

THE

Ford River Township



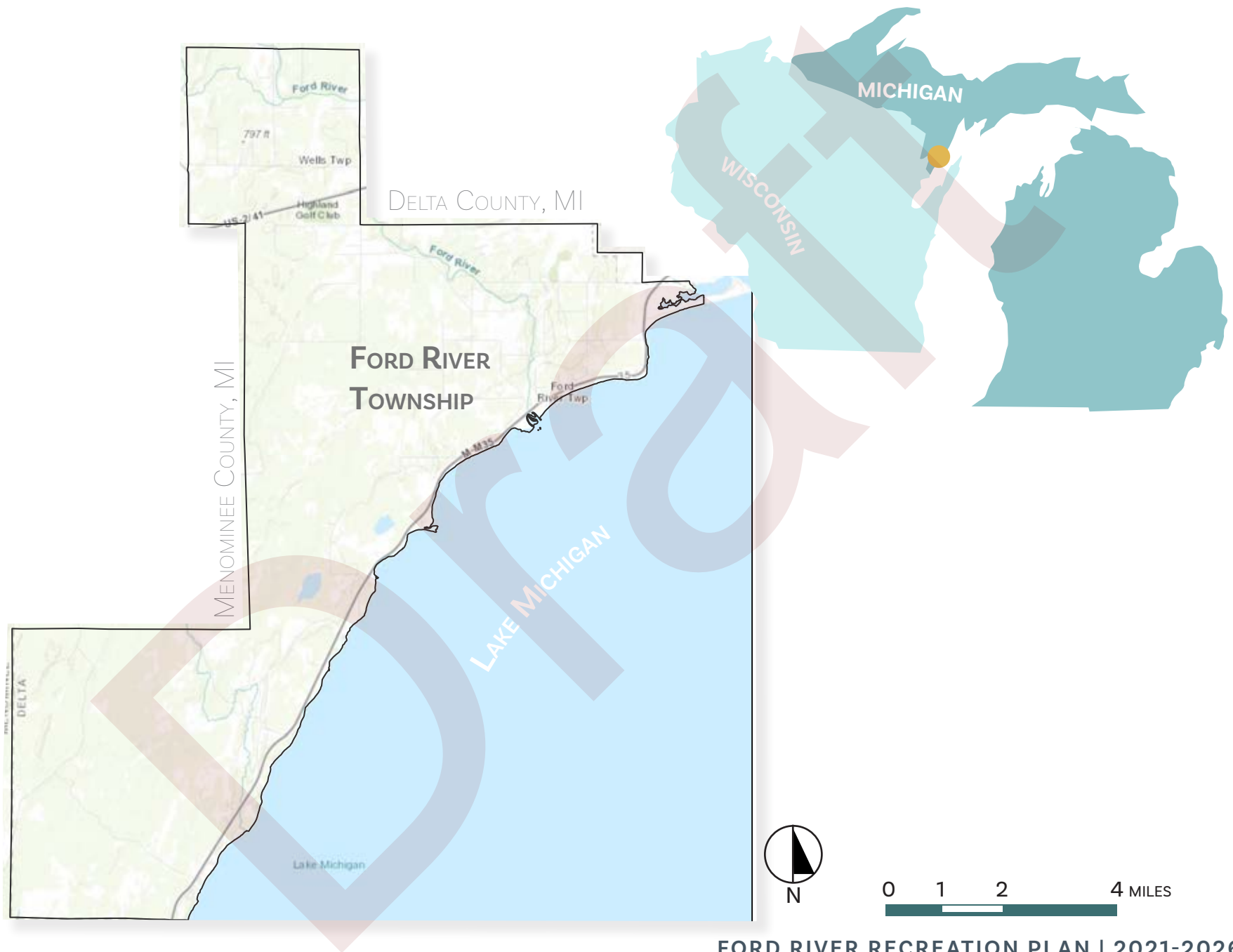
RECREATION PLAN | 2021-2026



Ford River Township

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

Draft



Recreation Plan Outline

1 INTRODUCTION | A VISION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION IN THE FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP

2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION | DESCRIPTION, DEMOGRAPHICS + DATA

3 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT | LANDSCAPE FEATURES, SOILS, VEGETATION, + WILDLIFE

4 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

5 RECREATION INVENTORY

6 COMMENTS + ISSUES SCOPING

7 VALUES, GOALS + OBJECTIVES

8 ACTION PLAN | PRIORITY PROJECTS

APPENDIX A | PUBLIC NOTICE + COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

APPENDIX B | GRANT HISTORY

APPENDIX C | UNIVERSAL ACCESS DESIGN GUIDELINES

1

The Recreation Plan

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Every 5 years communities throughout Michigan update their recreation plans to ensure qualification for annual Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) funding opportunities.

The 5 year recreation plan must adhere to a format defined by the MDNR and outline priority goals, objectives, and projects with the potential to be completed within the 5 year window and beyond.

This document synthesizes data on natural resources, community demographics, existing recreation assets, operational management, citizen input, and community

partnerships to generate an all-inclusive map for recreation in the community. It describes community values, highlights common goals and objectives, and outlines strategies to achieve these goals.

Looking beyond the 5-year window, this document will serve as a road map for future endeavors improving parks for decades to come. The 2021-2026 Recreation Plan will assist City officials in determining priority projects to nurture an already expansive parks system. It will outline strategies for making parks accessible to all and provide park designs that allow future generations to grow and prosper within.

2021 KEY FINDINGS



Residents per Playground:

3,607

Full-Time Equivalent Employees (FTEs) per 10,000 Residents:

8.2



Operating Expenditures per Capita:

\$88.30/year

Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents: **9.9**

58%

of park and recreation agencies deliver STEM programming to youth and young adults



THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION [NRPA] HAS ASSEMBLED A 2021 AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW FEATURING PARK METRICS THROUGHOUT THE NATION. THE GOAL OF THIS DOCUMENT IS TO HELP LOCAL PARK SYSTEMS IDENTIFY THE OPTIMAL MIX OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING FOR THEIR COMMUNITY. STAY ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THESE BLUE BOXES AS THEY FEATURE DATA ILLUSTRATED IN THE NRPA 2021 REVIEW.

Residents per Park:

2,277



Revenue to Operating Expenditures:

22.9%



NRPA

Planning Process

FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP



Enhancing the Economy

A RECREATION BOOM FOR THE RURAL ECONOMY

‘A BILLBOARD FOR THE U.P.’

-DAN B. JONES; THE DETROIT NEWS

“(The U.P. tourism industry) was booming last year (2020), even if COVID-19 restrictions like takeout-only or limited-capacity restaurants and social distancing muted the full financial benefits of a rush of visitors. State and local officials are bracing for another surge to begin in May (2021).” -The Detroit News

One year into a global pandemic that has ravaged every corner of the planet, we realize the great potential for recreating, reflecting, and finding calm within our neighborhood parks and backyards. Despite a devastating blow to the greater tourism industry, the COVID-19 pandemic has turned our attention to recreation opportunities closer to home.

These close to home recreation opportunities are also drawing visitors from greater distances. As noted in The Detroit News article: There were many visitors, not just from the traditional markets - including the Lower Peninsula, which typically accounts for 50% to 60% of the U.P.’s visitors, as well as Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Green Bay and Chicago- but also from the West Coast and Texas among other states- ‘places we don’t typically see.”

The potential for enhancing the local economy through promoting tourism and recreation opportunities is huge. The COVID-19 stimulated spike in socially distanced outdoor tourism and surge in work from home options paired with the expansion of our U.P. Broadband grid has added to a rise in home sales.

A report prepared by the MEDC by Tourism Economics in 2014, found direct spending by leisure travelers equaled \$16.6 billion-nearly 73% of all visitor spending in Michigan. As this report demonstrates local economies are stimulated by recreation access and opportunities in addition to improving a community’s health and vitality.

-Let’s keep this momentum going!



**“When everything
else is closed,
the outdoors is
open.”**

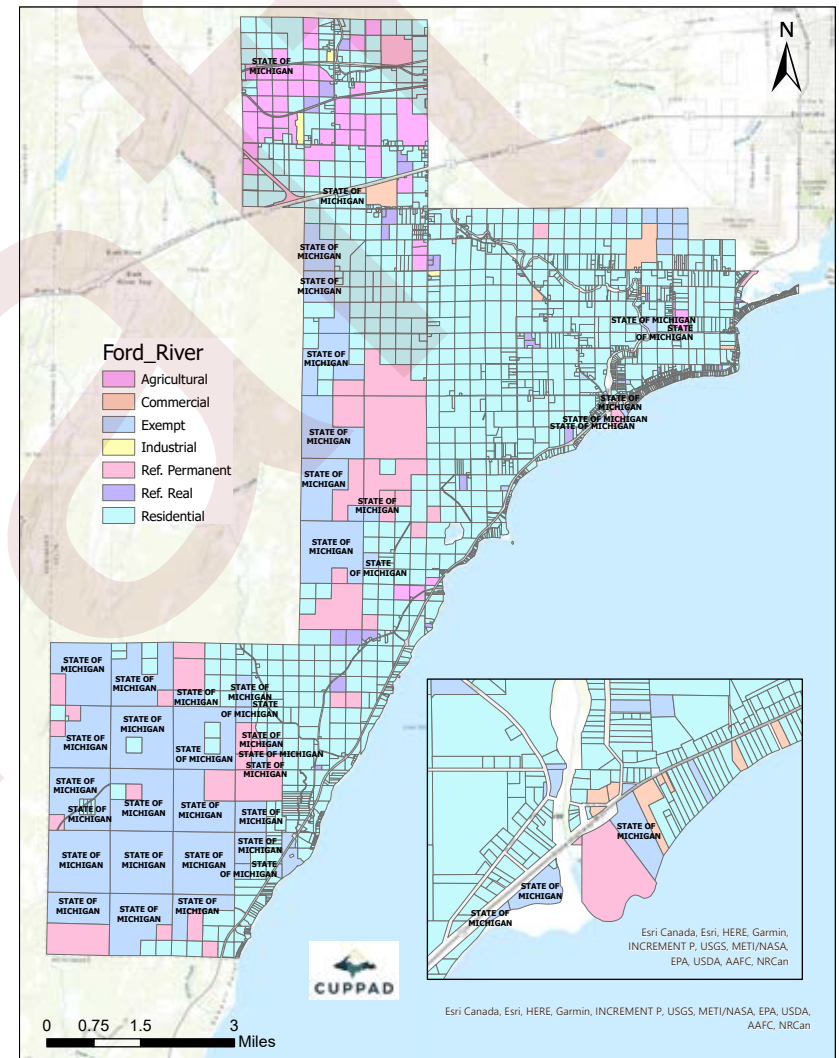
*-Kathy Reynolds
(The Detroit News; 3.21.2021)*

Short History + Future

The Ford River Township is framed by the shores of Lake Michigan to the East. As early as 1780, Native Americans settled along Misery Bay near No-See-Um-Creek. Named for the body of water scouted by Thomas Ford, a governor of Illinois, in the 1840's, Ford River was soon after transformed into a lumber milling powerhouse. During its lumber industry boom the community hosted a boarding house, hotel, town hall, machine shop, school, post office, blacksmith, tavern, and slaughterhouse. Divers and diggers have found clues of the community's storied past near the mouth of the river.

The mouth of the Ford River signifies the division between the Little Bay de Noc and Green Bay. It is an important spawning ground for walleye and steelhead as well as a springtime destination for paddlers. Although logging and timber production are still common in the township the once booming industry has slowed due to exhausted resources.

Today, Ford River is a rural community with the City of Escanaba situated just to the north. The township hosts a vast array of recreation opportunities with Lake Michigan to the east and a wide swath of public lands to the west. Although the township contains much public land there are few improved recreation sites within the region leading to a common request from survey participants for additional recreational resources.



THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

2 Community Description

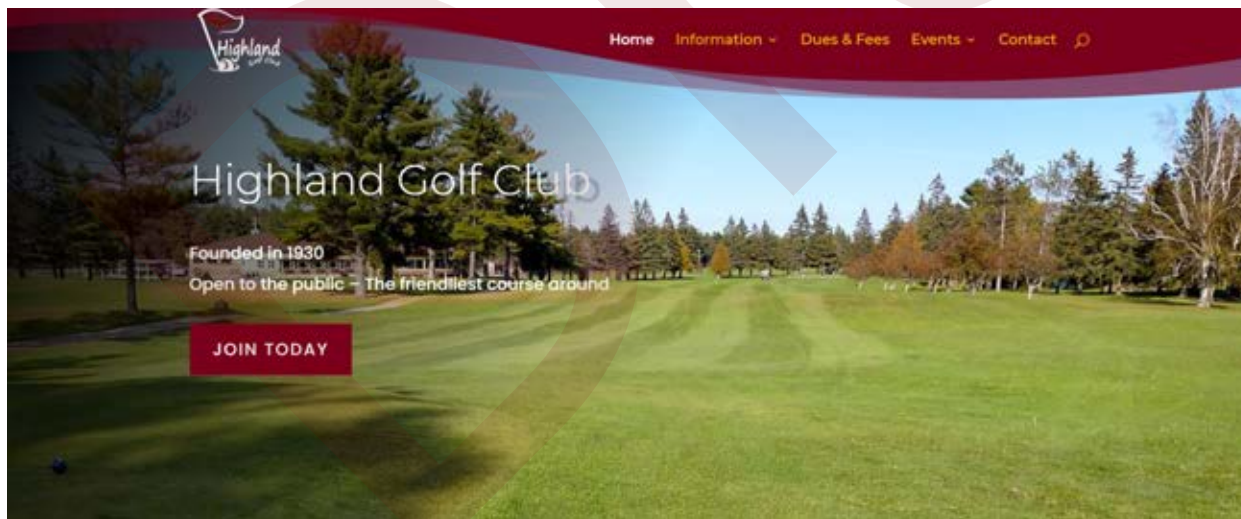
LOCATION + DEMOGRAPHICS

The Ford River Township is located just to the south of the City of Escanaba and the vast majority of the civilian labor force works outside of the township. Businesses within the township include:

- Highland Golf Course
- Breezy Point Bar
- Ford River Pub & Grill
- Richard's Boatworks Splash
- Cedar Hill Medical Clinic
- Lippen's Potato Farm
- Pr B&D Transmissions
- Bittner's Excavating & Septic
- Nelson Al & Son Well Drilling
- Porath Farms
- Meister's Store
- Flare Enterprises sawmill & pallet shop
- Keslin Landscaping

Various cabin, resort and rental facilities as well as construction contractors are located within the township as well. There is some potential for commercial development along the Ford River corridor (downtown area) and along US-2.

The community hosts an aging demographic with a slightly higher than average income when compared with Delta County.



Community Data

DELTA COUNTY DESCRIPTION

Below is a snapshot of Delta County Demographics as of 2019. In comparison, Ford River Township has a higher median household income and makes up roughly 18% of Delta County's population.

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

Delta County, MI
Geography: County

KEY FACTS

36,434

Population



15,876

Households

47.6

Median Age

\$36,301

Median Disposable Income

EDUCATION

6%

No High School Diploma



33%

High School Graduate



39%

Some College



22%

Bachelor's/Grad/Prof Degree

INCOME



\$45,251

Median Household Income



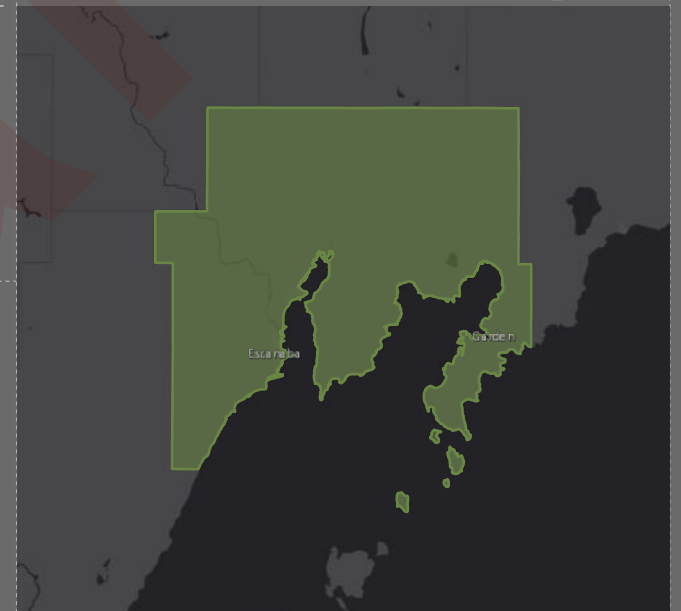
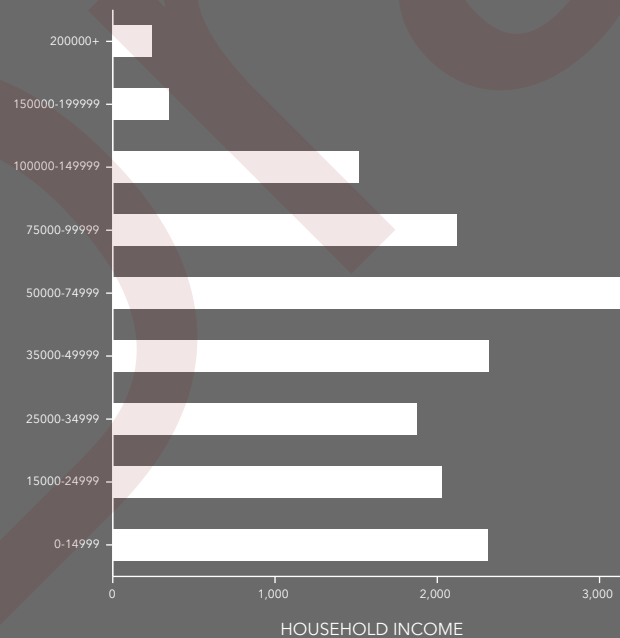
\$25,343

Per Capita Income



\$104,756

Median Net Worth



EMPLOYMENT



White Collar

56%



Blue Collar

32%



Services

12%

21.6%

Unemployment Rate

Demographics

The population of the Ford River Township has gradually increased over the past 60 years with a slight dip in 2010. The projected 2019 population presented by the US Census is 2,063 up from 1,308 in 1960.

Age distribution is another figure that can prove helpful in determining appropriate recreational opportunities and locations within a community. The data presented in the adjacent graphs was procured from the US Census website, updated in 2019.

39 percent of the population is 60 and over. Due to the aging demographic recreational enhancements should consider the desires of this 60+ group. Accessible features such as kayak launches, restroom facilities, and walking trails would all readily service the aging population as well as the younger residents within the community.

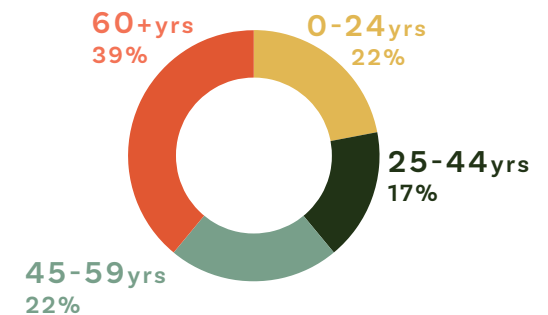
YEAR	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2019
FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP	POPULATION 1,308	1,762	2,136	2,002	2,241	2,039	2,063
DELTA COUNTY:	34,298	35,924	38,947	37,780	38,520	37,069	35,784

2019 US CENSUS DEMOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES

	POPULATION	POVERTY RATE	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP	2,063	6%	\$58,056
DELTA COUNTY	36,434	12.9%	\$45,251
MI	9,986,857	13.0%	\$59,584

2019 US CENSUS ESTIMATE

AGE



GENDER

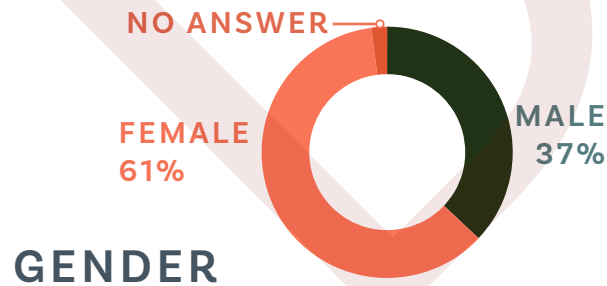
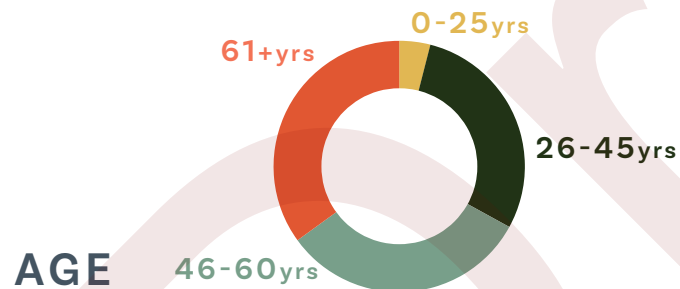


Survey Demographics

96 TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES

The survey responses quite accurately reflect the community's age distribution with the exception of 0-25 year olds. This younger group was probably partially represented through the survey responses from parents and grandparents. There was a larger portion of females who submitted a survey.

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS



3 The Natural Environment

As in much of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the Ford River Township's economy has relied heavily on the natural resource industries including timber harvesting and mining.

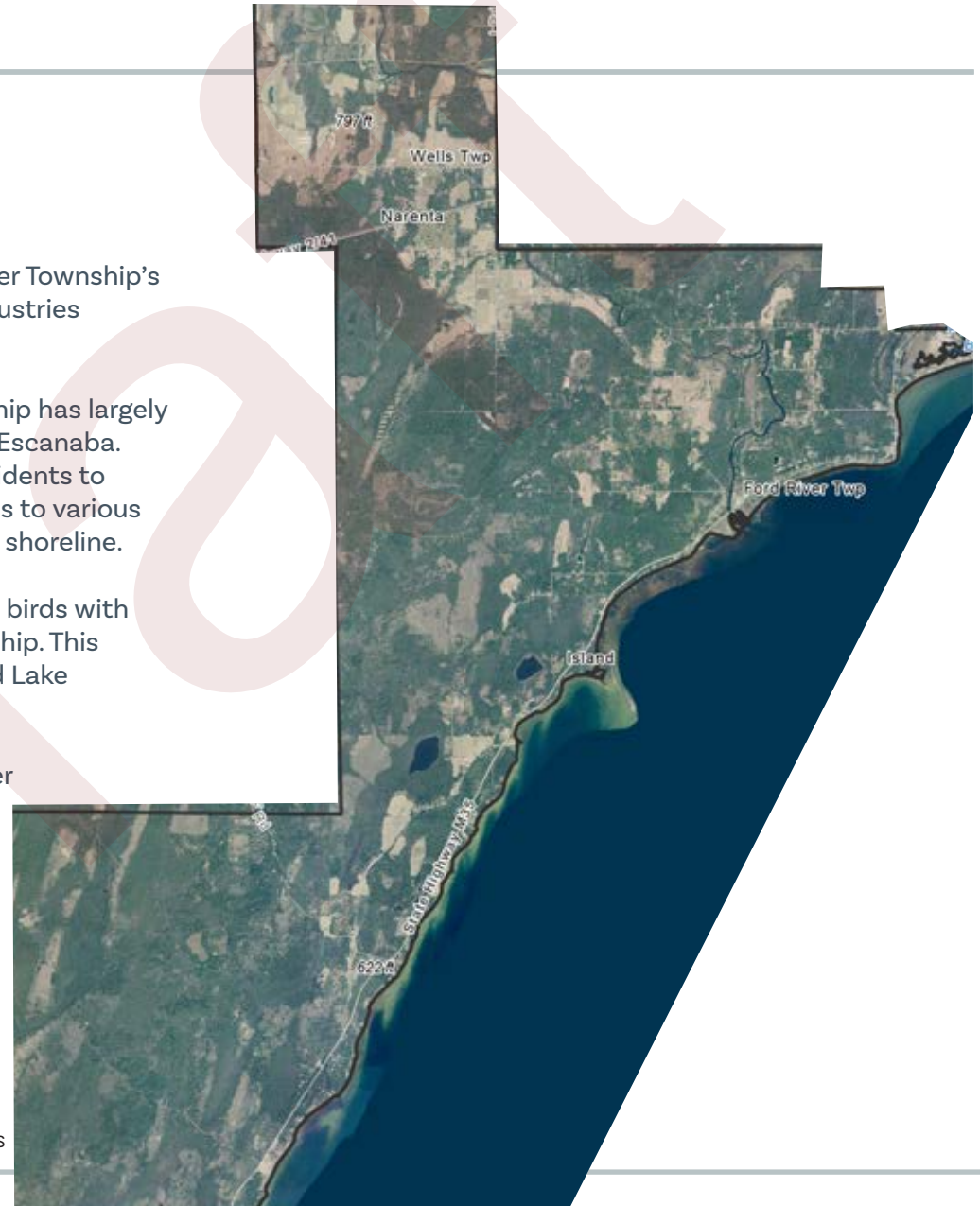
These activities have slowed and the Ford River Township has largely transitioned into a bedroom community of the City of Escanaba. The picturesque lakefront is a major motivation for residents to move to the Township, seeking sunset views and access to various recreational activities along Lake Michigan's expansive shoreline.

Lake Michigan's shoreline is a destination for migrating birds with Portage Point Marsh located just to north of the township. This region has a long history of fishing within the rivers and Lake Michigan.

This plan outlines priorities for protecting the Ford River Township's natural resources while promoting quality experiences for those who seek opportunities to partake in recreation both passive and active. When resources are properly managed recreation can become more than merely a physical experience, sparking a deeper understanding of the place and a desire to preserve it for the future.



0 2 4 MILES



The Natural Environment

GEOLOGY + SOILS

Geology is the foundation of the landscape, providing a template for future plant and animal habitat.

Paleozoic rocks underlie Delta County and consist of limestone, dolomite, shale, sandstone, and gypsum.

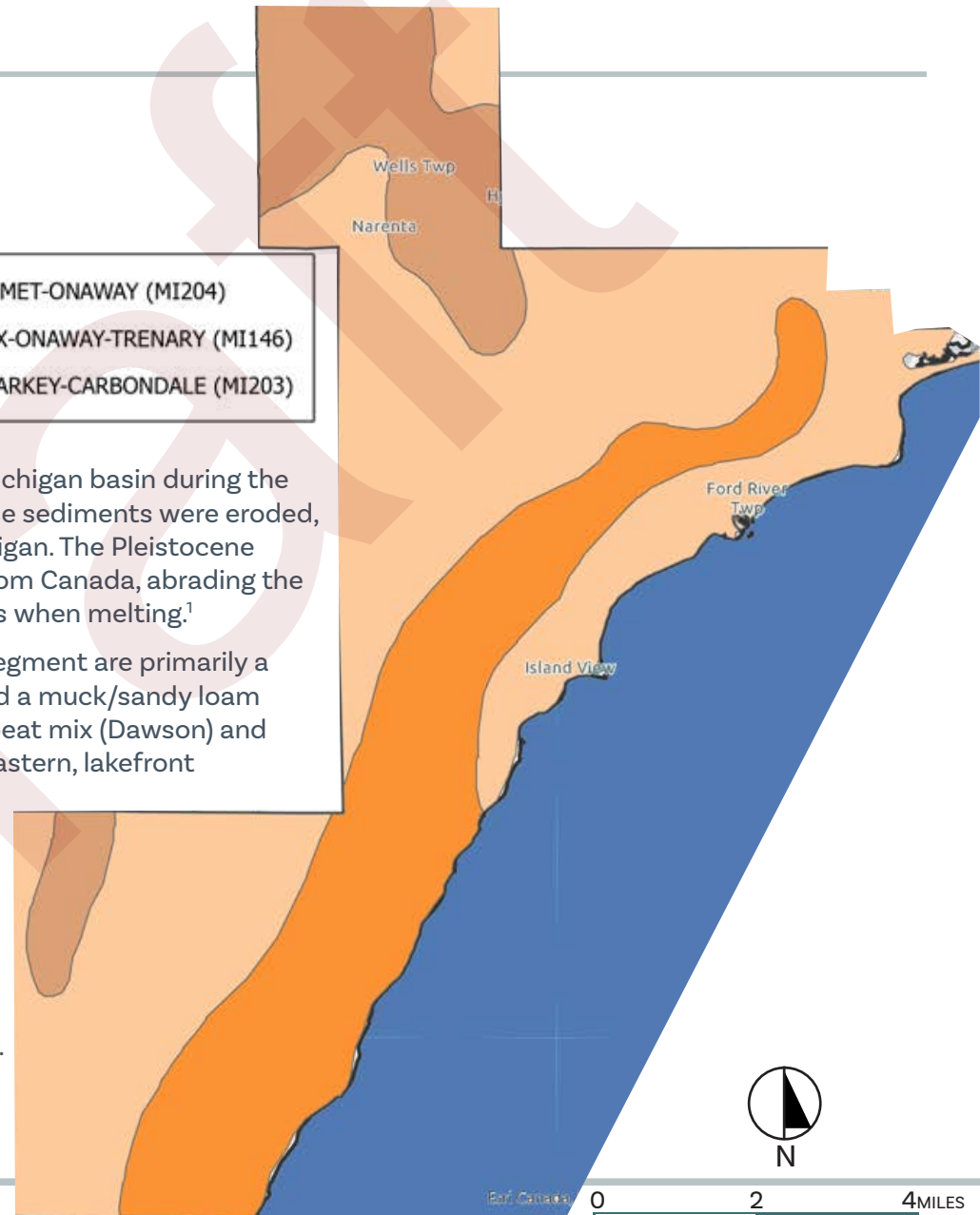
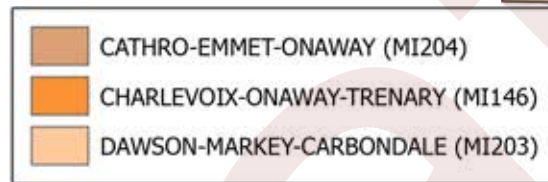
These were deposited in the shallow seas that covered the Michigan basin during the Paleozoic period. During the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras these sediments were eroded, resulting in some of the major physiographic features of Michigan. The Pleistocene epoch (glaciation period) followed with ice migrating south from Canada, abrading the surface and then depositing material atop the Paleozoic rocks when melting.¹

The northern segment of the township and a small western segment are primarily a mix of fine sandy loam (Onaway) to a sandy loam (Emmet) and a muck/sandy loam mix (Cathro). The center swath of the township is primarily a peat mix (Dawson) and a mucky peat mix (Carbondale) which is poorly drained. The eastern, lakefront edge consists of sandy and silty loams (Onaway, Charlevoix, and Trenary). These soils are known to be very desirable for growing crops.²

Geology and soil types dictate what plants and animals can thrive in an area and where development may prove more feasible or generate less disturbance. Each of these facts provide clues as to the ideal method for maintaining and creating successful places for recreation and natural habitats.

¹ Progress Report #24 Reconnaissance of the Ground-Water Resources of Delta County, MI. (1960) Retrieved July 27, 2021, from Mi Dept of Conservation Geological Survey Division, https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/GIMDL-PR24_216206_7.PDF

² USGS Web Soil Survey, Retrieved Oct 10, 2021, from <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/>



The Natural Environment

LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES



LAKE SHORE



EMERGENT WETLAND



RIVER'S EDGE + MOUTH



MAINTAINED TURF



CONIFER FOREST



MIXED FOREST

The Natural Environment

WILDLIFE + LAND COVER

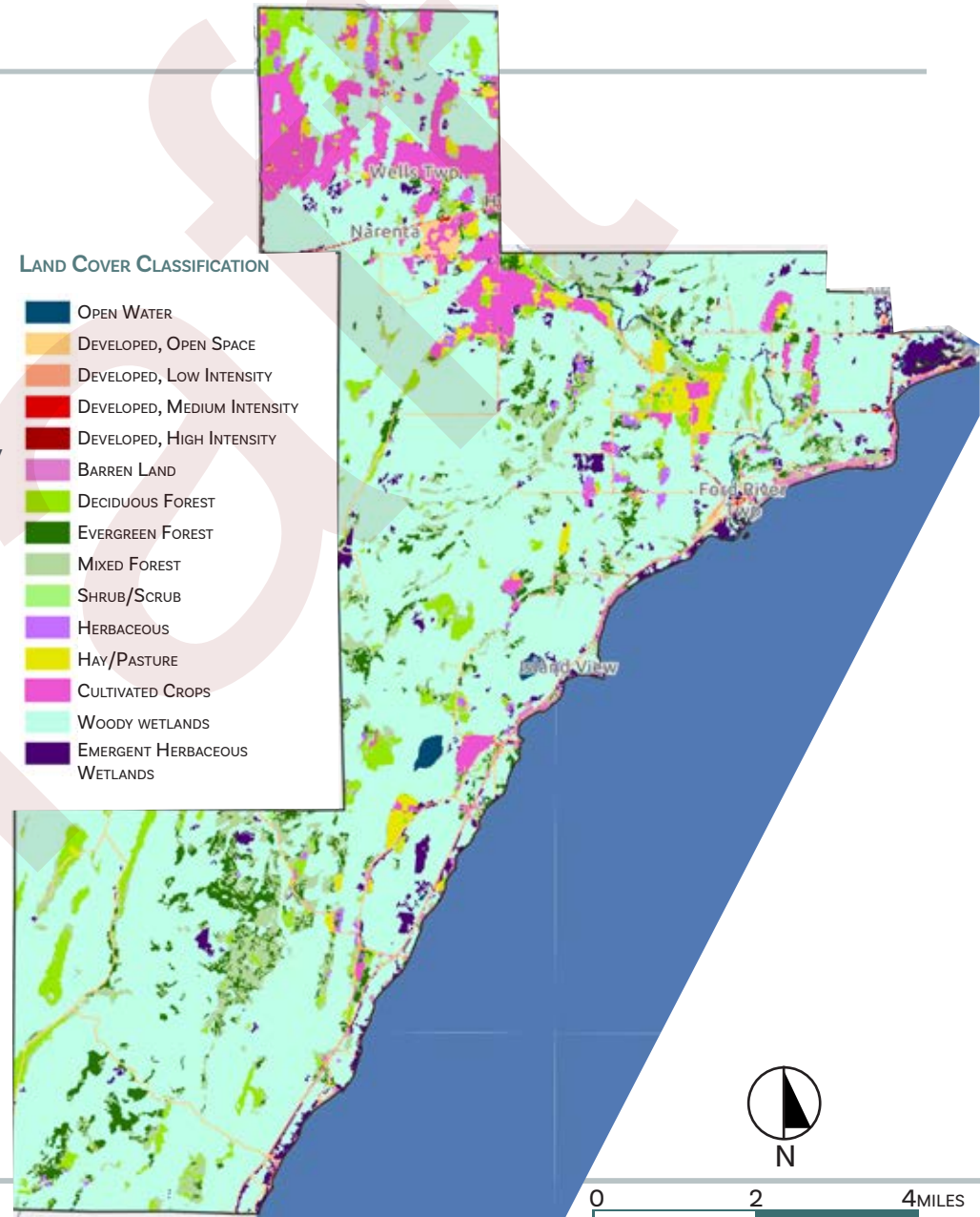
Bordered by Lake Michigan to the East, the Ford River Township hosts a beautiful coastline that is home to an abundance of wildlife.

An expansive emergent wetland is located along its northeast edge providing excellent opportunity for bird watching. Hundreds of bird species have been located within Delta County including the Piping Plover when lake levels are low enough and the Red Knot. A variety of amphibians are found here as well.

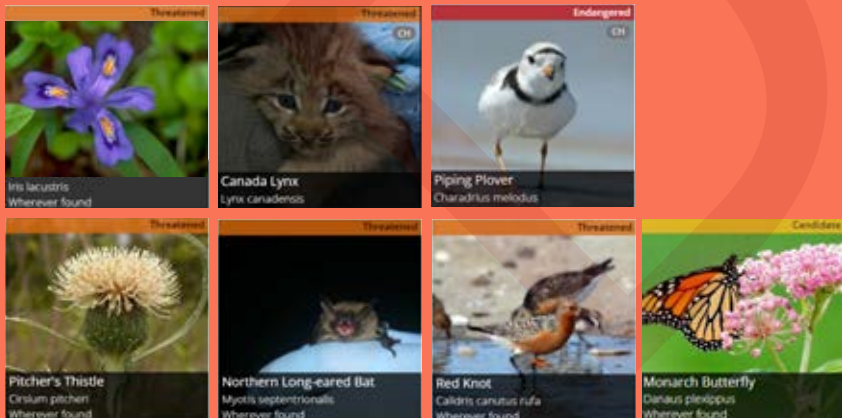
The central and western portions of the township are a mix of woody wetlands, forests, and cultivated crops.

LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION

- OPEN WATER
- DEVELOPED, OPEN SPACE
- DEVELOPED, LOW INTENSITY
- DEVELOPED, MEDIUM INTENSITY
- DEVELOPED, HIGH INTENSITY
- BARREN LAND
- DECIDUOUS FOREST
- EVERGREEN FOREST
- MIXED FOREST
- SHRUB/SCRUB
- HERBACEOUS
- HAY/PASTURE
- CULTIVATED CROPS
- WOODY WETLANDS
- EMERGENT HERBACEOUS WETLANDS



The IPAC (Information for Planning and Consultation) site hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notes the potential of several threatened + endangered species within the greater Delta County region. Please see images and names below:



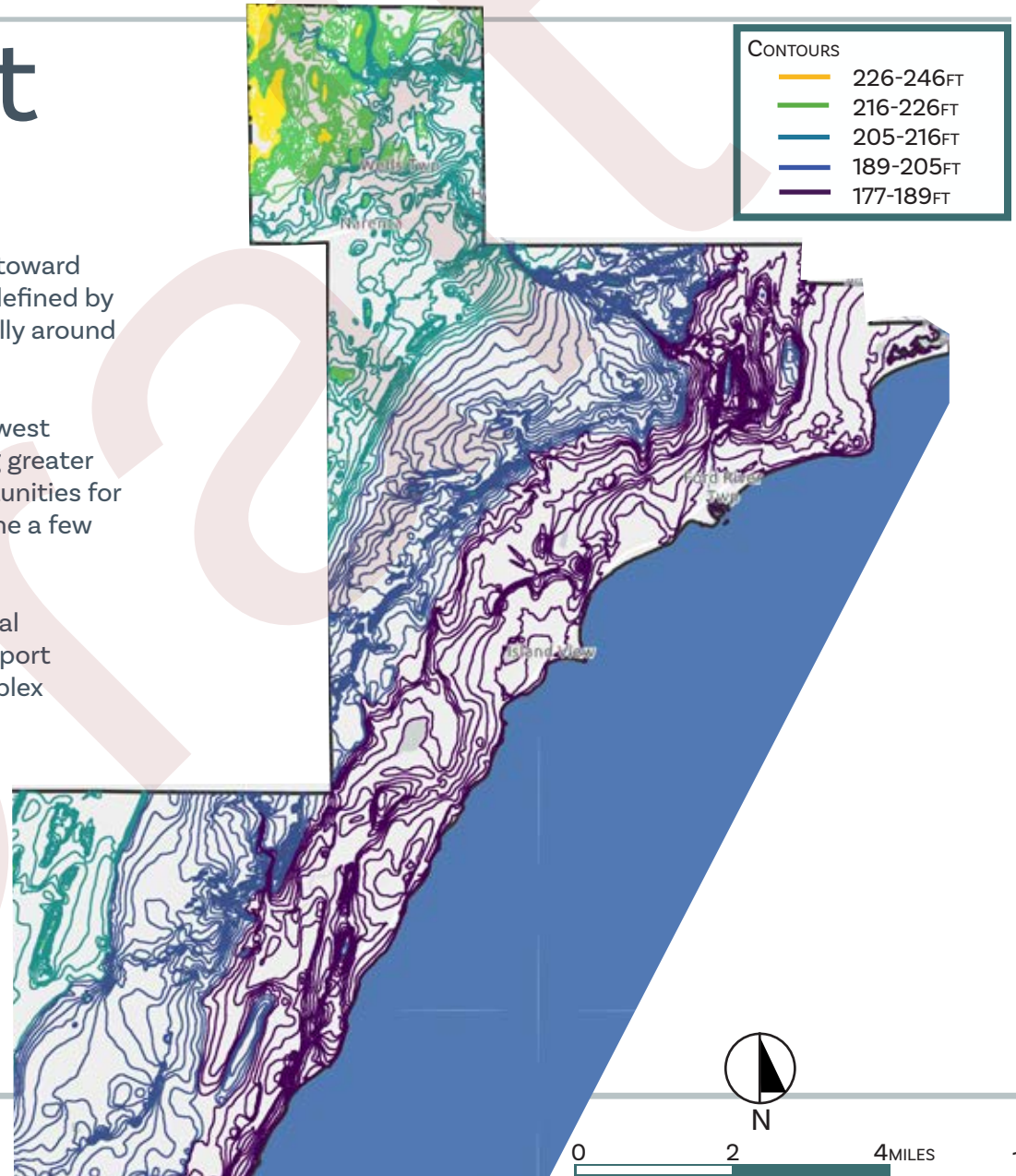
The Natural Environment

TOPOGRAPHY

The Ford River Township's terrain slopes gentle toward Lake Michigan. The outline of the Ford River is defined by contours as the grade changes more dramatically around the river.

The steepest slopes can be found on the northwest section of the township. Natural areas featuring greater variation in elevation are often excellent opportunities for mountain bikers, snowshoers and skiers; to name a few elevation embracing recreation types.

Flatter sites are well adapted for more traditional recreation opportunities such as playgrounds, sport courts, and fields. The township municipal complex serves as a good example catering to these low slope recreation options.



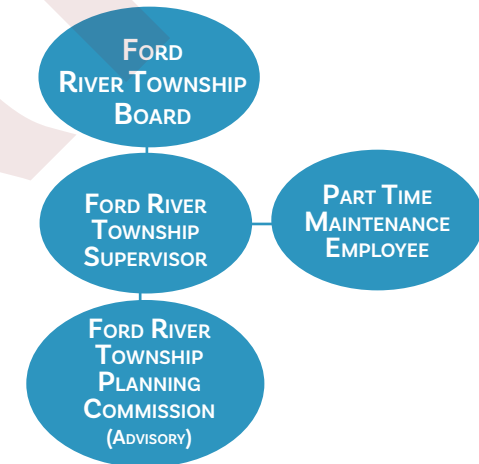
4 Administrative Structure

Under Public Act 157 of 1905, the Ford River Township Board has assumed responsibility for parks and recreation development in the Township. The Township Board is a five-member board elected by the residents of Ford River Township. The Board meets on a monthly basis and recreation opportunities are discussed at regular meetings.

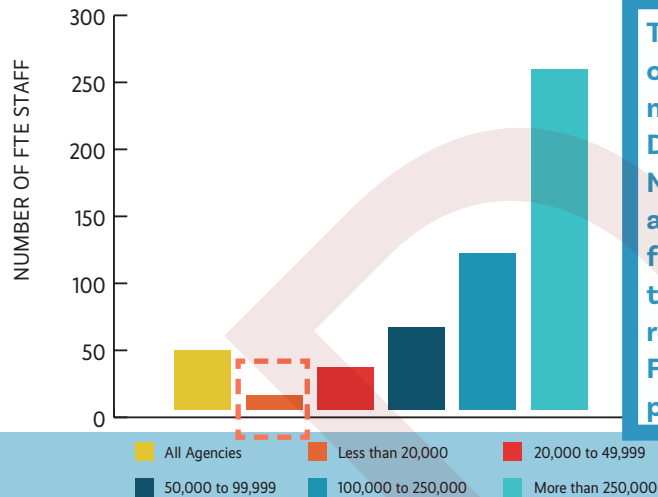
The Township provides and maintains recreational facilities for users but does not provide programming. Township officials maintain an oversight role to guarantee that timely and necessary maintenance is completed.

Maintenance of facilities is provided by one part time employee and donated labor. The Township Board is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of the recreation facilities. Any needed expenses for supplies come from the Township's General Fund.

FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP | ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PARK AND RECREATION AGENCY STAFFING FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES



The Ford River Township hosts one part time position to maintain recreation facilities. Due to the small population, the NRPA numbers don't reflect an accurate picture of FTE positions for the Township. The chart to the left is still informative, reflecting a median of 10.9 FTE's for communities with a population under 20k.

NRPA

	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More than 250,000
Median	44.3	10.9	31.4	61.2	117	254.1
Lower Quartile	15.9	5.4	16.3	34.4	46	106
Upper Quartile	126.9	21.5	59.8	114.6	202.2	550

Budget + Maintenance

VOLUNTEER + COMMUNITY GROUPS

There is support from the community to improve park and recreation access within the Ford River Township. The Lion's Club has previously assisted with park donations. There is also the potential to develop a community beautification committee. The township does not have any formal relationships with other public or private organizations or school districts at this time. With the enthusiasm expressed in community surveys to add lake access, walking trails and additional recreational amenities at the Township Hall Park + Municipal Complex there is great potential for community members to organize and assist in project planning and implementation.

PARKS + RECREATION BUDGET

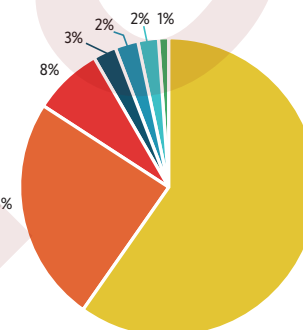
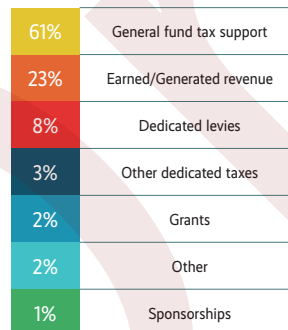
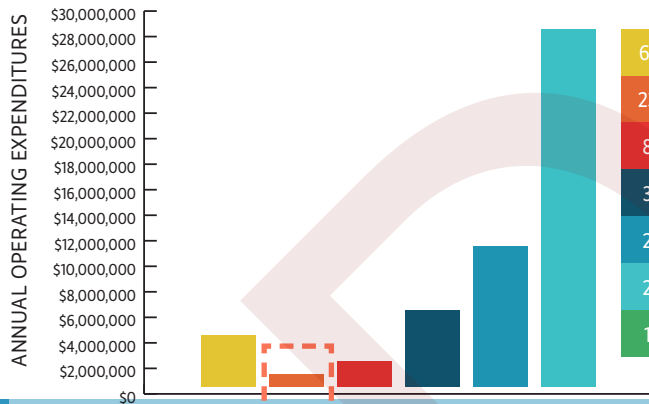
The Township has allocated **\$36,900.00** of general fund monies for recreation in 2021.

The Township anticipates future annual parks and recreation budgets to remain at a similar figure. If larger projects receive outside funds additional funding may be allocated on an as needed basis.

•Wages	\$8,400
MOWING, SNOWPLOWING, SET UP FOR PAVILION RENTALS, INSPECTION AND GENERAL REPAIRS, ETC.	
•Portable toilet rental	\$2,500
•Parts and materials	\$6,500
INCLUDES PARTS, FUEL, FERTILIZER, SALT FOR WINTER ETC.	
•Repairs	\$3,500
•Recreation Plan	\$10,000
COSTS INCLUDE OUTSIDE SERVICES, TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEE TIME, ADVERTISEMENTS, ETC.	
•Other expenses	\$6,000
INSURANCE, UTILITIES, OTHER EXPENSES	
	\$36,900

ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES BY JURISDICTION POPULATION

SOURCES OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES



The NRPA Data only features community's with a population of roughly 20k and up. Ford River Township's population is significantly lower, but the data still provides an interesting perspective on the amount and breakdown of funds dedicated to parks and recreation within American communities.

NRPA

	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More than 250,000
Median	\$4,898,633	\$1,209,393	\$3,234,982	\$7,150,817	\$11,862,458	\$28,564,326
Lower Quartile	\$1,863,016	\$545,821	\$1,879,595	\$3,900,154	\$5,762,630	\$13,419,026
Upper Quartile	\$13,839,293	\$2,193,932	\$6,553,308	\$11,149,210	\$22,066,712	\$52,700,000

FORD RIVER RECREATION PLAN

5 Recreation Inventory

STANDARDS FOR RECREATION OPEN SPACE

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a scale to help measure an existing recreation system's park facilities and provide a baseline standard for equitable park access within a community.

A typical park and recreation system offers one park for every 2,277 residents served, with 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Due to its lower density population Michigan's Upper Peninsula trends toward having a much greater number of parks per 2,277 residents. Here is a chart illustrating the different open space typologies defined by NRPA and the desired minimum amount of park space per community.

The Ford River Township has an abundance of public lands but rather limited recreational amenities and access for local residents.



The following pages feature each recreational site within the township including a short description of any amenities paired with activity icons.



Stars adjacent to park titles denote particular sites that would benefit from additional maintenance and general upgrades or contain great potential for enhancement projects.



PARK TYPE	SERVICE AREA (RADIUS)	SIZE (ACRES)	ACRES/1,000 POP	FORD RIVER MANAGED PARKS	USES
Mini-Park	<1/4mi	1 or less	0.25 to 0.5	1.25 to 2.5 Currently: 0	Specialized facility serving a concentrated or limited population
Neighborhood Park	1/4 to 1/2mi	15+	1 to 2	5 to 10 Currently: 0	Hosts intense recreation activities: Play, sports fields/courts, picnicking etc.
Community Park	1 to 2mi	25+	8 to 10	25 to 40 Currently: 7.41	Diverse environmental quality; may include sports complexes or more natural forms of outdoor recreation
Regional Park	1 hr drive	200+	5 to 10	25 to 50 Currently: 0	Area of natural quality for outdoor recreation; boating, swimming, camping, trail use etc.
School Park					Park associated with an educational institution

Recreation Inventory

ACCESSIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ford River Township Municipal Complex is the only park and recreation facility within the township managed by the Ford River Township. This park receives a DNR Accessibility rating of 2: Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines. (see rating scale below)

In recent years the park area has received several upgrades including an accessible pavilion and parking. The play area has also been upgraded but does not provide access for all. The grass entry and raised plastic edging as well as the mulched surface all hinder accessibility for those with mobility issues. The addition of an access path to the playground structures or integration of additional accessible play features would complete the already largely accommodating park facility.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO THE PORTAGE MARSH AREA MANAGED BY THE DNR. THESE FACILITIES ACCOMMODATE USERS OF ALL ABILITY LEVELS



A more detailed accessibility analysis of the Ford River Township Municipal Complex is included in Appendix C.

The Michigan DNR Rating Chart is as Follows:

- 1 | NONE OF THE FACILITIES MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES**
- 2 | SOME OF THE FACILITIES MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES**
- 3 | MOST OF THE FACILITIES MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES**
- 4 | THE ENTIRE PARK AREAS MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES**
- 5 | THE ENTIRE PARK WAS DEVELOPED USING UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

RECREATION ACTIVITY KEY (LISTED ADJACENT TO THE PARKS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES)



Boat Ramp



Fishing



Biking



Hockey



Cross-Country Skiing



Sightseeing + Wildlife Viewing



Playground



Swimming



Ball Sports



Hiking



Snowshoeing



Camping



Picnic Area



Paddling



Sledding



Mountain Biking

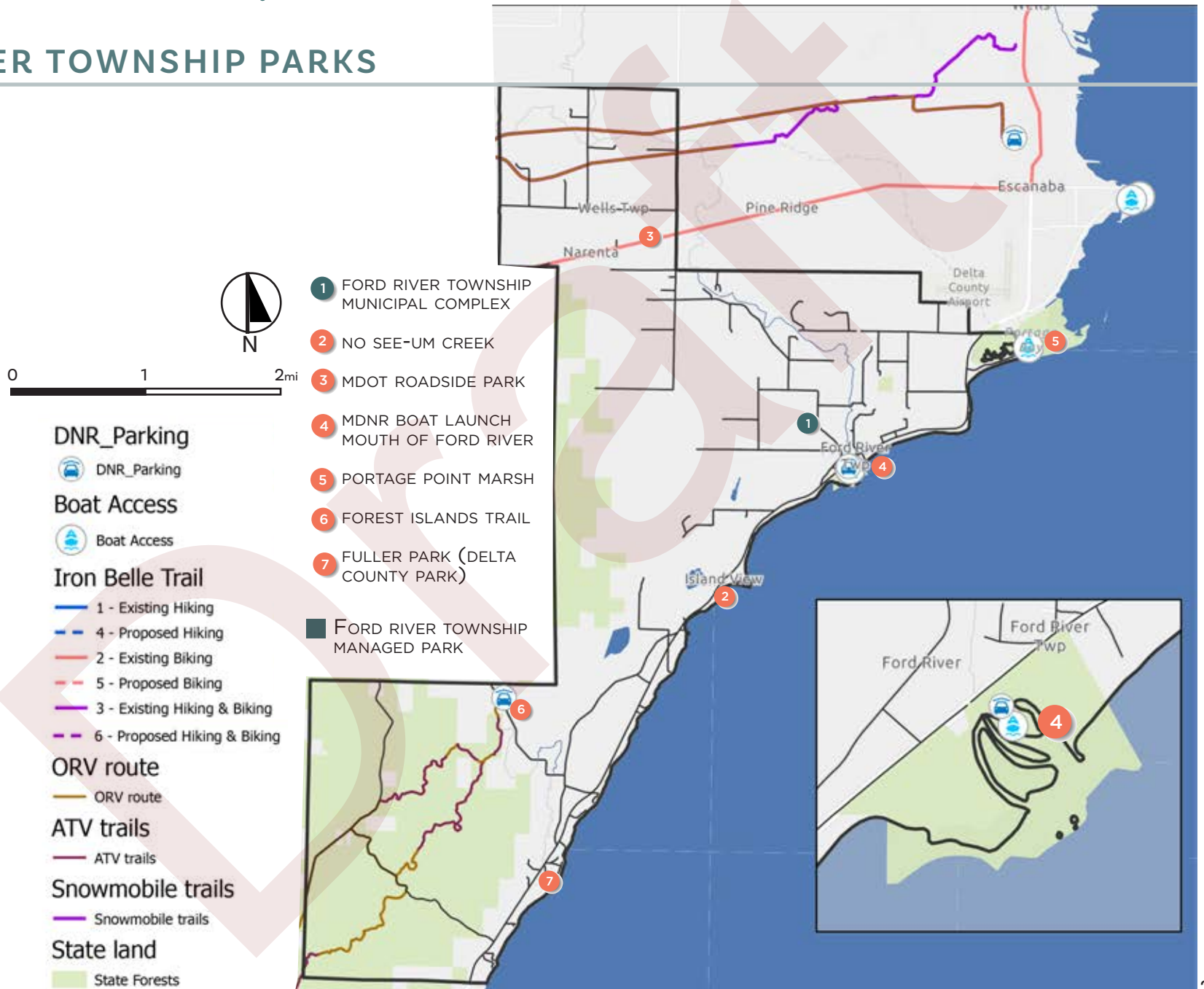


Arts + Culture



Disk Golf

FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP PARKS



Recreation Inventory



FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COMPLEX



7.41 This **community park** is located at 3845 K Road, Bark River, MI. The Municipal Complex is comprised of the Ford River Township Hall, the Township Fire Hall and the Delor Wellman Recreational Facility. The Fire Hall hosts an annual breakfast and the Township Hall is available for rent for special events.

The Delor Wellman Recreational Facility offers roughly 2 acres of developed recreational area and 2 acres of open space. The open space was frequently mentioned within the community surveys as having potential to be developed into sport courts, walking loop, ball fields, disk golf, or a flexible community event space.

The pavilion serves as a community gathering space. It is available for rental and ADA accessible. The community hopes to continue to add amenities to the facility. There is designated ADA parking and an accessible port-a-john on site. The new playground area is not accessible but offers a variety of play features for kids within the community. It was frequently mentioned within the community surveys as being a huge asset for the community.

ACCESSIBILITY RATING | 2

SOME OF THE FACILITIES MEET ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES



***GRASSY AREA BEHIND PLAYGROUND NOTED AS HAVING POTENTIAL FOR RECREATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**



Recreation Inventory

PUBLIC PROPERTY NOT MANAGED BY THE FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP



2 NO SEE-UM CREEK (MDOT)

0.54 acres This mini park hosts a small pull off parking area along M 35 with access to the Lake Michigan shoreline and the mouth of No-See-Um Creek. There is very limited public access to the sandy Lake Michigan shoreline in the Ford River Township so this site serves as a truly valuable access point for the community.



3 MDOT ROADSIDE PARK

7.46 acres This mini park is located in Hyde, on US-2, approximately 8 miles west of Escanaba. It includes an accessible restroom with ADA parking and accessible picnic tables.



Recreation Inventory

PUBLIC PROPERTY NOT MANAGED BY THE FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP



* 4 MDNR BOAT LAUNCH MOUTH OF THE FORD RIVER

54.3 This **community park** received an upgrade in acres the summer of 2021 including a new paved entry road and parking area. An accessible dock paired with a boat ramp is located on site. A small trail meanders along the edge of the river to the lake although it is frequently flooded. Picnic tables are available on site.

The State also owns the property on the south side of Ford River which could provide a beautiful site for a wetland/lake edge boardwalk.

* PHOTO OF PAVEMENT PROJECT UNDERWAY AT BOAT LAUNCH



* SHORELINE TRAIL SHOWING SIGNS OF FREQUENT FLOODING



* PHOTOS TAKEN PRIOR TO BOAT LAUNCH PARKING AREA PAVEMENT PROJECT



Recreation Inventory

PUBLIC PROPERTY NOT MANAGED BY THE FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP



5 PORTAGE POINT MARSH (MDNR)

600 acres

This **community park** is located in the northeast corner of the township on a spit of land that juts out into Lake Michigan. It is state wildlife management area owned and managed by the Michigan DNR and has seen many beautiful recent upgrades including accessible boardwalks, a parking lot, and interpretive signage. This park is a well kept secret, a true gem. The 600 acre coastal marsh serves as a birdwatcher's paradise as many rare birds breed here. Depending on water levels and access, the array of birds spotted can vary from the Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, American and Least Bittern, Sora and Virginia Rails to the Hudsonian and Marbled Godwit, Willet, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Habitat includes open water, cattail marsh, wet meadow, shrub thickets, sand beach, and inter-dunal pools.

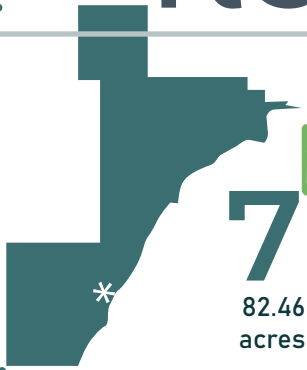


6 FOREST ISLANDS ORV TRAIL (MDNR)

This **regional trail** is located in the southwest end of the township. A gravel parking lot with small kiosk serves as the trailhead for ORV access to a network of motorized trails leading to J.W. Wells State Park.



Recreation Inventory



7
82.46
acres



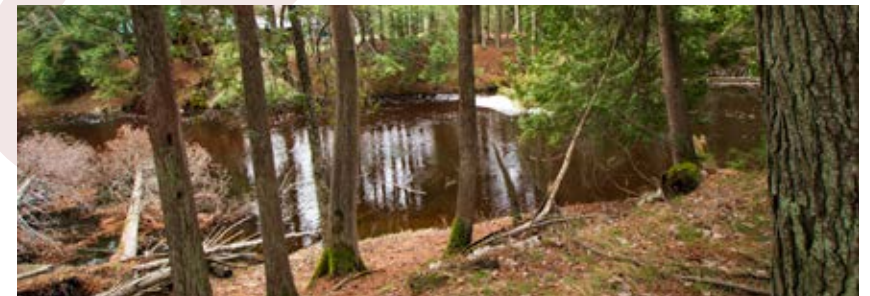
FULLER PARK (DELTA COUNTY)

This **regional park** is located in the southeast edge of the township. It is positioned along Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Bark River. It is managed by Delta County and hosts a day use area and campground. The day use area is a gravel lot with a worn picnic table. It is located on the west side of M35. One of the most frequent community survey comments requested the local community be granted access to the picnic area, boat launch, playground and beach front at the Fuller Park Campground. This is not a request the county is willing to entertain as they do not have the budget to improve facilities and maintain a campground and day use area along the lake. This is the only expansive lake front area open to the public within the Ford River Township.

* DAY USE AREA ON THE WEST SIDE OF M35 IN NEED OF ATTENTION



* ENTRANCE TO CAMPGROUND; POTENTIAL FOR TRAIL ALONG THE BARK RIVER



* BEAUTIFUL SCENERY AND LAKE ACCESS AT THE FULLER PARK CAMPGROUND AREA (IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS)



Recreation Inventory

PRIVATELY OWNED RECREATION FACILITIES

1. HIGHLAND GOLF CLUB

- Founded in 1930
- Expanded to an 18-hole in 1968
- Delta County's first 18-hole course
- Pro Shop and Clubhouse
- Highland Gold Club Restaurant

2. R J F INDOOR OUTDOOR HEATED MEMORIAL DRIVING RANGE

- Indoor/Outdoor Driving Range
- Seasonal

6 Comments + Issue Scoping

IN THE LAST YEAR, WHAT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATED IN?



ACTIVITIES SURVEY RESPONDENTS MOST FREQUENTLY PARTOOK IN
THE LARGER THE FONT THE MORE RESPONDENTS WHO LISTED THE
QUANTITY OF RESPONSES IN NUMBERED BUBBLES.

Community Input

WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT FORD RIVER'S RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES?

well maintained public access

water access

potential outdoors

need more

safe peace + quiet fishing

playground boating+canoeing

natural beauty not over developed pavilion

Single Mentions: camping, friendly people, variety, Portage Point

RECREATION VALUES

- WE VALUE HAVING ACCESS TO LAKE MICHIGAN AND LOCAL WATERWAYS
- WE VALUE HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO FISH, BOAT, AND PADDLE
- WE VALUE EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING THE PLAYGROUND AND PAVILION
- WE VALUE THE NATURAL BEAUTY FOUND WITHIN AND AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

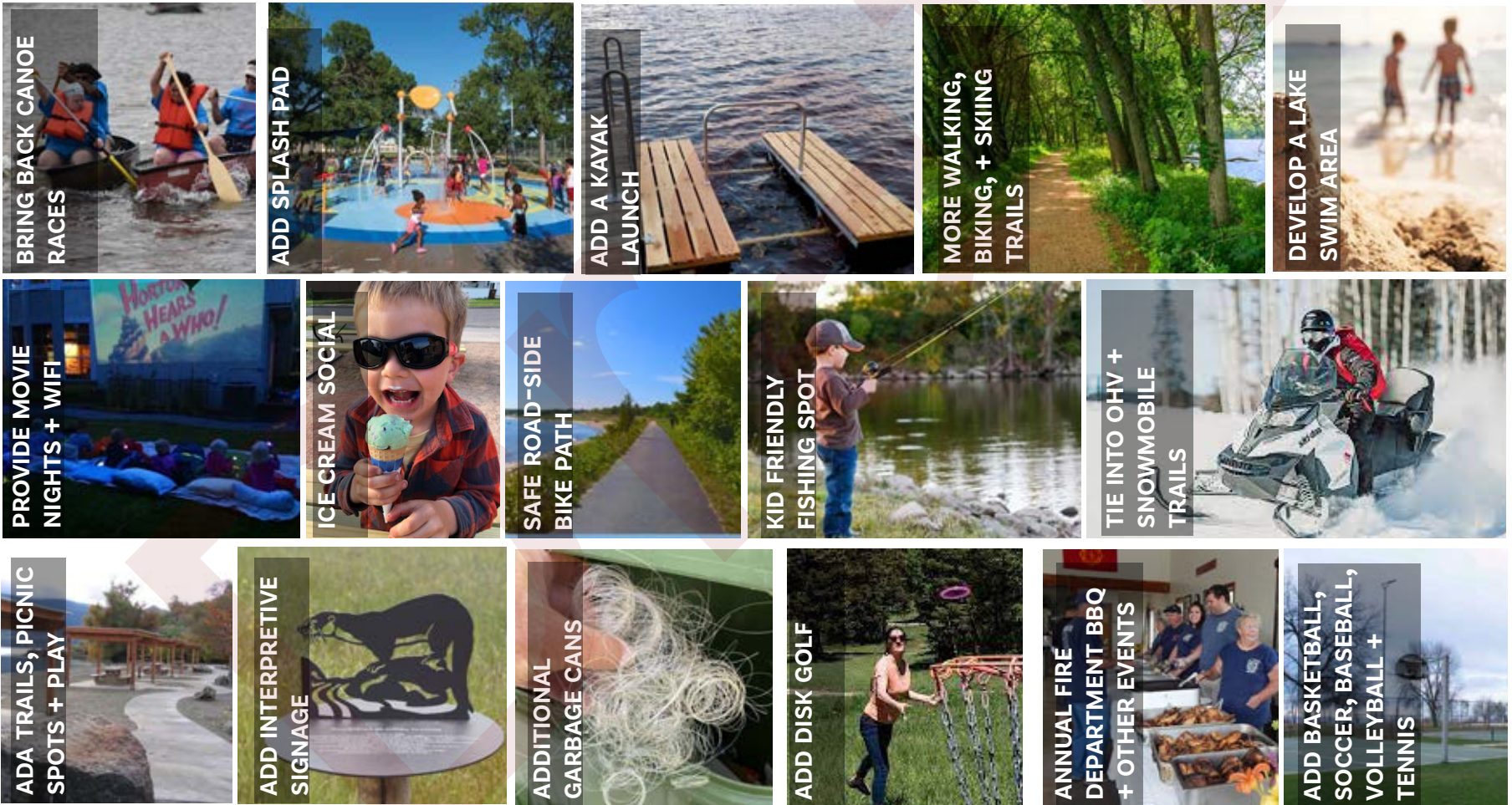
Community Input

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE ABOUT FORD RIVER'S RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES?

tie in atv+snowmobile trails **add**
trails add basketball + tennis canoe races nothing **more**
water access splash pad **highway**
bike path soccer, baseball + volleyball
more add community
events + gatherings

Community Input

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO **CHANGE** ABOUT FORD RIVER'S RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES?



7 Values, Goals + Objectives

DEFINING VALUES

Parks provide a connection between natural places and people, with the intent of encouraging meaningful outdoor experiences. There is an inherent tension between recreation and the preservation of natural resources. As illustrated in the community values below, access to natural resources is key to creating desirable recreation spaces. Water and vegetation are a common link featuring popular activities such as walking, biking, swimming, fishing, paddling and so much more. This plan attempts to define a balance between preserving and restoring natural places for future generations and providing recreation opportunities. Here is a summary of the recreation values derived from the community survey responses.

RECREATION VALUES

- WE VALUE HAVING ACCESS TO LAKE MICHIGAN AND LOCAL WATERWAYS
- WE VALUE HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO FISH, BOAT, AND PADDLE
- WE VALUE EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING THE PLAYGROUND AND PAVILION
- WE VALUE THE NATURAL BEAUTY FOUND WITHIN AND AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

Statewide Goals

STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP) | 2018-2022

Michigan's Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as a backbone for recreation planning within the state. Every five years new surveys are administered, sites studied and outdoor recreation habits mapped. Through developing a clear understanding of how people recreate within Michigan we can help define how to provide additional access and amenities for those utilizing the parks within our communities.

The main OBJECTIVES outlined in the current SCORP plan:

- Foster stewardship and conservation
- Improve collaboration between stakeholders
- Raise awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities
- Improve recreational access for all
- Provide quality experiences
- Enhance health benefits
- Enhance prosperity via supporting economic prosperity, talent retention and high quality of life

RECREATION TRENDS

Nationally, many of the more traditional recreation activities, such as camping and fishing, have seen a slight decrease while nature based and backcountry activities are on the rise. Some of these trending activities include:

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Kayaking
- Cross-country skiing
- BMX/Mountain biking
- Stand-up Paddling

Many passive recreation activities are also very popular, as noted in the SCORP surveys including relaxing, walking, picnicking, and unstructured play.

SCORP GOAL

Protect and manage Michigan's diverse and abundant natural and cultural assets to provide relevant, quality experiences that meet the fun, relaxation, and health needs of Michigan's residents and visitors and support economic prosperity.

-SCORP 2018-2022

Values, Goals + Objectives

1 Support all avenues for enhancing and expanding access to the waterfront and current recreation opportunities within the Ford River Township.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify priority acquisitions and recreation projects and determine methods for funding these projects.
- Partner with other public and private land owners to provide access to the waterfront for the community whenever possible
- Host community events to promote priority projects, generate enthusiasm within the community, and raise funds for grant match.

2 Provide safe non-motorized access to jobs, services and recreation sites in and around the Ford River Township.

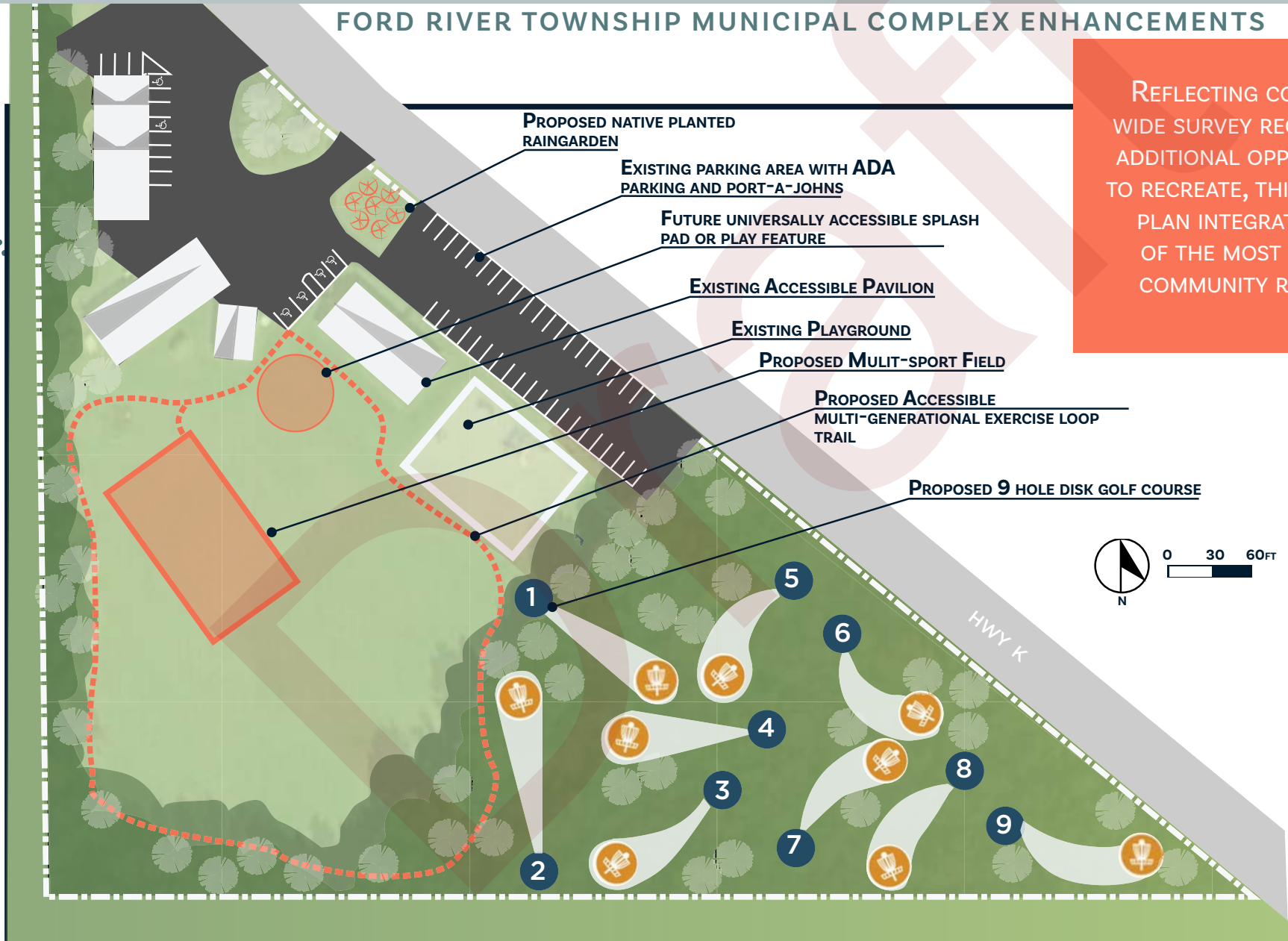
OBJECTIVES

- Explore creative solutions for adding an off highway trail along a portion of M35
- Create a phased plan of priority trail sections to obtain funding, design, and installation estimates
- Work closely with MDOT, community partners, and adjacent landowners to determine an ideal alignment and design that minimizes cost, is community supported, and reduces the need for complicated engineered solutions

8 Action Plan

FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COMPLEX ENHANCEMENTS

REFLECTING COMMUNITY WIDE SURVEY REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO RECREATE, THIS PROPOSED PLAN INTEGRATES MANY OF THE MOST POPULAR COMMUNITY REQUESTS.



Action Plan

ARGUMENTS FOR AN OFF HIGHWAY MULTI MODAL TRAIL

- SAFE ALTERNATE TO RECREATING ON THE SHOULDER OF THE HIGHWAY
- ACCESS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES; FUELING TOURISM AND SPENDING LOCALLY
- PROMOTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES AND QUALITY OF LIFE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY
- SUSTAINABLE; SUPPORTS ALTERNATE FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION THAT REDUCES RELIANCE ON FOSSIL FUELS

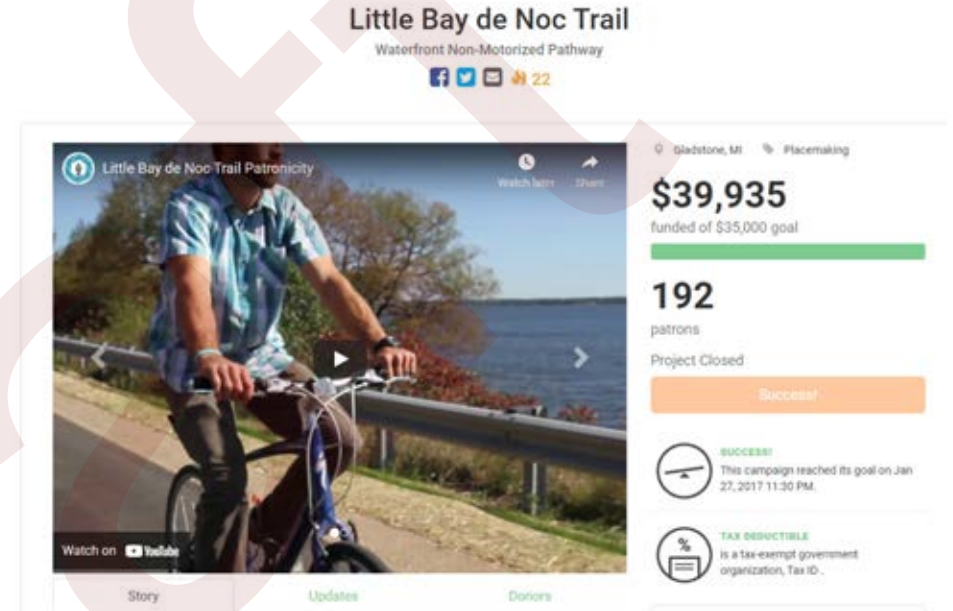
POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

MDNR Grant Funds

TAP Grants (Transportation Alternatives Program)

Partnerships with other municipalities, local businesses, utility companies, MDOT

Crowd Funding (Online Options)



[HTTPS://WWW.PATRONICITY.COM/PROJECT/LITTLE_BAY_DE_NOC_TRAIL_1#/](https://www.patronicity.com/project/little_bay_de_noc_trail_1#/)

Action Plan

OFF HIGHWAY NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL | PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

Evaluation Tool: Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress Analysis (LTS)

LTS	Target Bicycle User Type
1	All Ages and Abilities
2	Interested but Concerned (Mainstream Adults)
3	Enthusied and Confident (Adult Commuters)
4	Strong and Fearless (Long-Distance Recreational Bicyclists)

Evaluates mid-block segments and intersections

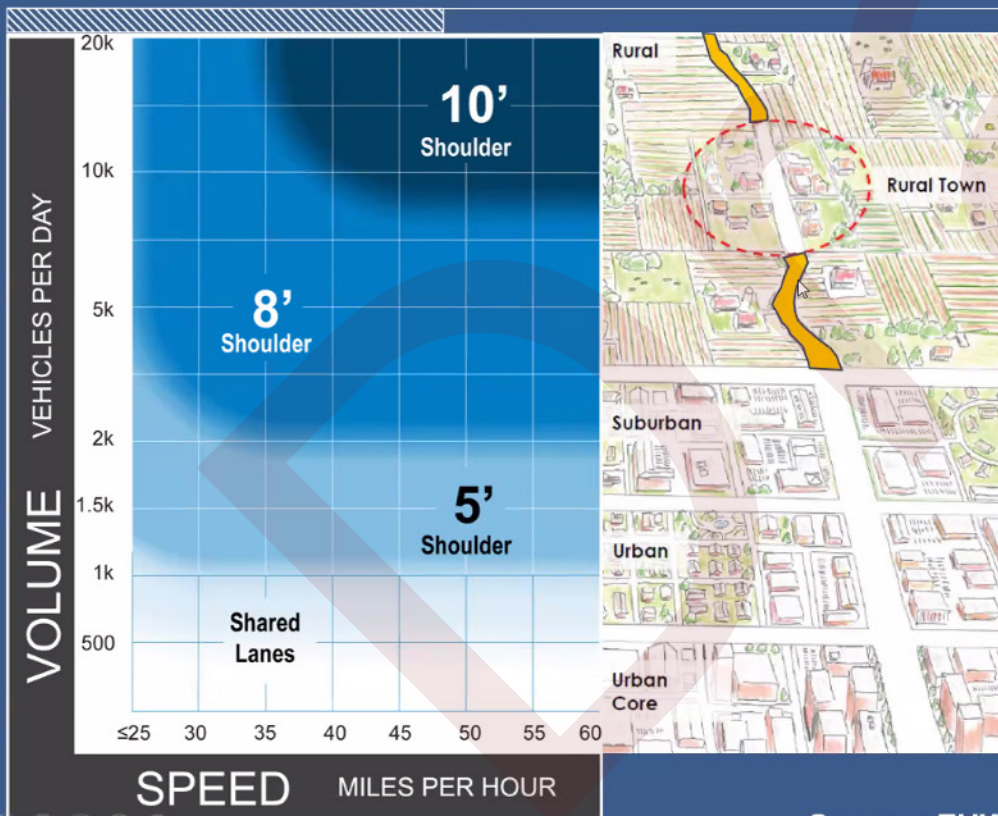
Learn more here:
<http://www.northeastern.edu/peter.furth/research/level-of-traffic-stress/>

Level of Traffic Stress	Description	Example
1	Safe for children to use; Usually completely separated from auto traffic	 Photo by Bob Patten
2	Tolerated by most mainstream adult populations of cyclists; Roads with low volume and low speed auto traffic	
3	Tolerated by riders who are enthused and confident; Heavy traffic with separated bike facility	
4	Only tolerated by strong and fearless riders; cyclists must interact with high volumes or speeds of auto traffic.	

Action Plan

OFF HIGHWAY NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL | PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

Preferred Bikeway Type Rural Context



Identify Desired Bikeway Type (For Preferred Design User)

Assess and Refine

Evaluate Feasibility

Select Preferred Bikeway Type

Design User Assumption =
Confident Bicyclists

Notes

1. This chart assumes the project involves reconstruction or retrofit in constrained conditions. For new construction, follow recommended shoulder widths in the AASHTO Green Book.
2. A separated shared use pathway is a suitable alternative to providing paved shoulders.
3. Chart assumes operating speeds are similar to posted speeds. If they differ, use operating speed rather than posted speed.
4. If the percentage of heavy vehicles is greater than 10%, consider providing a wider shoulder or a separated pathway.

Source: FHWA Bikeway Selection Guide

Action Plan

OFF HIGHWAY NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL | BICYCLE PLANNING PRINCIPLES



Safety



Comfort

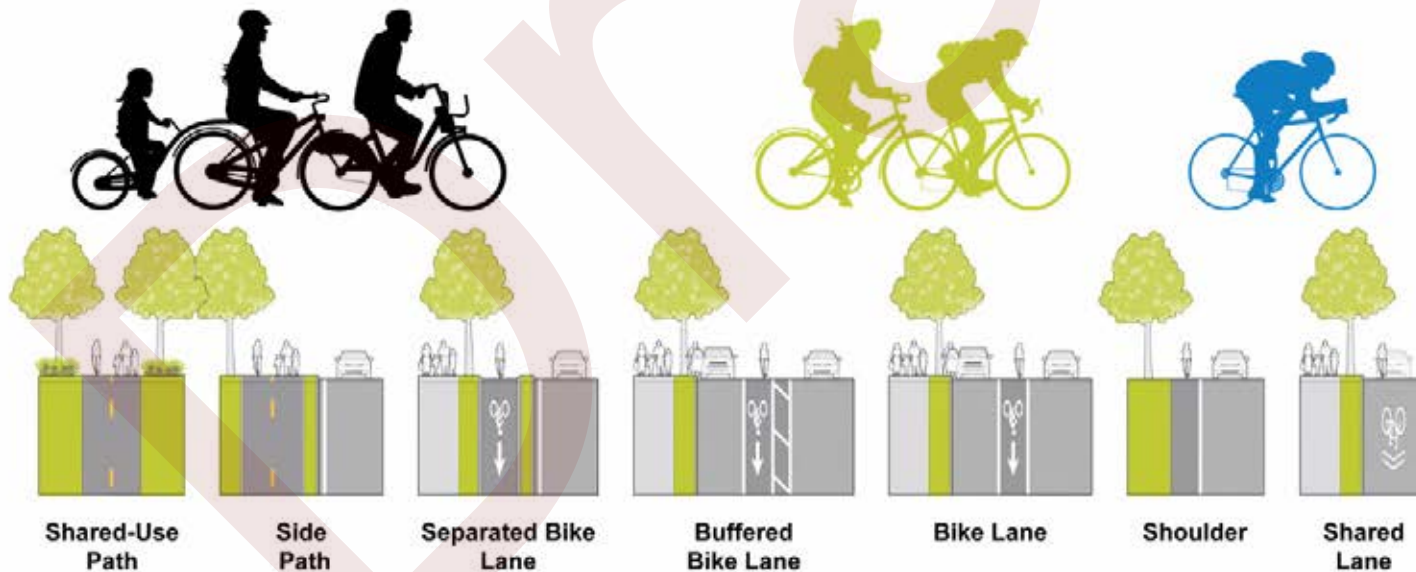


Connectivity



Legibility

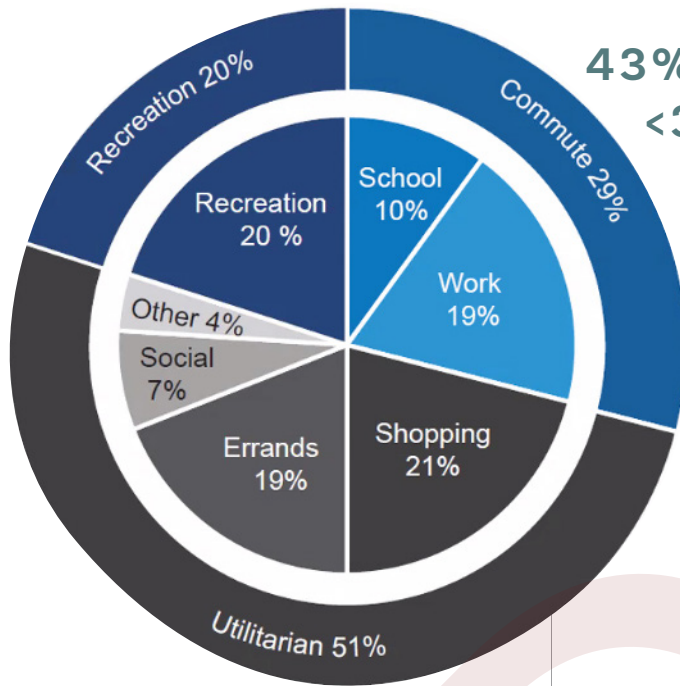
Comfort Increases with Separation



Action Plan

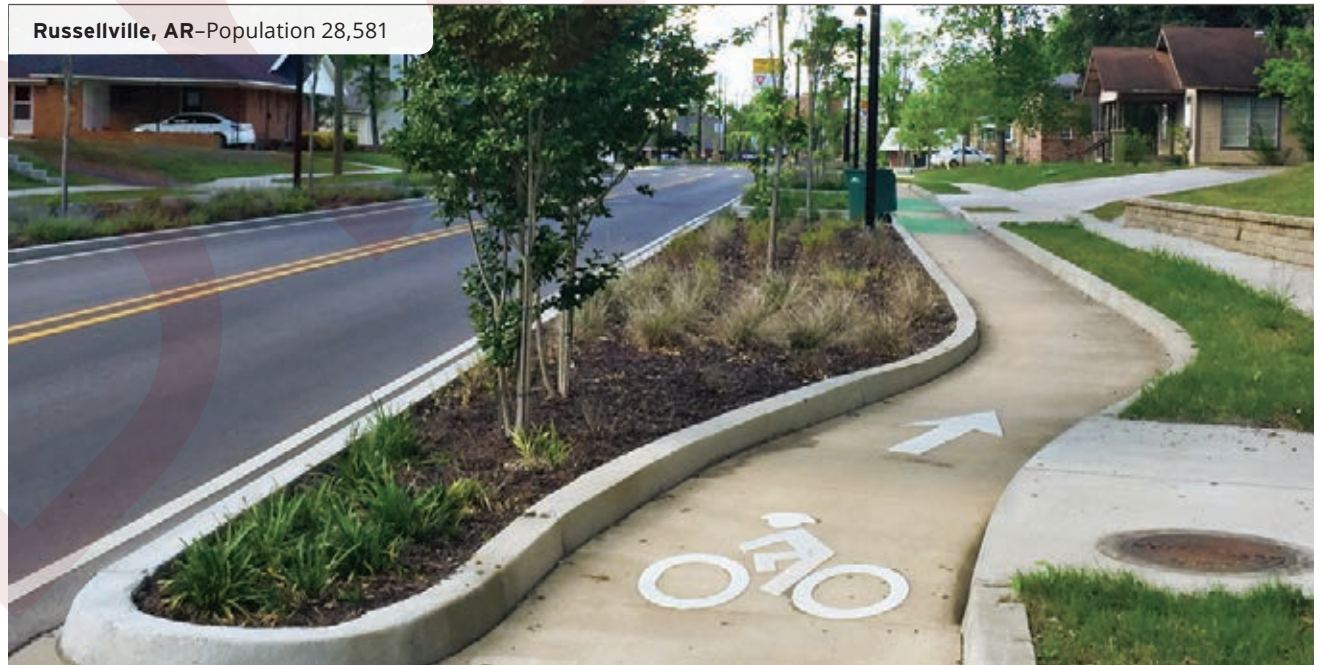
OFF HIGHWAY NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL | SEPARATED BIKE LANE

43% OF TRIPS
<3MILES



Separated Bike Lane

Russellville, AR—Population 28,581



Action Plan

Separated Bike Lane

DESIGN GUIDANCE

Separated bike lanes can offer a similar experience as sidepaths for bicyclists and pedestrians but with increased functionality and safety where increased numbers of pedestrians and potential conflicts with motor vehicles are present. The guidance in this section focuses on one-way separated bike lanes. For two-way separated bike lanes, refer to the FHWA Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide 2015.

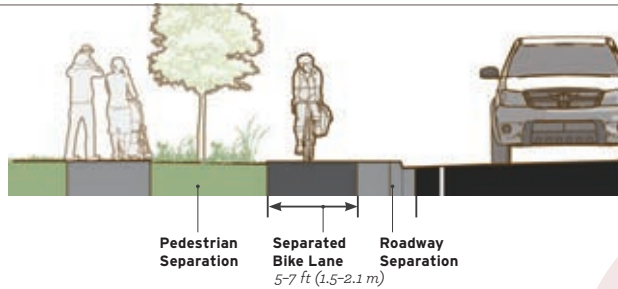


Figure 4-17. Separated bike lanes are exclusive facilities for bicyclists that are distinct from the sidewalk and physically separated from motor vehicle traffic with a vertical element.

GEOMETRIC DESIGN

Separated bike lanes are made up of three interrelated zones, illustrated in Figure 4-17.

SEPARATED BIKE LANE

The separated bike lane zone offers a clear operating area for bicyclist travel. Because of the physical separation between the bike lane and the adjacent travel lanes, the design may be more sensitive to debris accumulation, maintenance access, and operating space impacts than conventional on-street bike lanes.

- Preferred minimum width of a one-way separated bike lane is 7 ft (2.1 m). This width allows for side-by-side riding or passing.
- Absolute minimum bike lane width is 5 ft (1.5 m). At this width, bicyclists will not be able to pass slower users until there is a break in the facility and an opportunity to overtake.
- A clear through area of 10 ft (3.0 m) is beneficial for allowing access by snow plows and street sweepers.



Jackson Hole, WY—Population 9,500

Separated Bike Lane

ROADWAY SEPARATION

The roadway separation is the vertical element between the bike lane and the adjacent roadway. Separation width will vary based on separation type.

- A separation width of 3 ft (0.9 m) allows for a variety of separation methods and provides space adjacent to a parking lane to accommodate door swing and passenger unloading.
- A minimum width roadway separation of 1 ft (0.3 m) may be possible with a mountable or vertical curb face.



Figure 4-18. Separated bike lanes may be separated by an unpaved roadway separation, and a vertical element. When configured as directional facilities, separated bike lanes should be provided on both sides of the roadway.

PEDESTRIAN SEPARATION

Separation from pedestrians is particularly important when a separated bike lane is located immediately adjacent and at the same level as a sidewalk.

- Design and construct separated bike lanes as clearly distinct from the sidewalk. This is accomplished with the use of a curb, separation buffer space, different pavement or other surface treatments, or detectable tactile guidance strips.



Figure 4-19. Separated bike lanes may be configured on an existing roadway surface by using a physical barrier such as a curb or median to separate the bikeway from the roadway.



Figure 4-20. Separation from the sidewalk is valuable for reducing unwanted pedestrian encroachment into the bike lane. The use of physical separation with vertical elements, unpaved separation, or detectable edges may be more effective than visual delineation.

MARKING

Separated bike lanes use markings to clarify intended users and travel direction.

- Standard Bike Lane symbol markings clarify that the lanes are for the exclusive use of bicyclists.

SIGNING

An optional Bike Lane (R3-17) sign may be used to supplement the bike lane pavement markings. Standards and guidance can be found in the MUTCD 2009.

Guide signs may be used to indicate which users belong on the separate parts of a separated bike lane corridor, as illustrated in Figure 4-21.



Figure 4-21. MUTCD signing options for specifying user types and path positioning can be used to indicate which users belong on the separate parts of a separated bike lane corridor (D11-1a, D11-2).



Thank You

Dr. J.