

# Recreation Plan 2020-2024



## FOREST TOWNSHIP, CHEBOYGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



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# FOREST TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN

## 2020-2024

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### **Cheboygan County, Michigan**

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# Chapter 1

## Community Description

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### Extent of Plan Focus

This Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and characteristics within the boundaries of Forest Township. The plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities as well as the socio-economic status of the township and the surrounding area to determine recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements which fit those needs.

### Regional Location

Forest Township covers approximately 69.6 square miles (44,544 acres) in the southeastern section of Cheboygan County within Michigan's Northeastern Lower Peninsula (Figure 1-1). It is approximately halfway between the north pole and equator (latitude of 45°21'N) and encompasses Tower, an unincorporated community located on M-68 and M-33. The township is bordered by Walker and Nunda Townships to the west, Montmorency County to the south, Presque Isle County and the City of Onaway to the east, and Waverly Township to the north. The township is also located approximately 19 miles inland from Lake Huron and about 52 miles inland from Lake Michigan.

### Population

According to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau, Forest Township had a population of 1,045 people, which equates to approximately 15 persons per square mile and highlights the township's rural nature. The total number of housing units was 642 with 130 units classified as seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Based on the Township's average household size of 2.32, the expected seasonal population would be approximately 302 persons. However, many seasonal or recreational visitors stay at private lodging places, campgrounds, or at the homes of family or friends, which makes it difficult to obtain a seasonal population estimate.

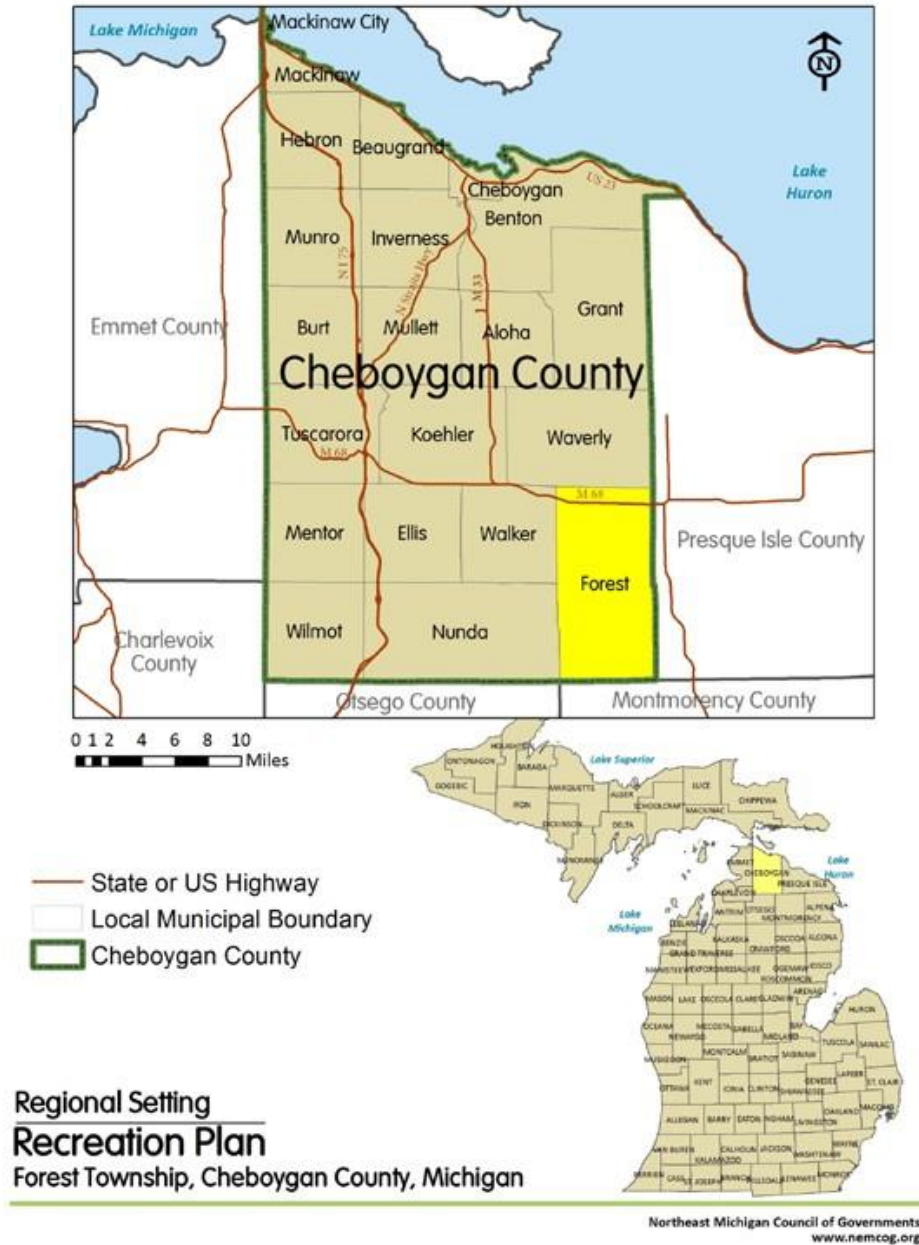


Figure 1-1 Regional Location

## Transportation

State highway M-68 runs east-west through the northern section of Forest Township. It connects U.S. 31 in Emmet County to U.S. 23 in Presque Isle County. From Afton to the City of Onaway, M-68 combines with state highway M-33 through the township. The Cheboygan County Road Commission maintains the roads within the township.

The township does not have a public airport, passenger rail service, or public bus service. However, the Straits Regional Ride does have a route through Forest Township with a stop in Tower.

## Climate

The area's distinct four seasons offer an ever changing landscape and provide ample opportunities for year-round outdoor activities. Snowmobiling, skiing and ice fishing are some of the area's popular winter sports, and summertime activities include swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, and camping. Spring-time brings out the mushroom hunters and bird watchers, while many wait for the autumn months to enjoy hunting and fall color tours.

The lowest temperature occurs in January and February (11 degrees Fahrenheit), while the highest temperature occurs in July (82 degrees Fahrenheit). The average annual precipitation is 30 inches with the majority of the precipitation falling between May and October. The average annual snowfall is 96 inches per year.

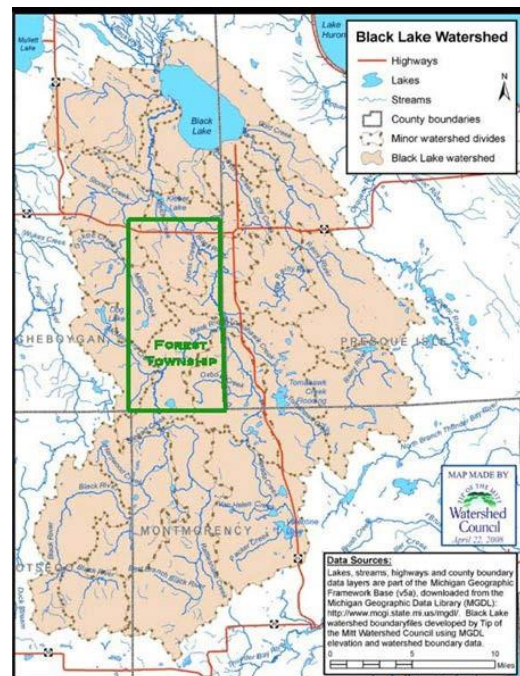
## Topography

The township's topography is gently rolling, which is suitable for most types of development. There are steep slopes in excess of ten percent; however, these areas are limited. The lowest point is located in Tower Pond at 715 feet above sea level, while the highest point is 852 feet above sea level in the western portion of the township.

## Water Resources

Forest Township is home to a number of streams and rivers, which are a part of the Black Lake Watershed (Figure 1-2). The Upper Black River, a designated trout stream, connects Tower Pond, Lyons Creek, and Gillis Creek along with other un-named tributaries as it flows through the township. Ultimately, the streams and rivers flow into Black Lake, which is located north of Forest Township in Grant and Waverly Townships. The lakes within the township's boundaries that provide recreational opportunities include Tower Pond, Grass Lake, Duby Lake, McLavey Lake, and Silver Lake.

The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and the Black Lake Association, among others, developed a watershed plan and a nonpoint source pollution management plan to protect and manage the water resources.



**Figure 1-2 Black Lake Watershed**  
Source: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

## Fish and Wildlife

Forest Township’s topography, climate, abundance of water resources, diverse forest lands, and open areas provide extensive habitat for its fishery and wildlife resources. The lakes and streams have established populations of brook, rainbow, and brown trout, walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and pan fish. The area’s wildlife species include elk, white-tailed deer, black bear, raccoon, turkeys, ruffed grouse, woodcock, snowshoe hares, fox, coyotes and other birds and mammals found in the forested regions of northern Michigan. These resources are an important component of the local economy since they attract people who partake in fishing and hunting opportunities.

## Wetlands

Wetlands are areas that support vegetation adapted to saturated soil conditions. These areas include marshes, swamps, and bogs. Wetlands provide wildlife habitat, protect shorelines from erosion, discharge and recharge aquifers, and improve water quality through the filtration of pollutants, organic chemicals, and toxic heavy metals.

Forest Township’s wetlands are typically associated with old glacial drainage ways that are located near or adjacent to rivers and their tributaries (Figure 1-3). A significant amount of the township’s wetlands are forested and support northern white cedar, tamarack, balsam fir, black spruce, eastern hemlock, white pine, balsam poplar, trembling aspen, paper birch, black ash, speckled alder and shrub willows.

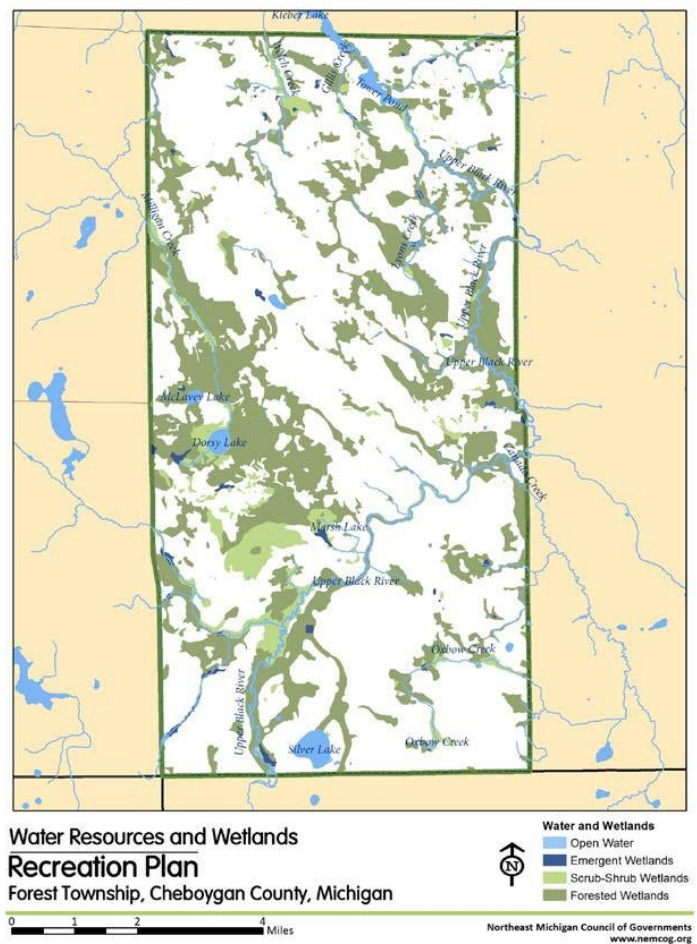


Figure 1-3 Water Resources and Wetlands

## Existing Land Use/Land Cover Characteristics

Over 80% of the township's land cover is classified as woodlands and forested wetlands, with approximately half of the township covered by the Mackinaw State Forest (Table 1-1, Figure 1-4). The western half of the township has nearly 8% of land used for agricultural purposes.

Table 1-1 Forest Township's Existing Land Use/Land Cover		
Land Use/Cover	Acres	Percent
Woodlands (Upland Forest)	20,730	46.7%
Nonforest Uplands	2,652	6.0%
Agricultural	3,464	7.8%
Wetlands	586	1.3%
Forested Wetlands	15,785	35.5%
Water	587	1.3%
Residential	18	0.03%
Commercial/Industrial	39	0.07%
Transitional	579	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,440</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: MDNR MIRIS base data

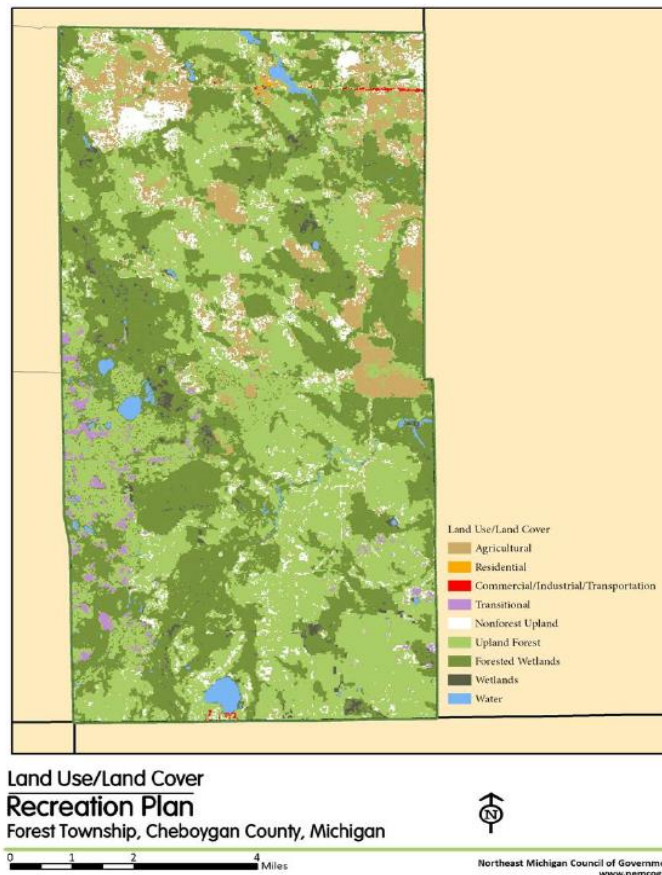


Figure 1-4 Forest Township Land Use/Land Cover

## Soils

Soil characteristics define the land's ability to support certain types of land uses. The soils most suitable for development are well drained and do not have a high water table. This drainage minimizes stormwater impacts and allows for the efficient operation of septic drainfields. Adequate depth to the water table prevents groundwater contamination from septic systems or other non-point source runoff, and allows for basement construction. If drainage and water table separation are issues on properties, civil engineering techniques can improve drainage and maintain adequate separation from the water table; however, these techniques are expensive to construct and maintain.

Hydric soils and soils with slopes greater than ten percent are scattered throughout the township and around Tower Pond. These soils may present development challenges and some of these areas may be unbuildable. Detailed soil and vegetation information may be obtained from the *Soil Survey of Cheboygan County, Michigan* by contacting the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Cheboygan County.

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# Chapter 2

## Administrative Structure

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### Administration

Forest Township is governed by a five-member elected Board of Trustees consisting of a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and two Trustees (Figure 2-1). These positions are chosen by registered voters in an at-large election held every four years. Bylaws adopted by the Township Board determine the order of business and method of conducting regular township business. Meetings are conducted using *Robert's Rules of Order*. When an issue requires a vote to make a determination, a simple majority of trustees must be present.

The Forest Township Board of Trustees has direct control and responsibility for the township's parks and recreation facilities, including the development of the recreation plan. The township also has a Board of Review; however, it does not have a Planning Commission.

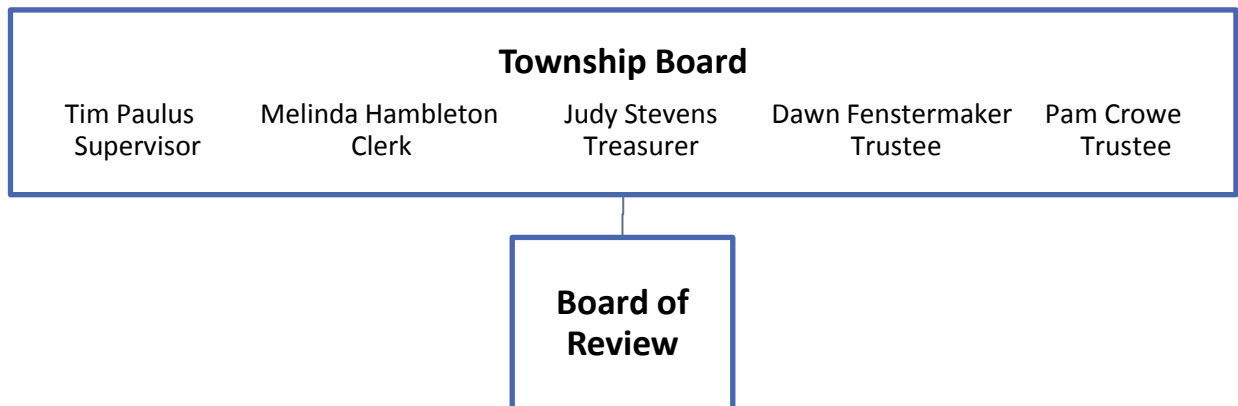


Figure 2-1 Forest Township's Administrative Structure

### Parks & Recreation Maintenance and Programming

Forest Township has seasonal, part-time staff to maintain the recreation facilities, but does not have formal recreation programming.

### Relationships with Other Agencies & Volunteers

Forest Township relies on its community volunteers to assist with the maintenance and upgrade of its facilities, and the planning and organizing of events and festivals.

## Onaway Area Little League

The ball diamonds in Forest Township are utilized all season and draw visitors from all over the region for little league and softball tournaments. The Township works with the Presque Isle Women's Softball League, the Tower Co-Ed League, and the Onaway Area Little League to schedule events, manage concessions, and maintain the fields.

## Forest-Waverly Firefighters' Association

Forest Township partners with Waverly Township to provide fire services to the area. The fire station is located on Forest Township property adjacent to the Village Hall. The Firefighters' Association works with the township and other volunteer organizations to support youth programs.

## Volunteer Committees

Community members form committees to work towards implementing recreation goals or projects in the township. These volunteer committees develop plans, fundraise, construct/install facilities, and maintain recreational facilities. These committees include the Forest Township Children's Place Group and the Great Start Parent Coalition. These groups focus on youth development programs and projects. The girls' high school softball program has worked to improve the softball fields and maintain the facilities. Volunteers also include community service workers, school volunteers, and the sheriff's office work crews.

## Up North Trails Collaborative

Forest Township is an active participant in the Up North Trails Collaborative, a group of stakeholders from all over northern Michigan who have joined together to promote economic development in the region through the development of a comprehensive trail marketing plan.

## Tower Hydroelectric Dam

During re-licensing of the dam, there is a community service aspect included in the terms and conditions. Over the years, these community service projects have enhanced the recreational opportunities within Forest Township.

## Finances/Park & Recreation Maintenance: Current Funding

The Forest Township Board has the authority to commit funds for parks and recreation, accept grants, and purchase land on behalf of the community. The majority of the revenue for parks and recreation maintenance and improvements comes from the General Operating Fund. Additionally, other funding sources include grant opportunities from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, private foundations, community service organizations, and community fundraising groups.

The 2019-2020 budget for the parks operation and maintenance is approximately \$23,000. The projected budget is expected to be similar to the 2019-2020 budget. The capital improvements include the purchase of two pieces of property during the 2018-2019 fiscal year and the 2019-2020 fiscal year.



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# Chapter 3

## Recreation Inventory

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An inventory of recreation facilities available in Forest Township was completed and includes Forest Township-owned facilities, publicly-owned facilities, and privately-owned facilities. Forest Township-owned facilities were evaluated for barrier-free accessibility. A description of the barrier-free accessibility rating criteria is provided below.

**Accessibility Assessments** - An assessment of the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities. This assessment must consider the accessibility of both the facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them. The barrier-free accessibility information and sources of assistance given in appendices B and D of the MDNR Recreation Plan Guidelines document should be consulted when making this assessment. At a minimum, use the following ranking system for each park:

- 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

### Inventory Procedures

The methods used by NEMCOG staff to compile this recreational inventory include verification and compilation of information from the previous Recreation Plan, site visits to each facility, and compilation of information provided by township officials. Compiled information was compared to existing information to ensure consistency and/or accuracy.

### Forest Township Recreational Facilities

Forest Township's recreational facilities include the Forest Township Park, the Forest Township Hall, two public access sites on Tower Pond and the property where the Forest-Waverly Fire Department is located (Figure 3-1).

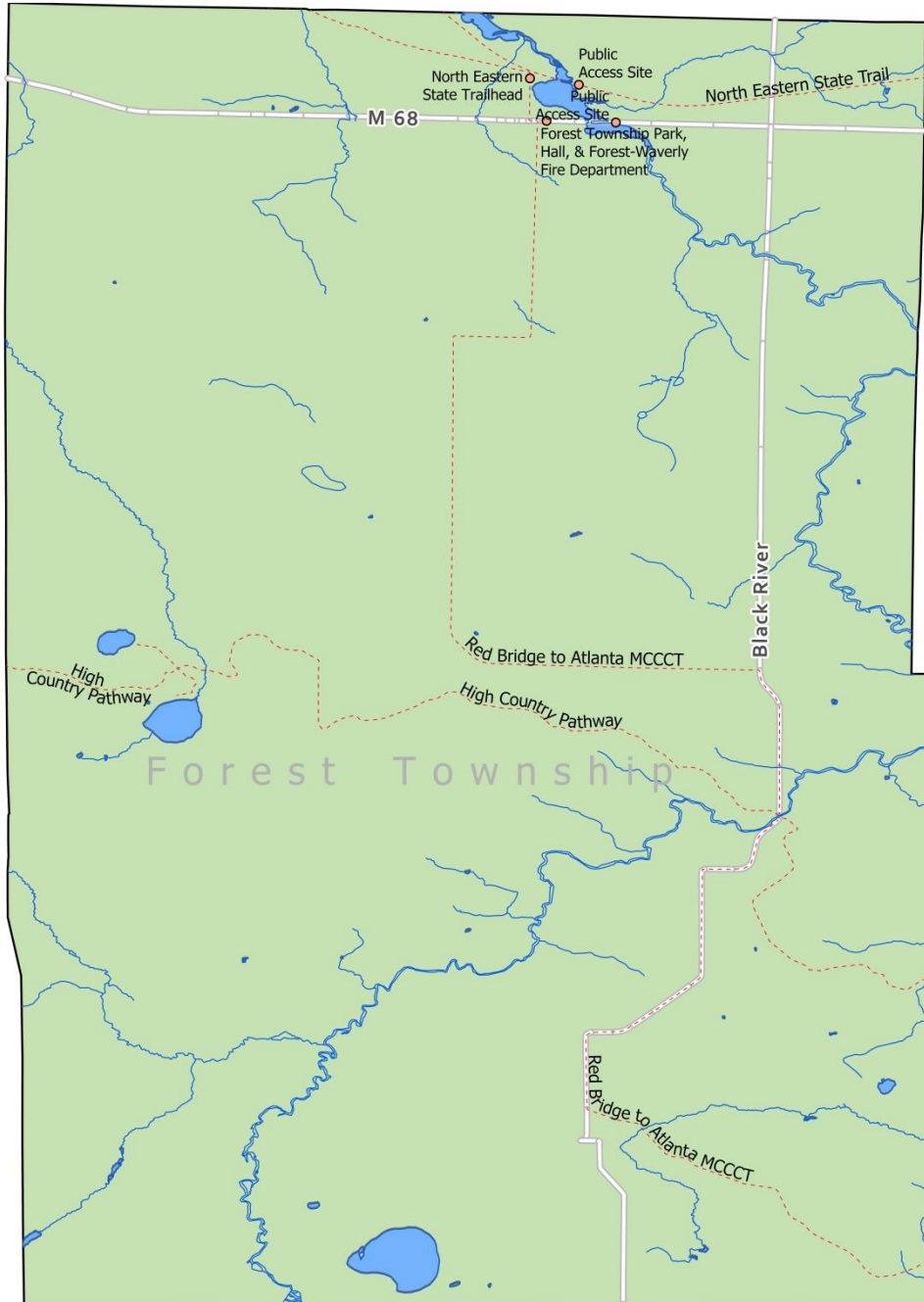


Figure 3-1 Forest Township Recreational Facilities

## Forest Township Park

Type: Community Park

Service Area: Forest Township

Size: 9 acres

Forest Township Park is located off of M-68 directly behind the Forest Township Hall on Tower Pond. The park includes a small swimming area, boat launch, skid pier, baseball/softball field, outdoor ice rink, playground, and a concession building with restrooms.

A temporary fence has been installed for girls' softball and a scoreboard was installed on the field with donations from Presque Isle Electric and Gas. Paved parking is limited in front of the Township Hall; otherwise, parking is available along the roadside on Black River Avenue. The township purchased a little holding within the park on a land contract with the intention to develop plans for a future parking area on the property.



Accessibility Assessment: 2 (some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines)



## Forest Township Hall

Type: Special Use Facility

Service Area: Forest Township

The Forest Township Hall is located off of M-68 in Tower. The hall is used for township offices, meeting space, a special event space, and as a voting precinct. It has a paved parking lot and a commercial kitchen.



Accessibility Assessment: 4 (the entire facility meets accessibility guidelines)



## Public Access Site on M-68

Type: Public Access Site

Service Area: Forest Township

The Township purchased an undeveloped triangular piece of land located on M-68 to provide public access to the Black River and Tower Pond for canoes and kayaks. Future plans include developing the site to provide a picnic area and a canoe/kayak launch site.

Accessibility Assessment: 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

## Public Access Site at the end of KV Avenue

Type: Public Access Site

Service Area: Forest Township

The access site is located in the northeast corner of Tower at the end of KV Avenue. The site is undeveloped and provides public access to Tower Pond.

Accessibility Assessment: 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

## Forest-Waverly Fire Department Hall

The Forest-Waverly Fire Department Hall is located on M-68 adjacent to the Forest Township Hall. The Fire Hall is co-owned by Forest and Waverly Townships, and is used to store fire equipment. The hall is also used for meeting space on a limited basis.

## North Eastern State Trailhead

The trailhead is located north of the Forest Township Park. It is partially owned by the township and partially leased from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

## Forest Township Recreation Grant History

Forest Township has not received any Michigan Department of Natural Resources grants.

## Other Publicly-Owned Recreation Properties

### Mackinaw State Forest

The Mackinaw State Forest is located in the southern half of Forest Township. The forest is designated as a multi-purpose recreational area with hunting designated as its primary use. Hiking and wildlife viewing are also available.

### Pigeon River Country State Forest Area

The Pigeon River Country State Forest Area is located in the Mackinaw State Forest in the southern part of Forest Township. The state forest covers Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Montmorency, and Otsego Counties. Recreational opportunities include designated equestrian trails (the northern loop runs through the southern portion of the township), and boating and fishing access sites to the Upper Black River.

## Cornwall Lake Wildlife Flooding

Cornwall Lake Wildlife Flooding is a man-made lake west of Forest Township in Nunda Township. The area lies within the Pigeon River Forest and offers fishing, wildlife viewing, and hiking opportunities. Motorized crafts are not permitted.

## Dog Lake

Dog Lake is located west of Forest Township in Nunda Township within the Pigeon River Forest. The lake offers limited access fishing opportunities.

## Black Lake State Forest Campground

The Black Lake State Forest Campground is located east of Forest Township in the City of Onaway, Presque Isle County. The campground offers camping, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and boat launches. There is also a designated area for ORV camping.

## Pine Grove State Forest Campground

The Pine Grove State Forest Campground is located west of Forest Township in Nunda Township. The campground offers rustic campsites, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, ORV trails, and boat launches.

## Shoepac Lake State Forest Campground

Shoepac Lake State Forest Campground is located east of Forest Township in Allis Township, Presque Isle County. The campground offers fishing, hiking, a boat launch, rustic campsites, hiking, ORV trails, and wildlife viewing. There is a karst system that runs through the park eastward toward Lake Huron. Shoepac Lake was created by a sinkhole and there are other dry sinkholes throughout the park.

## Onaway State Park

Onaway State Park is a 158-acre state park located northeast of Forest Township in Allis Township, Presque Isle County. The park offers fishing, hiking, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, picnic areas, cabins, campsites with electric hookups, and groomed cross-country ski trails.

## Trails

There are multiple recreational trails that run through Forest Township. The North Eastern State Trail runs along the north side of Tower Pond. The High Country Pathway runs through the middle of the township and the heart of the Pigeon River State Forest. Both trails connect to other non-motorized trails in northern Michigan. In addition, the Michigan Cross Country Cycle Trail runs north-south through the middle of Forest Township and provides trails for ORVs. Finally, there are designated equestrian trails within the Pigeon River State Forest within the Mackinaw State Forest.

## Privately-Owned Recreational Properties

### Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center

The Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center is located north of Forest Township on 1,000 acres in Waverly Township. The center was founded by Walter Reuther as a retreat for UAW (United Auto Workers) members and their families. It offers lodging, swimming, a beach, camping, training facilities, and other amenities for UAW members.

### Black Lake Golf Club

The Black Lake Golf Club is located at the Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center and is open to the public. In 2012, the golf course was ranked as one of the top 100 public courses in America by *Golf Digest*.

### Onaway Speedway

Onaway Speedway is located east of Forest Township on M-33 in Allis Township, Presque Isle County. The speedway has a quarter stock car race track and some camping facilities.

### Stoney Links Golf Course

Stoney Links Golf Course is located east of Forest Township on M-68 in Allis Township, Presque Isle County. The 18-hole golf course is open to the public and also offers restaurant facilities and a spa.

### Schell's Resort

Schell's Resort is a privately-owned resort on the southeast shore of Black Lake, north of Onaway State Park. It offers cottage rentals with full amenities, beach access, and aluminum boats with each cottage.

### Wildwood Lake

Wildwood Lake is located west of Forest Township in Nunda Township. The lake is surrounded by private homesteads. It is used for recreational boating and has two public access sites on Wurns Road and Island Drive.

### Canada Creek Ranch

Canada Creek Ranch is located south of Forest Township in Montmorency County. It is a private fishing, hunting, and recreation club that encompasses over 13,500 acres. The main ranch house has dining facilities, a gift shop, and library. The property offers homesteads, rental cabins, and camping facilities.

## Regional Recreation Surrounding Forest Township

Forest Township residents can also utilize recreational facilities outside of the township. Listed below are the public and private recreational facilities in the vicinity of Forest Township.

Complete information on all public and private recreational facilities in Cheboygan County can be found in the appropriate township, city, and village recreation plans.

<b>Nunda Township</b>	
<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
Webb Road Public Access Site, Pigeon River	Wildwood Lake
Shady Trail Public Access Site, Pigeon River	
Campsite Road Public Access Site, Pigeon River	
Pine Grove State Forest Campground	
Cornwall Lake Wildlife Flooding	
Dog Lake	

<b>Walker Township</b>	
<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
Dog Lake State Wildlife Flooding Area	

<b>Waverly Township</b>	
<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
Black Lake Public Access Site (Stewart Beach Road and County Line Road, Corbat Road)	Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center
Stoney Creek State Wildlife Flooding Area	Black Lake Golf Club
Klieber Public Access Site, Black Lake/Klieber Pond	
Klieber Public Access Site (Shanty Rapids Road, Twin School Road, Klieber Road)	
Osmun Road Public Access Site, Osmun Lake	
Brady and Waveland Roads Public Fishing Access Site, Stoney Creek	

<b>North Allis Township, Presque Isle County</b>	
<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
Onaway State Park	
North Allis Ballfield	

<b>Onaway, Presque Isle County</b>	
<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
Black Lake State Forest Campground	Awakon Park
Edna Lound Recreation Area	Onaway Historical Museum
Chandler Park	Onaway Speedway
Presque Isle District Library	Presque Isle Council on Aging
Kirtland's Warbler Study Area	
Maxon Field	

<b>Allis Township, Presque Isle County</b>	
<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
Onaway State Park	Schnell's Resort
Shoepac Lake State Forest Campground	Stoney Links Golf Course
Tomahawk Creek Flooding State Forest Campground	
Tomahawk Lake State Forest Campground	
Bear Den Lake	

<b>Montmorency Township, Montmorency County</b>	
<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
Long Lake Public Access	Canada Creek Ranch
Rush Lake Public Access	Sorenson's Grass Lake Resort
Clear Lake State Park	St. John Lutheran Church
Town Corner Lake State Forest Campground	

<b>Corwith Township, Otsego County</b>	
<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>
Shore-to-Shore Trail	Black Bear Golf Club
High Country Pathway	Treetops "North" Golf Courses/Condo Association
Shingle Mill Pathway	Song of the Morning Yoga Retreat
North Central State Trail/Iron Belle Trail	
Sturgeon River Access (Old Vanderbilt Road)	
Pigeon River Public Access (Vanderbilt Road and Sturgeon Valley Road)	
Black River Public Access (Black River Trail and the Tin Shanty Road Bridge)	
Pickerel Lake State Forest Campground	
Green Timbers Special Use Area	
Elk Hill Equestrian State Forest Campground and Trail Camp	
Pigeon River Bridge State Forest Campground	
Pigeon River State Forest Campground	
Round Lake State Forest Campground	
Town Corner Lake State Forest Campground	

## Recreation Outside of Cheboygan County

In addition to recreation within Cheboygan County, township residents have access to recreational opportunities to the east in Presque Isle County and to the west in Emmet County. These counties offer similar recreational opportunities as Cheboygan County, including large amounts of public lands for hunting and fishing, access to waterways for fishing and boating, public parks, swimming areas, campgrounds, playgrounds, and sports fields. However, Presque



Isle County also offers access to other recreational opportunities, such as Black Mountain Forest Recreation Area, PH Hoeft State Park, Forty Mile Point Lighthouse Park, Thompson’s State Park, the Presque Isle Lighthouses, Besser Natural Area, Ocqueoc Falls, Onaway State Park, and the Alpena to Cheboygan Trail. Emmet County recreational opportunities include indoor swimming at the Harbor Springs Pool, Dark Sky Park at the Headlands, Camp Pet-o-Se-Ga, Colonial Fort Michilimackinac, and downhill skiing at Nub’s Nob and Boyne Highlands.

It is important to note that while all of these regional recreational opportunities and many more are available to residents of Forest Township, many require fees and all require travel in order to access them.

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# Chapter 4

## Planning Process

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### Forest Township Planning Process

Development of a community recreation plan must involve interaction and input from citizens and community groups. The Forest Township Board was the lead entity in developing the Recreation Plan. The Township Board meetings were open to the public with time allocated for comments. A timeline for the development of the recreation plan update is as follows:

#### Schedule

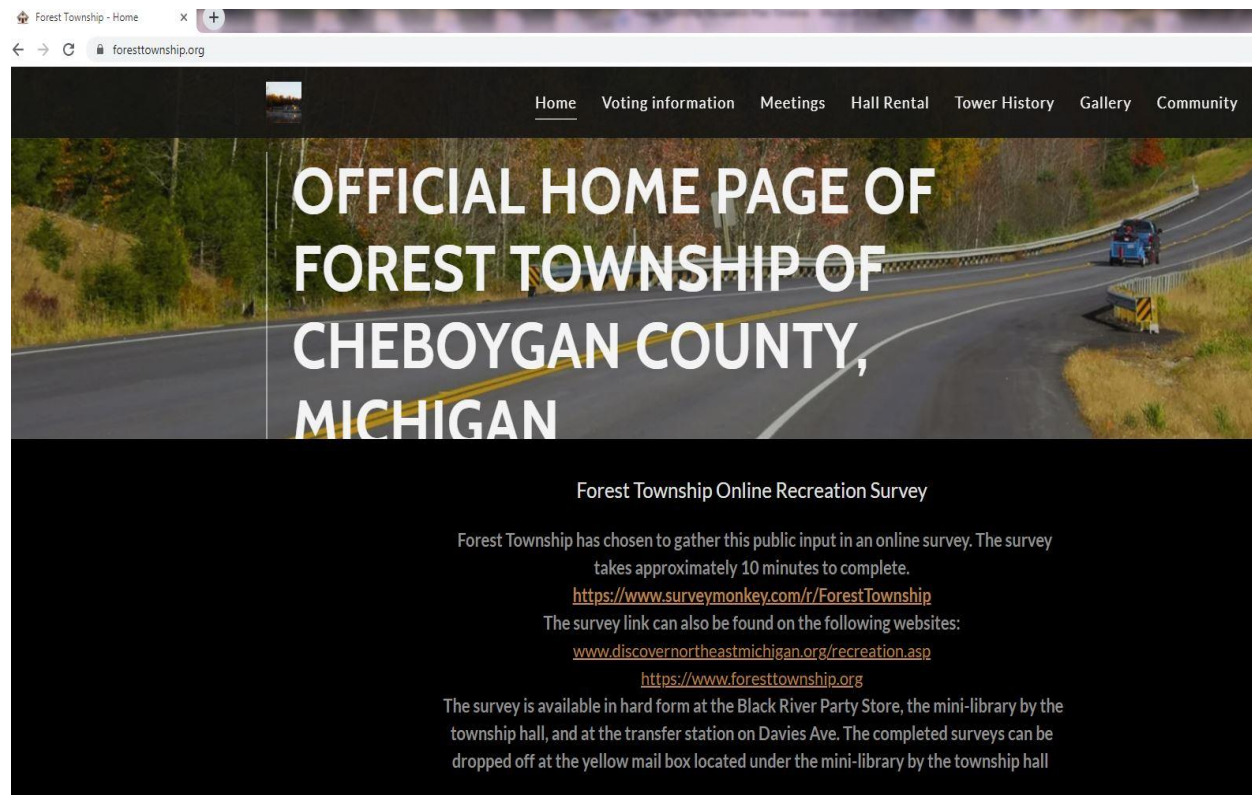
<b>May 2019</b>	Forest Township staff and Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) developed a survey to gain public input and feedback about the recreational opportunities in Forest Township. The survey was made available on Forest Township’s website, NEMCOG’s website, at the Black River Party Store, the Mini-Library at the Township Hall, and at the Township Transfer Station.
<b>October 2019</b>	NEMCOG staff reviewed and updated the plan with available public information.
<b>November 2019</b>	The Forest Township Board reviewed and updated the plan to reflect the current state of recreation in the township.
<b>December 2019 – January 2020</b>	<p>NEMCOG and the Forest Township Board reviewed and updated the plan’s goals, objectives, and action program. The overall draft plan was also reviewed.</p> <p>The notice about the draft plan’s availability for review and the public meeting was published in the local newspaper, online, and placed at the Township Hall, Fire Department, Little Recreation Center, and Black River Party Store.</p> <p>The draft plan was posted online and paper copies were distributed throughout the township for the 30-day public review period.</p>
<b>January 2020</b>	A public meeting was held. No comments were received about the plan. The Township Board passed a resolution to adopt the recreation plan.

## Public Input

Citizen opinions about recreation priorities are instrumental in the development of a recreation plan. An online survey was offered to citizens to gain input about recreational facilities. The township approved and publicized the survey on its website and distributed paper copies throughout the township. The survey results can be found in Appendix A.

The township felt the community was well-represented throughout the process especially in the online survey. After the public input was gathered and recorded, the township met to prioritize the projects for the Action Plan and to develop a capital improvements plan.

## Survey Publicity



# Notice of Plan Availability and Public Hearing Notice

County of Cheboygan, ss  
State of Michigan

Notice of Availability of  
Forest Township's Draft  
Recreation Plan  
and  
Public Hearing for Input on the  
Draft Recreation Plan

Forest Township is making their draft recreation plan available for public review for a 30-day period of time. After the 30-day public review period, there will be a public hearing on January 7, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Forest Township Hall. Public comments are requested either in person or by representative at the public hearing, or submitted to Christina McEmber at [cmember@nemcog.org](mailto:cmember@nemcog.org), or at Forest Township Recreation Plan, PO Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734. The draft plan is available at <https://foresttownship.org> (Forest Township) or at the township hall. All necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services will be provided to individuals at the meeting upon 10 days notice to the township staff at 9511 M-68 Hwy, Onaway, MI 49765.

Delia Marx, being duly sworn, says: I  
am an employee of THE CHEBOYGAN DAILY  
TRIBUNE, a newspaper printed and circulated in  
in said county. The annexed is a printed copy of  
a notice which was published in said paper on  
the following dates to wit:

December 3 A.D. 2019  
\_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 20\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 20\_\_\_\_\_

Delia Marx  
Subscribed and sworn to me this 5th  
day of December A.D. 2019

Mary E. Greenwood  
Notary Public, Cheboygan County, Michigan

My Commission expires: 11/28/21

Mary E. Greenwood, Notary Public  
State of Michigan  
County of Cheboygan  
My Commission Expires Nov. 28, 2021  
Acting in the County of Cheboygan

County of Cheboygan, ss  
State of Michigan

Notice of Availability of Forest  
Township's Draft Recreation  
Plan  
and  
Public Hearing for Input on the  
Draft Recreation Plan

Forest Township is making their  
draft recreation plan available  
for public review for a 30-day  
period of time. After the 30-day  
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be a public hearing on January  
7, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Forest  
Township Hall. Public com-  
ments are requested either in  
person or by representative at  
the public hearing, or submitted  
to Christina McEmber at  
cmcember@nemcog.org, or at  
Forest Township Recreation  
Plan, PO Box 457, Gaylord, MI  
49734. The draft plan is avail-  
a b l e a t  
<https://foresttownship.org>  
(Forest Township) or at the  
township hall. All necessary  
reasonable auxiliary aids and  
services will be provided to indi-  
viduals at the meeting upon 10  
days notice to the township staff  
at 9511 M-68 Hwy, Onaway, MI  
49765.

Delia Marx, being duly sworn, says: I  
am an employee of THE CHEBOYGAN DAILY  
TRIBUNE, a newspaper printed and circulated in  
in said county. The annexed is a printed copy of  
a notice which was published in said paper on  
the following dates to wit:

December 11 A.D. 2019  
\_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Delia Marx  
Subscribed and sworn to me this 13th  
day of December A.D. 20 19

Mary E Greenwood  
Notary Public, Cheboygan County, Michigan

My Commission expires: 11/28/21  
Mary E. Greenwood, Notary Public  
State of Michigan  
County of Cheboygan  
My Commission Expires Nov. 28, 2021  
Acting in the County of Cheboygan

## Minutes from the Public Hearing and Township Board Meeting

# BOARD Forest Township Meeting Minutes Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 2020

Board members in attendance: Clerk Melinda Hambleton Trustee Pam Crowe, Trustee Dawn Fenstermaker, Supervisor, Tim Paulus, Treasurer Judy Stevens

**Call to Order:** 7:06 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited by all.

**Public Hearing for Adoption of Recreation plan for Forest Township:**

Open at 7:06 PM. No public Comment. Hearing is closed at 7:08 PM.

**Recreation Plan Resolution of Adoption for Forest Township:** Clerk Hambleton made the motion to adopt the 2020-2025 Recreation Plan. Trustee Crowe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. It has been moved and supported to adopt the Forest Township Recreation Plan. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Presentation of Minutes:**

Trustee Dawn Fenstermaker made the Motion to accept Dec 2019 Meeting Minutes. Supervisor Paulus 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion has been moved and supported to accept Dec. 2019. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Agenda:** As presented.

**Guests:** No comment

**Correspondence:** Pontem updates are being added to the Pontem database.

**Reports:**

**Financial:** Nov and Dec reports given. Nov. Beginning Balance: 3090.06, deductions: 1887.30, Ending Balance: 1216.76 Additions: 17,014.00, IMMA: 69668.69, interest:5.54, Ending Balance: 69674.23

Dec: Beginning Balance: 1216.76, Deductions: 9,573.19, Additions: 11,775.00, ending balance:3,417.57, IMMA: 69674.23, Transfer Tochecking:10,000.00, interest:5.48, ending balance:59,679.71.

**Ambulance:** 67 runs, 36 ALS, 7 BLS, 20 No Transport, Forest 11 Billed 50,475.00 Collected \$8148.00. New Ambulance is here. Has new snow tires on it, with deer catcher on the front of it. New computer has just been purchased.

**Fire:** 15 MFR runs, 10 Forest, 2 Waverly, 1 Walker, 2 Mutual Aide runs, 2 fire runs Jan 4<sup>th</sup> in Waverly, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> a personal accident in Forest. 4 people are taking Fire Fighting training, 2 taking EMT training. County Fire Association has purchased large signs for Fire Fighters to use when fires are happening to help inform people that a fire is happening.

**Road Commission:** Trucks have been out about earlier.

**MTA:** Burt/Mullet. MSU Biological station was present, talking about what is available to people to use/see. Voting/Elections changes still have not passed. Election workers can be from other townships. Forest Township will host the July Christmas MTA Meeting.

**Hall:** Clarification needed for Non for Profit: Non Profit classification If a person/business wants the hall and makes a profit for the rental, then needs to pay. All need to pay the deposit, and the deposit can be returned if the hall is clean and no damage. The hall was used 10 dates. Dumpster will be picked up tomorrow. Sign needed to be added to kitchen about no grease down the sink.

**Park:** Ice rink is open. Beams are installed for new score board. Road sign got hit. Highway Dept will fix it. Tim will find someone to take down a few of the old pine trees in the park.

**Marina:** Gyn is getting very busy.

**Cemetery:** Need to get digital map of cemetery completed to be uploaded in Pontem.

**Clerk Report:** Add Deputy Clerk assignment: Board approved adding Gary Tucker to the banking accounts at Citizens National Bank for Township banking purposes. Gary Tucker has been assigned as Deputy Clerk.

Supervisor Paulus made the motion to approve adding Gary Tucker to the banking accounts at Citizen National Bank for Forest Township. Trustee Crowe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. It has been moved and supported to add Gary Tucker to the Forest Township Checking accounts at Citizen National Bank. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Motion to accept reports:** Treasurer Stevens made the motion to accept the reports as presented. Trustee Fenstermaker 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. It has been moved and supported to accept the reports. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Due Bills: Question:** Pam asked why we had a mini floor fan. Supervisor Paulus said it was to dry the floors/prevent slipping accidents.

Trustee Fenstermaker made the motion to pay the bills as presented. Trustee Crowe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. It has been moved and supported to pay bills as presented. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Old Business:** PA system: we need to upgrade the system. Tim will look into purchase ing a new PA system.

**New Business:** Tim will be looking at developing the budget. Get Tim any input regarding the budget.

Filing cabinets for the Township office. Tim will check on prices for the filing cabinets.

**Public Comment/Guest Speakers:** No Comment/No Guest Speaker

**Motion to Adjourn:** Trustee Fenstermaker made the motion to adjourn. Trustee Crowe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:15. It has been moved and supported to adjourn at 8:15 . All in favor. motion carries.

Facebook@foresttownship-tower

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Melinda Hambleton Clerk

*Melinda Hambleton  
Forest Township Clerk*



Township Board's Adoption Resolution

**RECREATION PLAN**

**RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

**Forest Township**

**WHEREAS,** Forest Township has undertaken a 5-Year Recreation Plan update which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain the recreational facilities during the period of 2020-2024, and

**WHEREAS,** an online recreation survey was published on May 15, 2019 and remained open for public input until November 8, 2019, providing residents with an opportunity to comment and guide recreation in the Township, and

**WHEREAS,** public notices were published in *The Cheboygan Daily Tribune* on December 3, 2019 and December 11, 2019, which began a 30-day public review period for the draft plan, and

**WHEREAS,** Forest Township has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the entire community, and

**WHEREAS,** a public hearing was held on January 7, 2020 in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Township Board Meeting at the Forest Township Hall to provide residents with the opportunity to ask questions and express opinions on the Recreation Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Forest Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Recreation Plan Update as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Township.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**I HEREBY CERTIFY,** that the forgoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Forest Township Board of Trustees held on January 7, 2020.

Jan 07, 2020  
Date

Melinda Hamilton  
Signature

Melinda Hamilton, Clerk  
Name, Title

## Submittal Letters

January 10, 2020

*Forest Township*  
9511 M-68 Hwy  
Onaway, MI 49765

Cheboygan County Planning Commission  
870 South Main Street, Room 103  
P.O. Box 70  
Cheboygan, MI 49721

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find an enclosed copy of the 2020-2024 Forest Township Recreation Plan, which was adopted by the Township Board on January 7, 2020.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 989-733-8849.

Sincerely,



Tim Paulus  
Supervisor, Forest Township

January 10, 2020

Forest Township  
~~9511 N. 68 Hwy~~  
Onaway, MI 49765

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments  
P.O. Box 457  
80 Livingston Blvd, Suite U-108  
Gaylord, MI 49734

Dear Ms. Rekowski:

Please find an enclosed copy of the 2020-2024 Forest Township Recreation Plan, which was adopted by the Township Board on January 7, 2020.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 989-733-8849.

Sincerely,



Tim Paulus  
Supervisor, Forest Township

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# Chapter 5

## Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

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### Goals & Objectives

After reviewing input from the community and the township's demographic characteristics, the following goals and objectives were created to provide guidance during the development of recreational projects.

**Goal 1      Create a recreational system that is visible, that is promoted, and is easily accessible to all users.**

- Objective 1.1 Improve universal accessibility across all recreational facilities in the township.
- Objective 1.2 Use signage, brochures, and maps to connect users to township recreational facilities and the local trail system.
- Objective 1.3 Ensure recreation facilities are conveniently located in and near residential areas.
- Objective 1.4 Provide a balance of recreational amenities which are oriented to the aging population to increase the desirability of the community to retirees.
- Objective 1.5 Provide recreational amenities which are oriented toward the younger population and families in order to increase the livability of the community to attract young families to the area and retain older youth.

**Goal 2      Actively improve and maintain recreational resources in Forest Township.**

- Objective 2.1 Adopt a capital facilities program to prioritize and identify funding for expanding existing amenities that would serve the Township's population and to support the ongoing activities at those facilities.
- Objective 2.2 Prepare and implement a regular maintenance plan to keep the Township's recreational resources in good condition.
- Objective 2.3 Repair and replace worn out and damaged equipment.

**Goal 3      Ensure a thorough and regional Recreational Planning Process.**

- Objective 3.1 Regularly update the 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan in order to ensure the recreation system reflects the current needs of the community.
- Objective 3.2 Develop and maintain strong local government involvement in recreational and tourism planning and projects.
- Objective 3.3 Seek grant funding and other financial assistance to help acquire and develop recreational facilities and achieve the recreation goals of this Plan.
- Objective 3.4 Support cooperative regional recreation planning and development with Cheboygan County, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other surrounding communities.
- Objective 3.5 Improve the quality of life for residents and attract visitors to Forest Township by maintaining, improving and expanding recreation within the township and surrounding areas by working cooperatively with local and State governmental agencies, community service agencies, and local businesses. Create recreational opportunities for people of all abilities and recreational needs.

**Goal 4      Provide new opportunities for passive recreation, allowing residents and visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the township.**

- Objective 4.1 Pursue the acquisition of natural areas in the community and protect them for one of three purposes: “keep out” natural areas for strict preservation and restoration, “look only” natural areas (may include nature trails, sitting areas, and other passive recreation), and “look-and-touch” natural areas (nature education centers and natural resources gardens) at which people are allowed to touch nature, to hands-on grow nature, to hands-on sustain nature, and to practice sustainability using nature.
- Objective 4.2 Promote the development of non-motorized trails in the Township’s preserved natural spaces.

### Capital Improvements Schedule

The Capital Improvements Schedule describes the recreational improvements Forest Township would like to pursue over the next five years (Table 5-1).

**Table 5-1 Capital Improvements Schedule**

<b>Forest Township Park</b>				
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE(S)</b>	<b>YEAR*</b>
High	Construct a barrier-free fishing platform	TBD	Michigan DNR; local and private foundations; community service organizations; general operating fund, volunteer labor	2024
Medium	Develop plans for and install a bathroom building by the ball diamonds	TBD	Michigan DNR; local and private foundations; community service organizations; general operating fund, volunteer labor	2024
Medium	Develop plans for and install a picnic pavilion by the beach	TBD	Michigan DNR; local and private foundations; community service organizations; general operating fund, volunteer labor	2024
Medium	Develop plans for and install a veteran’s memorial with a gazebo	TBD	Michigan DNR; local and private foundations; community service organizations; general operating fund, volunteer labor	2024
Low	Develop plans for a future parking area on the property with the life lease	TBD	Michigan DNR; local and private foundations; community service organizations; general operating fund, volunteer labor	2024
<b>Public Access Site (south of M-68)</b>				
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE(S)</b>	<b>YEAR*</b>
Medium	Improve the access to Tower Pond and the Black River (e.g. develop a picnic area and a canoe/kayak launch site)	TBD	Michigan DNR; local and private foundations; community service organizations; general operating fund, volunteer labor	2024
<b>General</b>				
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE(S)</b>	<b>YEAR*</b>
Medium	Develop a partnership with the school system to create plans for a public gymnasium	TBD	Michigan DNR; local and private foundations; community service organizations; general operating fund, volunteer labor	2024

\*Some flexibility in the timeline may be necessary in order to allow for necessary engineering studies, environmental surveys, contractual scheduling, and the availability of funding.

## Basis for Action

Recreation planning in Forest Township considered its population.

1. The township has a large mid-life population. The township's median age is 51.7 years old, which is older than the State of Michigan's median age of 39.6 years old. Individuals 45 to 64 years of age make up 35.7% of the population, while individuals aged 65 and older make up 25.1%. Therefore, this population should be given consideration when planning for recreational activities.
2. Young people, under the age of 19, make up 16.5% of the township's population, while individuals between the ages of 20 to 44 years represent 22.7% of the population. Given the population make up, recreational facilities in the township need to appeal to diverse age groups and various accessibility needs.
3. The township's median household income is \$38,661 compared to the state's median income of \$52,668. About 44% of the households in the township receive social security income compared to 34% statewide. Additionally, about 31.5% of the households receive retirement income compared to 23% statewide. The township's unemployment rate is 10.0% compared to 4.5% statewide. Consideration should be given to whether or not residents can afford to incur the cost of recreational activities and the drive time and expenses associated with travelling to recreational facilities.

*Figures obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013-2017 5-year estimates.*

With the township's population in mind, the following factors also influence recreational development in Forest Township:

1. All residents and visitors should have access to safe routes that connect recreational facilities, residential areas, and local attractions throughout the township. Consideration of public safety, accessibility and inclusivity will be taken into account when planning for recreational opportunities within the township.
2. Forest Township has an abundance of natural and recreational spaces with amenities that improve the quality of life in the township. Providing year-round recreational opportunities in these spaces will attract visitors and offer a means of enjoyment for residents. These spaces will also provide opportunities for social interaction and educational programming. Additionally, the Township Hall can serve as a community gathering place for cultural events and free recreation.
3. All residents and visitors should be able to enjoy recreational opportunities in the township. When planning, consideration will be given to the type of parks, their location, their distribution, and the type of recreational activities that are offered.
4. The maintenance and operation of existing and new recreational facilities will balance the preservation of the natural environment and the scenic areas with tourism potential.



# Appendix A

## Results of the Public Input Survey

Complete results can be viewed at:  
<http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/docview.asp?did=651>

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# Appendix B

## Community Park and Recreation Plan Checklist



## COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

### CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park and Recreation Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR through MiRecGrants **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than February 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan: Forest Township Recreation Plan 2020-2024		
List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Forest Township	Cheboygan	January 2020
PLAN CONTENT		
<b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> Please check <u>each</u> box to certify that the listed information is included in the <u>final</u> plan.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations <b>Recreation Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>3. RECREATION INVENTORY</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Waterways Inventory (if applicable)		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS</b>		

**6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of Notice December 3, 2019; December 11, 2019

Type of Notice Public Notice in The Cheboygan Daily Tribune

Plan Location Township Hall; Foresttownship.org; Nemcog.org

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 35 days

Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice December 3, 2019; December 11, 2019

Name of Newspaper The Cheboygan Daily Tribune

Date of Meeting January 7, 2020

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

**7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**8. ACTION PROGRAM**

**9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)**

**PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution approving the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 7, 2020

2. Official resolution of the \_\_\_\_\_ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: Not applicable

3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: January 10, 2020

4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: January 10, 2020

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION**

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Forest Township \_\_\_\_\_ includes the required content, as indicated above and as set forth by the DNR. (Local Unit of Government)

*[Signature]* Supervisor Jan 07, 2020  
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

**This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.**