asked where they thought more parkland should be set aside and developed. Most responders said they did not want more parkland. Of those who did, the most common topic centered around the empty lot near the Swing Bridge.

Participants were asked about the provision of recreation programs and facilities. 55% of respondents said they felt pretty good in regard to the job being done of providing recreational programs and facilities. 32%

said they felt fair on the subject. The segments with the highest combined percentages of excellent and pretty good as answer options were Township Residents (67%) and Older Respondents (65%).

#### School Property Development

Respondents were asked about the potential use of school property for additional recreation development. Among the answers, there was an even split between improving ball fields (29%) and trails for walking/biking (29%) as the most common answers for how participants would like to see school-owned property developed. Playground was the most popular answer among the Township Residents (33%) and Newer Residents (36%) segments.

#### Sport-Related Recreation Participation

Respondents were given a list of several sport-related recreational facilities and were asked to indicate whether they currently use a given facility, have a future interest, or are not interested. The sport-related recreational facilities receiving the greatest number of votes for those currently participating include:

1. Hiking/walking (73%)
2. Fishing (66%)
3. Picnicking (64%)

The sport-related recreational facilities receiving the greatest number of votes for those with a future interest in participating include:

1. Ice skating (66%)
2. Cross country skiing (61%)
3. Disc golf (59%)

As a follow-up to the previous question, participants were asked to write any sport-related recreational facilities that were not listed. The most common answer was indoor recreational facilities, including a playground and walking

track.

#### Non-Sport Recreation Participation

Respondents were given a list of several non-sport recreational facilities and were asked to indicate whether they currently use a given facility, have a future interest, or are not interested. The non-sport recreational facilities receiving the greatest number of votes for those currently participating include:

1. Events (concerts, etc.) (46%)
2. Arts and crafts classes/activities (33%)

The non-sport recreational facilities receiving the greatest number of votes for those with a future interest in participating include:

1. Senior trips, activities, and events (67%)
2. Outdoor youth camps (67%)
3. Plays and other stage events (55%)
4. Fitness classes (55%)

The only facility to receive more than 25% of votes indicating participants were not interested was computer and technology classes (40%).

As a follow-up to the previous question, participants were asked to write any non-sport recreational facilities that were not listed. Answers included sledding events, community history walks, dog walking, and a woodworking workshop.

#### Facilities

Respondents were given a list of recreational facilities and were asked to indicate whether more should be developed or enough are available in Alanson/Littlefield Township. The recreational facilities receiving the greatest number of votes for “many more should be developed” and “more should be developed” included:

1. Outdoor splash pad (79%)
2. Outdoor amphitheaters (76%)
3. Sledding/toboggan runs (76%)



4. Indoor swimming pools (73%)
5. Dog runs and play areas (70%)
6. Park pavilions (70%)

## **Public Hearing**

*A draft plan was made available for public review and comment for a minimum period of 30 days. Upon completion of this review period, the plan was then presented at a public hearing on January XX, 2024. No further input was received at this public hearing. Following the public hearing, the plan was adopted by both the Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township on February 22, 2018.*

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## CHAPTER 7: BASIS FOR ACTION/GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Many elements must be considered prior to the decision-making process of establishing goals, guidelines and a prioritized capital improvements schedule for the next five years. A community must not base recreation improvement and service decisions solely on the voice of a handful of residents or the needs and wants of community officials, but must also be aware of recreational trends, national standards, community opinion, as well as demographic trends and the capability of the land and its surroundings.

This chapter attempts to consolidate the various factors that must be acknowledged and the abundance of aspects, perceptions, and ideas that need to be filtered and categorized with the end result of producing the prioritized needs of the community. Because there are so many factors that will ultimately determine needs, caution should be taken to not analyze each piece of information individually, but integrate them all to produce the “big picture.”

### Recreation Trends

Recreation trends occurring nationally may provide insight into activities that have shown the greatest growth in popularity. Organizations such as the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) and the Aspen Institute Project Play conduct national surveys that measure sports participation across the country.

According to the NSGA, based on a 2022 study,<sup>1</sup> the following sports segments experienced growth rates over the past year (ranked by rate of growth):

- Indoor activities
- Individual activities
- Outdoor activities
- Wheel sports
- Open water activities
- Personal contact sports
- Team sports

The two segments which remained relatively flat were Fitness and Snow. The only segment showing a slight decline was Shooting.

The State of Play report from 2022, published by the Aspen Institute Project Play,<sup>2</sup> provides insights into youth sports (ages 6-12) participation trends between 2008 and 2021 for the United States. According to the report, the most popular sports in 2021, in terms of total youth participation, were:

1. Bicycling (5.2 million participants)
2. Basketball (4.2 million)
3. Baseball (3.6 million)
4. Soccer (Outdoor) (2.1 million)
5. Tennis (1.6 million)

<sup>1</sup> NSGA Annual Sports Participation Report Shows Increases for Majority of Segments Tracked. NSGA. Website accessed October 2023.

<https://nsga.org/news/nsga-annual-sports-participation-report-shows-increases-for-majority-of-segments-tracked/>

<sup>2</sup> State of Play: Trends and Developments in Youth Sports. The Aspen Institute Project Play. 2022.

Between 2020 and 2021, the sports that saw the highest percentage increase in youth participation were:

1. Soccer (Outdoor) (19.5% increase)
2. Swimming (Team) (11.9%)
3. Volleyball (Court) (4.8%)
4. Gymnastics (4.2%)
5. Baseball (3.0%)

Conversely, the sports that saw the greatest decline in youth participation were:

1. Lacrosse (-23.7% decline)
2. Tackle Football (-17.9%)
3. Wrestling (-11.5%)
4. Ice Hockey (-10.5%)
5. Track and Field (-7.3%)

## National Planning Standards

In the process of determining and prioritizing needs, it is not only important to understand the national trends in terms of participation levels and popularity, but it is also imperative to compare the provision of local recreation facilities to published standards. This comparison of existing facilities to standard acreage and facility recommendations is another tool to assist in determining needs within Littlefield Township and the Village of Alanson.

## Acreage Standards

Based on a regulation previously suggested by the MDNR, Alanson/Littlefield Township's parkland and recreation inventory was compared to the guidelines set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983 and updated in 1995). Although the NRPA's guidelines were set over thirty years ago, this helps to establish minimum community needs in terms of land area and number of facilities.

The desirable characteristics relative to size, function,

amenities and acreage provisions per 1,000 people (where available) are identified in Figure 7-1.

According to the population standards for the three types of parklands (Mini-parks, Neighborhood parks, Community parks), Littlefield Township and the Village of Alanson, with a total population of 3,171 persons (2017-2021 ACS), should provide the following amount of parkland:

- Between 0.79 and 1.59 acres of mini-parkland;
- Between 3.17 and 6.34 acres of neighborhood parkland;
- Between 15.86 and 25.37 acres of community parkland.

Currently, the following parks are found within Littlefield Township and the Village of Alanson:

<u>Mini-Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Morgan Park	0.48
Walter Dow Roadside Park	0.29
Hillside Garden	1.32
Oden Gazebo Park	0.89
Woodruff Roadside Park	<u>0.76</u>
Sub-Total	3.74
<u>Neighborhood Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Island Sanctuary Park	1.44
Alanson Village Park	1.45
School Ball Fields and Track	20.57
Oden Community Assoc. Park	<u>5.71</u>
Sub-Total	29.17
<u>Community Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Hay Lake Marina/Park	14.75
Camp Petosega (Emmet Co.)	<u>150</u>
(Littlefield Twp. Portion) Sub-Total	164.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>197.66</b>

As noted above, the Township and Village presently

Figure 7-1

<b>Mini-Parks</b>	
General Description	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.
Location Criteria	Less than a ¼ mile distance in residential setting.
Size Criteria	Between 2,500 sq.ft. and 1 acre.
Acres per 1,000 Population	0.25 to 0.5
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	
General Description	Remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation
Location Criteria	¼ to ½ mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads & physical barriers.
Size Criteria	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal size
Acres per 1,000 Population	1.0 to 2.0
<b>Community Parks</b>	
General Description	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.
Location Criteria	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance
Size Criteria	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Between 30 and 50 acres.
Acres per 1,000 Population	5.0 to 8.0

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

contain 3.74 acres of mini-parkland, 29.17 acres of neighborhood parkland, and 164.75 acres of community parkland. In total, the Township and Village combined contain 197.66 acres of total parkland. Based on the park acreage per population standards, the Township and Village have a surplus of land in all park categories.

However, the above analysis includes parks not owned by the Township and Village. If the parks owned and operated by the Alanson-Littlefield Schools (Ball Fields), Alanson Beautification Center (Hillside Garden), Oden Community Association (Oden Community Association Park), and Emmet County (Camp Petosega) are excluded from the acreage calculations, the Township and Village would be left with only 2.42 acres of mini-park land, 2.89 acres of neighborhood parkland, and 14.75 acres of community parkland.

### **Park Service Areas**

As shown in Figure 7-1, each park type is given a typical service area. For community parks, the NRPA estimates a 0.5 to 3-mile service area (the maximum of this range, 3 miles, will be used for the purposes of this report). For neighborhood parks, the NRPA estimates a 0.25 to 0.5-mile service area (the maximum of this range, 0.5 miles, will be used for the purposes of this report). For mini-parks, the NRPA estimates a 0.25-mile service area.

The extent of the service areas within Littlefield Township and the Village of Alanson, based on existing parks and their park classification, is shown on Figure 7-2. This map effectively shows the locations within the Township and Village that are out of range of a certain type of park facility.





The entire Village is currently within the 3-mile radius of the community park Hay Lake Marina/Park. Most of Littlefield Township is also serviced by either Hay Lake Marina/Park or Camp Petosega community parks, except for the western-most section of the Township.

All lands within the Village are within the recommended range (0.5 miles) of a neighborhood park. (Because community parks also serve as neighborhood parks for the residents in the immediate vicinity, they are included in the neighborhood park radius analysis.) However, limited areas of the Township are within the recommended range of a neighborhood park. Township lands within the recommended range of a neighborhood park are found in the vicinity of Oden, just outside of the Village, and in the southeastern corner of the Township.

The majority of the lands within the Village are within the recommended range (0.25 miles) of a mini-park. (Because community parks and neighborhood parks also serve as mini-parks for the residents in the immediate vicinity, they are included in the mini-park radius analysis.) Township lands within the recommended range of a mini park are found in the vicinity of Oden, bordering the northwestern corner of the Village, the area adjacent to Hay Lake Marina/Park and in the southeastern corner of the Township.

### **Parkland and Park Facility Analysis**

A combination of sources were used in this section. All requirements and quartile ranges used to measure the Township and Village's Park and Trail inventory were from the NRPA's 2023 Agency Performance Review. The U.S. Census and American Community Survey 5-year Estimates were used to determine Alanson/Littlefield Township's demographic data. This information helps understand how Alanson/Littlefield Township is serving their residents' recreation needs at present and may be

used to identify potential areas of focus or improvement.

#### **Residents per Park**

The following guidelines are provided by the NRPA's 2023 Agency Performance Review. The Association provides a range containing a lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values for residents per park within a jurisdiction. For jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000, the range is 666 residents (lower quartile), 1,225 residents (median), and 2,042 residents (upper quartile). According to the 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, the population for Alanson/Littlefield Township in 2021 was 3,171 persons. Presently, Alanson/Littlefield Township has seven village/township parks: Island Sanctuary Park, Alanson Village Park, Morgan Park, Hay Lake Marina Park, Walter Dow Roadside Park, Woodruff Park (Roadside Park), and Oden Gazebo Park. When the Village/Township's population is divided by 7 (the number of parks in the Village/Township), the sum is 453 residents per park. As a result, Alanson/Littlefield Township is well under the lower quartile range as stated by the NRPA.

#### **Total Parkland**

The following guidelines are provided by the NRPA's 2023 Agency Performance Review. The Association provides a range containing a lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values for acres of parkland per 1,000 residents within a jurisdiction. For jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000, the range is 6.0 acres (lower quartile), 13.0 acres (median), and 21.1 acres (upper quartile). According to the 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, the population for Alanson/Littlefield Township in 2021 was 3,171 persons. Meaning, Alanson/Littlefield Township's range, per 1,000 residents, is 19.03 acres (lower quartile), 41.22 acres (median), 66.91 acres (upper quartile). Presently, Alanson/Littlefield Township has 20.1 total

acres of parkland that they operate, just above the lower quartile range.

### **Recreation Facility Standards**

The NRPA has also published typical recreation facility standards that specify facility service areas; the number of facilities needed to service the population.

The Village and Township’s parkland and recreation inventory was compared to the guidelines set by the NRPA. The NRPA guidelines are based on the population of the study area. Figure 7-3 takes these guidelines and applies them to our recreational facilities located within the Township and Village, adjacent to the Township (predominately at adjacent school facilities), and a reasonable travel distance. The values found in

**Figure 7-3 Analysis of Recreation Facilities**

Park Facility	NRPA Guidelines (pop. per Facility)	Recommended (based on Village + Twp population)	Existing (within Alanson/ Littlefield Twp)	Surplus or Deficiency	Existing (predominantly located at surrounding schools)
Playgrounds	2,014	2	2	0	3
Basketball courts	3,729	1	4	3	2
Diamond fields: baseball-youth	3,114	1	3	2	5
Tennis courts (outdoor)	2,805	1	2	1	12
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	3,859	1	0	-1	2
Dog park	11,100	0	0	0	1
Diamond fields: softball-adult	5,800	1	3	2	8
Diamond fields: softball-youth	5,079	1	3	2	5
Diamond fields: baseball-adult	7,627	0	3	3	8
Community gardens	8,178	0	0	0	1
Swimming pools (outdoor)	9,745	0	0	0	2
Rectangular fields: soccer-youth	3,600	1	0	-1	4
Multiuse courts: basketball, volleyball	5,093	1	0	-1	0
Totlots	5,816	1	0	-1	0
Rectangular fields: soccer-adult	6,955	0	0	0	4
Skate park	10,726	0	0	0	2
Rectangular fields: football	8,637	0	0	0	4
Pickleball	3,252	1	0	-1	2
Regulation 18-hole courses	9,587	0	0	0	2
Driving range stations	4,555	1	0	-1	2

Multipurpose synthetic field	9,518	0	0	0	1
Ice rink (outdoor)	8,045	0	0	0	1
Rectangular fields: cricket	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	0
Rectangular fields: lacrosse	9,786	0	0	0	1
Overlay field	8,707	0	0	0	0
Rectangular fields: field hockey	1,800	2	0	-2	1
Rec centers	9,745	0	0	0	2
Community centers	8,829	0	1	1	1
Senior centers	14,000	0	0	0	4
Performance amphitheater	11,100	0	0	0	0
Nature areas	10,633	0	8	8	13
Aquatics centers	11,650	0	0	0	0
Stadiums	9,250	0	0	0	0
Teen centers	14,593	0	0	0	1
Indoor ice rink	8,000	0	0	0	1
Arena	5,531	1	0	-1	0

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

the “NRPA Guidelines” column of the table are for jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000.

Caution must be taken when interpreting recommendations based on these guidelines because they may not represent current popular activities and trends. Population-to-facility ratios tend to oversimplify the purpose of recreation planning, which is to address the specific needs of the community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences/demands so that the plan best suits the community’s desires for recreation.

### **Trail Facility Standards**

The following guidelines are provided by the NRPA’s 2023 Agency Performance Review. The Agency provides a range containing a lower quartile, median, and upper quartile values for trail miles within a jurisdiction. For jurisdictions with a population of less than 20,000, the range is 2.0 miles (lower quartile), 4.0 miles (median), and 10.0 miles (upper quartile). According to the 2021

ACS 5-year estimates, Littlefield Township and Alanson’s combined population is 3,171. Presently, Alanson and Littlefield Township have a combined 5.0 miles of trails (Alanson: 0.4 miles, Littlefield: 4.6 miles), according to GIS information. Thus, Alanson and Littlefield Township are slightly above the median (4.0 miles) for trails for a community of their size.

### **Related Planning Initiatives**

Regional planning initiatives are significant in terms of their relevance to the provision of recreation within the Village and Township. Initiatives that could impact recreation in the Village or Township are described in further detail below.

#### **Emmet County Recreation Plan**

The Emmet County Recreation Plan was prepared and adopted in 2023. Considerable public input supported the development of the Plan. The plan also drew upon the results of a public input survey made available to all county parks users from the summer of 2021 to January

2022.

The following eight recreation goals were established in the County Recreation Plan:

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

The County Recreation Plan also featured an implementation plan for future recreation improvements within the County. While none of the listed strategies included in the County's implementation plan were specific to the Village of Alanson and/or Littlefield Township, the following plans present opportunities for partnership between all applicable entities:

- Each year work with staff members to create an annual list of goals for each of the facilities in Emmet County.
- Review/evaluate parks for necessary parking lot and roadway improvements.
- Cross promote programs with outside groups.
- Work with municipalities and Township to explore locations for a dog park.

## Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives statements were developed along with Township and Village officials to give purpose and direction to the enhancement, development and sustainment of parks and recreational resources within the Village and the Township. These goals and objectives were formulated based upon input received at the Public Input meeting, from numerous meetings with the Recreation Advisory Committee, from an understanding of existing natural resources, an analysis of accessibility, and national and regional trends.

As used herein, a goal is the purpose toward which an endeavor is directed. It is the most general level of recommendations and sets the broad framework for more specific objectives. An objective is a specific and often incremental action taken toward achieving a certain goal. Objectives are more specific than goals and are susceptible to modification due to changing economic, organizational and political forces in the community.

The following goals and objectives reflect the community's parks and recreation interests and intentions. The order of listing does not impart any indication of importance or priority.

### 1. Partnerships

#### GOAL:

Continue to coordinate with other recreation providers

and entities in order to provide the community with diverse program and facility opportunities that are cost effective and efficient.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1) Collaborate with nearby communities and entities in order to leverage resources, avoid duplication of services, and provide a wide-range of programs and facilities. This includes collaboration with:

- a) Emmet County
- b) City of Petoskey
- c) Village of Pellston
- d) City of Harbor Springs
- e) Pleasantview Township
- f) Maple River Township
- g) Burt Township
- h) Tuscarora Township
- i) Springvale Township
- j) Bear Creek Township
- k) Little Traverse Township
- l) Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- m) Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- n) Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
- o) Michigan State University Extension Service
- p) USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- q) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

2) Maintain high levels of communication and cooperation with the various service clubs, associations, and athletic organizations including:

- a) Inland Water Route Historical Society
- b) Oden Community Association
- c) Harbor Springs Snowmobile Club
- d) Alanson Beautification Center
- e) Alanson Improvement Group
- f) Alanson Women’s Club
- g) North Emmet County Little League Association
- h) Alanson Area Public Schools

i) Little Traverse Conservancy

3) Seek and develop partnerships with corporations, businesses, and the retail community in order to implement improvements, sponsor events, and/or provide facilities.

**2. Facility Development, Improvement and Expansion**

**GOAL:**

Continue to improve parks, expand trail systems, meet recreation facility needs, and provide diverse recreation opportunities for all age and ability groups. Where appropriate, seek opportunities to acquire additional park sites in support of overall recreation goals and objectives.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) Continue to improve auxiliary facilities for the Inland Water Route Historical Society’s “River Trip” project.
- 2) Morgan Park
  - a) Upgrade boat docks.
  - b) Upgrade drinking fountain.
  - c) Develop facilities to accommodate small gatherings.
  - d) Upgrade landscaping.
- 3) Develop boat dock and boardwalk edge along a portion of the Bass Street property along the Crooked River.
- 4) Explore and develop parking and access improvements at Walter Dow Roadside Park.
- 5) Explore potential scopes of development at the property associated with the Littlefield Township Fire Department.
  - a) Develop site as a passive park
  - b) Develop loop trails and connection to regional trail

- c) Prepare conceptual study exploring opportunities for group gatherings, fitness and health-oriented facilities, and play equipment for both children and adults
- 6) Determine feasibility of constructing second gymnasium at the school.
  - 7) School Ball Field Site
    - a) Upgrade fencing, field turf, infield surfacing and spectator facilities.
    - b) Study feasibility of utilizing site to accommodate additional facilities for community-wide use including additional sports fields, walking/fitness trails, a skate park, an ice skating rink, facilities for large group gatherings, and
  - 8) Study feasibility to develop the Township-owned landfill site on Moore Road as a community park and trail head, particularly for snowmobiling.
  - 9) Study feasibility of developing an ice skating rink (see #7b above).
  - 10) Study feasibility of developing a dog park for use by residents and tourists.
  - 11) Seek opportunities to acquire land for recreational purposes.
    - a) Protects environmental features
    - b) Provides public waterfront access
    - c) Conserves open space
    - d) Is adjacent to or near existing parks
    - e) Provides linkages between destinations
    - f) Could provide increased and enhanced recreation opportunities
    - g) Provides locations for parks in currently underserved areas

- 12) Develop and implement consistent signage within parks and along access roads to raise the level of awareness of park locations and facilities.

### **3. Tourism**

#### **GOAL:**

Offer the same recreational opportunities to residents and tourists alike, whether they arrive by road or by water.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) Create community awareness of county-wide and regional recreation opportunities.
- 2) Educate the public on the value of the natural world.
- 3) Promote the Village and the Township, along with Emmet County, as eco-tourism destinations.

### **4. Accessibility, Connectivity and Recreational Trails**

#### **GOAL:**

Ensure that parks and recreation facilities are accessible, provide non-motorized links to promote a walkable, connected community, and provide trails, links and trailhead facilities suitable for snowmobiling.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) Ensure barrier free accessibility to all parks and recreation facilities within the community.
  - a) Identify and encourage the use of Universal Design Standards for new and upgraded facilities.
- 2) Expand and improve connectivity within downtown area and between downtown and the riverfront, parks and schools.
  - a) Support the development of a walkable community and Safe Routes To Schools criteria.
- 3) Develop non-motorized connections to and between



all parks.

4) Work with Emmet County to develop non-motorized trail between Alanson and Camp Petosega.

5) Develop loop trails with the Village as a central hub for day hiking and recreational biking.

6) Work with surrounding jurisdictions to improve water routes along the Crooked River and within Crooked and Pickerel Lakes.

a) Seek acquisition opportunities for boat launch sites.

7) Preserve, protect and support acquisition of shorelines and streams for public access.

8) Develop bridge connection over Highway 31 at Milton Road to Ponshewaing.

9) Promote development of trailheads and trail routes for snowmobiling.

## **5. Natural Resources**

### **GOAL:**

Preserve and protect the natural resources and environmentally sensitive lands within the community while maintaining public use, access, and enjoyment.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1) Strive to protect and restore water quality, stream channels, riparian corridors, natural areas, wetlands, and unique ecosystems.

2) Increase awareness and education of local natural resources through interpretive signage.

3) Implement streambank restoration and erosion control measures utilizing soft shoreline techniques.

4) Work with public and private entities to conserve contiguous stretches of wild lands for the benefit of wildlife, water quality, and ecosystem integrity.

5) Where possible, utilize low-impact development (LID) techniques to manage storm water that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source.

6) Restore and enhance in-stream habitat.

## **6. Maintenance and Operation**

### **GOAL:**

Strive to ensure effective and efficient operation and maintenance of public parks and facilities within the Village and the Township.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1) Seek assistance from dedicated service clubs, organizations, volunteers, and associations to assist in maintaining and improving facilities.

2) Consider utilizing seasonal interns from college or university-based landscape management programs.

## **7. Funding**

### **GOAL:**

Seek alternative funding sources and partnerships to assist in implementing the goals, guidelines, and capital improvement projects in the 5-year Recreation Master Plan.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1) Develop a database of all of the community based service organizations and foundations. Research missions, funding targets, etc. Make contacts and learn how potential applications for funding are best prepared.

2) Seek to offer and maintain programs, events and facilities that will generate revenue for the community to invest back into parks and recreation.

3) Obtain assistance from alternative funding sources such as grants from private and public entities, individual and corporate donations, sponsorships, and fund-raising events.



## CHAPTER 8: ACTION PLAN

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### Capital Improvements Schedule

Potential capital improvements for this Recreation Plan have been established not only to provide a guide and foundation for decision makers, but also to enable the Village and the Township to apply for grant funding for proposed projects. The capital improvements schedule is not a fixed element and is neither all inclusive nor exclusive. The schedule reflects the results of Village and Township input, discussions with staff, and input from the parks and recreation survey and public hearing.

It is very likely that the schedule and plan will be amended at some point during its life due to unanticipated circumstances such as private donations, changing recreation trends, community opinion, and/or available funding. The schedule should be considered in close conjunction with the goals and guidelines of the plan. The following capital improvements schedule provides an outline and guide. It is difficult to predict desires, funding availability, etc. in the years to come. However, it is important to note that recreation capital projects undertaken by the Village and the Township should address the goals and guidelines previously set forth in this plan.

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Rationale</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Potential Funding Sources</u>
1	Riverfront in Alanson	Boathouse / River Trips	Continue to facilitate tourism, education opportunities	Ongoing	\$50,000	Historical Society, MDNR, Private Donations
2	Morgan Park	Upgrade Boat Docking	Existing docks deteriorating; improved access	2019	\$150,000	MDNR
3	Morgan Park	Accessibility Upgrades	Provide access that meets current standards	2019	\$35,000	MDNR, Local Matches
4	Bass Street	Swimming area or beach area	Development of swimming or beach area at River	2022	\$75,000	MDNR, Local Matches
5	Walter Dow Park	Sidewalk/ Walkway Upgrades	Accessibility and safety upgrades	2019	\$35,000	MDNR, MDOT
6	Fire Dept. Site	Passive Park/ Trail System Development	Local and regional trail connections, fitness and health-oriented facilities	2022	\$50,000	MDNR, Trail Organizations
7	Not Identified	Ice Skating Park	Provides recreation for residents and tourists - assume natural ice	2022	\$50,000	MDNR, Local Matches
8	Multiple	Non-motorized Connections To/ Between Parks	Enhance connectivity and accessibility	Ongoing	\$150,000	MDNR, Local Funding
9	Hay Lake Marina	Park Development	Projects to include dredging, new seawall, relocation of existing ramp, universal canoe/kayak access, infrastructure improvements, paved parking and restrooms	2018 - 2022	\$500,000	MDNR
10	Village Park	Accessibility Improvements	Greatly enhance use by people of all capabilities	2019	\$125,000	MDNR, Local Funding

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Rationale</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Potential Funding Sources</u>
11	Village of Alanson	Petoskey - Mackinaw City Trail Segment	Planning study to determine firm route through Village	Ongoing	\$5,000	Emmet County, MDNR, Northwest Trails Council
12	Ponshewaing	Pedestrian Crossover-Highway 31 - Feasibility Study	Accessibility and safety	2020	\$10,000	MDOT, Local Funding
13	Oden Gazebo Park	Park Improvements	Gazebo restoration, sidewalk/walkway improvements, playground and restrooms	2018	\$20,000	Local Funding
14	Woodruff Park (Roadside Park)	Armed Forces Memorial and General Site Upgrades	Accessibility and expanded functions; well improvements	2018	\$15,000	MDOT, Local Funding



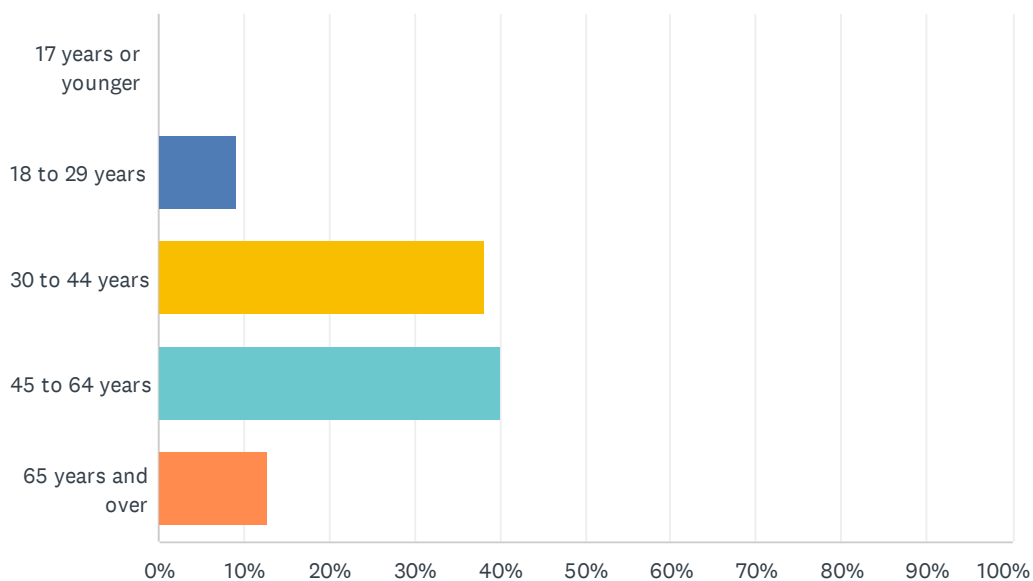
## APPENDIX A: PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

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### Q1 Please indicate the range in which your age falls.

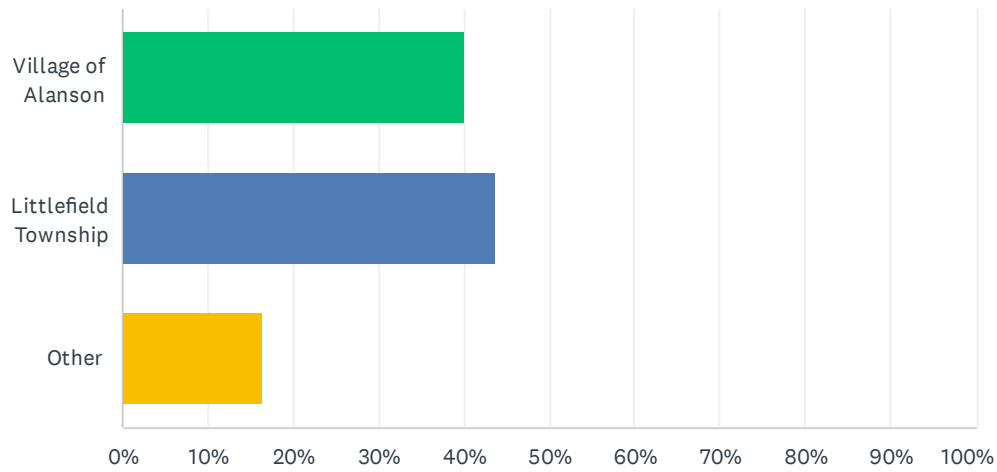
Answered: 55 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
17 years or younger	0.00%	0
18 to 29 years	9.09%	5
30 to 44 years	38.18%	21
45 to 64 years	40.00%	22
65 years and over	12.73%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>55</b>

## Q2 In which community do you live? (full-time or seasonal resident)

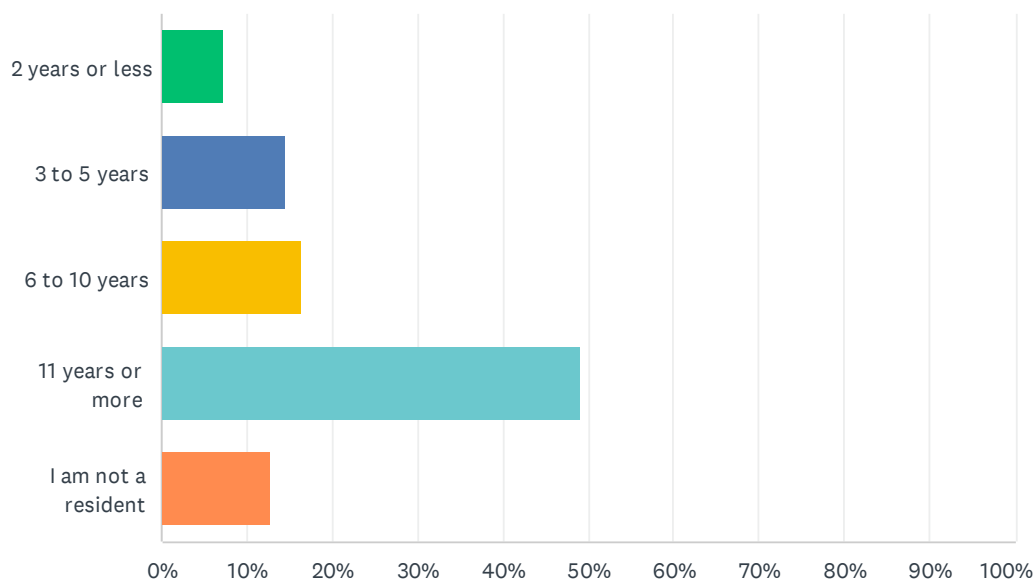
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Village of Alanson	40.00%	22
Littlefield Township	43.64%	24
Other	16.36%	9
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>55</b>

### Q3 How many years have you lived in Alanson/Littlefield Township?

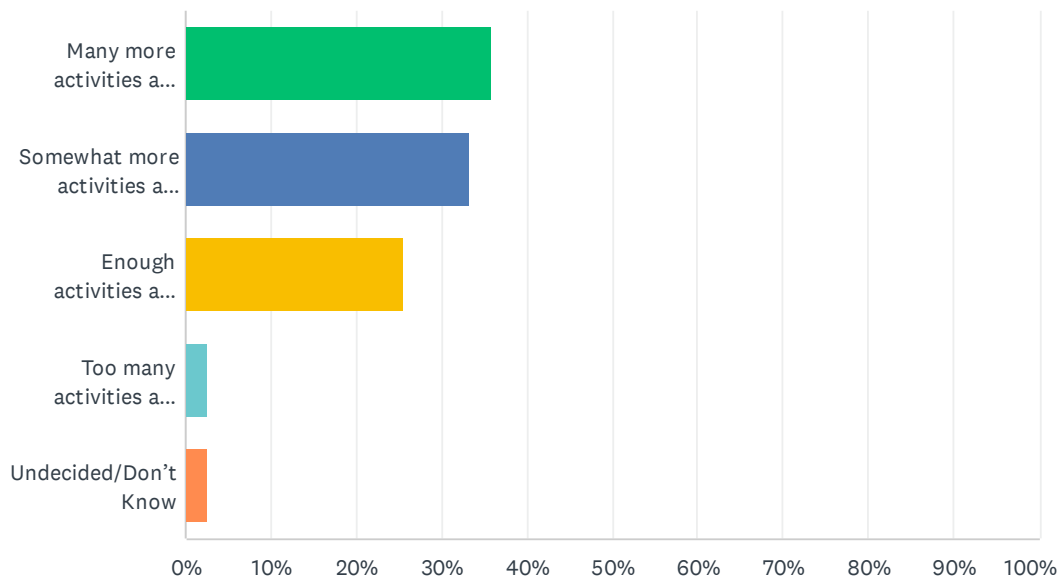
Answered: 55 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
2 years or less	7.27% 4
3 to 5 years	14.55% 8
6 to 10 years	16.36% 9
11 years or more	49.09% 27
I am not a resident	12.73% 7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>

## Q4 Thinking about the number of recreational activities and facilities provided in the community, do you believe that overall...

Answered: 39 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Many more activities and facilities are needed	35.90%	14
Somewhat more activities and facilities are needed	33.33%	13
Enough activities and facilities are available now	25.64%	10
Too many activities and facilities are available now	2.56%	1
Undecided/Don't Know	2.56%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>39</b>

#	PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EXPAND UPON YOUR ANSWER.	DATE
1	we need more events for the locals to see what Alanson is all about -- including the ones in and around our town of Alanson.	11/12/2023 12:25 PM
2	Boat tie up docks and walkways to stores. Safety- real crosswalk. A typeofRiverfest at the ballpark (gated area) parking, games, crafts, vendors and DJ -music	11/9/2023 10:25 PM
3	We have plenty of parks around the Village.	11/9/2023 3:25 PM
4	Dog park!!!	11/9/2023 12:24 PM
5	It would be nice to have more free / low cost options of things to do outside of the summer time	11/9/2023 12:20 PM
6	More fishing spots for young adults/teens on the river that isn't so close to the bar Hiking/walking trail Remove the island project that has been basically in usable or raise/fix it	11/9/2023 11:49 AM
7	Need repairs or updates to existing!	11/9/2023 11:27 AM
8	Dog park would be nice	11/9/2023 10:44 AM

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9	Dog park and small pocket parks	11/9/2023 10:38 AM
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## Q5 What programs, activities, or facilities do you think should be provided that are not currently offered? (Write up to three responses)

Answered: 27 Skipped: 28

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	community ballfields/track/little league Soccer field	11/13/2023 8:25 AM
2	I'm not sure	11/13/2023 6:43 AM
3	More activities throughout the year for all ages. Min of at least 4-6 and have them yearly so people can play on going to them ( something to look forward to be it a famiy event or age focused events with a few being for children of all ages and then maybe something for adults only... ( like a boating event of sort as in competition... yet make some money for the township or village/ DDA group-- for example a golf thing off a pontoon boat and having it judged for who hit the furthest and who had the not creative hit-- or bounced off the water the most... something along that line	11/12/2023 12:25 PM
4	Outdoor market with pavilion	11/10/2023 8:39 PM
5	More activities for kids	11/10/2023 8:00 AM
6	Free boat tie up area for tourist to visit in town with walk ways to shops. Sidewalk with real crosswalk. Fix sanctuary island with floating walkway and working ferry, And fix the road that goes to it. Year-end summer event held at the baseball field. Gated. Parking. Room for crafts, food vendors, trunk sales, DJ music, auctions and games	11/9/2023 10:25 PM
7	None	11/9/2023 6:35 PM
8	More preschool/ toddler programs	11/9/2023 3:33 PM
9	Ice rink in winter. Sledding hill. Place to walk in the winter indoors.	11/9/2023 3:25 PM
10	.	11/9/2023 2:31 PM
11	Big Brother Big Sister Boys and Girls club A coordinated rec event list for summer and winter month options.	11/9/2023 1:32 PM
12	Programs that are inclusive for all children (disabled children have little to no options). Facilities that accommodate young children and disabled children; for example, playgrounds with fenced in areas. Disabled children tend to elope (run away) and cannot use current playgrounds. This is also important for all young children in the community.	11/9/2023 12:42 PM
13	Teen center, more downtown businesses	11/9/2023 12:29 PM
14	Dog park, improved areas at river for longer usesge	11/9/2023 12:24 PM
15	While I don't have specific ideas, adult activities- would be great	11/9/2023 12:20 PM
16	Existing facilities need to be actually open and available and maintained, bathrooms need to be open and cleaned, the island needs to be accessible again, graffiti removed broken playground equipment fixed	11/9/2023 11:56 AM
17	Ball fields Trails Fishing	11/9/2023 11:49 AM
18	We would benefit from development of existing properties in the Village. We would benefit from utilizing riverside properties and by and outdoor walking track.	11/9/2023 11:47 AM
19	Ice rink, splash pad, hiking trail	11/9/2023 11:34 AM
20	Indoor and/or covered area for kids of all ages can run around and play	11/9/2023 11:28 AM
21	1. Better public bathroom access 2. Sand volleyball court? 3. Pavilion updates	11/9/2023 11:27 AM
22	River activities for families, fishing days, kayaking events, etc.	11/9/2023 11:16 AM

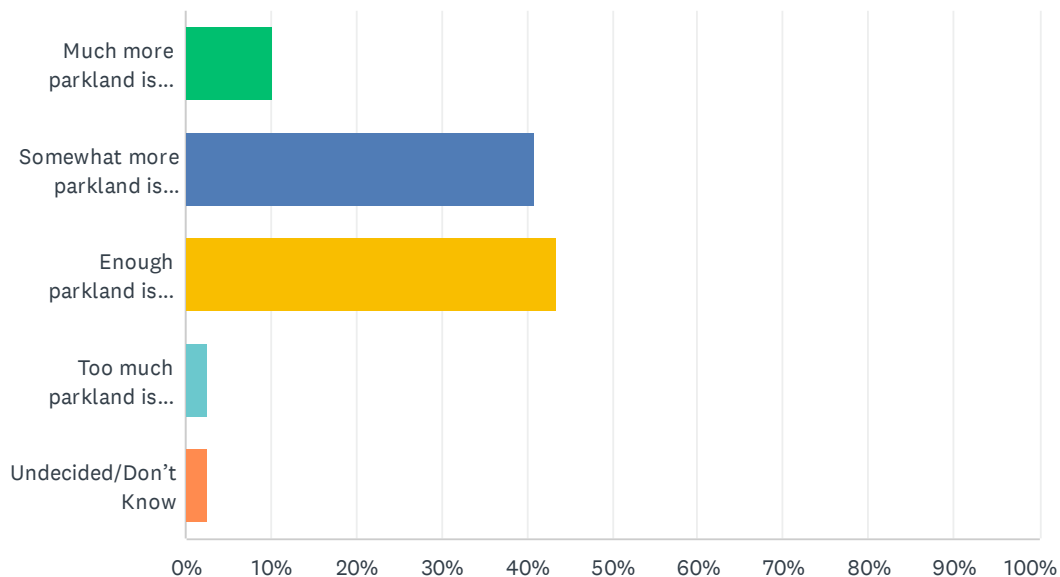


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23	Better fishing opportunities for kids. Maybe some kids only tournaments and stuff like that	11/9/2023 10:44 AM
24	More weekends activities	11/9/2023 10:40 AM
25	ice rink	11/9/2023 10:38 AM
26	Walking area other than bike trail. Clean and safe athletic area for little league and high school.	11/9/2023 10:21 AM
27	Youth soccer Little League More places to relax/explore	11/9/2023 10:19 AM

## Q6 Thinking about the amount of parks in the community, do you believe that overall...

Answered: 39 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Much more parkland is needed	10.26% 4
Somewhat more parkland is needed	41.03% 16
Enough parkland is available now	43.59% 17
Too much parkland is available now	2.56% 1
Undecided/Don't Know	2.56% 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>

#	PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EXPAND UPON YOUR ANSWER.	DATE
1	We need to update or create some things in the parks that we already have.	11/12/2023 12:25 PM
2	Wild parkland preferred	11/10/2023 8:39 PM
3	Fix maintain improve what we have. Side walks. Floating decks (sanctuary island). Roads around the areas with giant pot holes not enjoyable area to get to.	11/9/2023 10:25 PM
4	We have plenty of parks.	11/9/2023 3:25 PM
5	More accessible parks are needed. Parks that are safe and fenced in for all children are needed.	11/9/2023 12:42 PM
6	The areas that we have available could be maintained and improved to give the town residents and traveling people a better experience right now it's rough	11/9/2023 11:56 AM
7	I suggest the Village and school consider expansion of the property on Chicago street.	11/9/2023 11:47 AM
8	Small parks with benches and flowers	11/9/2023 10:38 AM



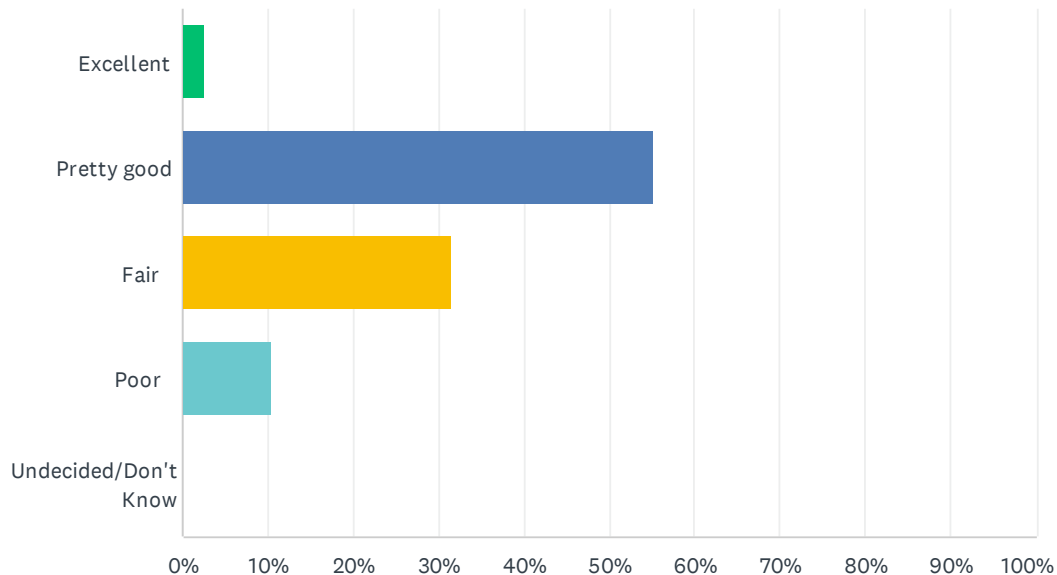
## Q7 Is there a specific location within the Village or Township where you think more parkland should be set aside and developed? (Write up to three responses)

Answered: 26 Skipped: 29

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Something by the school finish Admiral's point	11/13/2023 8:25 AM
2	I'm unsure	11/13/2023 6:43 AM
3	above comment..	11/12/2023 12:25 PM
4	Forested areas for public access, minimal development	11/10/2023 8:39 PM
5	Not really	11/10/2023 8:00 AM
6	Baseball field Sanctuary island Barnwell road at least the in city part. Sidewalks or a sidewalkway. It's 35 mpg but that's not how people drive. Enjoyable wild flowers. But not lighted at night and jump in the grass if a cars coming	11/9/2023 10:25 PM
7	None	11/9/2023 6:35 PM
8	Somewhere North of 131 so kids don't have to cross the busy highway	11/9/2023 3:33 PM
9	No	11/9/2023 3:31 PM
10	NO	11/9/2023 3:25 PM
11	No	11/9/2023 2:31 PM
12	NA	11/9/2023 1:32 PM
13	After construction, the area beside DQ could be used for an accessible park.	11/9/2023 12:42 PM
14	We have enough parks	11/9/2023 12:29 PM
15	Littlefield	11/9/2023 12:24 PM
16	Near the swing bridge in the park by the docks and the swimming area as well as our parks need to be maintained, the empty lot by the swing bridge would make a great park and bring in boat traffic if bathrooms were available	11/9/2023 11:56 AM
17	On the river, in the woods (trails), easy access for the school	11/9/2023 11:49 AM
18	1. Near the river; 2. The athletic fields on Chicago st.	11/9/2023 11:47 AM
19	Can't think of one.	11/9/2023 11:34 AM
20	Not necessarily	11/9/2023 11:28 AM
21	No.	11/9/2023 11:27 AM
22	Near the school	11/9/2023 11:16 AM
23	The empty lot across from the Spring Bridge could be developed as a Village Park and a concession could be contracted out to expenses	11/9/2023 10:44 AM
24	River front or Mcfee Creek	11/9/2023 10:38 AM
25	Ball fields need some work.	11/9/2023 10:21 AM
26	school ball fields downtown park	11/9/2023 10:19 AM

### Q8 Overall, how would you rate the job being done of providing recreational programs and facilities in the community?

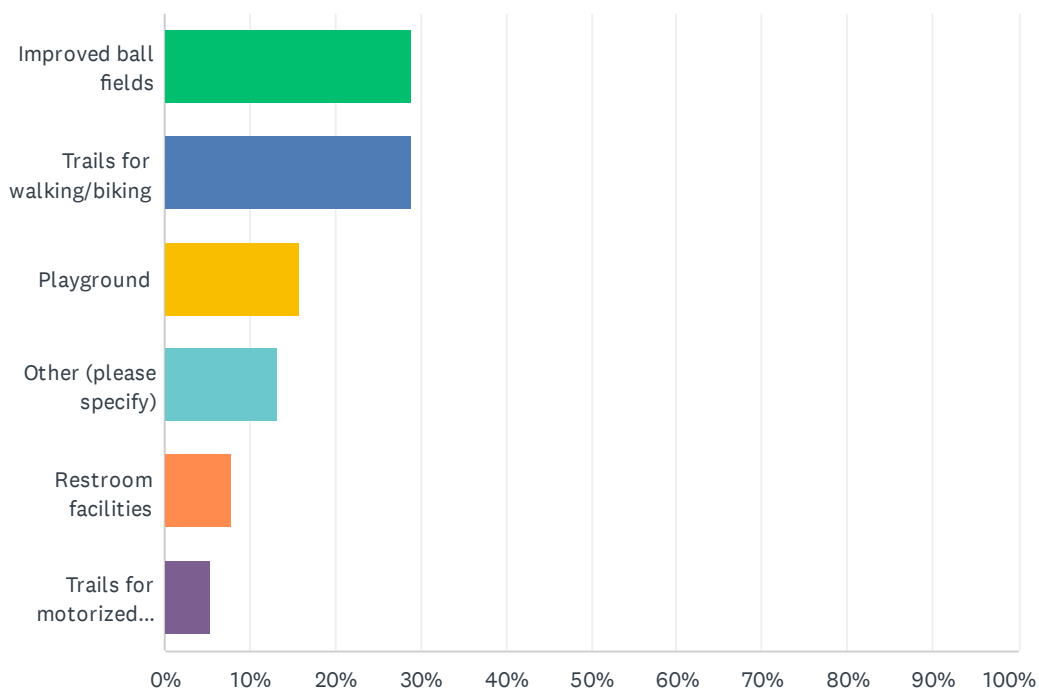
Answered: 38 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	2.63%	1
Pretty good	55.26%	21
Fair	31.58%	12
Poor	10.53%	4
Undecided/Don't Know	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>38</b>

## Q9 How would you like to see school-owned property developed?

Answered: 38 Skipped: 17



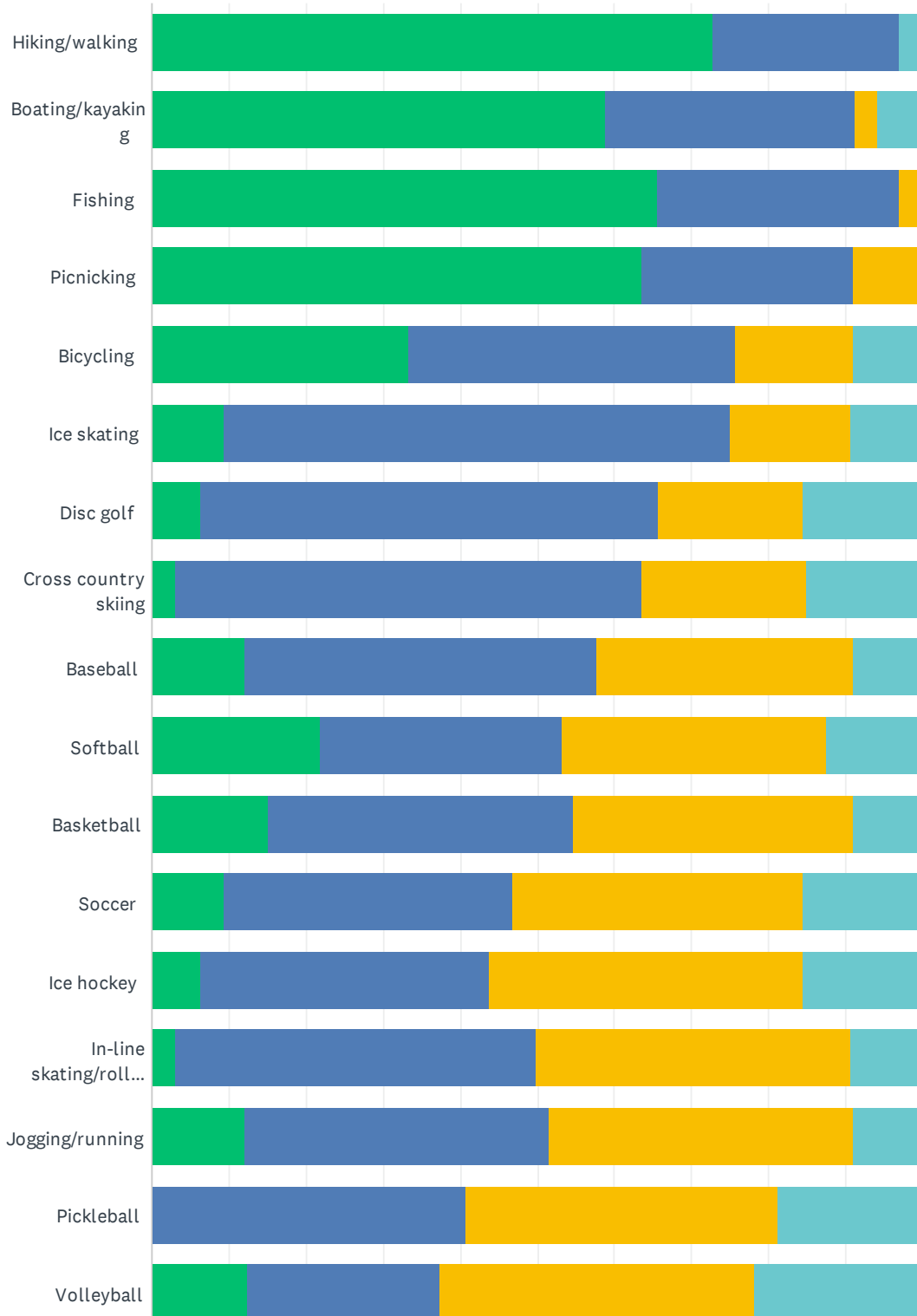
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improved ball fields	28.95%	11
Trails for walking/biking	28.95%	11
Playground	15.79%	6
Other (please specify)	13.16%	5
Restroom facilities	7.89%	3
Trails for motorized vehicles (snowmobiles, dirt bikes, etc)	5.26%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>38</b>

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	all the above	11/13/2023 8:25 AM
2	Sidewalks and lights in city limits	11/9/2023 10:25 PM
3	Use as open space for activities, such as farmer market movies get together's ice rink give it some time before you jump into spending tons of money	11/9/2023 3:47 PM
4	Possibly outdoor basketball court could serve multipurpose for tennis, pickleball	11/9/2023 1:32 PM
5	All of thee above except motorized trails	11/9/2023 10:21 AM

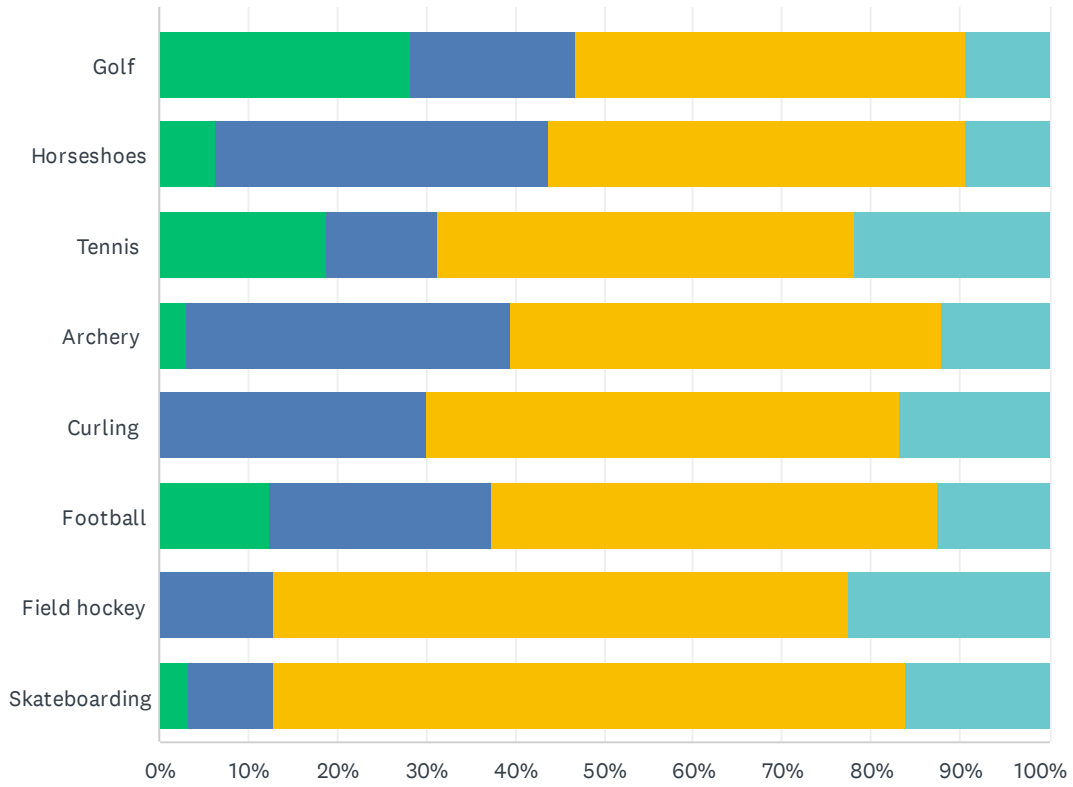


Q10 The following list includes several specific types of sport-related recreational facilities. For each facility listed, please mark the answer that best represents your opinion related to the amount of each facility available.

Answered: 34 Skipped: 21



# Alanson/Littlefield Township 2023-2027 Recreation Plan Survey



■ Currently p... 
 ■ Future inte... 
 ■ Not interes... 
 ■ Undecided/...

Alanson/Littlefield Township 2023-2027 Recreation Plan Survey

	CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE	FUTURE INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING	NOT INTERESTED	UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Hiking/walking	72.73% 24	24.24% 8	0.00% 0	3.03% 1	33
Boating/kayaking	58.82% 20	32.35% 11	2.94% 1	5.88% 2	34
Fishing	65.63% 21	31.25% 10	3.13% 1	0.00% 0	32
Picnicking	63.64% 21	27.27% 9	9.09% 3	0.00% 0	33
Bicycling	33.33% 11	42.42% 14	15.15% 5	9.09% 3	33
Ice skating	9.38% 3	65.63% 21	15.63% 5	9.38% 3	32
Disc golf	6.25% 2	59.38% 19	18.75% 6	15.63% 5	32
Cross country skiing	3.03% 1	60.61% 20	21.21% 7	15.15% 5	33
Baseball	12.12% 4	45.45% 15	33.33% 11	9.09% 3	33
Softball	21.88% 7	31.25% 10	34.38% 11	12.50% 4	32
Basketball	15.15% 5	39.39% 13	36.36% 12	9.09% 3	33
Soccer	9.38% 3	37.50% 12	37.50% 12	15.63% 5	32
Ice hockey	6.25% 2	37.50% 12	40.63% 13	15.63% 5	32
In-line skating/rollerblading	3.13% 1	46.88% 15	40.63% 13	9.38% 3	32
Jogging/running	12.12% 4	39.39% 13	39.39% 13	9.09% 3	33
Pickleball	0.00% 0	40.63% 13	40.63% 13	18.75% 6	32
Volleyball	12.50% 4	25.00% 8	40.63% 13	21.88% 7	32
Golf	28.13% 9	18.75% 6	43.75% 14	9.38% 3	32
Horseshoes	6.25% 2	37.50% 12	46.88% 15	9.38% 3	32
Tennis	18.75% 6	12.50% 4	46.88% 15	21.88% 7	32
Archery	3.03% 1	36.36% 12	48.48% 16	12.12% 4	33
Curling	0.00% 0	30.00% 9	53.33% 16	16.67% 5	30
Football	12.50% 4	25.00% 8	50.00% 16	12.50% 4	32

Alanson/Littlefield Township 2023-2027 Recreation Plan Survey

Field hockey	0.00% 0	12.90% 4	64.52% 20	22.58% 7	31
Skateboarding	3.23% 1	9.68% 3	70.97% 22	16.13% 5	31

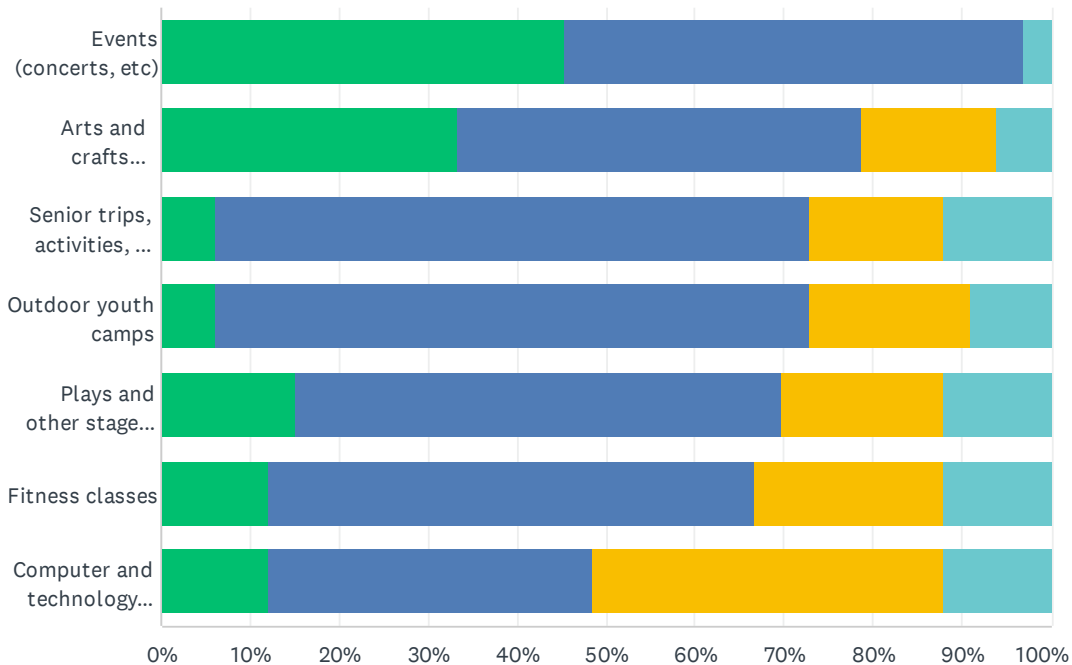
**Q11 Are there any other recreational facilities that were not listed that you or other members of your family would be interested in now or in the future? (Write up to three facilities)**

Answered: 22 Skipped: 33

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	gaga ball larger playground	11/13/2023 8:28 AM
2	Not sure	11/13/2023 6:47 AM
3	can't think of one	11/12/2023 12:32 PM
4	Rock climbing	11/10/2023 8:44 PM
5	No	11/10/2023 8:05 AM
6	Nope	11/9/2023 6:42 PM
7	Sporting clays	11/9/2023 3:56 PM
8	None	11/9/2023 3:38 PM
9	Place to walk indoors in the winter.	11/9/2023 3:29 PM
10	No	11/9/2023 2:40 PM
11	Gymnastics/indoor playground	11/9/2023 12:49 PM
12	Dog park!!!	11/9/2023 12:28 PM
13	Ice skating, skate park more or open and improved restroom facilities	11/9/2023 12:02 PM
14	no	11/9/2023 12:00 PM
15	None	11/9/2023 11:53 AM
16	Little League baseball	11/9/2023 11:51 AM
17	No	11/9/2023 11:37 AM
18	Indoor and/or covered area for kids of all ages to run and play	11/9/2023 11:37 AM
19	Regular tennis	11/9/2023 11:31 AM
20	No	11/9/2023 11:27 AM
21	Concession facilities along the river or better access from the river to the downtown area.	11/9/2023 10:49 AM
22	None	11/9/2023 10:26 AM

### Q12 The following is a list of non-sport recreational activities. Please mark the answer that most accurately describes you and/or your family's participation.

Answered: 33 Skipped: 22



■ Currently p... 
 ■ Future inte... 
 ■ Not interes... 
 ■ Undecided/...

	CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE	FUTURE INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING	NOT INTERESTED	UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Events (concerts, etc)	45.45% 15	51.52% 17	0.00% 0	3.03% 1	33
Arts and crafts classes/activities	33.33% 11	45.45% 15	15.15% 5	6.06% 2	33
Senior trips, activities, and events	6.06% 2	66.67% 22	15.15% 5	12.12% 4	33
Outdoor youth camps	6.06% 2	66.67% 22	18.18% 6	9.09% 3	33
Plays and other stage events	15.15% 5	54.55% 18	18.18% 6	12.12% 4	33
Fitness classes	12.12% 4	54.55% 18	21.21% 7	12.12% 4	33
Computer and technology classes	12.12% 4	36.36% 12	39.39% 13	12.12% 4	33

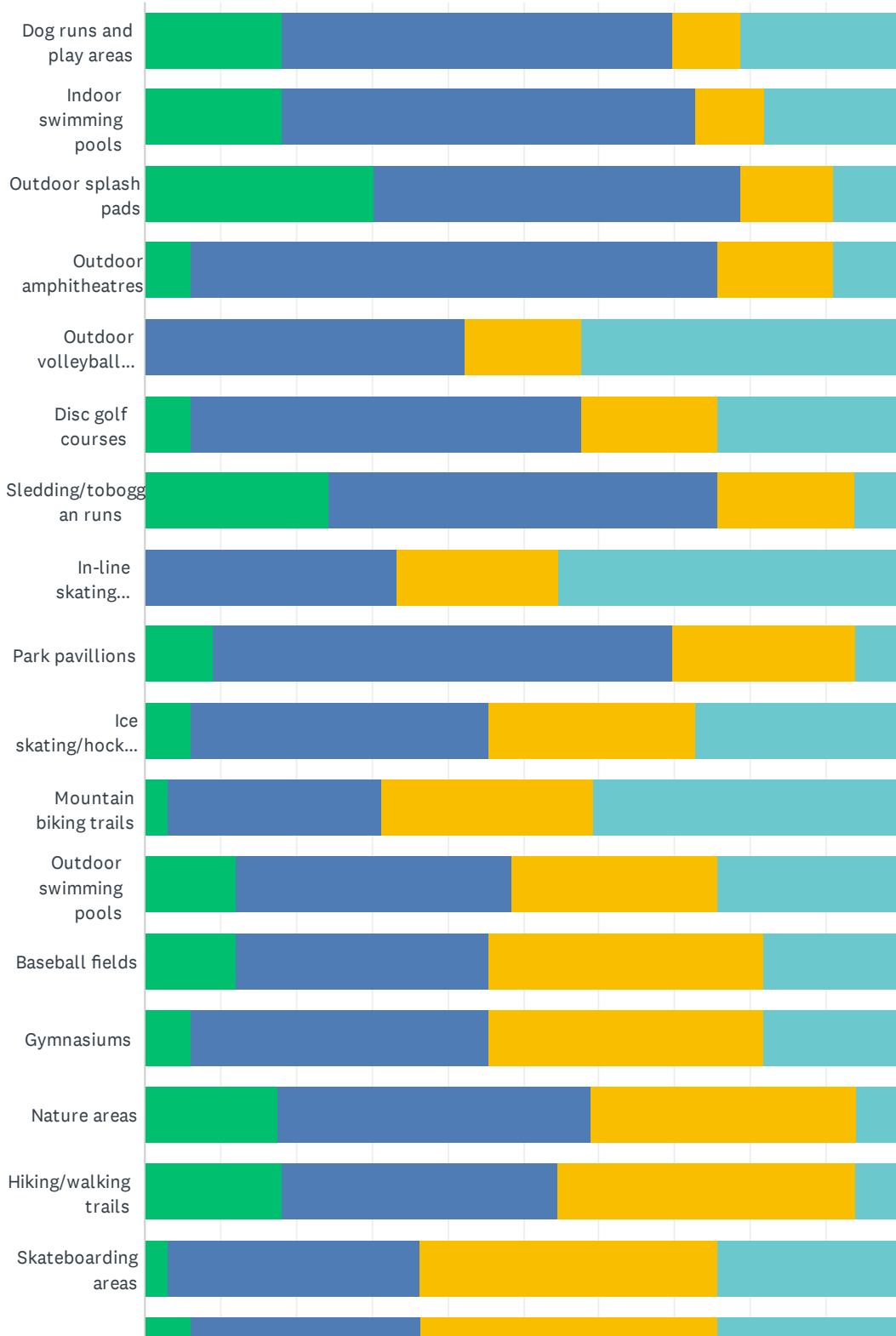
**Q13 Are there any other non-sport recreational activities that were notlisted that you or other members of your family would be interested innow or in the future? (Write up to three activities)**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 40

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Not sure	11/13/2023 6:47 AM
2	can't think of one off hand	11/12/2023 12:32 PM
3	No	11/10/2023 8:05 AM
4	A road that doesn't bottom out the car trying to get home. Stop patching it. Save some money and put a culvert on arnoch and aloha drive. You've patched it 3 times this year. No exaggeration. Why spend money in recreation fix what we have.	11/9/2023 10:35 PM
5	None	11/9/2023 6:42 PM
6	None	11/9/2023 3:38 PM
7	No	11/9/2023 2:40 PM
8	Sledding Sensory events/activities	11/9/2023 12:49 PM
9	None	11/9/2023 11:53 AM
10	No	11/9/2023 11:37 AM
11	No	11/9/2023 11:37 AM
12	No	11/9/2023 11:31 AM
13	Community history walks would be fun	11/9/2023 11:27 AM
14	Dog walking, dog training	11/9/2023 10:49 AM
15	Public woodworking shop	11/9/2023 10:44 AM

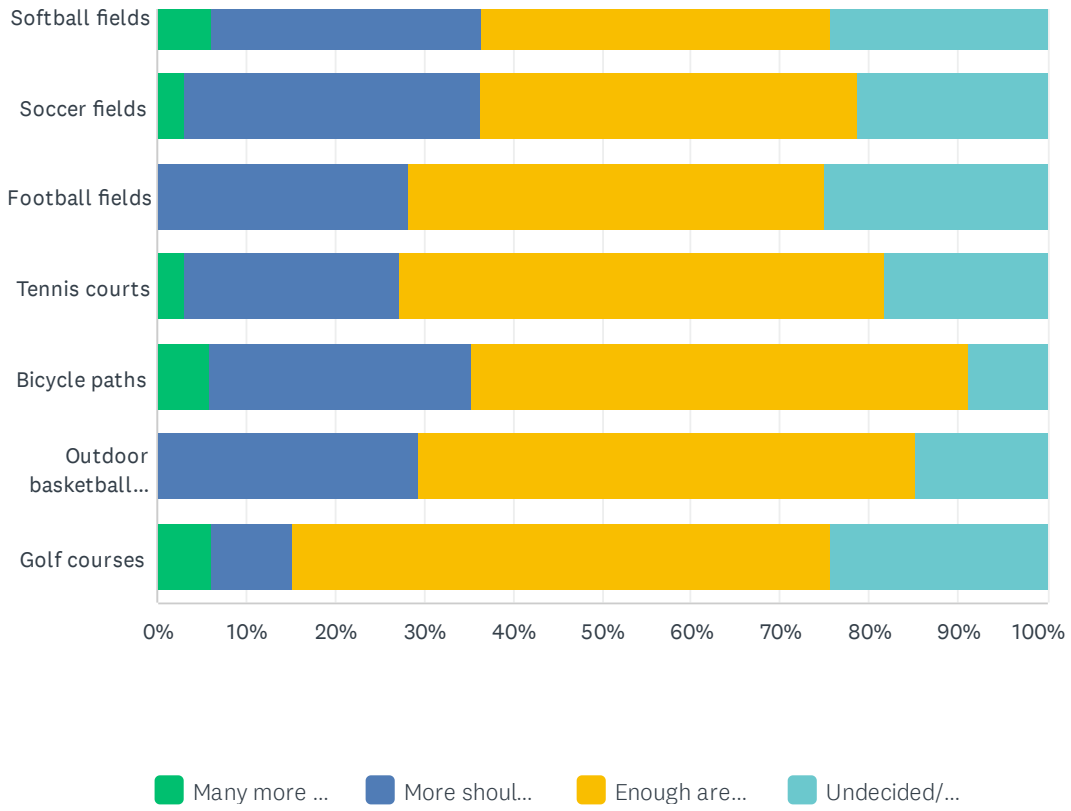
**Q14** The following list includes several specific types of recreational facilities. For each facility listed, please mark the answer that best represents your opinion related to the amount of each facility available.

Answered: 34 Skipped: 21





# Alanson/Littlefield Township 2023-2027 Recreation Plan Survey



Alanson/Littlefield Township 2023-2027 Recreation Plan Survey

	MANY MORE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED	MORE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED	ENOUGH ARE AVAILABLE NOW	UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Dog runs and play areas	18.18% 6	51.52% 17	9.09% 3	21.21% 7	33
Indoor swimming pools	18.18% 6	54.55% 18	9.09% 3	18.18% 6	33
Outdoor splash pads	30.30% 10	48.48% 16	12.12% 4	9.09% 3	33
Outdoor amphitheatres	6.06% 2	69.70% 23	15.15% 5	9.09% 3	33
Outdoor volleyball courts	0.00% 0	42.42% 14	15.15% 5	42.42% 14	33
Disc golf courses	6.06% 2	51.52% 17	18.18% 6	24.24% 8	33
Sledding/toboggan runs	24.24% 8	51.52% 17	18.18% 6	6.06% 2	33
In-line skating facilities	0.00% 0	33.33% 11	21.21% 7	45.45% 15	33
Park pavillions	9.09% 3	60.61% 20	24.24% 8	6.06% 2	33
Ice skating/hockey facilities	6.06% 2	39.39% 13	27.27% 9	27.27% 9	33
Mountain biking trails	3.13% 1	28.13% 9	28.13% 9	40.63% 13	32
Outdoor swimming pools	12.12% 4	36.36% 12	27.27% 9	24.24% 8	33
Baseball fields	12.12% 4	33.33% 11	36.36% 12	18.18% 6	33
Gymnasiums	6.06% 2	39.39% 13	36.36% 12	18.18% 6	33
Nature areas	17.65% 6	41.18% 14	35.29% 12	5.88% 2	34
Hiking/walking trails	18.18% 6	36.36% 12	39.39% 13	6.06% 2	33
Skateboarding areas	3.03% 1	33.33% 11	39.39% 13	24.24% 8	33
Softball fields	6.06% 2	30.30% 10	39.39% 13	24.24% 8	33
Soccer fields	3.03% 1	33.33% 11	42.42% 14	21.21% 7	33
Football fields	0.00% 0	28.13% 9	46.88% 15	25.00% 8	32
Tennis courts	3.03% 1	24.24% 8	54.55% 18	18.18% 6	33
Bicycle paths	5.88% 2	29.41% 10	55.88% 19	8.82% 3	34
Outdoor basketball	0.00%	29.41%	55.88%	14.71%	

Alanson/Littlefield Township 2023-2027 Recreation Plan Survey

courts	0	10	19	5	34
Golf courses	6.06%	9.09%	60.61%	24.24%	
	2	3	20	8	33

**Q15 Are there any other recreational facilities for either physical or nonsportrecreation that were not listed that you or other members of yourfamily would be interested in now or in the future? (Write up to threefacilities)**

Answered: 14 Skipped: 41

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Not sure	11/13/2023 6:47 AM
2	Pickleball court indoor and outdoor courts	11/12/2023 12:32 PM
3	No	11/10/2023 8:05 AM
4	No	11/9/2023 6:42 PM
5	Gunrange	11/9/2023 3:56 PM
6	None	11/9/2023 3:38 PM
7	No	11/9/2023 2:40 PM
8	Indoor community play center/Rec center.	11/9/2023 12:49 PM
9	No	11/9/2023 11:53 AM
10	No	11/9/2023 11:37 AM
11	No	11/9/2023 11:37 AM
12	No	11/9/2023 11:31 AM
13	River swimming areas	11/9/2023 11:27 AM
14	Place for the kids to go in the winter time and watch movies other than movies in the park in the summer.	11/9/2023 10:49 AM



## APPENDIX B: ADOPTION AND NOTIFICATION DOCUMENTATION

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# Village of Alanson

P.O. Box 425 . Alanson, MI 49706 . 231-548-5431

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 I, Jennifer Murphy, Clerk-Treasurer for the Village of Alanson posted publicly, the notice of Public Hearing and draft plan review period for the Village of Alanson Notice of Public Hearing Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027.

Notice was posted publicly on our Village Facebook page on 12/8/2023.

Our draft plan is also currently posted to our Village website as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Jennifer Murphy  
Village of Alanson  
Clerk-Treasurer/ Sewer Biller  
231.373.6412

## **Littlefield Township Public Notice**

### **Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027 Notice of Draft Plan Availability for Review**

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the draft Alanson/Littlefield Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 is available for public review at the Littlefield-Alanson Community Building, located at 7631 US-31, Alanson, MI 49706, as well as on the Township website at [www.littlefieldtwp.org](http://www.littlefieldtwp.org).

A Parks and Recreation Plan assists the Township in identifying recreation needs. The plan will serve as a guide to document priorities for improvements. When approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the plan qualifies the Township for recreation grants, which are administered through the MDNR. The proposed plan includes a community description, an overview of the administrative structure of the Township, an inventory of existing facilities, a recreation needs analysis, goals and objectives, and an action program for the next five years.

A public hearing will be held by the Township Board on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at the Littlefield-Alanson Community Building, located at the above noted address. All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the draft Parks and Recreation Plan. Written comments concerning the draft Parks and Recreation Plan may be submitted to the Township, to the attention of the Township Clerk, up to the time of the public hearing.

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R	S	R	A	S	R	P		

### ATTACHMENT DETAILS



Notice-of-30-Day-Draft-Plan-Availability.pdf  
December 6, 2023  
108 KB  
[Delete Permanently](#)

URL <https://www.littlefieldtwp.org>,

Title Notice of 30 Day Draft Plan A

Caption

Description

### ATTACHMENT DISPLAY SETTINGS

Link To Media File

<https://www.littlefieldtwp.org>

INSERTED ON LITTLEFIELD  
TOWNSHIP WEBSITE ON  
12.6.23 BY:  
*Domini Hen*  
SUPERVISOR

1 selected  
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**ALANSON/LITTLEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN 2023-2027**

Village of Alanson  
Emmet County, Michigan

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

WHEREAS, the Village of Alanson began the process of developing a recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Village of Alanson were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to complete an opinion survey related to parks and recreation needs and opportunities, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 8, 2024 at the Littlefield-Alanson Community Building to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, and

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

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Alanson Village Council voted to adopt said parks and recreation plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Alanson Village Council hereby adopts the Alanson/Littlefield Township Parks and Recreation Plan, 2023-2027.

Yeas: 4    Nays: 0    Absent: 1

I, Jennifer Murphy, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Alanson Village Council at a regular meeting thereof held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

Jennifer Murphy  
signature

**ALANSON/LITTLEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN 2023-2027  
RESOLUTION # 1**

Littlefield Township  
Emmet County, Michigan

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

**WHEREAS**, Littlefield Township began the process of developing a recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

**WHEREAS**, residents of Littlefield Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to complete an opinion survey related to parks and recreation needs and opportunities, and

**WHEREAS**, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on January 8, 2024, at the Littlefield-Alanson Community Building to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, and

**WHEREAS**, Littlefield Township has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Littlefield Township, and

**WHEREAS**, after the public hearing, the Littlefield Township Board voted to adopt said parks and recreation plan.

**The foregoing resolution** offered by Board Member Damien Henning-Supervisor and supported by Board Member Sondra Festerling-Clerk.

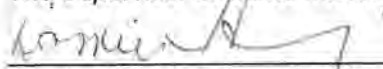
**Upon roll call vote**, the vote was as follows:

**FOR:** Damien Henning-Supervisor, Sondra Festerling-Clerk, Kim Shomin-Treasurer

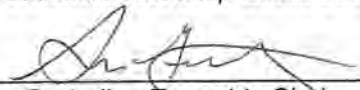
**AGAINST:** None

**ABSENT:** Katie Derrohn-Trustee, Dean Morford-Trustee

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Damien Henning-Township Supervisor

I, Sondra Festerling-Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Littlefield Township Board at a special meeting thereof held on the 8th day of January 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sondra Festerling-Township Clerk

**Littlefield Township Joint Public Hearing for the  
Village of Alanson/Littlefield Township Recreation Plan 2023-2027  
Date: January 8, 2024      Time: 5:30 PM**

Public Hearing called to order by Damien Henning, Supervisor. Present: Kim Shomin, Treasurer, and Sondra Festerling, Clerk. Absent: Katie Derrohn, Trustee and Dean Morford, Trustee. The Public Hearing was also called to Order by the Village of Alanson. Present: Greg Babcock, President, Mark Fairbairn, Trustee, Doug Larson, Trustee, Josh Larson, Trustee, Jennifer Murphy, Clerk/Treasurer and Craig Wilson, Deputy Clerk. Absent: Scott Lavta, Trustee. Guests: Gail Greenwell, David Stepanovich, Kim Morgan, Parker Fairbairn, Geri Szymanski, Deanna Yockey, and Jason Losey.

An agenda was drafted by the Village of Alanson Clerk and was approved by the Village of Alanson Board. For the Township, D. Henning made the **Motion** to approve the agenda as provided by the Village of Alanson. Second by S. Festerling, Carried 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent.

At 5:32 the floor was open to the public for any comments or questions. One question was received in regards to the upkeep of the parks within the Village of Alanson and that in reading over the Recreation Plan it was felt that the parks have not been kept up like it was noted in the document. They have hopes that the park will be kept up better in the future. The Village responded that they did contact the company that was doing the work and that they will be back in the Spring to fix the job. D. Henning asked if there were any questions in regards to the Township parks, and there were none.

There were no other Public Comments. The hearing was held open in case additional guests were to arrive with comments/questions. During the waiting period, D. Henning reported that Greg and him were hoping that Chip Smith from Wade Trim would be able to be in attendance. Due to the reported bad weather and realizing he would be traveling from Detroit instead of Gaylord, it was best that he did not make the trip up. The waiting time also gave a few minutes for the Village of Alanson to briefly show the plan they have been working on for the sports area up by Alanson Schools. They are applying for a grant to help put the plan into motion. The Village also stated more information on the plan will be presented at their 6PM Village of Alanson Regular Meeting.

5:47PM the Village of Alanson made the motion to close the Village portion of the Public Hearing. D. Henning made the **Motion to close** the Public Hearing for the 2023-2027 Joint Recreational Plan on behalf of Littlefield Township. Second by S. Festerling, Carried 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent.

The Resolution for the Alanson/Littlefield Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027 was provided to both boards for review before the Public Hearing. Damien Henning, Supervisor, offered the **Resolution to Adopt the Alanson/Littlefield Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027** to the Township Board. Supported by Sondra Festerling, Clerk. Roll Call Vote: Kim Shomin, Treasurer -Yes, Damien Henning, Supervisor -Yes, and Sondra Festerling, Clerk – Yes. Absent: Katie Derrohn and Dean Morford, Trustees. **The Resolution #1 of 2024 was declared Adopted.** The Village did the same by Adopting their Resolution.

D. Henning made the **Motion to Adjourn** at 5:53PM. Second by S. Festerling, Carried 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent. Village of Alanson did the same.

Sondra Festerling, Littlefield Township Clerk

# The Village of Alanson

## Minutes

Village of Alanson

7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706

## Public Hearing Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027

January 8th, 2024

**Call to Order:** Village portion of meeting called to order by Village President Greg Babcock at 5:30 pm.

**Village Council Present:** Trustee Mark Fairbairn, Trustee Doug Larson, Trustee Josh Larson, President Greg Babcock. Trustee Scott Latva, absent.

**Approval of Agenda:** *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to accept the public hearing agenda as written for January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Josh Laron. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

**Open Public Hearing:** *Motion* by President Babcock to open the Public Hearing at 5:32 pm. Seconded by Trustee Doug Larson. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Resident Kim Morgan questioned the upkeep of the parks. Morgan stated that she had reviewed the Rec Plan. Morgan stated that the upkeep of the parks hasn't been done to the standards as noted in the Rec Plan document, specifically the flower beds in Morgan Park. Trustee Doug Larson stated that Morgan Park is a "candidate for restoration on the list." President Babcock commented that the company Bee Friendly plans return this Spring.

Littlefield Township Clerk Sondra Festerling requested further information regarding the Ballpark Project. President Babcock reported that the Ballpark Project would be discussed at the next meeting (Village of Alanson Council meeting at 6:00pm, January 8th). Trustee Doug Larson briefly explained the proposed project highlighting that project will include existing infrastructure and future expansion plans that include a track, soccer fields, and a little league field.

Littlefield Township Supervisor inquired if the Village was going to bear the maintenance of the Ballfield. President Greg Babcock advised that the school would have a use agreement in place similar to other local municipalities.

Resident Deanna Yockey questioned the Ballpark Project regarding vandalism and grant funding. Discussion ensued.

**Close Public Hearing:** *Motion* by President Greg Babcock to close the Public Hearing at 5:47 pm. Seconded by Trustee Doug Larson. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

**Approval of Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027:** *Motion* by President Babcock to adopt the Alanson/Littlefield Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027. Seconded by Trustee Doug Larson- Roll Call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Yes, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion Carried.

**Adjournment:** *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.



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**Order Confirmation**

Not an Invoice

Account Number:	545126
Customer Name:	Littlefield Township
Customer Address:	Littlefield Township P.O. Box 188 ALANSON MI 49706
Contact Name:	Festerling
Contact Phone:	
Contact Email:	
PO Number:	

Date:	12/18/2023
Order Number:	9644405
Prepayment Amount:	\$ 0.00

Column Count:	3.0000
Line Count:	25.0000
Height in Inches:	0.0000

Print

Product	#Insertions	Start - End	Category
PET Petoskey News-Review	1	12/20/2023 - 12/20/2023	Public Notices
PET petoskeynews.com	1	12/20/2023 - 12/20/2023	Public Notices

Order Confirmation Amount	\$151.00
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**Littlefield Township Notice of Public Hearing  
Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Littlefield Township Board on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at the Littlefield-Alanson Community Building, located at 7631 US-31, Alanson, MI 49706. The public hearing is being held to receive comments from citizens and consider the adoption of the draft Alanson/Littlefield Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027.

A Parks and Recreation Plan assists the Township in identifying recreation needs. The plan will serve as a guide to document priorities for improvements. When approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the plan qualifies the Township for recreation grants, which are administered through the MDNR. The proposed plan includes a community description, an overview of the administrative structure of the Township, an inventory of existing facilities, a recreation needs analysis, goals and objectives, and an action program for the next five years.

A copy of the draft Alanson/Littlefield Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2023-2027 is available for public review at the Littlefield-Alanson Community Building, located at the above noted address, as well as on the Township website at [www.littlefieldtwp.org](http://www.littlefieldtwp.org).

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the draft Parks and Recreation Plan. Written comments concerning the draft Parks and Recreation Plan may be submitted to the Township, to the attention of the Township Clerk, up to the time of the public hearing.

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2023-	Special-	Not ice-	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular
Regular	News	News	Not ice-	2023-	Not ice-	Not ice-	December	Board-
Joint-	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	Regular	Regular	Not ice-
Not ice-	Not ice-	Not ice-	Not ice-	AGEND	AGEND	Not ice-	146. Pro	ECF-
Assess	Land-	Land-	ECF-	Assess	Littfield	LEAs	Annual-	Regular
Regular	Special-	Regular	Special-	Regular	Regular	Regular	AGEND	Slip-
Slip-	Slip-	Slip-	Slip-	Rules-	AGEND	149. Blig	Budget-	AGEND
AGEND	Board-	Email-	Email-	News	News	News	News	Littfield
Littfield	LT-Ne	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	Regular	Regular	Regular
Special-	Regular	Regular	Special-	Annual-	Regular	Regular	Regular	Special-
Board-	Joint-	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	Not ice-
Not ice-	Board-	Not ice-	Not ice-	Board-	Not ice-	Rules-	Slip-	Slip-
Public-	Regular	Regular	Regular	Public-	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND
AGEND	AGEND	Not ice-	Not ice-	AGEND	Special-	Public-	Public-	Regular
Regular	148. Fire	Not ice-	148. Fire	147. Cos	Not ice-	AGEND	Special-	Special-
News	Regular	Regular	Regular	AGEND	Not ice-	Not ice-	Not ice-	Not ice-
Special-	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	AGEND	Regular	Regular	Public-
Regular	Special-	Regular	Annual-	Special-	Regular	Public-		

ATTACHMENT DETAILS



Notice-of-Public-Hearing-01-08-24.pdf  
 December 6, 2023  
 108 KB  
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URL <https://www.littlefieldtwp.org>

Title Notice of Public Hearing 01-0

Caption

Description

ATTACHMENT DISPLAY SETTINGS

Link To Media File

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