



# OTSEGO COUNTY & ELMIRA TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN



2022-2027



# Otsego County Recreation Plan 2022–2027

**PREPARED FOR:**

**Otsego County Parks & Recreation Commission**

Dave Baragrey, President

Scott Courterier, Vice President

Bonny Miller, Secretary

Doug Johnson, Otsego County Board of Commissioners

Troy Huff, Otsego County Road Commission

Judi Jarecki, Otsego County Planning Commission

Randy Stults

Justin Wing

Jack Korte

Vacant, Parks and Recreation Director

Jacob Brown, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Keri Swantek

and

**Matt Barresi, Otsego County Administrator**

and

**Elmira Township Planning Commission**

Duane Hoffman, Chair

Ann Vogel, Vice-Chair

Paul Hartmann, Secretary

Henry Mrozek

Diane Purgiel, Board Trustee

**PREPARED BY:**

**Northeast Michigan Council of Governments**

80 Livingston Blvd Suite 8

P. O. Box 457

Gaylord, Michigan 49734

[discovernortheastmichigan.org/nemcog.asp](http://discovernortheastmichigan.org/nemcog.asp)

**Adopted** November 22, 2022 by the Otsego County Board of Commissioners

**Adopted** January 11, 2023 by the Elmira Township Board of Trustees

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Chapter 1: Community Description .....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
Recreation Plan Jurisdiction.....	1-1
Community Location & Recent History .....	1-1
Transportation .....	1-3
Roads.....	1-3
Non-Motorized Transportation .....	1-4
Public Transportation.....	1-4
Air Transportation.....	1-4
School Districts.....	1-5
Recreational Opportunities.....	1-6
Population Statistics.....	1-6
Tourism .....	1-7
Natural Resources.....	1-7
Water .....	1-7
Soils .....	1-8
Minerals .....	1-8
<b>Chapter 2: Administrative Structure.....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
Otsego County Parks & Recreation Administration.....	2-1
Elmira Township Administration .....	2-3
Parks & Recreation Operating Budgets .....	2-4
Volunteer Involvement .....	2-7
Partnerships with Schools.....	2-7
Relationships with Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations .....	2-7
<b>Chapter 3: Recreation Inventory .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
OCPR and Elmira Township Parks & Facilities .....	3-2
1. Otsego Lake County Park.....	3-4



2. Pleasant View Park (Wah Wah Soo) .....	3-6
3. Dr. Robert S. Libke Memorial Fields .....	3-6
4. Frank Wilkinson Park (Irontone Springs) .....	3-7
5. Otsego County Community Center .....	3-8
6. Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve .....	3-10
7. Otsego County Sportsplex/Energy Outlet.....	3-12
8. Pontresina Park (Dog Park) .....	3-14
9. Otsego County Courthouse Plaza .....	3-15
10. Otsego County Fairgrounds .....	3-16
11. Elmira Township Park.....	3-17
Recreation Grant Inventory .....	3-18
Other Park & Recreation Facilities in Otsego County .....	3-20
Intra-State and Regional Trails.....	3-20
The Iron Belle Trail .....	3-20
Shore-to-Shore Trail.....	3-21
High Country Pathway .....	3-21
Recreational Facilities by Community in Otsego County.....	3-24
Bagley Township .....	3-24
Charlton Township.....	3-25
Chester Township .....	3-26
Corwith Township.....	3-26
Dover Township .....	3-28
Elmira Township.....	3-29
Hayes Township .....	3-30
Livingston Township .....	3-30
Otsego Lake Township .....	3-31
Village of Vanderbilt.....	3-33
City of Gaylord .....	3-34
Otsego Lake and Road End Access Locations .....	3-36

Recreation Programming in Otsego County .....	3-38
Recreation Programming at the Otsego County Community Center .....	3-38
Recreation Programming at the Otsego Lake County Park .....	3-38
Recreation Programming at Other Facilities .....	3-39
Recreation Programming at the Otsego County Sportsplex .....	3-39
Additional Community Recreation Facilities.....	3-40
<b>Chapter 4: Planning and Public Input Process .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
Schedule.....	4-1
Public Input .....	4-2
Online Recreation Survey Publicity.....	4-4
Notice of Draft Plan Availability for 30 Days.....	4-10
Notice for Public Hearing for Otsego County .....	4-11
Otsego County Parks & Recreation Commission Resolution.....	4-12
Otsego County Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes.....	4-13
Otsego County Board of Commissioners Resolution.....	4-18
Otsego County Board of Commissioners/Public Hearing Minutes.....	4-20
Elmira Township Public Hearing Notice .....	4-24
Elmira Township Board Resolution.....	4-25
Elmira Township Board/ Public Hearing Minutes.....	4-26
Copies of Submittal Letters.....	4-29
<b>Chapter 5: Goals, Objectives &amp; Action Plan .....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
Goals & Objectives .....	5-1
Action Plan .....	5-2
Proposed Projects.....	5-2
General Basis for Action Plan.....	5-7

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1.1 Regional Location Map..... 1-2

Figure 1.2 County Map ..... 1-3

Figure 1.3 School Districts..... 1-5

Figure 2.1 OCPR Organizational Chart ..... 2-2

Figure 2.2 Elmira Township Organizational Chart ..... 2-4

Figure 3.1 Otsego County Recreational Facilities Map ..... 3-3

Figure 3.2 Otsego Lake County Park Map..... 3-5

Figure 3.3 Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Map ..... 3-11

Figure 3.4 Otsego County’s Portion of the Iron Belle Trail Development Map..... 3-22

Figure 3.5 Map of Golf Courses and Resorts in Otsego County ..... 3-23

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1.1 Otsego County Population History ..... 1-6

Table 1.2 2020 Population Statistics..... 1-7

Table 2.1 OCPR Total Revenue (2022) ..... 2-5

Table 2.2 OCPR Total Expenses (2022) ..... 2-5

Table 2.3 OCPR Projected Total Revenue (2023) ..... 2-6

Table 2.4 OCPR Projected Total Expenses (2023)..... 2-6

Table 3.1 Otsego County Recreation Grants ..... 3-18

Table 3.2 Otsego Lake Access Points ..... 3-37

**APPENDICES**

- Appendix A – Results of Online Recreation Survey
- Appendix B – Post Completion Self Certification Forms

***This page intentionally left blank***





## Chapter 1

---

# Recreation Plan Jurisdiction

This recreation plan update was prepared for the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPR) along with Elmira Township. The OCPR provides an abundance of the recreational activities in the area and are proactive in their effort to provide a variety of quality community based recreational opportunities. This plan will focus on all recreational aspects of the Otsego County community.

---

# Community Location & Recent History

Otsego County is located in the center of the northern lower peninsula of Michigan on the 45th Parallel. The County includes the City of Gaylord, the Village of Vanderbilt, nine townships and nine unincorporated communities, such as Elmira (the eastern portion only), Waters, Vienna and Johannesburg. Elmira Township, one standard township geographic area of 36 square miles, is located in the northwest portion of Otsego County. A Regional Location Map of Otsego County is shown in **Figure 1.1**; see **Figure 1.2** for a map showing the boundaries of Otsego County and its communities.

The last decennial US Census shows that Otsego County has a population of 25,091 persons, with 1,714 persons in Elmira Township (refer to **Tables 1.1** and **1.2** on pages 1-6 and 1-7). This represents a 3.8% increase from the 2010 Census, and a 2.5% increase from the 2019 population estimate of 24,490. Based on findings from the 2022 Otsego County Master Plan, many of the communities in the County will continue to grow in overall population, with the fifty-five (55) and older age groups leading at a much higher growth rate.

The County experienced a great deal of economic development with an expanded industrial and commercial base along with population growth during the 1990's and early 2000's. Since the mid-2000's, the County has experienced the closing of two major industrial plants in the area (Georgia Pacific and Kimball Electronics/Reptron). These closures also affected other associated companies. Despite the difficult local economy, the Otsego County Economic Alliance has worked to stabilize the local economy by securing many project grants and trying to attract new businesses to the area.

The Otsego County community continues to be a "Great Place to Live and Work," with quality schools, a multitude of outdoor recreational opportunities, and a lively arts community. The area has a sizable seasonal population, with many residents living here only in the summer months. The retiree population continues to rise and, while some retirees are part-time residents, many have made the County their permanent place of residence and are active in their churches, community, and charitable organizations. Educational opportunities for achieving degrees, certificates, vocational training and lifelong learning are available at the University Center at Gaylord.

Figure 1.1 Regional Location Map

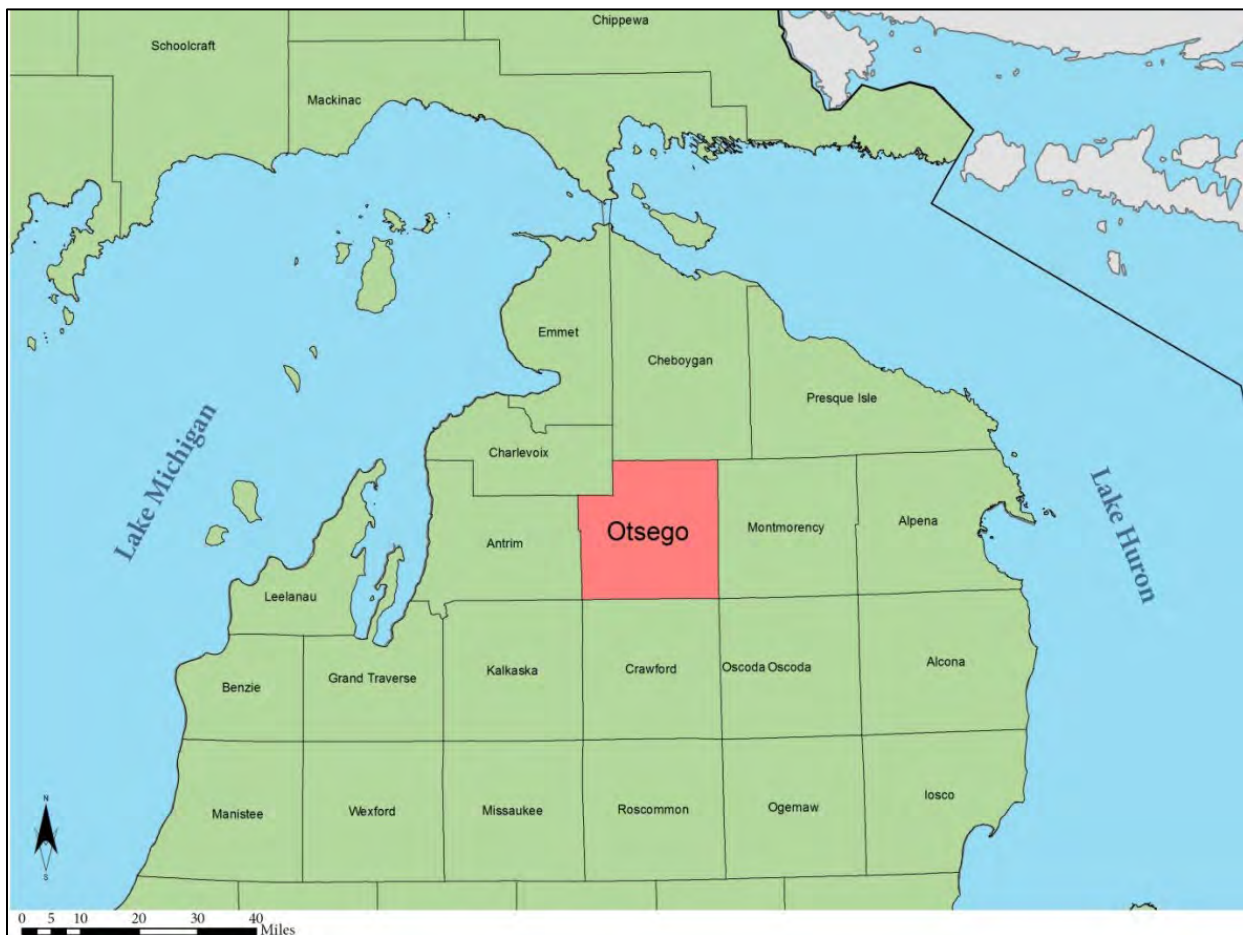
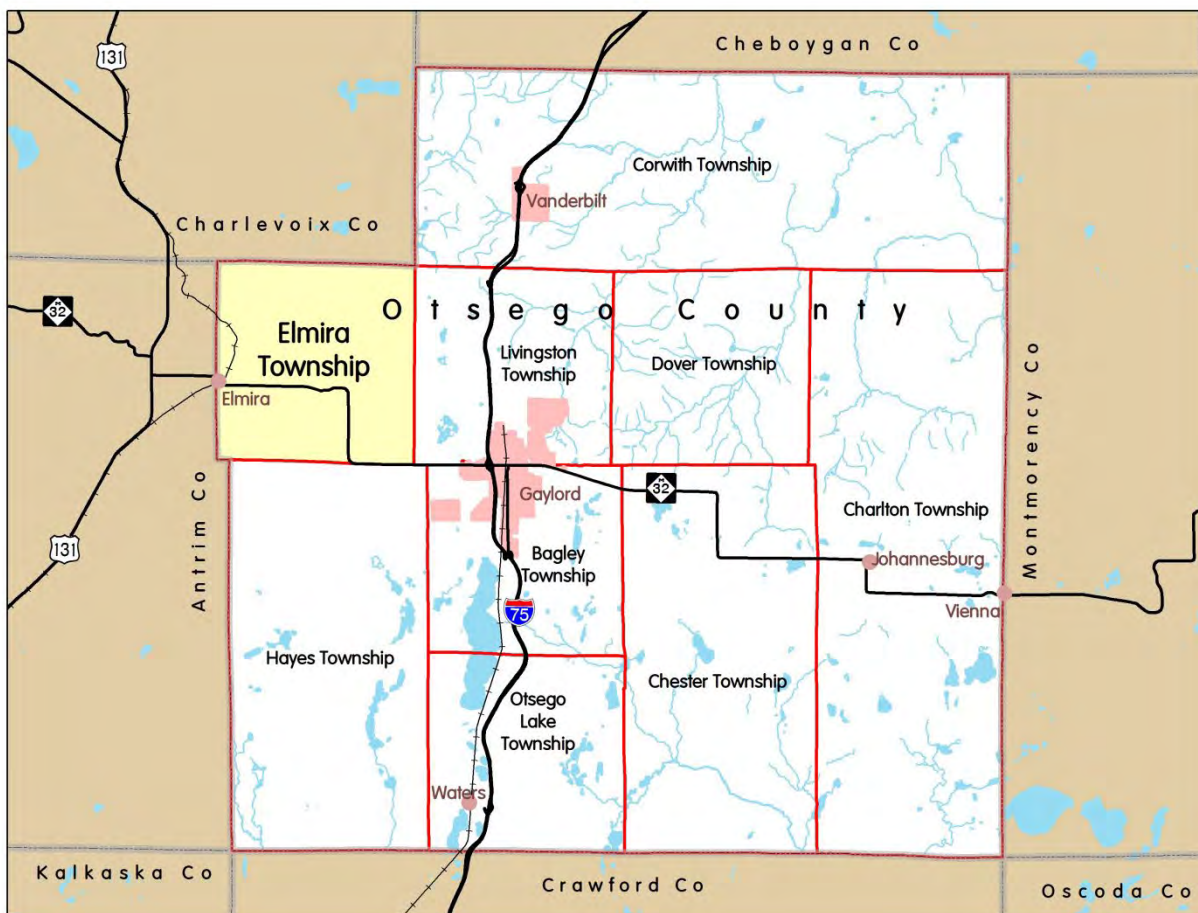


Figure 1.2 County Map



---

## Transportation

### Roads

Interstate 75 bisects the County and provides convenient north-south access from more populated areas of southeastern Michigan and northern Ohio, and indirectly, southwestern Michigan and northern Indiana. This freeway has a profound impact on the economic livelihood of the County. The major east-west route serving the County is M-32 (which bisects Elmira Township). This route connects Gaylord with Alpena, the largest city in northeast Michigan, 72 miles away. Further west outside Otsego County, M-32 indirectly provides access to Traverse City, Charlevoix and Petoskey.

## **Non-Motorized Transportation**

The City of Gaylord has constructed several segments of bike paths within the City limits, including the pathway in Aspen Park. The State of Michigan improved the former Lake State Railroad line, now known as the North Central State Trail, between Gaylord and Mackinaw City with crushed limestone. There are three designated trailheads for the North Central State Trail in Otsego County. The first is the Gaylord Gateway/Iron Belle Trailhead in downtown Gaylord, the second is located along Fairview Road just north of Downtown Gaylord, and the third in downtown Vanderbilt. The view along this trail showcases some of the most beautiful landscapes and vistas in Northern Lower Michigan.

The bicycling route portion of the “Iron Belle Trail” (IBT), a planned trail through the State of Michigan to connect Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the western Upper Peninsula, traverses Otsego County in a North-South direction. The overall trail is approximately 70% complete at this time. The North Central State Trail, which is part of the IBT route running through Otsego County, has been completed in recent years.

## **Public Transportation**

Otsego County residents are serviced by a public transportation bus system owned and operated by Otsego County. The Bus System limits its area of operation to the County of Otsego and in 2019 served over 60,000 passengers. Ridership in 2020 and 2021 was much lower due to COVID. The number of riders was beginning to rebound in 2022 and will most likely continue to do so. The Bus System operates a fleet of 16 busses, all of which are equipped with lifts.

## **Air Transportation**

The Gaylord Regional Airport is a General Aviation airport with a 6,578 foot by 150 foot asphalt primary runway and 4,200 foot by 75 foot asphalt secondary runway. The approaches include ILS, VOR and NDB. Jet fuel and aviation gasoline are available. The airport is attended seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Nov 1 thru May 1 and 7:30 am to 6:00pm May 1 thru Nov 1. Unattended on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day. Private, corporate, government, charter and cargo planes receive full service at the airport. It is the base operations center for North Country Aviation, Northern Michigan Jet Services, and has component units of Martinaire, FedEx and UPS and most recently Guardian Flight Medical Transport. Customer service, a conference room, and rental cars and local taxi service are also available. The airport hosts a veteran’s coffee and donut hour the first Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. sponsored by local businesses and families of veterans.



---

# School Districts

There are four public school districts located within Otsego County; Gaylord Community Schools, Johannesburg-Lewiston Schools, Vanderbilt Area Schools and a portion of Crawford AuSable Schools. The County also includes parochial schools and a strong home school program. Each of the districts own and operate a variety of recreational facilities including gymnasiums, football fields, baseball/softball fields, running tracks, soccer fields, tennis courts and playgrounds. Some of the parochial schools have recreational facilities as well. The School District Boundaries are shown in **Figure 1.3**.

Figure 1.3 School Districts



---

# Recreational Opportunities

Otsego County Parks and Recreation (OCPR) offers park facilities and recreational programs to the entire community. Facilities operated by the OCPR include Otsego Lake County Park and Campground, Pleasant View Park (Wah Wah Soo), Dr. Robert S. Libke Memorial Fields, Frank H. Wilkinson Roadside Park (Irontone Springs), the Otsego County Community Center, Pontresina Park (Dog Park), and the Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve. Other facilities owned by the County and operated by separate entities include the Otsego County Sportsplex/Energy Outlet, the Otsego County Courthouse Plaza and the Otsego County Fairgrounds (northern parcel). Elmira Township owns and operates one recreation facility, the Elmira Township Park in the community of Elmira.

Facilities owned and operated by the City of Gaylord include Freel Memorial Park, George Dumas Memorial Park, Hale Park, Claude Shannon Park, Elk Park and Aspen Park. Public facilities owned and operated by others include in part the Remi and Edna Schotte Memorial Township Park in Otsego Lake Township (Waters), Vanderbilt Memorial Park in Vanderbilt, the Otsego Conservation District Demonstration Garden and Conservation Forest near the J. Richard Yuill Alpine Center in Gaylord.

Recreational programs and opportunities in the County include, but are not limited to, baseball, softball, basketball, little league, football, soccer, hockey, figure skating, golf, disk golf, pickleball, swimming, skiing (downhill and cross country), tennis, volleyball, horseshoes and dance/aerobic/exercise classes. Snowmobile, ORV and non-motorized trail recreation facilities also abound within the county. The County also offers numerous inland lakes, miles of streams, and vast expanses of State Forest Lands that offer many opportunities for hunting and fishing.

---

# Population Statistics

Table 1.1 Otsego County Population History		
Year	Population (persons)	Change from Previous
1960	7,545	NA
1970	10,422	Increase of 2877 (+38.1%)
1980	14,993	Increase of 4571 (+43.9%)
1990	17,957	Increase of 2964 (+19.8%)
2000	23,301	Increase of 5344 (+29.8%)
2010	24,164	Increase of 863 (+3.7%)
2020	25,091	Increase of 927 (+3.8%)

*Source: US Census Bureau*

Table 1.2 2020 Otsego County Population Statistics		
Township	Population (persons)	Change from 2010
Bagley	5,867	Decrease of 19 (-.32%)
Charlton	1,350	Decrease of 4 (-.29%)
Chester	1,300	Increase of 8 (+.62%)
Corwith	1,708	Decrease of 40 (-2.28%)
Dover	632	Increase of 71 (+12.65%)
Elmira	1,714	Increase of 27 (+1.57%)
Hayes	2,725	Increase of 106 (+4.04%)
Livingston	2,652	Increase of 127 (+5.02%)
Otsego Lake	2,857	Increase of 10 (+.35)
City of Gaylord	4,286	Increase of 641 (+17.58%)

\*Population information taken from the Otsego County Website ([www.otsegocountymi.gov](http://www.otsegocountymi.gov)).

---

## Tourism

Tourism has a major impact on the Otsego County community, including boosts to the local economy and also an increased demand on recreational facilities. The County is a popular four-season vacation spot, attracting thousands to the area to enjoy outdoor recreation activities such as golfing, swimming, boating, camping, skiing, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting and bicycling. Many jobs in Otsego County are highly dependent on tourism.

---

## Natural Resources

The most important of the natural resources in Otsego County in terms of providing a foundation for recreational activities are the abundance of trees, clean air, clean water and wild game. Each of these resources provides an important economic base for the County.

## Water

Otsego County has some of the highest elevations in northern lower Michigan. Thus, it contains three watersheds; the Cheboygan watershed, which drains northerly, consists of the Sturgeon, Pigeon and Black Rivers; the AuSable watershed, which drains southeasterly, consists of the AuSable River; and the Manistee watershed, which drains southwesterly, consists of the Manistee River. The County has some 6,682 acres of surface water in the form of more than 370 lakes, and 140 miles of trout streams.

Ground water supplies are very productive in the predominant gravel and unconsolidated sands of the glacial drift. The ground water aquifers are recharged by precipitation which is readily absorbed by the permeable soils. Individual wells near the lakes and streams are usually quite shallow due to the high water table. Wells located on high moraines may have depths in excess of 250 feet. Wells of a six-inch diameter or more can yield from ten to five hundred gallons per minute.

## **Soils**

Much of the County consists of excessively drained to well-drained sandy soils, making ground water contamination and soil erosion topics of concern.

## **Minerals**

Mineral resources in the County also contribute to the local economy. It is estimated that 400 people are employed in the drilling, exploration and production of gas and oil. These mineral resources have also provided additional income to the property owners. In the latter part of the 1980s, Antrim gas wells made Otsego County the leading producer of natural gas well drilling.





## Chapter 2

---

# Administrative Structure

This Section defines the organizational structure for the OCPR and Elmira Township. A description of governmental structure, budgets and support for recreation are also discussed. Organizational charts are shown as **Figures 2.1 and 2.2**. The process for approving the Otsego County Community Recreation Plan is by review and recommendation by the OCPR and Elmira Township Planning Commission, followed by a Public Hearings and Adoptions by the Otsego County Board of Commissioners and the Elmira Township Board.

## Otsego County Parks and Recreation Administration

Otsego County established the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission under the authority of Public Act 261 of 1965, as amended by Public Act 242 of 1966. The current Commission and staff are:

### Commission

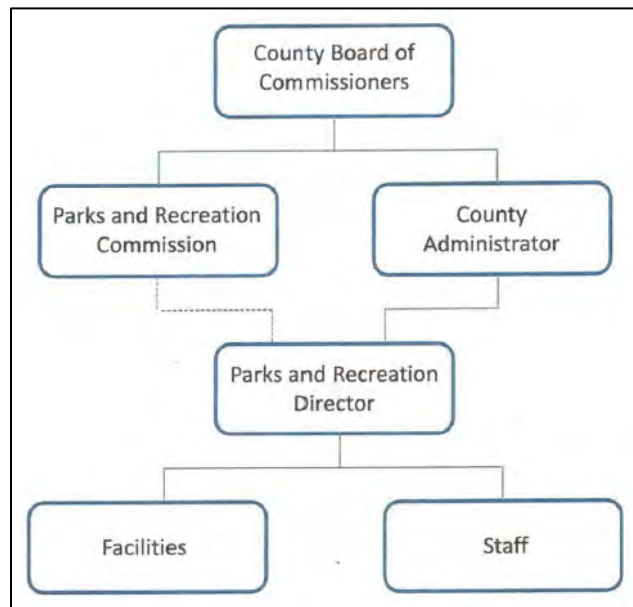
Dave Baragrey, *President*  
Scott Courterier, *Vice President*  
Bonny Miller, *Secretary*  
Randy Stults, *Commissioner At Large*  
Justin Wing, *Commissioner At Large*  
Jack Korte, *Commissioner At Large*  
Doug Johnson, *Otsego Co. Board of Commissioners*  
Troy Huff, *Otsego Co. Road Commission*  
Judi Jarecki, *Otsego Co. Planning Commission*

### Staff

Vacant, *Parks & Recreation Director*  
Jacob Brown, *Parks & Recreation Coordinator*  
Keri Swantek, *Community Center Monitor/Ranger*

The Commission employs a full-time Parks and Recreation Director and also two full-time staffers: a Parks and Recreation Coordinator and a Parks and Recreation Monitor/Ranger. Additionally, seven to nine seasonal staffers are employed from May to September. The Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve has a full-time Manager along with support staff (refer to the separate document Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Conservation Easement for detailed information).

Figure 2.1 OCPR Organizational Chart



The OCPR budget and operations are monitored by the County Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners is currently comprised of:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Terra Deming      | Trevor Burroughs |
| Henry Mason       | Douglas Johnson  |
| Jonathan Turnbull | Dana Wingo       |
| Brett McVannel    | Kyle Yohe        |
| Jason Clement     |                  |

Otsego County’s Administrator, Matt Barresi, is appointed by the Board of Commissioners to implement Board policies, to oversee the daily activities of the County, to serve as the Chief Executive Officer, and to supervise non-elected County departments/functions.

The OCPR serves in an operational capacity to the Otsego County Board of Commissioners. The functions of the OCPR include, but are not limited to the following:

**PLANNING** - to provide a systematic means of planning the location, acquisition, development, and maintenance of a system of parks, recreation and open space areas, facilities and activities within the County. Definite criteria for inclusion shall be adopted and revised periodically to keep pace with changing demands and habit use patterns.

**ACQUISITION** - to provide a program of acquisition of adjoining acreage or to acquire unique or strategic scenic, scientific or historical areas for the enjoyment of the residents of the County and their guests. Said areas shall be acquired in an organized, systematic manner so as to provide equal opportunity, access, and enjoyment for all.

**DEVELOPMENT** - to provide those activities and facilities commensurate with the needs of the people. All development should be carefully planned and be of a durable nature to minimize maintenance.

**FUNDING** - to explore and utilize every means of financing that is available to the Commission including Federal and State matching fund programs, general obligation bonds, general funds, user fees and charges, along with gifts and donations.

**OPERATION** - to provide the necessary personnel to operate the parks as effectively and efficiently as feasible. Adequate supervision should be provided to all areas to protect the facilities and to ensure equal opportunity for enjoyment by all users.

**MAINTENANCE** - to maintain all parks and facilities in a clean, neat, sanitary and orderly manner, to protect the public health, safety and enjoyment of its users.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION** - to employ qualified and competent personnel to carry out the functions and operations described above for the county park system. To maintain and establish those procedures necessary for maintaining an accurate accounting of all funds utilized by the Commission.

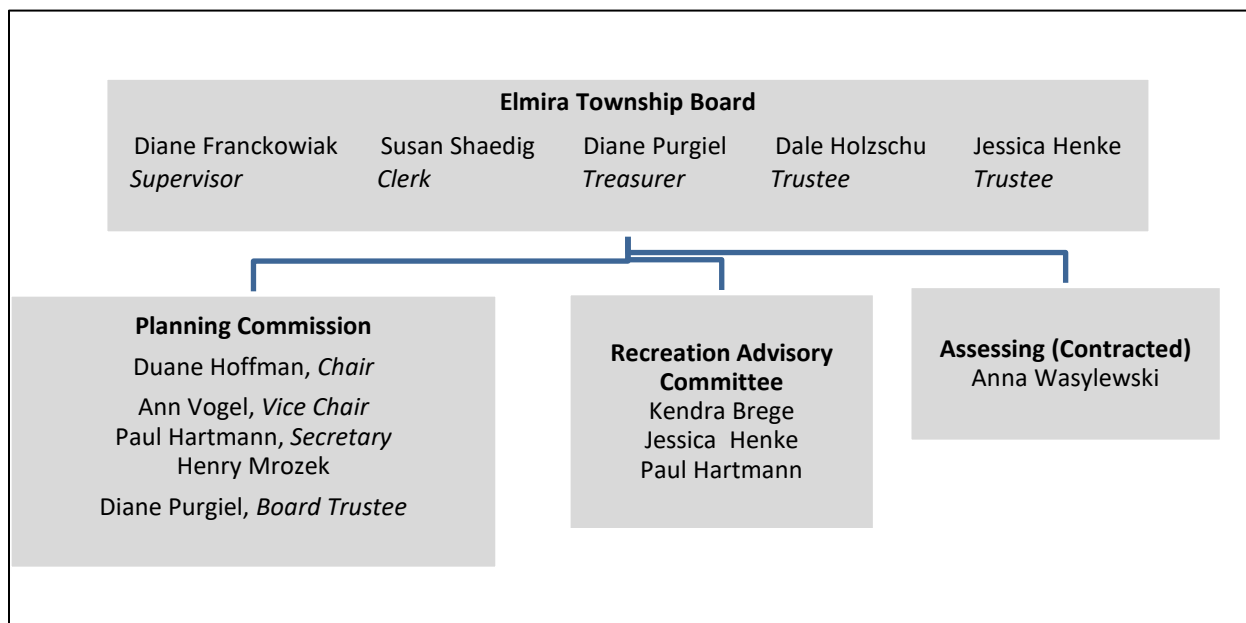
## Elmira Township Administration

Elmira Township is governed by a five-member elected Board of Trustees consisting of a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and two Trustees. These positions are chosen by registered voters of the Township in an at-large election held every four years. Expenditures for parks and recreation facilities are under direct control of the township Board of Trustees. The Board receives recommendations from the Township Planning Commission regarding parks and recreation improvements.

The Elmira Township Planning Commission is a five-member body, serving three-year staggered terms. Planning Commission members are intended to represent a broad spectrum of community interests, including recreation, commerce, industry, government, education, transportation, and so on. Planning members may come from many walks of life, but they all contribute their time and talents to the local planning process. In addition to the responsibility of preparing the Master Plan and Recreation Plan, in accordance with the Michigan Planning and Enabling Act of 2008, as amended, the Planning Commission is charged with reviewing development projects as they are proposed.

Elmira Township does not employ any dedicated parks and recreation staff. Community volunteers have contributed time to park improvement activities over the years. Regular park maintenance and other improvements are contracted out as needed and at the discretion of the Township Board. The Elmira Township Planning Commission developed a Recreation Advisory Committee in 2016, which will, in the future, allow for more oversight and decision-making regarding community recreational facilities and making recommendations to the Township Board. An organizational chart is shown below.

Figure 2.2 Elmira Township Organizational Chart



## Parks and Recreation Operating Budgets

The taxpayers of Otsego County originally approved a millage of 1/16 of a mill in 1990, to operate, improve and expand the Otsego Lake County Park. This millage continued thru December 31, 2010 when it was allowed to expire. These funds were also used to expand and make improvements at the Pleasant View Park (Wah Wah Soo), the Dr. Robert S. Libke Memorial Fields and the Frank H. Wilkinson Roadside Park (Irontone Springs). The Otsego County voter-approved millage was re-established in 2016.



The Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission currently operates on a voter-approved millage (1/4 of a mill) that will provide approximately \$340,000 annually. This 5-year millage was renewed by voters in 2022. Small user fees, interest and contributions provide additional revenue. All present and future facilities owned and/or operated by the OCPR can use this millage for operations.

In 1994, Otsego County voters approved a millage to establish and construct the Otsego County Sportsplex. The County owns the facility and its’ recreational opportunities. There is an Operational Agreement between the County and the “Otsego County Sportsplex (Sportsplex),” a Michigan non-profit corporation, which allows the Sportsplex to operate and manage the facility. Since 1994, there have also been subsequent operating millage requests that have been approved by Otsego County voters.

The Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve operation and maintenance is funded by a trust fund that has been established for the facility.

For 2022, the budgeted revenue is \$640,671, with an identical figure for total expenses. The breakdown for these figures appears below.

<b>Table 2.1 OCPR Total Revenue</b>	
<b>Property taxes (millage levy of 1/16 + 3/16)</b>	<b>\$340,316</b>
<b>Community Center Services (user fees)</b>	<b>\$9,550</b>
<b>Campground User Fees</b>	<b>\$248,000</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Revenue</b>	<b>\$42,805</b>
<b>Total Revenue (2022)</b>	<b>\$640,671</b>

<b>Table 2.2 OCPR Total Expenses</b>	
<b>Personnel (Including wages and benefits)</b>	<b>\$322,717</b>
<b>Maintenance and Supplies</b>	<b>\$75,503</b>
<b>Utilities and Advertising</b>	<b>\$46,780</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Contingency</b>	<b>\$195,671</b>
<b>Total Expenses (2022)</b>	<b>\$703,081</b>

For 2023, the projected budget figures are as follows:

<b>Table 2.3 OCPR Projected Total Revenue</b>	
<b>Property taxes (millage levy of 1/16 + 3/16)</b>	<b>\$358,658</b>
<b>Community Center Services (user fees)</b>	<b>\$11,725</b>
<b>Campground User Fees</b>	<b>\$224,600</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Revenue</b>	<b>\$42,805</b>
<b>Total Revenue (2017)</b>	<b>\$637,788</b>

<b>Table 2.4 OCPR Projected Total Expenses</b>	
<b>Personnel (Including wages and benefits)</b>	<b>\$341,919</b>
<b>Maintenance and Supplies</b>	<b>\$102,400</b>
<b>Utilities and Advertising</b>	<b>\$48,780</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Contingency</b>	<b>\$144,689</b>
<b>Total Expenses (2017)</b>	<b>\$637,788</b>

The annual budget is prepared by the Parks and Recreation Director, reviewed and approved by the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission, then sent to the Otsego County Board of Commissioners for adoption. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2023 indicates total revenue for the entire Parks and Recreation Department, from property tax millage levies, user fees, and contributions to be \$637,788; total expenses for the year are budgeted for the same amount. This budget is administered and expended by the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Department.

Funding for maintaining and improving Elmira Township’s park and facilities comes directly from their Township operating budget. The 2022 Township budget is \$391,465, of which \$16,000 is set aside for parks and recreation maintenance/improvements. As of November 9, 2022, the Township had spent \$6,814 of those funds on recreation maintenance. The projected 2023 budget is expected to change due to plans to construct a pavilion; the Township will not determine their FY 2023 budget until February 2023 as their fiscal year begins on April 1.

---

## Volunteer Involvement

The OCPR is fortunate to receive a fair amount of volunteer support throughout the year. These volunteers help coordinate annual summer festival activities and fireworks displays. Further, a high level of volunteer support allows the Bear Basketball program to continue each year. The Bear Basketball program is the Community Center's largest single recreational offering in terms of numbers of participants. Dozens of parents and students alike volunteer regularly to coach, referee, keep score and maintain statistics. Local businesses also support the program by providing equipment and uniforms.

Elmira Township has utilized the assistance of community volunteers to help with maintenance projects such as recently installing new wood chips underneath the play structure in their park and restoring the tower structure for the historical Elmira Agricultural School bell (described below).

---

## Partnerships with Schools

The OCPR and Elmira Township are not officially associated with the local school systems or their recreational facilities. However, the OCPR Director works to maintain close relationships with all area schools, including public, parochial and private. Additionally, Gaylord Community Schools recently donated an historical school bell associated with the former Elmira Agricultural School (current site of the Township Park) to Elmira Township for future placement in their park.

---

## Relationships with Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

Elmira Township recently received a grant from their Township's liability insurance provider to purchase new wood chips to place underneath their park's play structure.

OCPR partners with a private company to provide kayaks and paddleboards for rental by guests at the Otsego Lake County Park. A portion of the rental proceeds is provided to OCPR. The contract is reviewed and bid on a regular basis.

***This page intentionally left blank***



## Chapter 3

---

### Recreation Inventory

The recreation inventories from previous County Recreation Plans were used as a starting point then reviewed and updated to include recent improvements to parks and facilities. Information for the current recreation inventory was gleaned from state, city, village and township governments as well as from the local Chamber of Commerce, private businesses and other County departments. A recreational inventory of all OCPR parks and recreation facilities was originally conducted by NEMCOG during June 2016. Staff visited each park property and updated the physical description and inventory of each facility, including playground equipment, buildings, site furnishings, recreation fields and parking facilities. Facilities not owned by the OCPR or Elmira Township were not all visited for the inventory. Information was provided by some site visits, park staff interviews, current local community master plans and recreation plans, and from internet web sites. During the fall of 2021 limited site visits were conducted at some facilities to verify or update recreation inventory information for this recreation plan update.

Recreational activities are a key factor in establishing the character of Otsego County. State forest land accounts for over 128,000 acres within the County, or 37% of the total land surface. These lands are located primarily in the northeast and southeast sections of the County, along the southern border and west of Otsego Lake. However, each township in the County contains State Land. There are numerous State forest campgrounds, providing over 150 campsites, located within the County. Hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, boating, canoeing, biking, snowshoeing, horseback riding, geo-caching, hunting and fishing are other primary public uses of the County's State forest lands. The location of land owned by the State of Michigan is shown in **Figure 3.1**.

The County's water resources also play an important role in area recreation activity. Public facilities on the lakes include the Otsego Lake State Park and the Otsego Lake County Park/Campgrounds. The State Park is located along the southeast shore of Otsego Lake and includes over 152 campsites on 62 acres with easy access to Otsego Lake for boating and fishing. The County Park is located on 30 acres along the

northwest lake shore. The County Park provides facilities for extensive day use, boating and camping. All 80 campsites have electricity, and the campground includes shower facilities, a flush and fill station for camping vehicles and a septic field that was constructed in 1993. Four cabins and two pavilions located along the lake are available for rent.

Many other smaller lakes are located throughout the County, especially through the southern sections. These are used during the summer months for boating, skiing, or fishing. During the winter months, these lakes are used less intensely for skating, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling or ice-fishing.

In addition to the lakes, Otsego County has an extensive system of rivers and wetlands. The Sturgeon, Pigeon, Manistee and Black Rivers all originate in the central portion of the County, while the north and middle branches of the AuSable flow through the southern sections of the County. These rivers offer many opportunities for fishing and canoeing. As with the County's lakes, property along these rivers is valuable for residential purposes.

Guidelines have been established to protect the County's water resources from misuse or over-development. The Otsego County Zoning Ordinance (Article 18) addresses lots near water. The intent of this Ordinance section is to attempt to prevent and control water pollution, to preserve shore land vegetative cover, to maintain the natural beauty of the County water resources. To further the maintenance of safe and healthy conditions of the shore lands of streams, rivers, lakes, and flowages of water within the County. The County also has the ability to protect water resources via the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act, No. 347, Public Acts of 1972 and the rules promulgated there under.

---

## OCPR and Elmira Twp. Parks and Facilities

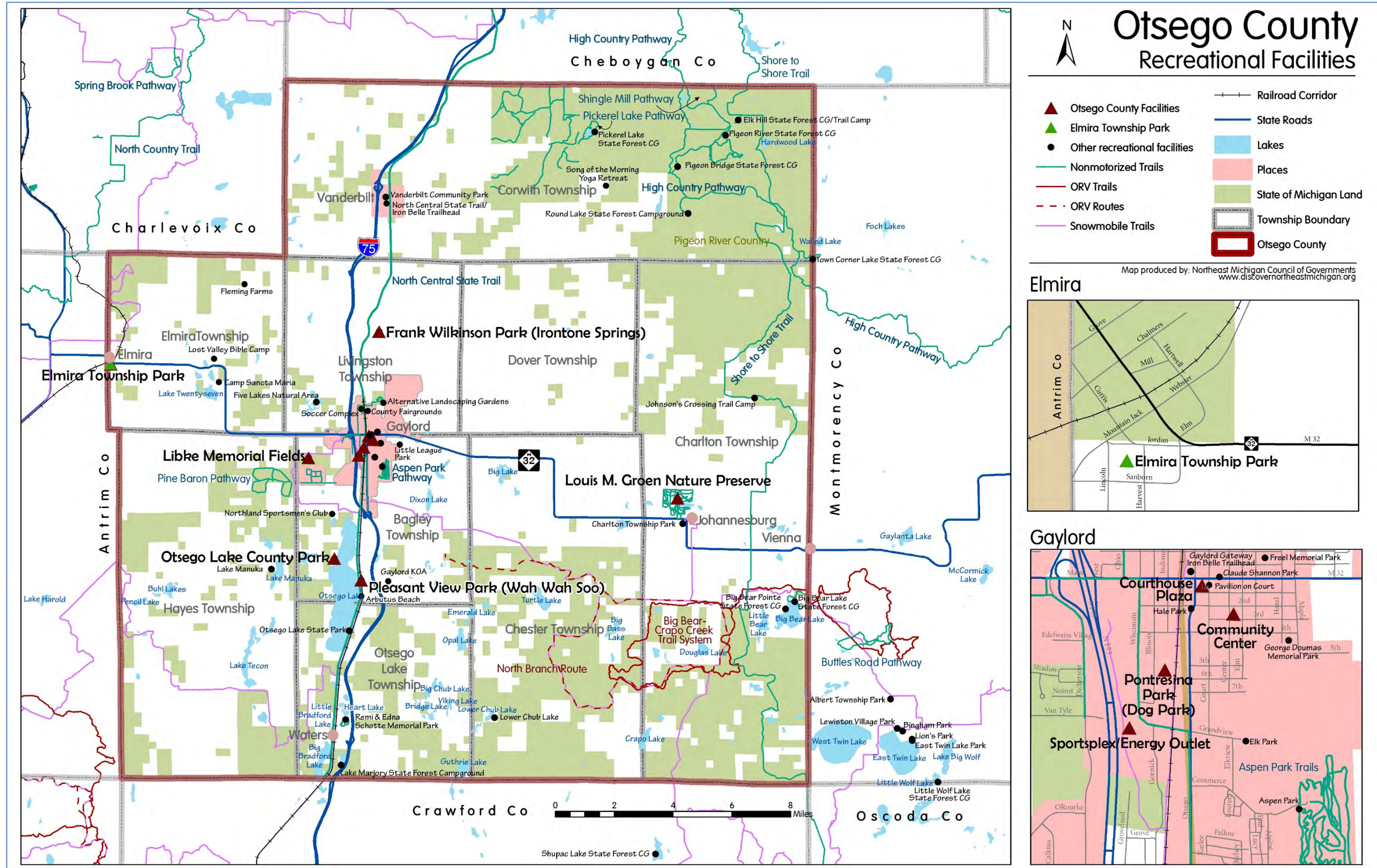
Detailed descriptions of OCPR and Elmira Township owned parks and facilities are described in the section below and illustrated on **Figure 3.1**. These facilities were evaluated for accessible design and given a ranking from 1 to 5, where:

- 1= None of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design;
- 2 = Some of the elements meet the standards;
- 3 = Most of the elements meet the standards;
- 4 = All of the elements meet the standards; and
- 5 = The entire facility was developed/renovated using the Principles of Universal Design.

Other parks and recreation facilities (not owned/operated by OCPR/Elmira Twp.) that serve the County and/or region are also included in this section, but with less detailed information noted, and are illustrated on **Figures 3.1, 3.4, and 3.5**.



Figure 3.1 - Otsego County Recreational Facilities





# 1. Otsego Lake County Park 1657 County Park Road, Gaylord MI 49735

**Size:** 30 acres

**Service Area:** local, regional, and state-wide users; occasional national/international users

**Purpose:** Campground/Day Use Park

**Accessibility Rating = 3** (Most of the elements meet ADA standards for Accessible Design)



Otsego Lake County Park provides public access to the west side of Otsego Lake. Park permits are required for motor vehicle entry; rates are listed below. The campground and day use areas are open from May to September; the exception is that lake access at the park is maintained year-round to accommodate ice fishing. Reservations can be made anytime of the year for the camping season. Features of the campground areas include 80 modern wooded campsites, fire pits and electrical hookups at all sites, four lakeside cabins (rentable), paved roads, showers, a flush and fill station for camping vehicles, a short nature trail, and firewood and ice sales. Day use features include a 500-foot sand beach area, boat launch with paved parking area and vault toilet, two pavilions (rentable), an outdoor basketball court, a sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, a playground and picnic areas. Refer to **Figure 3.2** for a park map.

Most of the park meets barrier-free accessibility guidelines (**Accessibility Ranking = 3**). Most of the toilets and shower facility components are barrier-free. Other accessibly-designed features include two campsites in the south campground, the day use parking area and access route to the boat launch, and some barrier-free picnic tables in the pavilions. Paved roads allow barrier-free access to most facilities.

Vehicle Pass Rates	Day Pass	\$4
	Resident and Non-Resident Season Pass	\$15
	Senior & Veteran Season Pass	\$7
Camping Fees/Night	Otsego County Resident	\$25-\$33
	Non-County Resident	\$26-\$34
	Cabin Rental	\$55-\$90
<i>*Fees vary based on 50-amp service and lakefront sites</i>		

Figure 3.2 Otsego Lake County Park Map



## 2. Pleasant View Park (Wah Wah Soo) 5200 Wah Wah Soo Dr., Gaylord, MI 49735

**Size:** 4 acres

**Service Area:** Otsego County (and visiting tourists)

**Purpose:** Special Use

**Accessibility Rating = 2** (Some of the elements meet ADA standards for Accessible Design)



This county park provides public access, free of charge, to the east side of Otsego Lake. It is located near the intersection of Wah Wah Soo Drive and Old Highway 27. A small, sandy parking area is located across the street from the park. The park includes a buoyed swim area, a sandy beach, two picnic tables, two benches, one grill and vault toilets. Steep steps drop from the road to the beach, and there are no accessible routes to any of the park features. (**Accessibility Ranking = 2**).

## 3. Dr. Robert S. Libke Memorial Fields 2029 Van Tyle Rd., Gaylord, MI 49735

**Size:** 5 acres

**Service Area:** Otsego County

**Purpose:** Community Park

**Accessibility Rating = 2** (Some of the elements meet ADA standards for Accessible Design)



This county park, located just west of the Gaylord Airport, includes a gravel parking lot, two multi-purpose fields, bleachers, and a maintenance shed. The fields are mowed weekly and are used (free of charge) for flag football, soccer practice, frisbee, model airplane flying, school activities and other green space area uses. The fields may be reserved. The entry gates to the fields are wide enough for wheelchair access; however, there is not an accessible route to these features from the parking lot (**Accessibility Ranking = 2**).



## 4. Frank Wilkinson Park (Irontone Springs) 3549 N. Old US Hwy 27, Gaylord, MI 49735

**Size:** 4.5 acres

**Service Area:** Otsego County, Inter- and Intra-state Travelers

**Purpose:** Mini Park

**Accessibility Rating = 2** (Some of the elements meet ADA standards for Accessible Design)



This free, day use, county park is heavily wooded and offers picnic areas and mowed lawn areas along a spring-fed stream. The park includes a rentable pavilion, a barrier-free unisex vault toilet, several picnic tables, four grills, a paved parking area, and two bridges across a flowing stream. It is located just three miles north of Gaylord. The facility was first established and maintained by the Otsego County Road Commission but is now under the control of OCPR. It is used as a location for weddings, family reunions, and senior and prom pictures. The park's signature piece is the artesian well drinking fountain, the water from which has an iron-toned taste, hence the name of the park. Some of the park areas meet accessibility guidelines as the bridge over the brook is wide enough for wheelchair access, the pavilion is paved, electrical outlets are located at an accessible height, barrier-free picnic tables are available and there also is a barrier-free vault toilet and an accessible parking space; however, there are no accessible routes to these features. **(Accessibility Ranking = 2).**

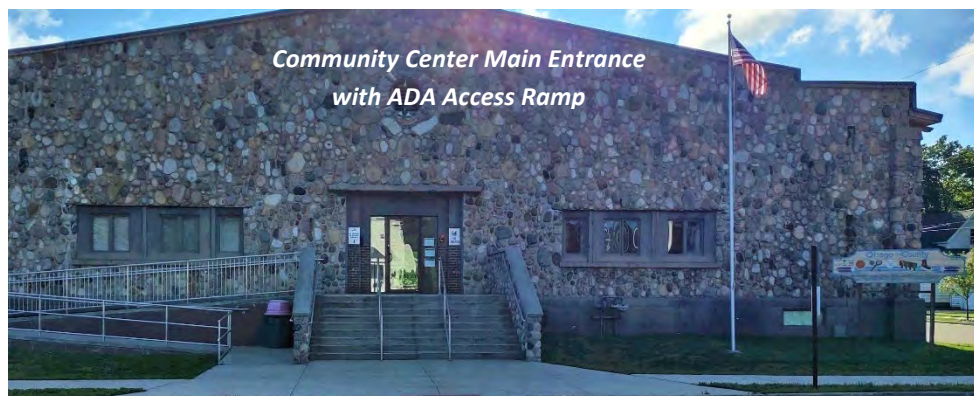
## 5. Otsego County Community Center 315 S. Center Ave., Gaylord, MI 49735

**Size:** 1.6 Acres (Note: Otsego County owns the Community Center and the land on which it sits; while the City owns the remainder of the parcel)

**Service Area:** Otsego County and adjoining counties

**Purpose:** Community/Neighborhood Recreation Facility

**Accessibility Rating = 3** (Most of the site elements meet ADA Standards for Accessible Design)



The Community Center is located on a full city block near the center of Downtown Gaylord. Outdoor features consist of one tennis court, a basketball court, and a pickle ball court. Indoor features, which are rentable, include a basketball court and bleachers, game rooms, meeting rooms and lounges. Accessible men's and women's restrooms are located on the main level. Men's and women's locker rooms are located on the lower level (not designed for accessibility). On-street parking is available along the perimeter of the facility, but there are no designated accessible parking spaces. The main entrance to the building is fully accessible, along with a newly constructed, interior accessible ramp which leads to the accessible upper level basketball court viewing area (**Accessibility Ranking = 3**).

Open 6 days a week seasonally, it serves the entire County and residents of other counties who drive to Gaylord for the purpose of participating in one of the center's recreational programs. It particularly serves area youth in grades 4-12; most weekdays from 3-5 pm is reserved for open gym for student use. Summer hours may vary.



## 5. Otsego County Community Center, continued:

O CPR completed a \$55,000+ project in the summer of 2016 which included the resurfacing of the existing tennis courts and the outdoor basketball court with modular polymer mesh (user- and weather friendly material, allowing users to play on the surface soon after a rain); resurfacing a second basketball court with modular polymer mesh and temporarily converting it to three pickleball courts; replacing damaged fencing around the perimeter of the courts; repainting basketball poles and tennis backing; and replacing two light poles with new lights that face in both directions to light the tennis and basketball courts. The courts were finished in the U.S. Open blue and green color scheme. More recently, the OCPRC completed a \$200,000+ project to install a new gym floor, install a handicap accessible ramp at the front door, complete needed drainage improvements around the building. These projects markedly changed the look and function of the interior and exterior of the Center while offering improved facilities and more recreational options for all ages.



*New Pickleball Courts*



*Renovated Basketball Courts*



*Renovated Tennis Courts*

## 6. Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve 2043 Gingell Road, Johannesburg, MI 49751

**Size:** 764 Acres

**Service Area:** Otsego County/Region, with some Statewide, National and International visitors

**Purpose:** Regional Park

**Accessibility Rating = 2** (Some of the site elements meet ADA Accessible Design Standards)



The Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve (Preserve) was acquired by OCPR in 2012. It is a free, day use nature preserve located southeast of Gingell Road and Waters Road in Johannesburg, Michigan and is a significant natural feature located in Otsego County. The latest phase expanded the nature preserve to 789 acres. Maintenance is funded with an established trust fund from the Groen family. The property contains Kujawa and Johannesburg Lakes, along with being the former home of both the Johannesburg Manufacturing Company as well as Echo Valley Ranch. There are 24 miles of trails for hiking, geocaching, snowshoeing, mountain biking, groomed cross-county skiing and equestrian use. Equestrians are allowed on Sundays and Mondays during Daylight Savings time hours; biking is not allowed on those days. Local school groups use the trails for cross country training/events and environmental science classes.

Improvements at the entrance in the northwest corner of the park include a gravel parking lot, small welcome center building, maintenance shed, portable restroom, trailhead information, hitching posts, picnic tables, pavilion, additional parking area and garbage cans. Natural gas extraction sites are scattered throughout the site.

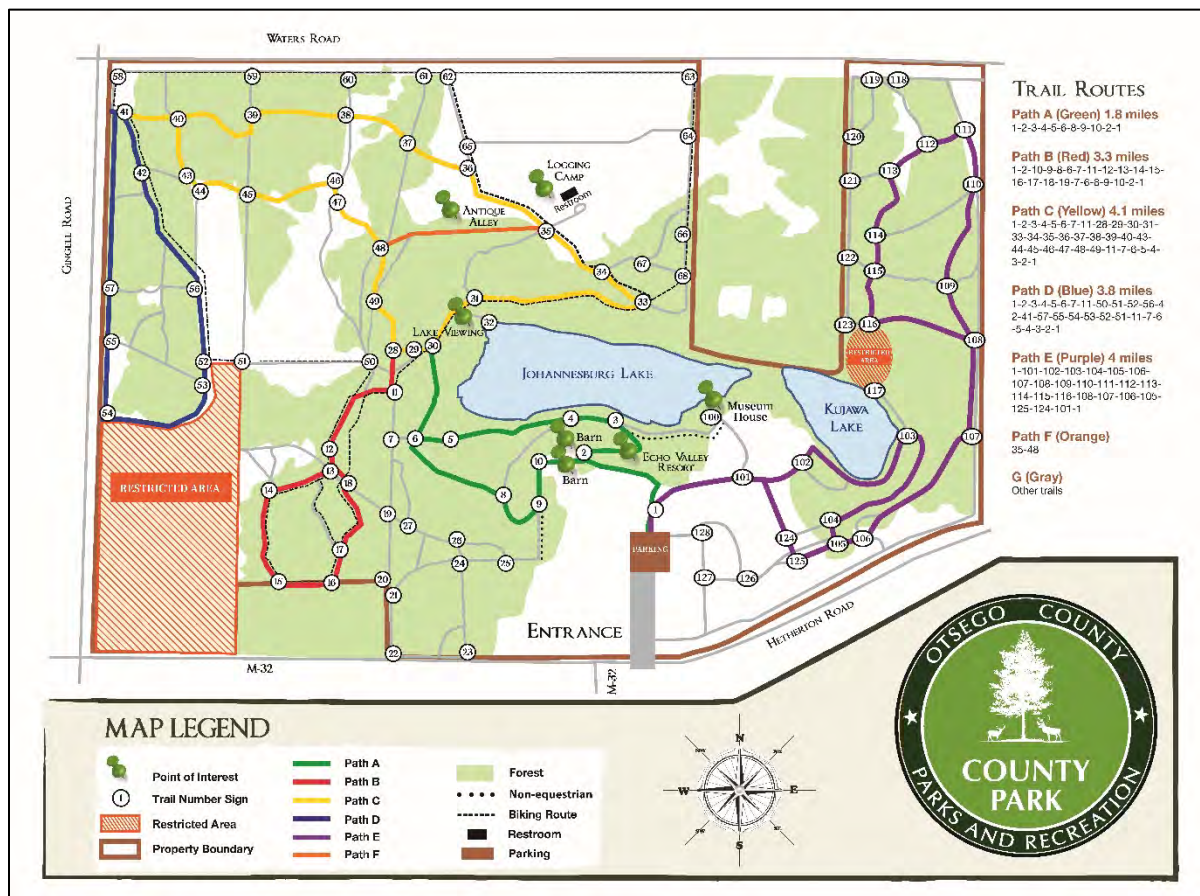


## 6. Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve, continued:

There is an accessible, heated restroom building in the northeast portion of the park (former logging camp area) along with an accessible water fountain, accessible picnic tables, a water trough and hitching post for horses, trash cans and a kiosk. The trails consist of grassy two-tracks, gravel/dirt or woodchip surfaces and are wide and well-marked at each intersection; however there are areas of steep running slopes and cross-slopes. **(Accessibility Ranking = 2).**

According to the Master Plan for this nature preserve, planned improvements include restoring the historic sawmill and associated buildings to help educate people about this important part of Johannesburg history. Twenty-five acres of adjoining property was acquired by OCPD to allow for additional recreation activities, including the development of a museum and nature center. A new entrance drive and parking area is being constructed by OCPD on the south side of the preserve near Johannesburg and will be completed and open to the public soon. A trust fund was established by the Groen family for the operation and maintenance of this facility; therefore it is operated at zero cost to OCPD. A park map is illustrated below:

*Figure 3.3 – Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Map*





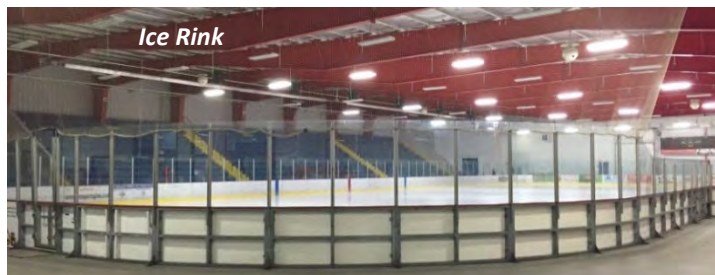
## 7. Otsego County Sportsplex/Energy Outlet 1250 Gornik Ave., Gaylord, MI 49735

**Size:** 11 Acres in total; Sportsplex is 68,500 sq. ft.; Energy Outlet is 83,200 sq. ft. or 1.91 acres

**Service Area:** Otsego County and adjoining communities

**Purpose:** Sports Complex

**Accessibility Rating = 4** (All of the site elements meet ADA Standards for Accessible Design)



Otsego County owns this Sports Complex and its' recreational opportunities, which consist of an indoor aquatics complex, ice rink, event rooms, a 1/8 mile indoor walking track around the ice rink, a concessions area, lockers and locker rooms, and an outdoor playground complex, pickleball courts and tennis courts. The indoor facilities can be rented out. There is an Operational Agreement between the County and the "Otsego County Sportsplex (Sportsplex)," a Michigan non-profit corporation, which allows the Sportsplex to operate and manage the facility. Pool activities include swimming lessons/team swim, water aerobics, open swim, lifeguard classes and a kayak club. Ice rink activities include hockey and skating lessons, hockey leagues, open skate, and curling. Other offerings include a Summer Day Camp, fitness classes (yoga, spinning and karate), pickleball and ping pong. The Energy Outlet consists of a large outdoor playground with a variety of play features. A ¼ mile paved track and maintained gardens surround the playground. Other features include two pavilions, three pickleball courts, several picnic tables and benches, bike racks and a portable restroom.

## 7. Otsego County Sportsplex/Energy Outlet, continued:

Plans are underway to reconfigure the three pickleball courts into four courts with landscaping and fencing surrounding them. The Otsego County Sportsplex Tennis Center consists of four USTA tennis courts. The Tennis Center hosts regional and local tournaments, leagues, lessons, clinics and fun recreational opportunities for youth and adults. The Tennis Center was constructed in 2018 with grants, including a Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, and many local donations.



With the exception of a lack of an accessible route to the portable restroom at the Energy Outlet, the facility is 100 percent barrier-free and fully accessible (**Accessibility Ranking = 4**).

The City of Gaylord recently closed its skateboard park. The City and the Otsego County Sportsplex are planning on relocating the park to the northern portion of the Sportsplex property. The City would own the skateboard park equipment and would have an agreement with the Sportsplex to provide a location. The City and Sportsplex plan on entering into an agreement defining responsibilities of maintenance.

There are additional planned improvements to the Sportsplex. The Sportsplex is in the process of raising funding, with assistance from the Otsego Pickleball Association, to reconfigure the three pickleball courts into four courts. Fencing and landscaping will be added around the courts for safety. The Sportsplex is also in the early planning stages to develop a large addition or adjacent indoor multi-purpose complex that will house indoor tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball courts, and a multi-purpose room to allow for expanded recreational access for county residents, providing a place to play and teach sports such as tennis, baseball, football, cheerleading, etc. during the winter months. Funds will be secured from various grants such as the MDNR Passport and Trust Funds, United States Tennis Association and local fundraising.

## 8. Pontresina Park (Dog Park) 540 S. Illinois Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735

**Size:** 1.4 Acres

**Service Area:** Primarily Otsego County

**Purpose:** Special Use Park

**Accessibility Rating = 2** (Some of the site elements meet ADA Standards for Accessible Design)



*Dog Park Entrance*



*Pavilion*



Pontresina Park is located three blocks south of Main Street, west of Otsego Avenue, in Gaylord. The site, part of a 9-acre parcel, was formerly owned by the MDNR and was transferred into ownership by Otsego County in 2005. The park was developed with grants, in-kind donations and volunteer work from the Otsego County Community Foundation, private funds, the Rotary Club of Gaylord, Otsego County Animal Control, local businesses and individuals. The park opened in June 2014 and is open from May 1 through Oct. 31 during daylight hours. The park is currently maintained by the Otsego County Parks & Recreation.

A gravel entrance drive and parking lot leading to two fenced, grassy dog park areas - one for small dogs less than 19 pounds and one for large dogs over 20 pounds. The site also includes a maintenance shed, benches, water spigots, shade trees, picnic tables and dog waste bag dispensers with garbage cans are located throughout the park.

Some of the features are barrier free, such as the pavilion's concrete foundation and picnic tables and the route from the parking lot to the dog park entry gates. However, there is not an accessible route to the pavilion, bleachers, benches, or waste containers; benches inside the dog park are not designed for accessibility; there are no signed accessible parking spaces; and water spigots are not placed at an accessible reaching distance. **Accessibility Ranking = 2.**



## 9. Otsego County Courthouse Plaza 225 W Main St #204, Gaylord, MI 49735

**Size:** Less than 1 acre

**Service Area:** Primarily Otsego County

**Purpose:** Special Use Park

**Accessibility Rating = 4** (All of the site elements meet ADA Standards for Accessible Design)



The Otsego County Courthouse Plaza is located along the north side of the courthouse, adjoining Main Street and the covered pavilion on South Court Avenue (which hosts the farmer's market). In 2012 and 2013, the County of Otsego was involved in a community-wide process to improve the traffic congestion and air quality in downtown Gaylord along with creating a pedestrian-friendly environment that will draw people to the downtown. The central downtown location of the Courthouse is an ideal location to create an activity center for people to gather when shopping or pursuing outdoor recreational activities in the area. Completed improvements for the plaza include an interactive water fountain and café style seating. The plaza design also incorporates the historic naval cannon, veterans memorial, several historic plaques, and an ice tree that provide for a unique year-round experience and activities for people of all ages. The intent is for the plaza to complement the parks system throughout the County and draw more people downtown and to the North Central State Trail, where a new Iron Belle Trail trailhead was recently completed by the City of Gaylord just one block away from the courthouse.

# 10. Otsego County Fairgrounds 213 Fairview Road, Gaylord, MI 49735

**Size:** 12.12 acres

**Service Area:** Otsego County and the Northern Lower Peninsula

**Purpose:** Regional Park

**Accessibility Rating = 2** (Some of the site elements meet ADA Standards for Accessible Design)

This property is a rectangular-shaped, flat parcel of mowed grass that adjoins the main Otsego County Fairgrounds complex to the north. A paved access road bisects the site in a north-south direction, serving as the main access point to the Fairgrounds complex. Otsego County acquired this parcel of land in 1986 and has leased it to the Fairgrounds Board for their use as primarily a parking and staging area for special events held at the Fairgrounds annually from April through October.



*Looking south from the northern entrance*



*Looking southwest from the northern entrance*

# 11. Elmira Township Park Village of Elmira, MI 49730

**Size:** 1.61 acres

**Service Area:** Elmira Township and the Village of Elmira

**Purpose:** Neighborhood Park

**Accessibility Rating = 1** (None of the site elements meet ADA Standards for Accessible Design)



Located approximately 10 miles west of Gaylord and just south of M-32, Elmira Township Park is comprised of four parcels of land bordered by Lincoln Street, Sanborn Street, Harvest Street, Mt. Jack Road, Curtis Street and Jordan Street. It is owned and operated by Elmira Township. The northwest portion of the site consists of a wooden play structure with a woodchip landing surface, mowed fields, a smaller plastic playset, swing set with two functioning swings, slide, sandbox, in-ground play features (some in disrepair), three picnic tables, and trash cans. The southeast quarter of the site consists of a basketball court with one basketball hoop and a volleyball court area. The remainder of the site is mowed grass. An access road with a portable restroom separates the northern triangular-shaped parcel (acquired by the Township in 2012 from the Otsego County Road Commission) from the remainder of the park. The northeast parcel on the site (a partially fenced, grassy area) was acquired by Elmira Township from the Coan Family in 2012. None of the features of this park meet accessibility guidelines.

Elmira Township has utilized the assistance of community volunteers to help with maintenance projects such as recently installing new wood chips underneath the play structure in their park and restoring the tower structure for the historical Elmira Agricultural School bell. The site of the park was originally the location of the Elmira Agricultural School. Gaylord Community Schools recently donated an historical school bell associated with the former Elmira Agricultural School to Elmira Township for future placement in their park. A community volunteer will re-build the wooden bell tower for the park.

# Recreation Grant Inventory

Otsego County has received seven recreation grants from the MDNR, descriptions of which are described below. Elmira Township has applied for one MNRTF grant in the past 5 years, but has not been awarded a recreation grant.

Table 3.1 – Otsego County Recreation Grants

Grant # /Year	Project Title & Status	Project Scope	Project Description	Current Condition
26-01217 / 1981	Otsego Lake County Park - LWCF Grant for \$30,000; Grant Closed	Bury overhead wires; campground (40 sites); 2 drinking fountains; picnic equipment, roadway; 6 vault toilets; well	Develop parking lot improvements, picnic sites, play equipment, restrooms with utilities, wire burial and LWCF sign	Well maintained and in good condition; campgrounds frequently utilized by patrons; LWCF Grant Plaque on display near cmpgrd. entrance
TF86-115 / 1986	Otsego County Fairgrounds Expansion MNRTF Grant for \$30,000; Grant Closed		To acquire approximately 11 acres adjacent to the Otsego County Fairgrounds	Well maintained and in good condition; MNRTF plaque on display at entrance
BF90-277 / 1990	Otsego [Lake] County Park Bond Fund for \$49,300; Grant Closed	4" well; addl. dwgs. & plans; contingencies; dump station, water tower; electrical for pumps; electricity to campsites; septic system	Upgrading of the septic facilities and development of the campground and pump station to provide good use and protection of Otsego Lake.	Well maintained and in good condition.
CM00-026 / 2000	Otsego Lake County Park 20-Site Development Clean MI Initiative for \$139,848; Grant Closed	2 privy and 2 lavatory; 2" PVC SDR-21 watermain, culvert & end; 20 fire pits; 20 picnic tables; drinking fountain; potable water fill; electric svc & pedestals; fence; footpath FIBAR; roads – grading, gravel, asphalt; roadway & campsite clearings	Develop 7 acres at Otsego Lake County Park to include 20 modern camping sites, paved roads, electricity, safe lights, privy and potable water swimming.	Well maintained and in good condition; campgrounds frequently utilized by patrons; CMI Grant Plaque on display near campground entrance
69-069 / 2008	Otsego Lake County Park – MDNRE & State Waterways Commission Grant		Dredging channel, ramp construction, skid pier construction, parking lot paving, sidewalk, new vault toilet. Completed in 2011	Well maintained and in good condition; regularly used by the public/park patrons; Grant recognition sign on display by boat launch.



Grant # /Year	Project Title & Status	Project Scope	Project Description	Current Condition
TF16-0016 / 2016	Otsego County Sportsplex Tennis Courts – MNRTF Grant for \$300,000; Grant Closed	Access Pathway 5-6' Wide; Rain Garden with native plants; Benches; Bike Rack; Fencing; Landscaping; Recycling Bins; Tennis Courts	Development of four adjacent outdoor tennis courts at the popular Otsego County Sportsplex to allow for the growth of tennis programs in Otsego County.	Well maintained and in good condition; regularly used by the public/park patrons
TF16-0067 / 2016	Iron Belle Trail Otsego County South Development - \$2,320,700; Grant Closed	Trail 6' wide or more; Benches; Informational Kiosk; Fencing; Signage	Develop an eleven-mile multi-purpose pathway from Waters northerly to Wisconsin Ave in Gaylord. The trail will be located within the right-of-way of the Lake State Railroad which runs along Old Highway 27, south through much of the project limits, lending itself to good visibility by motorists, but far enough off the road to provide separation for safety and comfort of trail users. The entire trail, which runs parallel to the rail corridor, is currently used as a regional snowmobile trail and is part of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail.	Well maintained and in good condition; highly used
26-01863 / 2021	Otsego Lake County Park Campground Drainage Improvements; NPS Approval Pending	Campsite(s) Fire Pit(s) Landscaping Picnic Table(s) Rain Garden with Native Plants	Renovation of approximately 30 individual campsites at Otsego Lake County Park, a seasonal use campground located on the west side of Otsego Lake. The project will help prevent storm water from ponding in the middle of campsites which makes it difficult for campers to enjoy these sites or makes the sites unusable after rain events.	Ongoing grant project

---

# Other Park & Recreation Facilities in Otsego County (not owned/operated by Otsego County)

Otsego County area residents have a wide variety of other public and privately owned recreation sites to choose from. For example, there are over approximately 90 miles of “wilderness trails”, which are either owned by the state or private landowners, and are open to hiking, biking, equestrian, and cross-country skiing use. There are also 93 miles of signed, groomed snowmobile trails throughout and near Otsego County. Several of these snowmobile trails are also shared with ORV users, and are owned or leased by the State.

Over 20 golf courses are located within and surrounding Otsego County. This includes 13 of Gaylord’s “Golf Mecca” association courses and resorts, shown in **Figure 3.5** on page 3-23.

There are also three major regional and intra-state trail systems that are located within the county; these are described in detail below. Following that information is a list of other public and privately owned/operated recreational facilities within each Otsego County community, such as multiple rustic State-owned campsites, fishing/boating access sites and a State Park/Campground. Many of those facilities are identified in **Figure 3.1** on page 3-3 and **Figure 3.4** on page 3-22.

## Intra-State and Regional Trails

### The Iron Belle Trail

The “Iron Belle Trail” (IBT), a planned trail through the State of Michigan to connect Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the western Upper Peninsula, traverses Otsego County in a North-South direction. The existing North Central State Trail (part of the IBT route) ends approximately four blocks north of downtown Gaylord, and has a 10-foot wide, crushed limestone surface. There are three on-going projects in the County to complete and enhance the IBT from the southern Otsego County line to the North Central State Trail that runs through Vanderbilt.

Otsego County worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Bagley Township, Otsego Lake Township, the City of Gaylord, and the Gaylord Area Convention and Tourism Bureau on the establishment of a downtown Gaylord trailhead for the IBT/North Central State Trail and have extended the 10-foot wide trail from i Fairview Avenue in Gaylord for approximately 12.85 miles south to the county border. 1.65 miles of the trail, south of Fairview Avenue through the City of Gaylord, is designated the “Gaylord Gateway Trail” and has an asphalt surface. Further south of the City limits, the trail extends for 11.2 miles and has a crushed limestone surface. This segment is known as the “Otsego County South Trail”. Part of the project includes a connection to the Otsego County Sportsplex and Energy Outlet, where there is parking and restroom facilities, on the north end of this trail section. Further south, the trail connects directly to Wah Wah Soo County Park and Otsego Lake State Park, and adjoins Otsego Lake Township Hall

in the community of Waters, which has parking and facilities. A map of the Iron Belle Trail development through Gaylord to the southern county border is shown as **Figure 3.4** on page 3-22.

The Village of Vanderbilt and the Corwith Township worked together to create a trailhead on the existing North Central State Trail in Vanderbilt as part of the IBT. Improvements include parking, tennis courts, a pavilion, half basketball court, exercise equipment, restroom, and a library story trail.

### **Shore-to-Shore Trail**

The Michigan Shore-to-Shore Trail is over 220 miles long that connects Lake Huron (Oscoda) to Lake Michigan (Empire). The North Spur of this trail is located in the eastern portion of Otsego County, and connects to Crawford County to the south and Cheboygan County to the north. Primarily used by horseback riders, the trail is also open to hikers and cross-country skiers. Elk Hill State Forest Equestrian Campground/Trail Camp (in Corwith Township) and Johnson’s Crossing Trail Camp (in Charlton Township) serve as equestrian campsites along this route in the County. The Michigan DNR owns and/or operates this trail.

### **High Country Pathway**

The High Country Pathway is a 80+ mile trail system that runs through the heart of Pigeon River Country in the northeast portion of Otsego County (Corwith Twp. and Charlton Twp.), as well as Montmorency and Cheboygan Counties. It is designed to provide the more enthusiastic backpacker and mountain biker with about one week of high quality outdoor adventure. In Otsego County, the Pathway connects to and is accessible by Pigeon Bridge State Forest Campground, Pigeon River State Forest Campground and Round Lake State Forest Campground. The trail provides access to the Pigeon River and Black River. Part of this trail is also connected with and shares part of the Shingle Mill Pathway System. The Michigan DNR owns and/or operates this trail.

Figure 3.4 Otsego County's Portion of the Iron Belle Trail

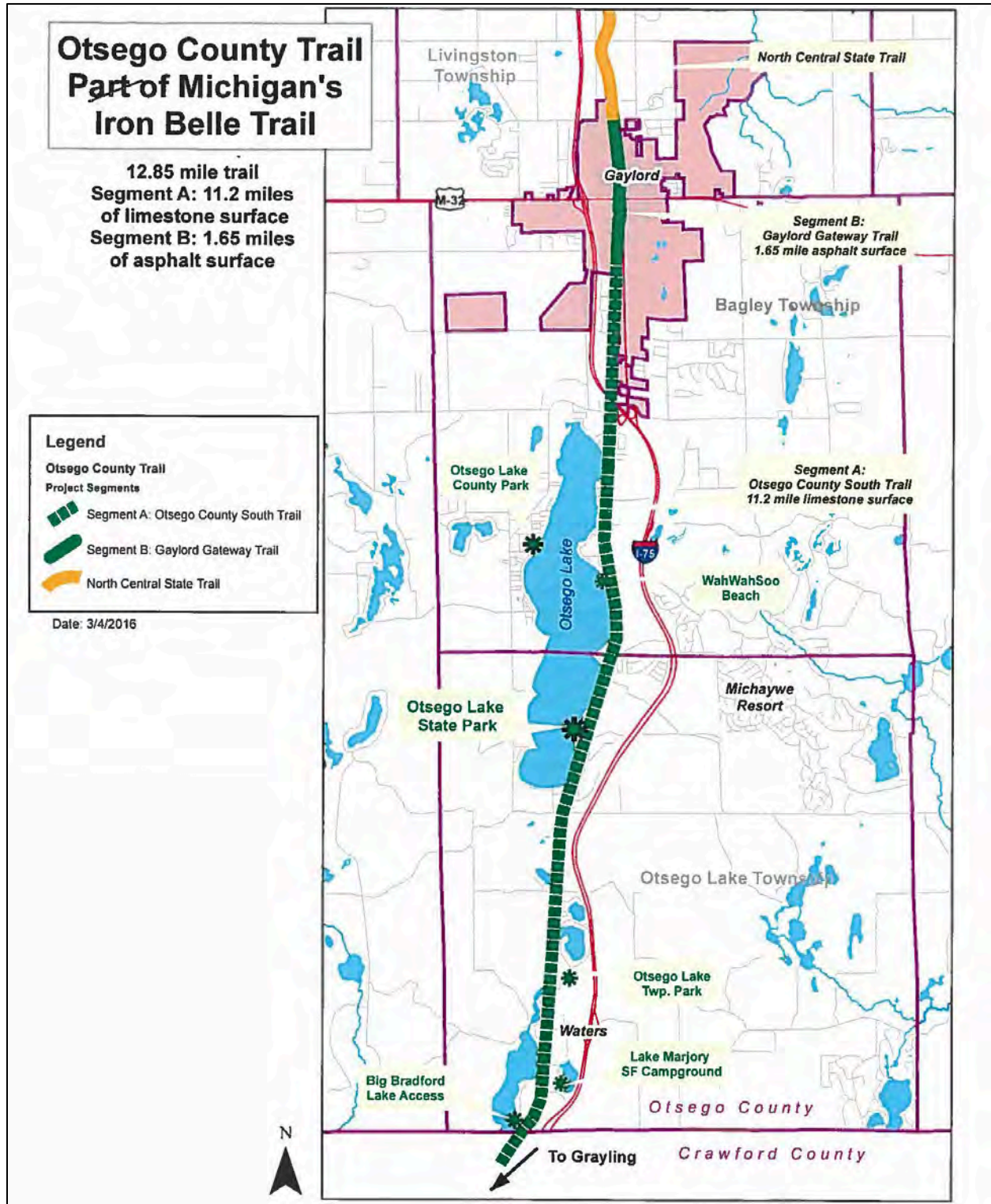
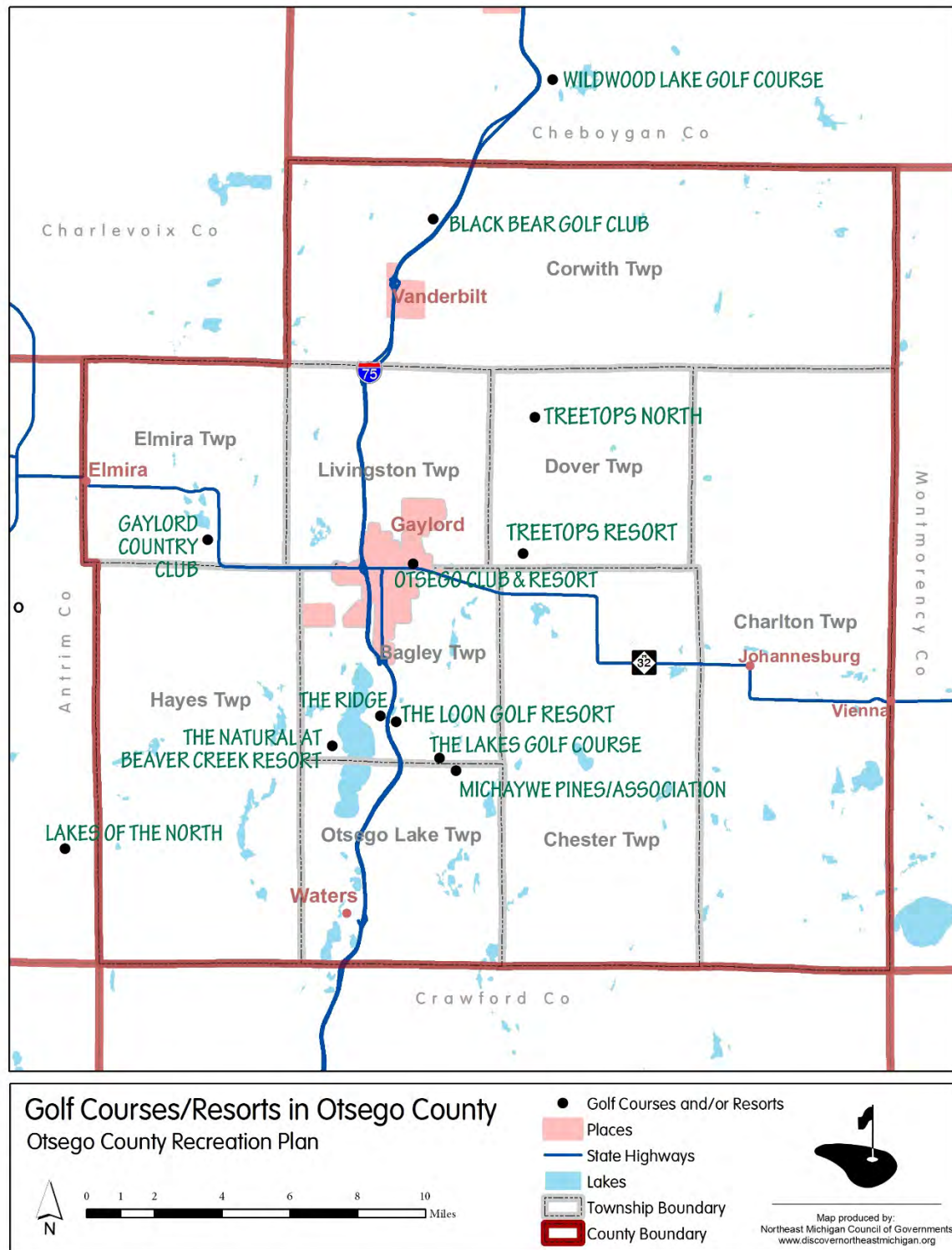




Figure 3.5 – Golf Courses and Resorts in Otsego County



## Recreational Facilities by Community in Otsego County

### BAGLEY TOWNSHIP

Name	Ownership /Operation	Description	Location
Hutchins Little League Park	Private – Gaylord Little League non-profit	6 little league ball fields and 1 t-ball field	South of M-32 on Little League Drive, just outside of Gaylord’s city limits
The Loon Golf Resort	Private	Offers three 18-hole golf courses :“The Loon”, “The Lakes” and “The Ridge (formerly Marsh Ridge Golf Course”) and accommodations via lodges, cabins, townhomes and dining.	4400 Championship Drive, Gaylord, MI 49735; 4400 Championship Drive Gaylord, Michigan 49735; 4815 S Old 27, Gaylord, MI 49735
Michaywe’ Association (partially in Bagley Twp)	Private	4-season recreation and residential community of over 950 homes with an 18-hole golf course “Michaywe’ Pines” and cross-country skiing and hiking trail. Clubhouse, beach, tennis courts and pool are for members only.	1535 Opal Lake Road, Gaylord MI 49735
Benjamin’s Beaver Creek Resort	Private	80 acre resort with 18-hole golf course “The Natural”; snowmobile rentals and tours, rental cabins, and modern log cabin-style condominiums. An RV campground adjoins to the north. Open to membership and the public for reservations. Swim, hiking, biking, playground, mini-golf and waterslide.	5004 W. Otsego Lake Drive, Gaylord, MI 49735 (about 5 miles southwest of Gaylord); golf course is at 4706 W Otsego Lake Dr, Gaylord, MI 49735
Gaylord KOA Campground	Private	Campground with swimming, playground, mini golf, horseshoes, shuffleboard, volleyball and biking.	5101 Campfires Parkway, Gaylord, MI 49735
Corey Cove Shores Resort	Private	Furnished cabin rentals, year-round; boat slip and launch on Otsego Lake	5545 Corey Cove Ave., Gaylord, MI 49735
Lambert’s Lakeside Lodges	Private	Furnished cabin rentals, year-round; Otsego Lake access	5591 Corey Cove, Ave., Gaylord, MI 49735
Sojurn Lakeside Resort	Private	35 wooded acres with 20 rooms/suites, great hall, private beach access on Dixon Lake	2332 E. Dixon Lake Road, Gaylord, MI 49735
Northland Sportsman’s Club	Private non-profit	Family- oriented club; focus is outdoor activities and conservation of natural resources. Skeet shooting, archery range, rifle range, meeting hall.	1592 Old Alba Rd, Gaylord, MI 49735
Dixon Lake Public Access	MDNR	Fishing, swimming, boat launch, vault toilets.	East part of the township



<b>BAGLEY TOWNSHIP, CONTINUED</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/ Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Iron Belle Trail	MDNR & Otsego County	Multi-use, crushed limestone trail; described on page 3-18.	Central portion of Twp. in a N-S direction
Snowmobile trails No 4, 7, and 774	MDNR	Part of the Big Bear-Crapo Creek Trail and North Branch Route open to motorcycles, ATV, ORV	Northwest, central and southeast portions of the township
Gaylord Schools Plantation	Gaylord School District	The school district uses this 62.36 acre site with hiking trails for forestry studies	NW portion of Twp; S. of M-32
Otsego Christian School	Private Elementary School	Multi-purpose room; outdoor playground with swings & other standard equipment, basketball court, soccer practice field.	1377 M-32 East
Arbutus Beach	Private	Small unincorporated resort settlement on east side of Otsego Lake	Near southern boundary of Twp.
Ellison Place	Private	Large event and conference space used for weddings, banquets, fundraisers, and consumer and trade shows.	150 Dale Dr
Pine Cone Accommodations	Private	Pine Cone Inn & Suites and vacation cabin rentals. Vacation/resort rental homes throughout Otsego County. Vacation real estate services	Inn on Charles Brink Rd in Bagley Twp. Other vacation rentals county-wide

#### **CHARLTON TOWNSHIP**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/ Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Charlton Township Park	Charlton Township	Community park with a pavilion, play structures, swings, a tennis court, basketball court and a baseball field.	On Rowan Street in Johannesburg
Johannesburg-Lewiston High School	Johannesburg-Lewiston School District	Baseball/softball field, football field, basketball court (gymnasium), track, tennis courts, playground.	10854 M-32, Johannesburg, MI 49751
Big Bear Lake State Forest Campground	MDNR	Rustic campground with 30 sites for tent and small trail use, and 11 sites that for up to 40' long trailers. Hiking and biking on the 2.2 mile paved Big Bear Lake Path. Fishing, swimming, boat launch.	Southeast portion of the township.
Big Bear Point State Forest Campground	MDNR	14 rustic campsites. Fishing, swimming, boat launch, hiking and biking trails.	Southeast portion of the township.
Johnson's Crossing Trail Camp	MDNR	Rustic campground can accommodate up to 100 equestrians with tents and small trailers; along the Shore-to-Shore Trail.	Pigeon River State Forest; N. portion of the township.
W. Twin Lake Access Site	MDNR	Boat launch, skid pier, fishing, swimming.	SE portion of the township.
Shore-to-Shore Trail	MDNR	Hiking, horseback riding, XC skiing.	N-S direction in the east half of the township.

<b>CHARLTON TOWNSHIP, CONTINUED</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/ Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
High Country Pathway	MDNR	Hiking, mountain biking, XC skiing	NE corner of the Twp.
Big Bear – Crapo Creek Trail System and North Branch Route	MDNR	Part of a 61.5 mile trail system (extends to the west into Chester Twp. and Bagley Twp. and east into Montmorency County) for ORV and motorcycle use.	Southern portion of the township
Snowmobile Trail #448 & #4	MDNR	Snowmobile trails; shared with part of Big Bear-Crapo Creek Trail system	Southern portion of the township.

### **CHESTER TOWNSHIP**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/ Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Big Lake Public Access Site	MDNR	Boat launch, fishing, swimming, vault toilets, watercraft controls, stocked by DNR	Northeast portion of the township
Emerald Lake Public Access Site	MDNR	Boat launch, fishing, swimming, vault toilets.	Along west-central township boundary
Big Bass Lake Public Access Site	MDNR	Boat launch, fishing, swimming, vault toilets.	East-central part of Twp.
N. Branch AuSable River (tributaries) Public Access	MDNR	5 miles of public access for fishing	Southern portion of the Twp.
Lower Chub Lake	MDNR	Fishing, swimming	SW part of twp.
Snowmobile Route No. 4	MDNR	Snowmobile Route; shared with part of Big Bear/Crapo Creek Trail system	Central portion of the Twp. running NW/SE
Chester Township Hall	Township	The Township Hall can be rented for hosting events	1737 Big Lake Rd, Gaylord, MI 49735

### **CORWITH TOWNSHIP**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/ Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Black Bear Golf Club	Private	18-hole golf course and clubhouse	1500 Alexander Rd, Vanderbilt, MI 49795
Treetops “North” Golf Courses / Condo Assn.	Private	Contains four 18-hole golf courses: “Premier”, “Threetops”, “Tradition” and “Signature”.	4282 Fazio Drive, Gaylord, MI 49735
Song of the Morning Yoga Retreat	Non-Profit – Golden Lotus, Inc.	800 acres along the Pigeon River for yoga retreats, workshops and yoga teacher training	9607 E. Sturgeon Valley Road, Vanderbilt, MI 49795
North Spur Shore-to-Shore Trail	MDNR	Hiking, horseback riding, xc skiing.	N-S direction in the east half of the township, in the Pigeon River Country State Forest
High Country Pathway	MDNR	Hiking, biking, XC skiing	Pigeon River Country State Forest; NE part of Twp.

<b>CORWITH TOWNSHIP, CONTINUED</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/ Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Shingle Mill Pathway	MDNR	14 miles of hike/bike trails; consists of 5 trail loops ranging from 0.75 to 11 miles long	Pigeon River Country State Forest; east part of Twp.
North Central State Trail/Iron Belle Trail	MDNR	A multi-purpose, non-motorized pathway in the summer and snowmobile trail in the winter. Crushed limestone surface. NCST extends 62 miles from Gaylord to Mackinaw City.	North and south of Vanderbilt; east of and somewhat parallel to I-75 in the western portion of the Twp.
North Country State Trail Trailhead Park	Vanderbilt	New trailhead along the Iron Belle/North Central State Trail	Downtown Vanderbilt
Sturgeon River Access	MDNR	Public access for fishing	Old Vanderbilt Rd, Sturgeon Valley Rd
Pigeon River Public Access	MDNR	Public access points for fishing	Old Vanderbilt Road, Sturgeon Valley Rd and Ford Lake Road
Black River Public Access	MDNR	Public access points for fishing	Black River Tr, the Tin Shanty Road bridge, and Chandler Dam Rd
Pickerel Lake State Forest Campground	MDNR	Public access for fishing and swimming with 39 rustic campgrounds for tents and moderately sized trailers. Includes universally accessible campground facilities and the trailhead for the <u>1.9 mile Pickerel Lake Pathway</u> for hiking and biking.	Pigeon River Country State Forest
Elk Hill Equestrian State Forest Campground and Trail Camp	MDNR	Accommodates equestrian campers; 10 rustic campsites for tents and large trailer use. Fishing access on Pigeon River.	Pigeon River Country State Forest, along the Shore-to-Shore Trail, off Twin Lakes Rd
Elk Hill Trail Camp	MDNR	Accommodates group camping and is available by reservation only (989-732-5485 for reservations). Can accommodate up to 5 groups with a maximum capacity of 100 people.	
Pigeon Bridge State Forest Campground	MDNR	Public access site for trout fishing; 10 rustic campsites, picnic tables and hiking/biking trails.	Pigeon River Country State Forest, Sturgeon Valley Rd

<b>CORWITH TOWNSHIP, CONTINUED</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/ Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Pigeon River State Forest Campground	MDNR	This is a scenic and densely wooded area with public hunting and fishing areas and a boat launch. It also includes several miles of trails for biking, hiking, cross-county skiing and horseback riding. 19 rustic camping sites for tent and small trailer use, vault toilets and potable water from well hand pump. This State forest has the largest herd of free-roaming elk located east of the Mississippi River.	Pigeon River Country State Forest, Ford Lake Rd
Round Lake State Forest Campground	MDNR	Public access for swimming and fishing. Campground and hiking/biking trails.	Pigeon River Country State Forest, Round Lake Rd
*Town Corner Lake State Forest Campground	MDNR	Public fishing area and campground. Connects to the High Country Pathway.	*Immediately adjoining to the west in Montmorency County, Blue Lakes Rd
Pigeon River Discovery Center	MDNR, Discovery Center Steering Committee	A 1930's historic log cabin used as a discovery center to promote natural resource and recreation opportunities in the PRCSF, host environmental education programs, and teach visitors about the history of the PRCSF.	9984 Twin Lakes Rd directly adjacent to the PRCSF Headquarters.
Towerman's Watch Pathway	MDNR	3.2 and 3.8 mile trail loops for hiking through the Pigeon River Country State Forest and along the Pigeon River	Pigeon River Country State Forest – pathway begins at the PRCSF Headquarters and Discovery Center

**DOVER TOWNSHIP**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/ Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Treetops Resort	Private	A 4-season ski and golf resort community. This property, known as "Treetops South", features an 18-hole golf course, "Masterpiece", along with 23 alpine ski runs, cross-country ski trails, snowmobiling, golf instruction, children's summer camp, spa, three restaurants, resort lodging, and special events hosting.	3962 Wilkinson Road, Gaylord, MI 49735

**ELMIRA TOWNSHIP**

Elmira Township has requested to be included in the Otsego County Recreation Plan Update. The Township has completed the recreation inventory that is listed below and has included proposed projects in the Action Plan.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership /Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Elmira Township Park	Elmira Twp.	A free, day-use facility in Elmira with a playground, basketball court, grass volleyball area and picnic tables.	Approximately 10 miles west of Gaylord, south of M-32.
Lake 27 Public Access Site	MDNR	Boat launch (car top boat and canoes only), vault toilets, swimming and fishing access. 6 paved parking spaces.	Northwest side of Lake 27
Gaylord Golf Club	Private	18-hole golf course offering clinics, leagues, driving range, special events hosting, and food/beverage service. Open to members and the general public. Opened in 1975.	4893 M-32 West, Gaylord, MI 49735
Snowmobile Trail #76, Chandler Hills Trail, and Kalkaska to Tomahawk MCCCT	MDNR	These trails are shared and overlap in the northwest portion of the Township. The Chandler Hills Trail is open to motorbikes and motorcycles, and the Michigan Cross Country Cycle Trail (MCCCT) is open to motorcycles.	NW portion of the Twp.
Lost Valley Bible Camp	Private	Offers a children’s camp and retreat packages for the Christian community. Open May to mid-October. Wooded setting along Pettifor Lake. Amenities include a gym, sports fields, basketball, volleyball, disc golf, softball, soccer, climbing/ropes course, game room, hiking, hayrides, beach, go carts, RV camping, meeting rooms.	5724 M-32 W., Gaylord, MI 49735
Camp Sancta Maria	Private	Christian youth camp. 96 acres of wooded property offering ropes course, beach, horseback riding. Grounds border Lake 27 and Martin Lake.	5361 W. M-32, Gaylord, 49735
Fleming Farms	Private	A working farm used for agricultural tourism. Offers farm tours for school groups; a petting zoo; and seasonal fall pumpkin patch, corn maze and hay rides.	4264 Martindale Road, Gaylord, MI 49735



## HAYES TOWNSHIP

Name	Ownership/Operation	Description	Location
Pine Baron Pathway	Jointly funded and operated by the MDNR, Otsego County, Gaylord Convention and Tourism Bureau and Hayes Twp.	7 mile mountain bike trail; 2 miles of paved trail; in the winter the 2 mile path is lighted at night and groomed for XC skiing	NW portion of the Twp. off of Lone Pine Road, about 3 miles west of downtown Gaylord.
Lake Manuka Public Access Site	MDNR	Boat launch, skid pier, parking, vault toilets, fishing, swimming	East-central portion of the Twp.
Manistee River Public Access	MDNR	Fishing access	SW corner of the Twp.
Wilderness Valley & Black Forest Golf Courses	Private	Two 18-hole golf courses and accommodations	6500 Nicklaus Drive Gaylord, MI 49735
Snowmobile Trails #774 and #4	MDNR	Snowmobile trails	Part of #774 is located in the southern portion of the Twp.; #4 is in the NE part of the Twp.

## LIVINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Name	Ownership/Operation	Description	Location
Otsego Club and Resort (northern portion of the golf course is in the Twp.)	Private	Year-round resort offering two PGA championship 18-hole golf courses; open to the public and membership. 31 downhill ski slopes, 5 chair lifts and 1 high-speed quad lift, 4 terrain parks, 1 rope tow, 6.2 miles of XC ski trails. Also offers 4 restaurants, lodging and meeting space.	696 M-32 East, Gaylord, MI 49735
Otsego County Alternative Landscaping Demonstration Gardens	Public – Otsego County Conservation District	a demonstration center for native plants landscaping, home composting, etc. Also includes a youth gardening program to raise produce for those in need as well as a 16 acre model conservation forest with nature trails.	800 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord, MI 49735 (in the Alpine Center)

<b>LIVINGSTON TOWNSHIP, CONTINUED</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Five Lakes Access Site	Public – Livingston Twp. owns and operates	Fishing, swimming, boat launch, picnic area	SW portion of Twp.
Five Lakes Natural Area	Public – managed by the Otsego Conservation District and owned by Gaylord Community Schools	20-acre facility with wildlife viewing, picnic tables, and trails for hiking, mountain biking, XC skiing.	SW portion of the Twp.
Otsego County Fairgrounds	Owned and operated by the Otsego County Fair Association, a non-profit volunteer organization	Five exhibit barns, race track horse barns, midway booth and grandstand. Hosts the annual county fair and other major special events from spring-fall.	275 Fairview Rd. PO Box 500 Gaylord, MI 49734
North Central State Trail/Iron Belle Trail	MDNR	A multi-purpose non-motorized pathway in the summer and snowmobile trail in the winter. Crushed limestone surface. Extends 62 miles from Gaylord to Mackinaw City.	Central portion of the Twp. in a N-S direction
Gaylord High School	Gaylord Public Schools	Indoor: Gym with 3 basketball courts, weight room & wrestling room. Outdoor: football stadium, track, 2 soccer fields, 2 practice fields, softball & baseball diamonds.	90 Livingston Boulevard, Gaylord

#### **OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Remi and Edna Schotte Memorial Township Park	Otsego Lake Twp.	24.8 acre park with three pavilions, picnic tables, grills, playground with splash pad, the Leonard Jensen nature trails, baseball diamond, basketball court, a zip line horseshoe pit, drinking fountain and restrooms.	SW portion of the Township, off of Memorial Drive
Bike lane along the full length of Memorial Drive	Otsego Lake Twp./County Road Commission	A portion of the roadway shoulder is designated for bicycle use	Near the Township Park
Otsego Lake State Park	MDNR	62-acre State Park with 156 campsites, 1,000 ft. sand beach, boat launch and hiking trails	NW portion of the Twp.

<b>OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP, CONTINUED</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Lake Marjory State Forest Campground	MDNR	Rustic camping – 10 sites for tent/small trailer; 2 sites accommodate 40' long trailer/vehicle. Boat launch (car top boats and canoes), vault toilets.	S. portion of the Twp.
Big Bradford Lake Public Access Site	MDNR	Boat launch (for med./sm. boats), fishing, swimming, parking, vault toilets, watercraft controls, stocked by DNR.	SW portion of Twp.
Heart Lake Public Access Site	MDNR	Boat launch, parking, vault toilets, swimming and fishing. Lake has watercraft controls, DNR stocked	Central portion of Twp.
Opal Lake Public Access Site	MDNR	Carry down boat launch, parking, vault toilets, swim, fishing, watercraft controls, DNR stocked	SW portion of Twp.
Big Chub Lake Access Site	MDNR	Fishing and swimming.	W. portion of the Twp.
Bridge Lake Public Access Site	MDNR	Fishing and swimming.	Central portion of Twp.
Little Bradford Lake	MDNR	Fishing and swimming	SW portion of Twp.
Snowmobile Trail #4	MDNR	Snowmobile use	SW portion of the Twp.
Iron Belle Trail	MDNR/ Otsego County	See description on page 3-20	W. portion of Twp. Along Old US 27
Michaywe' Assn. (Part in Otsego Lake Twp.)	Private	4-season recreation and residential community > 950 homes with 18-hole golf course "Michaywe Pines" & XC ski/hike trail. Clubhouse, beach, tennis courts & pool for members only.	1535 Opal Lake Road, Gaylord MI 49735
Guthrie Lake Association	Private-Enchanted Forest Property Owners Assn.	A private residential resort community with a clubhouse with indoor recreational amenities and an indoor/outdoor pool for members only.	11393 Nottingham Dr., Frederic, MI 49733
DerMiner's Parkside Resort	Private	Furnished cabins for vacation rentals.	6628 Old 27 S., Gaylord, MI 49735
Heart Lake Resort Cottages	Private	Furnished rental vacation cottages on Heart Lake	9603 Old 27 S., Gaylord, MI 49735

## VILLAGE OF VANDERBILT

The Village of Vanderbilt updated their community's 5-year Recreation Plan in 2015.

Name	Ownership/Operation	Description	Location
Vanderbilt Memorial Park	Village of Vanderbilt	1.3 acre community park with a pavilion, grills, benches, picnic tables, drinking fountain and portable restroom	North of Garfield Rd., SW of Old US 27
Custer Park	Village of Vanderbilt	Ball field	SW of Garfield and Elm Streets
Vanderbilt Trailhead Park (Kids' Park)	Village of Vanderbilt MDNR Corwith Township	Trailhead for the Iron Belle Trail/NCST and park with a playground, swing sets, spring-mounted fixtures for children, sand play area, basketball court, drinking fountain, and restroom and pavilion.	North of Main St. and east of Cheboygan St.
Vanderbilt Area School	Vanderbilt Area School District	Gymnasium, playground, baseball field, softball field, trails, forestry study area, picnic area	947 Donovan Vanderbilt, MI 49795; NE corner of the Village
Elkland Senior Center (connected to Horsell Manor)	Otsego County Senior Citizen Non-Profit Housing Corporation	Older adult activities & meals	7910 Arthur Street, Vanderbilt
Horsell Manor	Owned by Otsego County Senior Citizen Non-Profit Housing Corporation; operated by private co. KMG Prestige	20-units senior housing complex with an on-site senior center offering recreational opportunities	920 E. Main St., Vanderbilt
North Central State Trail/Iron Belle Trail	MDNR	A multi-purpose non-motorized pathway in the summer and snowmobile trail in the winter. Crushed limestone surface. NCST extends 62 miles from Gaylord to Mackinaw City.	East of Old US-27 and east of Cheboygan Street; runs in a N-S direction;

## CITY OF GAYLORD

The City of Gaylord completed an update of its Recreation Plan in 2016.

Name	Ownership/ Operation	Description	Location
George Doumas Memorial Park	City of Gaylord	1.3 acre park with a restroom, gazebo, play structure, paved pathways, picnic tables, and drinking fountain.	Intersection of E. Fourth Street and S. Maple Ave., adjoining South Maple Elementary, Gaylord Intermediate and Middle School complexes with football field and softball field.
Freel Memorial Park	City of Gaylord	1.2 acre park with restroom, gazebo, play structure, paved pathways, picnic tables and drinking fountain.	Huron Street
Joseph N. Hale Memorial Park	City of Gaylord	0.1 acre, triangular shaped park with a small pavilion, picnic table, bench, drinking fountain.	Two blocks south of Main Street near S. Otsego Avenue
Elk View Park	City of Gaylord	Provides a viewing area of the City's Elk herd. The City is proposing to improve this park in the future with a parking lot, restrooms, pathways, picnic areas, playground, climbing wall, interpretive signs, and a lighted, paved pedestrian trail to Aspen Park.	Intersection of Elkview/Commerce Blvd. and also at the end of Grandview Blvd.
Aspen Park	City of Gaylord	105 acre park with 2 miles of lighted, barrier free paved trails, an extensive unimproved trail system (with single-track mountain bike trails) disc golf course, tennis court, and picnic tables. Trails groomed for XC skiing.	Termination point of Commerce Boulevard.
Claude Shannon Park	City of Gaylord	Small pocket park with benches, flowers, water fountain and walkway leading from W. Main St. to a parking lot north of the Main St. businesses.	On the north side of the 100 block of W. Main Street.
Gaylord Soccer Complex	City of Gaylord owns the site; leased and operated by the Gaylord Soccer League	16 acres with 8 improved soccer fields, pavilion, concession stand, restroom, unimproved parking area.	Opposite Fairview Cemetery and adjacent to N. Ohio Elementary School
Pavilion-On-Court	City of Gaylord DDA	A multipurpose facility (one-way street with an overhead cover) used as a gathering place for many activities, such as the weekly Farmers' Market.	North Center Ave., just south of Main Street
North Hazel Property	City of Gaylord	The City proposed to develop this 66' x 132' parcel as a neighborhood park.	North Hazel St.



<b>CITY OF GAYLORD, CONTINUED</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/ Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Otsego County Fairgrounds (portions of property in Livingston Twp)	Otsego County Fair Association, non-profit	Annual County Fair, special events April-Oct.	895 N. Center Street
Otsego County Commission on Aging	Otsego County Commission on Aging	Meeting location for senior meals and activities	1165 Elkview Ave., Gaylord
North Central State Trail/Iron Belle Trail	MDNR/Otsego County	There are trailheads at Fairview Road and on Main Street downtown. A 1.65 mile paved trail within the City of Gaylord from Grandview Blvd to Fairview Road. 11.2 additional miles of trail with a crushed limestone surface from Grandview Blvd. to the southern County line.	The entire segment is along a slightly used, active rail corridor, in a N-S direction through the City and center of the County.
Gaylord Middle School	Gaylord Community Schools	Outdoor basketball courts, ball diamond, soccer/practice field, swings and nature area. Indoor gymnasium. 18-hole disc golf course	600 E. Fifth St.
Gaylord Intermediate School	Gaylord Community Schools	Indoor gymnasium with basketball court; outdoor facilities include a football field and track, softball field, practice field, basketball courts, play structures and jungle gym, swings and benches	240 E. Fourth St.
South Maple Elementary School	Gaylord Community Schools	Outdoor ball diamond, swing sets, slides, climbing/jungle gym structures, sand boxes, basketball hoop and swinging rings. Indoor gymnasium.	650 E. Fifth Street
North Ohio Elementary School	Gaylord Community Schools	Outdoor basketball courts, swing sets, slide, jungle gyms, large tires, ball diamond, fitness course and benches. Indoor gymnasium.	9112 N. Ohio Ave.
Board of Education Building	Gaylord Community Schools	The school district operates a latchkey program in this building, including a fenced-in outdoor play area with a play structure.	615 S. Elm Street
St. Mary Cathedral Schools	Private Parochial School	Outdoor swing sets, slides, jungle gym, large tires, ball diamonds, basketball court and practice fields on the north side of W. Petoskey Street. On the south side of W. Petoskey St., facilities include swings, jungle gym and climbing structure.	321 North Otsego Ave.
Snap Fitness	Private	Gym - membership	780 Edelweiss Village
Powerhouse Gym	Private	Gym – membership	1044 W. Main St.
Nautilus Fitness Center	Private	Gym - membership	151 N. Illinois St.
Yoga-45	Private	Yoga Studio – workshops and classes	2646 S. Otsego Ave.

<b>CITY OF GAYLORD, CONTINUED</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Ownership/ Operation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>
Otsego County Historical Society Museum	Non-profit	Historical museum showcasing historic artifacts from Otsego County	320 W. Main St.
Otsego Grand Event Center	Private	Special event space for 25-200 guests, catering on and off-site	610 S. Wisconsin Ave.
Call of the Wild & Bavarian Falls Park	Private	Wildlife exhibit museum, adventure mini golf, bumper cars, go karts	850 S. Wisconsin Ave.
Gaylord Bowling Center	Private	Open and league bowling; space rental	1200 Gornick Ave.
Otsego Club and Resort (northern portion of the golf course is in Livingston Twp.)	Private	Year-round resort offering two PGA championship 18-hole golf courses; open to the public and membership. 31 downhill ski slopes, 5 chair lifts and 1 high-speed quad lift, 4 terrain parks, 1 rope tow, 6.2 miles of XC ski trails. Also offers 4 restaurants, lodging and meeting space.	696 M-32 East, Gaylord, MI 49735
Alpine Regional Tennis Association	Non-profit organization & US Tennis Assn. Member	Mission is to foster interest and skill development for the lifelong sport of tennis for people of all ages in Northern MI	Gaylord area
Wings Over Gaylord	Private— Special Event	Air show held annually on Father's Day weekend	Gaylord Airport
Alpenfest	Local special event	Public-private effort for annual multi-day festival in summer (July)	Downtown Gaylord
Alpenfrost	Local special event	Public-private effort for annual multi-day festival in winter (February)	Downtown Gaylord/Local Resorts

## Otsego Lake and Road End Access Locations

Otsego Lake is the County's largest lake (1972 acres) and is a very significant natural feature within the County. Otsego Lake is a valuable economic and recreation resource not only for Otsego County, but for the region as well. The lake is approximately five miles long, has an average width of 0.7 miles (max. width is 1 mile) and a maximum depth of 23 feet. It is used by many for boating, fishing and swimming. There are two official Public Access Sites for the lake, Otsego Lake State Park and Otsego Lake County Park. However, **Table 3.2** on the following page lists the many other road ends that allow public access.

Table 3.2 Otsego Lake Access Points

<u>Road Name</u>	<u>Huron Pines Site #</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Plat Name</u>
Kimbal	1	Bagley	28	Unplatted
Pinehurst	2	Bagley	29	Point Comfort Pleasure Resort
Michigan	3	Bagley	21	Point Sunset
Superior	4	Bagley	21	Point Sunset
Dakota	5	Bagley	21	Point Sunset
Idaho	6	Bagley	21	Point Sunset
Cypress	7	Bagley	21	Salling Beach
Stonewood	8	Bagley	21	Salling Beach
Lancewood	9	Bagley	21	Salling Beach
South Tall Tree Lane	10	Bagley	21	Tall Tree Acres
North Tall Tree Lane	11	Bagley	21	Tall Tree Acres
Lee	12	Bagley	21	Unplatted
Greentree Drive	13	Bagley	20	Otsego Lake View
Pinetum	14	Bagley	20	Otsego Lake View
Beach Komer	15	Bagley	20	Unplatted
Four Oaks	16	Bagley	20	Unplatted
Log Cabin Lane	17	Bagley	20	Unplatted
Tree Line Drive	18	Bagley	20	Unplatted
Stevens	19	Bagley	20	Unplatted
Acme	20	Bagley	20	Acme Park
Pontiac	21	Bagley	20	Acme Park
Fairgrove	22	Bagley	20	Unplatted
Redwood	23	Bagley	29	Idylwild
County Park Road	24	Bagley	29	Unplatted
Pioneer	25	Bagley	29	Hazel Banks
Elmwood	26	Bagley	32	Hazel Banks
Heritage	27	Bagley	32	Hazel Banks
Beechwood	28	Bagley	32	Idylwild
Bluewater	29	Bagley	32	Birchwood Banks
Birch Way	30	Bagley	32	Birchwood Banks
Corey Cove	31	Bagley	32	Unplatted
Channel Drive	32	Bagley	32	Unplatted
Ferndale	33	Bagley	32	Ridgeway
Park Ridge	34	Bagley	32	Ridgeway
Wm Brooks Drive	35	Otsego Lake	8	Unplatted
Beaver Dam Road	36	Otsego Lake	8	Unplatted
Olmstead	37	Otsego Lake	8	Unplatted
Compton Drive	38	Otsego Lake	8	Compton Beach
Sunset Drive	39	Otsego Lake	8	Compton Beach
Timber Point Drive	40	Otsego Lake	8	Unplatted
White Rock Lane	41	Otsego Lake	8	Unplatted
Lombard	42	Otsego Lake	8	Otsego Sands
State Park	43	Otsego Lake	8	Unplatted
Lakeview Avenue	44	Otsego Lake	4	Pine Beach
Gilbert	45	Otsego Lake	4	Pine Beach
Leighton	46	Otsego Lake	4	Pine Beach
Watts	47	Otsego Lake	4	Pine Beach

\*Data taken from 2008 Huron Pines Otsego Lake Road End Survey ([www.huronpines.org](http://www.huronpines.org)).

---

# Recreation Programming in Otsego County

## Recreation Programming at the Otsego County Community Center

### For Youth:

**Bear Basketball League** – Open boys/girls, Grades 3-6. \$15/person. More than 100 participants/year.

**Student Open Gym** – Students in grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> are permitted to use the facility Monday - Friday from 3-5 pm. No charge.

**Overnight Lock-Ins** - \$275 on Friday and Saturday only, October through March. 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

### For Adults:

**Community Playgroup** - For children (newborn - 5 years old) and their caring adult. Held Tuesdays during the school year from 9:30 – 11:30 am. Summer locations and times vary. No charge.

**Pickup Basketball Games** – for adults ages 18+. Monday and Wednesday from 6-9 pm. \$1/person.

**Facility Rental** - \$22.50 per hour. Can be used for birthday parties, family parties, and practices on Friday or Saturday evenings or Sunday afternoon.

**Volleyball Leagues** – Price varies depending on participation levels. 4 on 4 Ladies' League – started March 2016. Mondays and Wednesdays

**Adult Basketball League** – Price varies depending on participation levels – Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Pickleball** – Free of charge, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

## Recreation Programming at the Otsego Lake County Park

### 2023 Special Events:

**Free Camper Clean-up Weekend:** May 3-7 - please bring your rakes and help clean up your site.

**Memorial Day Weekend:** May 26-29 - Activities include Hayrides and Candy Bar Bingo

**Sea Plane Splash-in:** June 9-11

**Fireworks Over Otsego Lake:** Saturday July 1

**Labor Day Weekend:** September 1-4 Activities include Hayrides

**Halloween Weekend 1:** 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September Reservations Required

**Halloween Weekend 2:** 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of September Reservations Required

## **Recreation Programming at other facilities**

**Flag and Tackle Football** – Flag football open to youth in grades 1-6. Tackle football open to grades 5-6.

## **Recreation Programming at the County Sportsplex**

### **Ice Rink Programming**

Otsego County Youth Hockey Association

Gaylord Area Men’s Hockey League

Skate Lessons

Hockey Lessons

Open Skate

Kid’s Day Camp Use

### **Pool Programming**

Children’s Swim Lessons

American Red Cross Learn to Swim Class (anyone over age 5)

Aqua Fit Water Fitness

“Kayak Klub” and Children’s Swim Teams

Open Swim

### **Sportsplex Tennis Center Programming**

Regional and local tournaments

Men’s and Women’s leagues

Youth tennis classes, clinics, and match play

Clinics and classes such as Cardio Tennis, Start/Restart Tennis, Strokes & Strategies

### **Other**

Room Rentals: “Rent the Plex”, “Rent the Rink”, Overnight Lock-ins, Conference Room and 2 Recreation Rooms for individual rentals

Summer Kid’s Day Camp : 10 weeks from June through August. Kids can swim, skate and play each day. Art and music projects sponsored by Gaylord Area Council for Arts and supported by Saturn Booksellers.



Fitness Classes: TNT Children’s Karate, Yoga, Pickleball, and Spinning Classes.

## **Additional Community Recreation Facilities**

The following facilities are owned by public or non-profit entities and available for recreational use.

### **Otsego County Commission on Aging (OCCOA)**

The OCCOA offers a wide variety of social activities, educational programs and exercise programs for older adults. Primary goals of the exercise programs are disease prevention and fall reduction. Young At Heart Exercise Classes (gentle aerobics and light weights) are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at the Powerhouse Gym in Gaylord and Matter of Balance (MOB) classes (improving strength, flexibility and balance) are presented in eight week sessions throughout the year.

The OCCOA also offers a congregate meal program (nutrition and nutrition education). OCCOA meals are offered at the Gaylord Meal Site located at the OCCOA at 1165 Elkview Ave. The OCCOA also offers a Dining Out program allowing seniors to eat at local participating restaurants using a voucher purchased at the OCCOA location. Current participating restaurants are the Mill Street Diner in Vanderbilt and the Old Depot in Johannesburg. Home delivered meals are also distributed to homebound older adults in Otsego County. A complete listing of OCCOA programs and services is available at <http://www.otsegocountycoa.org/>

### **Gaylord Community Schools Outdoor Environmental Learning Site**

Gaylord Community Schools have provided space for the 40- acre Otsego Environmental Learning Site and the Gaylord Adventure Center. Both facilities are located adjacent to and behind the Gaylord Middle School and South Maple Elementary. The Otsego Environmental Learning Site includes a log cabin (built in 2001 for use as a 3-season nature learning center), an outdoor classroom area, a mixed hardwood forest, a pond and prairie grass. There are also two working windmills that add water and air to the pond. Visitors can observe the pond habitat and the prairie habitat anytime during daylight hours. The site is also home to an 18-hole disc golf course that was built and maintained by volunteers. The first 9 holes were built for an Eagle Scout Project and funded by the Rotary and other donations. The back 9 were built by the Gaylord Disc Golf Club.

### **Otsego Conservation District (OCD)**

The OCD is available to help landowners and citizens in Otsego County manage their resources wisely. OCD manages and operates the Alternative Landscaping Demonstration Garden and the Conservation Forest located on County property near the J. Richard Yuill Alpine Center. This 19-acre area includes a 3-acre community garden and 16 acres of forest and trails that is open for residents to explore at their convenience. The garden area was a former dumping site that was transformed into a new home for many native flowers, butterflies, wetland plants and wildlife. It educates people of all ages on the benefits that native plants provide for water quality and wildlife habitat. The garden is meant to inspire visitors to

use similar landscaping on their own land, rather than planting high maintenance lawns that require watering, fertilizer or chemicals. This area also features a home compost demonstration site. The adjacent Conservation Forest provides a forest management demonstration, complete with educational signs, as well as a number of trails for the public to enjoy. The trails can be used for hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. The area is also used to facilitate workshops and other educational events that focus on natural resources and conservation. The OCD also manages the Five Lakes Natural Area for Gaylord Community Schools. This area provides the only public access of Five Lakes and includes 20 acres with wildlife viewing, picnic tables and trails for hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing.

*This page intentionally left blank*



## Chapter 4

---

# Planning and Public Input Process

Development of a community recreation plan must involve interaction and input from citizens and community groups. The Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Elmira Township Planning Commission were the lead entities in developing this recreation plan. Parks and Recreation Committee meetings were open to the public with time allocated for comments. A timeline of the development of the recreation plan update is as follows:

---

## Schedule

<b>September, 2021</b>	OCPRC and Elmira Township officials contracted with Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) to assist in drafting recreation plan for the county and their township.
<b>November, 2021</b>	NEMCOG develops and posts a public input survey for Otsego County & Elmira Recreation Plan.
<b>December 1, 2021</b>	A press release was issued promoting the online recreation survey. Links to the survey were placed on the websites of NEMCOG, OCPR, and OCPR's Facebook page.
<b>December, 2021</b>	NEMCOG staff develops an initial draft update of the Recreation Plan.
<b>January, 2022</b>	The online survey remains open.
<b>February, 2022</b>	NEMCOG develops a flyer promoting the online survey that can be distributed at upcoming community events to hopefully gather more responses.



<b>July, 2022</b>	The draft plan and preliminary survey responses are transmitted to OCPRC for review.
<b>August 8, 2022</b>	The survey is closed after receiving 109 responses. NEMCOG prepares the final online survey responses for review by OCPRC & Elmira Twp.
<b>October 20, 2022</b>	A public notice is published in the <i>Weekly Choice</i> newspaper announcing the plan is available for the 30-day public comment period. Links to the plan are also placed on the websites of NEMCOG, Otsego County and OCPRC's Otsego Lake County Park Facebook page. A hard copy of the plan was made available at the Otsego County Library reference desk and the Otsego County Community Center.
<b>November 10, 2022</b>	A public notice is published in the <i>Weekly Choice</i> announcing a public hearing to be held at the Otsego County Board of Commissioners Meeting on November 22, 2022, regarding the recreation plan adoption.
<b>November 22, 2022</b>	The Otsego County Board of Commissioners holds the public hearing at their meeting and passes a Resolution of Adoption for the Recreation Plan.
<b>December 12, 2022</b>	At OCPRC's regular monthly meeting, they passed a Resolution of Adoption for the recreation plan.
<b>January 5, 2022</b>	A public notice is published in the <i>Weekly Choice</i> announcing a public hearing to be held at the Elmira Township Board meeting on January 11, 2022 regarding the recreation plan adoption.
<b>January 11, 2023</b>	The Elmira Township Board holds a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting and passes a Resolution of Adoption for the Recreation Plan.
<b>January 19, 2023</b>	NEMCOG submits final adopted plan to OCPRC and Elmira Township. The plan is uploaded to the MDNR's MiGrants system for Otsego County and Elmira Twp.

---

## Public Input

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is key to the development of a recreation plan. An online survey was provided for Otsego County area citizens to provide input about recreational facilities. A summary of the survey results can be found in **Appendix A** of this plan.

A total of 109 people responded to the survey. While this is not a large amount of people, OCPRC and Elmira Township felt that the community was adequately represented, given that if a public input session

would have been held, fewer people would have shown up to participate via that method. After all public input was gathered and recorded, OCPRC and Elmira Township met to prioritize their goals, objectives and projects for the Action Plan.

# Online Recreation Survey Publicity

facebook.com/otsegolakecountypark/

facebook

Email or phone

Password

Forgot account?

**OTSEGO COUNTY**  
Recreational Activities & Facilities  
**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Otsego County  
Parks & Recreation  
Department  
@otsegolakecountypark

Home  
About  
Photos  
Reviews  
Videos  
Posts  
Community

Create a Page



**Otsego**  
**COUNTY**  
M I C H I G A N

ESTABLISHED 1875

Like Share ...

Send Message

**Photos**

**PRESS RELEASE**

For more information contact:  
Nico Tucker, Regional Planner, NEMCOG  
[ntucker@nemcog.org](mailto:ntucker@nemcog.org)  
989-705-3732

**For Immediate Release**

**Online Recreation Survey Conducted by Otsego County and Elmira Township**

December 1, 2021 – The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) is assisting Otsego County and Elmira Township with updating their joint 5-Year Recreation Plan.

This Recreation Plan identifies how the communities will work towards achieving goals and objectives for improving recreational opportunities in Otsego County. Communities are required to have a current, 5-Year MDNR-approved Recreation Plan in order to qualify for recreation grant funding from the Michigan DNR.

The planning process incorporates a community participation element that encourages input from citizens. These two units of government have chosen to work together to

4.6 out of 5 - Based on the opinion of 5 people

**Community**

2,206 people like this

2,315 people follow this

8,303 check-ins

**About**

See more of Otsego County Parks & Recreation Department on Facebook

Log In or Create new account

**PRESS RELEASE**

For more information contact:  
Nico Tucker, Regional Planner, NEMCOG  
[ntucker@nemco.org](mailto:ntucker@nemco.org)  
989-705-3732

**For Immediate Release**

**Online Recreation Survey Conducted by Otsego County and Elmira Township**

December 1, 2021 – The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) is assisting Otsego County and Elmira Township with updating their joint 5-Year Recreation Plan.

This Recreation Plan identifies how the communities will work towards achieving goals and objectives for improving recreational opportunities in Otsego County. Communities are required to have a current, 5-Year MDNR-approved Recreation Plan in order to qualify for recreation grant funding from the Michigan DNR.

The planning process incorporates a community participation element that encourages input from citizens. These two units of government have chosen to work together to gather this public input in an online survey. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and is available online on the following websites:  
<https://www.otsego-county-mi.gov/>; and NEMCOG's webpage at <http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/recreation.asp>

Direct Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OtsegoCountyRecreation>

County and Township officials are encouraging citizens in and around Otsego County to complete this survey because public input is a highly valued and vital component to shaping the future of recreational opportunities in the area. The survey will be open until January 1, 2022 and responses are anonymous.

**Otsego County Parks & Recreation Department**  
Like This Page · 46 mins ·

\*\*\*ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\*

If you all could take the time to fill out this brief survey, it would help the Parks & Recreation Department have a better understanding of what recommendations community members, for both Otsego County and Elmira Township, may have for the parks and recreational facilities in our county. These recommendations would be specific for our 5-year Recreation Plan we are currently working on. The link to the survey, along with more information regarding the 5-year Recreation Plan, are below. Thank you in advance!

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OtsegoCountyRecreation?fbclid=IwAR3BkH5nU9PsbBVA\\_LQml088nx1TNdN4A2Mte8EggX-jBJQim\\_\\_r\\_37Tphl](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OtsegoCountyRecreation?fbclid=IwAR3BkH5nU9PsbBVA_LQml088nx1TNdN4A2Mte8EggX-jBJQim__r_37Tphl)

Jacob Brown likes this.

2 Shares

Otsego County Parks & Recreation Department's Photos in Timeline photos

Otsego County Web Page Accessed 12/2/2021

[www.otsegocountymi.gov](http://www.otsegocountymi.gov)





[Home](#) › News Flash

Home - News Carousel

Posted on: December 2, 2021

## Press Release: Online Recreation Survey Conducted by Otsego County and Elmira Township

### PRESS RELEASE

For more information contact:  
Nico Tucker, Regional Planner, NEMCOG  
[ntucker@nemcog.org](mailto:ntucker@nemcog.org)  
989-705-3732

### For Immediate Release

### Online Recreation Survey Conducted by Otsego County and Elmira Township

December 1, 2021 – The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) is assisting Otsego County and Elmira Township with updating their joint 5-Year Recreation Plan.

This Recreation Plan identifies how the communities will work towards achieving goals and objectives for improving recreational opportunities in Otsego County. Communities are required to have a current, 5-Year MDNR-approved Recreation Plan in order to qualify for recreation grant funding from the Michigan DNR.

The planning process incorporates a community participation element that encourages input from citizens. These two units of government have chosen to work together to gather this public input in an online survey. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and is available online on the following websites: <https://www.otsegocountymi.gov/>; and NEMCOG's webpage at <http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/recreation.asp>

Direct Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OtsegoCountyRecreation>

County and Township officials are encouraging citizens in and around Otsego County to complete this survey because public input is a highly valued and vital component to shaping the future of recreational opportunities in the area. The survey will be open until January 1, 2022 and responses are anonymous.

# NEMCOG News Webpages

[www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/recreation.asp](http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/recreation.asp)

Webpage Notice – November 22, 2021

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links for 'COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS', 'MICHIGAN WORKS!', 'PROSPERITY COLLABORATIVE', and 'DOCUMENT LIBRARY'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Business', 'Hot Job Profiles', 'Jobseekers', 'Community', 'Agencies', 'COVID', and 'Data'. The main content area features a left sidebar with a menu of planning topics, including 'Recreation Plans'. The central article is titled 'Recreation Plans' and discusses the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' requirements for DNR-approved recreation plans. It includes a map of Island Park and a right sidebar with 'Recreation Plan News' featuring a link to an 'Otsego County Recreation Survey' dated Nov 22, 2021, and another link for 'NEMCOG Program Highlights July 2020-February 2021' dated Mar 22, 2021.



# Otsego County

## Parks & Recreation Commission

We need your input on our parks!

The Commission is updating the Parks & Recreation Plan to apply for grant funding to improve the county parks. Please take a few minutes to visit this website (or scan the QR code) to fill out a quick survey.

Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OtsegoCountyRecreation>













# Resolution of the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission

## RECREATION PLAN

### RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

#### Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission

- WHEREAS,** Otsego County and Elmira Township have undertaken a joint 5 Year Recreation Plan update which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreational facilities during the period of 2022- 2027, and
- WHEREAS,** an online recreation survey was published on December 1, 2021, and remained open for public input until August 8, 2022, providing residents with ample opportunity to comment and guide recreation in the County, and
- WHEREAS,** a public notice was published in the Weekly Choice on October 20, 2022, which began a 30-day public review period for the draft plan, and
- WHEREAS,** Otsego County and Elmira Township have developed the plan for the benefit of the entire County to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the entire County.
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission hereby adopts the Recreation Plan and recommends that, following a public hearing session, the County Board of Commissioners adopt the Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Otsego County.

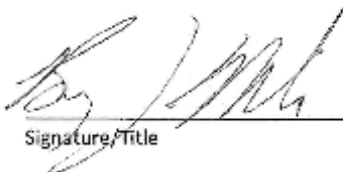
Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the forgoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission, held on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

12/12/22  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Title

# Minutes of Otsego County Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve  
Ironstone Springs  
Libke Field  
Pontresina Park  
Otsego Lake County Park  
Wah Wah Soo  
Community Center

## Proposed Minutes Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Call to order at 6:00pm by president Dave Baragrey at the Otsego County Building, room 100.

**Members Present:** Dave Baragrey, Scott Courterier, Bonny Miller, Doug Johnson, Troy Huff, Judi Jarecki, Randy Stults, Justin Wing and Jack Korte.

**Others Present:** Jacob Brown, Keri Swantek, Jacob Meyer, Matt Barresi, Mel Maier, Thom Marquardt, Henry Mason, Rebecca Latuszek and Dana Wingo.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Scott Courterier identified two spelling errors from the previous minutes. A motion was made by Scott Courterier and seconded by Justin Wing to approve the previous minutes as amended. The first error was under New Business, Boat Rental Agreement: [Jacob Brown said that Trevor Burroughs with Action Outdoor Rentals has been renting pontoons and has a boat dock at the Otsego Lake County Park. Jacob said another vendor contacted him about renting pontoons boats at the park. Randy Stults asked if the county has a certificate of the insurance from Action Outdoor Rentals as well as do we have a contract with Action Outdoor Rentals for this and what income do we get from it. Staff indicated the does not receive income from that and there is no contract. Randy Stults asked Matt Barresi to meet with the insurance carrier for the county. Some of the members expressed concerns of the rental boats taking space away from the campers and guests as well as the liability involved. Scott Courterier indicated on his experience in business with this type of operation it is not something we want to be a part of. Jacob Brown indicated most of the rentals are from non-campers so the only income for us would be a Day Pass. A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Troy Huff to eliminate power boat rental operations and third-party companies putting in boat docks at the Otsego Lake County Park. Motion carried. The board members asked Nico Tucker to remove the information in the recreation plan about the rental of pontoon boats at the county park. The board members expressed interested [interest] in providing kayaks and paddle boards at the county park for rental]. The second error was under the staff updates, [Chairperson Scott Courterier, asked Randy Stults if we were in violation of our By-laws at the 3-hour point of our meeting. Randy Stults indicated that he things[thinks] it would be at the 2-hour point of our meeting but would quickly check by the By-law. Article 6 Section 3 of the Parks and Recreation Bylaws were read out loud by Randy Stults which states “**Recess.** The President, or the Commission, after the meeting has been in session for two hours, shall suspend the Commission’s business and evaluate the remaining items on its agenda. The commission shall then decide to finish that meeting’s agenda, may act to continue the meeting on another day (fix the time at which to adjourn), or complete some agenda items and continue the meeting on another day to complete other agenda items or postpone certain agenda items to the next meeting. No agenda item may be started after 9:00 p.m. If applicable such action shall include the time, day, month, date, year, and location the Commission will reconvene. If more than 18 hours will pass before the reconvened Commission, public notice shall be given to comply with P.A. 267 of 1976, as amended,

Dave Baragrey-President, Scott Courterier-Vice President, Bonny Miller-Secretary, Doug Johnson-Otsego Co. Board of Commissioners, Troy Huff - Otsego Co. Road Commission, Judith Jarecki-Otsego Co. Planning Commission, Randy Stults, Justin Wing, Jack Korte, Jacob Brown - Director, Keri Swantek - Coordinator



# Minutes of Otsego County Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting (Continued)



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve  
Irontone Springs  
Libke Field  
Pontresina Park

Otsego Lake County Park  
Wah Wah Soo  
Community Center

(being the Michigan Open Meeting Act M.C.L. 15.261 et seq.). Upon reconvening, a roll call of attendance shall be the first item of business before proceeding with the same agenda. The commission shall resume with the same meeting agenda, proceeding at the same point where they left off, without the addition of additional". Randy Stults suggested we spend the short time required to complete the agenda as only Commissioner Comments remains. A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Troy Huff to suspend Article 6 Section 3 of the Parks and Recreation Bylaws. Motion carried.] Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Dana Wingo asked if the information was removed from the 5-year recreation plan regarding pontoon boat rentals. Rebecca Latuszek informed the board that poaching has been taking place at the Groen Preserve over the years.

**Henry Mason:** Otsego County Board of Commission member Henry Mason spoke about issues with former management in the county. Henry congratulated Jacob Brown and Keri Swantek on their respective promotions. Henry said anyone was welcome to come to a board of commissioner meeting to speak about any concerns they may have. Henry also said the issues regarding the meeting recording were handled correctly.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Doug Johnson and seconded by Scott Courterier to approve the bills from 11/1/22-12/2/22 in the amount of \$17,141.19. Motion carried.

**Budget Reports:** Jacob Brown discussed the budget reports from November for the Groen Preserve, the Community Center and the County Parks.

## Old Business:

- 1. Otsego Christian School:** Jacob Brown told the members that 3 grades from Otsego Christian School are using the Community Center for their lunch time/recess Monday-Friday from 12:00-12:45pm and their gym class on Thursday from 1:00-2:30pm Jacob Brown they are only charged on Thursdays. The board members asked Jacob to contact Otsego Christian School about this program. The board members decided continue to only charge for the gym class for the rest of the school year and revisit this before the start of the new school year.
- 2. Advertising Policy:** Jacob Brown presented a copy of the adverting policy and prices. Jacob asked the board members to review the policy and email him with any updates or suggestions by the end of the week. Randy Stults asked how the banners would be hung and who was responsible for hanging them. Randy also asked about the time frame the banners would be displayed. Randy asked for a proposed layout of sizes of banners and locations of the banners for the next meeting. Randy recommended the banners be hung from July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> and charge an annual fee.

Dave Baragrey-President, Scott Courterier-Vice President, Bonny Miller-Secretary, Doug Johnson-Otsego Co. Board of Commissioners,  
Troy Huff-Otsego Co. Road Commission, Judith Iarecki-Otsego Co. Planning Commission,  
Randy Stults, Justin Wing, Jack Korte, Jacob Brown - Director, Keri Swantek - Coordinator



# Minutes of Otsego County Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting (Continued)



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve  
Irontone Springs  
Libke Field  
Pontresina Park

Otsego Lake County Park  
Wah Wah Soo  
Community Center

- 3. Michigan Spark Grant:** Thom Marquardt said he is finishing the application for the first round of grants. Thom said the second round will be an application for the drain in Otsego Lake. Thom said the third round will be for the outside of the community center.
- 4. Adoption of the 5-year Recreation Plan:** A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Justin Wing to adopt the resolution of the 5-year Recreation plan as presented. A roll call vote followed: Dave Baragrey, yes, Scott Courterier, yes, Bonny Miller, yes, Doug Johnson, yes, Troy Huff, yes, Judi Jarecki, yes, Randy Stults, yes, Justin Wing, yes and Jack Korte, yes. Yeas – 9, Nays- 0, Absent-0. Motion carried.

### New Business:

- 1. Parks and Recreation Commission Member Re-appointment:** A motion was made by Troy Huff and seconded by Scott Courterier to recommend to the Otsego County Board of Commissioners the re-appointment of Justin Wing to the Parks and Recreation Board for the term for 2023-2025. Justin Wing abstained from the vote. Motion carried.
- 2. 2023 Commission Meeting Schedule:** Jacob Brown presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2023. Randy Stults asked that the schedule be updated to include information about entering through the West side entrance for meetings at the Otsego County Building. A motion was made by Judi Jarecki and seconded by Randy Stults to approve the meeting schedule as amended. Motion carried.
- 3. Property Deeds:** Jacob Brown presented a list of the current property deeds and easements maintained by Otsego County Parks and Recreation. Jacob said that two of the lots were listed under different owners and he is looking into getting this resolved.
- 4. Additional Lots:** Justin Wing discussed the map he designed for the Spark grant project. This was also discussed under property deeds.
- 5. Otsego Lake Splash-in Inc. Health Department Permit:** Jacob Brown discussed the temporary campground permit required for the Otsego Lake Splash-in. Jacob said the pilots were charged \$6.00 to help cover the cost of the permit. Jacob said the pilots have not been charged since approximately 2018. Justin Wing said to not charge the pilots for this permit.
- 6. Picnic Tables at the Campground:** Jacob Brown presented some prices for wooden tables and composite tables for the campground. The board recommended to continue purchasing the composite tables.
- 7. Otsego County Community Center Policy:** Jacob Brown developed a policy for the Community Center and asked the board members to review it and email him with any suggestions or additions.
- 8. Bathroom Renovations:** Jacob Brown presented some pictures of the upstairs restrooms at the Community Center. Randy Stults asked Jacob Brown to determine the necessary handicap accessibility before starting any renovations.

### Director's Update:

- 1. Community Center:** Keri Swantek said the after-school program had 30-40 students per day in November. Keri said there were approximately 4-12 people for week for pickleball. Keri said the

Dave Baragrey-President, Scott Courterier-Vice President, Bonny Miller-Secretary, Doug Johnson-Otsego Co. Board of Commissioners,  
Troy Huff - Otsego Co. Road Commissioner, Judith Jarecki-Otsego Co. Planning Commission,  
Randy Stults, Justin Wing, Jack Korte, Jacob Brown – Director, Keri Swantek – Coordinator



## Minutes of Otsego County Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting (Continued)



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve  
Irontone Springs  
Libke Field  
Pontresina Park

Otsego Lake County Park  
Wah Wah Soo  
Community Center

Community Playgroup had approximately 25-40 families per week. Keri said the youth tennis program started two weeks ago with approximately 40 participants.

- 2. County Parks:** Keri Swantek said a few branches came down at Irontone Springs but they are not a hazard. They will be cleaned up in the Spring. Keri said the advanced reservations made in November included camping: \$203.84, cabins: \$919.60 and the pavilion at Irontone Springs for \$67.60.
- 3. Groen Preserve:** Jacob Meyer said the trail map is currently being updated. Jacob said he is getting all the buildings ready for the winter. Jacob said Builders First Source is going to provide an estimate to fix the broken windows on the hotel. Jacob said he is looking for a company to repair the curtains around the new pavilion as they sustained damage from the wind over the summer.
- 4. Projects Update:** Jacob Brown said he is working on updating the job description for the Community Center Monitor. Jacob said he purchased some silicone for the windows. Scott Courterier asked to have plans for the repairs needed for the steps at the meeting. Jacob Brown said he still waiting for approval from the state on when to move forward with the campsite improvement project.

#### **Commissioner Comments:**

- Bonny Miller apologized to Justin Wing for comments made at the last meeting.
- Judi Jarecki thanked Jacob Brown and Keri Swantek for providing information about the Spark grant for the planning commission meeting. Judi said a wind barrier is being installed on the pavilion at the Vanderbilt Trail Head.
- Justin Wing asked Matt Barresi how many applicants he received for the director position.
- Jack Korte said the adult basketball league will wrap up this weekend. Jack said an awards banquet was held last week and thanked the staff for helping set up for the event. Jack asked about the Community Center being open in the summer time.
- Randy Stults and Scott Courterier thanked Justin Wing for the drawing he designed for the grant. Randy Stults also said the members and staff need to be proactive about planning summer events for the Community Center.
- Dave Baragrey congratulated Jacob Brown and Keri Swantek on their promotions.

The next meeting will be on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Otsego County Building room 100.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

#### **Attachments as part of these minutes:**

- 2023 Commission Meeting Schedule
- November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Proposed Minutes
- Bills dated 11/1/22-12/2/22 in the amount of \$17,141.19.
- Adoption of 5-year Recreation Plan Resolution

Dave Baragrey-President, Scott Courterier-Vice President, Bonny Miller-Secretary, Doug Johnson-Otsego Co. Board of Commissioners,  
Troy Huff - Otsego Co. Road Commission, Judi Jarecki-Otsego Co. Planning Commission,  
Randy Stults, Justin Wing, Jack Korte, Jacob Brown - Director, Keri Swantek - Coordinator



# Minutes of Otsego County Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting (Continued)



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve      Otsego Lake County Park  
Irontone Springs                      Wah Wah Soo  
Libke Field                              Community Center  
Pontresina Park

- Budget Reports from November for the County Parks, the Community Center and the Groen Preserve.

These proposed minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge. The minutes will be approved at the next meeting taking place January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

*Keri M. Swantek* 12/18/22

Keri Swantek, Recording Secretary

Bonny Miller, Secretary

## Resolution of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners, held in the second-floor conference room at the Otsego County Library located at 700 S. Otsego Ave, Gaylord, Michigan 49735 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2022 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Terra Deming, Henry Mason, Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser.

ABSENT: Doug Johnson, Jason Caverson, Bruce Brown.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Brett McVannel, seconded by Commissioner Rob Pallarito.

**OCR 22-31**  
**OTSEGO COUNTY/ELMIRA TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN**  
**RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**  
Otsego County Board of Commissioners  
November 22, 2022

**WHEREAS,** Otsego County and Elmira Township have undertaken a joint 5-Year Recreation Plan update which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreational facilities during the period of 2022 – 2027, and

**WHEREAS,** an online recreation survey was published on December 1, 2021 and remained open for public input until August 8, 2022, providing residents with an opportunity to comment and guide recreation in the County, and

**WHEREAS,** a public notice was published in the Weekly choice on October 20, 2022 which began a 30-day public review period for the draft plan, and

**WHEREAS,** Otsego County and Elmira Township have developed the plan for the benefit of the entire County to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the entire County, and

**WHEREAS,** a public hearing was held on November 22, 2022 at the Otsego County Library to provide residents the opportunity to ask questions and express opinions on the Recreation Plan; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Otsego County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Otsego County.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:


YES: Terra Deming, Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser.

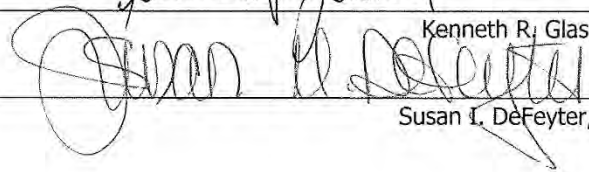
NO: Henry Mason.

ABSTAIN: None.

## Resolution of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners (Continued)

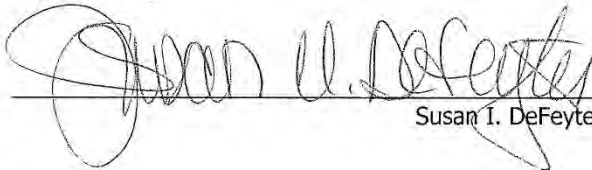
THE RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth R. Glasser, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan I. DeFeyer, County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)  
§  
COUNTY OF OTSEGO)

The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Otsego, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Otsego County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2022, at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout and that an original thereof is on file in the records of the County. I further certify that the meeting was conducted, and public notice thereof was given, pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, and of such meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required thereby.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan I. DeFeyer, County Clerk

DATED: 11/22/ 2022

# Minutes of Otsego County Board of Commissioners Meeting and Public Hearing

November 22, 2022

The regular meeting of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners was held at the Otsego County Library located at 700 S. Otsego Ave, second floor conference room, Gaylord, Michigan 49735. Due to the novel Coronavirus pandemic, this meeting was held remotely for the public as permitted by the Open Meetings Act. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Ken Glasser. Invocation by Chairman Ken Glasser, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sheriff Matt Nowicki.

Roll Call:

Present: Henry Mason, Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser,  
Absent: Terra Deming, Doug Johnson, Jason Caverson, Bruce Brown.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the Regular Minutes of November 8, 2022 with attachments.

Motion to approve the 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting schedule. (see attached)

Motion to approve the 2023 Holiday Schedule. (see attached)

Motion to appoint James Steward to the Otsego County Veterans' Affairs with the term ending December 31, 2027.

Motion to approve OCR 22-29 Otsego Lake Drain resolution amendment. (amended to correct previously approved number resolution, OCR 22-26 to OCR 22-29)

Consent agenda approved via unanimous consent.

Commissioner Terra Deming arrived 9:32 a.m.

Chairman Ken Glasser opened the meeting for public comment for agenda items only. The County Clerk maintains an electronic audio recording of each meeting of the Board. These recordings shall be maintained in the office of the Clerk. These recordings are available to the public but shall not leave the office of the Clerk.

Special Presentations: None.

Department Head Report: None.

Committee Reports:

Parks and Recreation Plan public hearing was opened at 9:33 a.m.

Parks and Recreation Plan public hearing was closed at 9:37 a.m.



## Minutes of Otsego County Board of Commissioners Meeting and Public Hearing (Continued)

Motion by Commissioner Brett McVannel, seconded by Commissioner Rob Pallarito, to approve OCR 22-31 the 2022-2027 Parks and Recreation Plan.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Terra Deming, Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser.

Nays: Henry Mason.

Motion Carried/Resolution adopted. (see attached)

Michigan Sparks Grant public hearing opened at 9:39 a.m.

Michigan Sparks Grant public hearing closed at 9:43 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Brett McVannel, seconded by Commissioner Terra Deming, to approve OCR 22-32 Michigan Sparks Grant and Local Match.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Terra Deming, Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser.

Nays: Henry Mason.

Motion Carried/Resolution adopted. (see attached)

Truth in Taxation Hearing opened at 9:49 a.m.

Truth in Taxation Hearing closed at 9:50 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Paul Liss, seconded by Commissioner Brett McVannel, to approve OCR 22-30 Budget Resolution and General Appropriations Act.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Terra Deming, Henry Mason, Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser.

Motion carried/Resolution adopted. (see attached)

Motion by Commissioner Paul Liss, seconded by Commissioner Henry Mason, to approve the 2021 Animal Control presented supplies budget amendment. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried. (see attached)

Motion by Commissioner Paul Liss, seconded by Commissioner Rob Pallarito, to approve the presented budget amendment in the Planning/Zoning department in the amount of \$2600.00.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried. (see attached)

Motion by Commissioner Paul Liss, seconded by Commissioner Rob Pallarito, to approve the presented budget amendment for computer replacements in the amount of \$13,000.00. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried. (see attached)

Motion by Commissioner Paul Liss, seconded by Commissioner Henry Mason, to approve the 2022 longevity budget amendment. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried. (see attached)

Motion by Commissioner Paul Liss, seconded by Commissioner Brett McVannel, to approve the 0.50% COLA increase for Teamsters Clerical division. Ayes: Terra Deming, Henry Mason, Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Ken Glasser. Nays: Rob Pallarito. Motion carried. (see attached)



# Minutes of Otsego County Board of Commissioners Meeting and Public Hearing (Continued)

Motion by Commissioner Rob Pallarito, seconded by Commissioner Brett McVannel, to approve the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan as amended. Ayes: Terra Deming, Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser. Nays: Henry Mason. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Terra Deming, seconded by Commissioner Rob Pallarito, to approve the updated Office Manager-Prosecutor job description. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried. (see attached)

Motion by Commissioner Terra Deming, seconded by Commissioner Paul Liss, to approve the reinstated Building Inspector Position. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Terra Deming, seconded by Commissioner Paul Liss, to approve the hire of one full-time Airport/Building and Grounds Maintenance position for 2023. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried. Motion by Commissioner Paul Liss, seconded by Commissioner Henry Mason to approve the Airport position with a start date of 12-1-22. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried. (see attached)

Motion by Commissioner Terra Deming, seconded by Commissioner Paul Liss, to approve the hiring of a new Sheriff Deputy/School Resource officer. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried. (see attached)

Motion by Commissioner Terra Deming, seconded by Commissioner Brett McVannel, to approve an increase to 40 hours per week for the Animal Control Kennel attendant position. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

#### Administrator's Report:

Matt Barresi met with Camp Commander regarding the proposed expansion of Camp Grayling, the Commander offered to do a public meeting.

City Liaison, Township & Village Representative: None.

Correspondence: None.

#### New Business:

Motion by Commissioner Rob Pallarito, seconded by Commissioner Brett McVannel, to approve the November 15, 2022 Warrant in the amount of \$76,116.04 and 19 voided checks. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Henry Mason seconded by Commissioner Terra Deming, to approve the November 22, 2022 Warrant in the amount of \$285,340.47. Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

# Minutes of Otsego County Board of Commissioners Meeting and Public Hearing (Continued)

Michigan Sparks Grant for the Sportsplex public hearing was opened at 10:19 a.m.  
Michigan Sparks Grant for the Sportsplex public hearing was closed at 10:21 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Rob Pallarito, seconded by Commissioner Brett McVannel, to approve  
OCR 22-33 Sportsplex Spark Grant.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Terra Deming, Paul Liss, Brett McVannel, Rob Pallarito, Ken Glasser.

Nays: Henry Mason.

Motion Carried/Resolution adopted. (see attached)

Other Business: None.

Public Comment:

Chairman Ken Glasser opened the meeting for public comment. The County Clerk maintains an electronic audio recording of each meeting of the Board. These recordings shall be maintained in the office of the Clerk. These recordings are available to the public but shall not leave the office of the Clerk.

Board Remarks:

Commissioner Brett McVannel wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Rob Pallarito wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Henry Mason wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Terra Deming reported on the City Council meeting, large turnout for the November 8, 2022 election, approved M-32 RV Park requests, well for irrigation approved, extension on road projects.

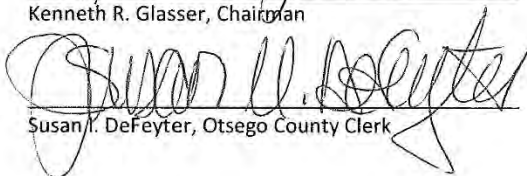
Commissioner Paul Liss wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Ken Glasser wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.



Kenneth R. Glasser, Chairman



Susan J. DeFeyter, Otsego County Clerk



# Notice of Public Hearing for Elmira Township

January 5, 2023

**Run for  
As Low  
As \$200**

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**Delivered to 40  
Towns Each Week!**

Tell our advertisers you saw their ad in the Weekly Choice + Page 7-B

**CALL:** 989.732.8160 | **EMAIL:** classifieds@weeklychoice.com | **ORDER ONLINE:** www.weeklychoice.com

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**AMISH BUILT** storage sheds and mini cabins delivered to your site anywhere in Michigan. Starting at \$2,500. mynestbar.com. 989-832-1866.

**BATH & SHOWER UPDATES** as little as one day! Affordable prices. No payments for 18 months. Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call 877-420-8044

**DSH Network** \$94.99 for 130 Channel Blazing Fast. Internet. \$19.99/mo. (where available). Switch & get a free \$10 Visa Gift Card. Free Video Remote. Free HD DVR. Free Streaming on all Devices. Call today. 866-960-6757

Eliminate your cleaning forever!

**LeafBlowers**, the most advanced debris-blowing gutter protection. Schedule a free LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Package. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 844-369-2501.

Get **DIRECTV** for \$64.99/mo for 12 months with **CHOICE Package**. Save an additional \$120 over 1st year. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Echo (included) Directv is #1 In Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc). Some restrictions apply. Call 888-381-0154

**LOWEST COST IN MICHIGAN CLASSIFIED ADS ARE JUST \$2 for a 8-word ad in the Weekly Choice**, Charlotte County News or Michigan MoneySaver. The area's widest distribution paper and the lowest cost for advertising. E-mail your ad to Office@WeeklyChoice.com or call 989-732-8160. The Weekly Choice is distributed weekly from Maclellan City to Grayling, 11 zones of the Michigan MoneySaver distributed from Traverse City to Toxco. Northern Michigan's best choice for buying and selling.

Prepare for power outages today with a **GENERAC** home standby generator. So money down + no monthly payment options. Request a free quote. Call now before the next power outage. 833-983-1981.

Reach Across Michigan with a **MegaMarket**, Statewide Classified Ad. Over 1.2 million weekly circulation. Just \$249 per week for 3 Get 1 Free! Call this paper, 989-732-8160. Switch and save up to \$250 year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage.

100% US based customer service. Limited time offer, get \$50 off on any new account. Use code GB150. For more information, call 855-947-2891

The Generac PowerPac, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE no obligation quote today. Call 855-476-9698

Trouble hearing your TV? Try **TV EARS'S** Voice Clarifying Wireless TV Speaker. Better than a soundbar and/or turning the TV volume way up. Special, limited time \$50 off offer. Call TV Ears. Use code HBFRSO. Call 844-632-0812

**BIKES & ATVs**

2022 **POLARIS** Sportsman 450 Quad. Only 290 miles. 4 year transferable warranty. \$7,400. Text: 231-334-1831.

**NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

Positive Notes of Encouragement are free in the Weekly Choice, Charlotte County News and Michigan MoneySaver. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Congratulations or just a Positive Note will all be Free.

**SUV**

2003 Chevy Tahoe. 2-7T. 4x4. \$2,500. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2003 Ford Excursion. Seate 8. leather, moon roof, low pig, NEW DIESEL ENGINE \$13,995. As low as \$249 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2008 Honda Element. AWD. Sale Price \$5,495. As low as \$199 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2010 GMC Acadia. AWD, 3rd row seat. Sale Price \$2,495. As low as \$179 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2011 Chevy Suburban LTZ. 4WD, 3rd row seat, rear camera, low pig, leather. 197 K miles. \$13,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2013 BMW X3. Leather, double moon roof, 129 K miles. Sale Price \$12,895. As low as \$229 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2015 Ford Explorer XLT. 4WD, 3rd row seat, 200K miles. Sale Price \$10,895. As low as \$229 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2013 GMC Terrain SE. AWD, 131 K miles. \$9,600. As low as \$219 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2014 Lincoln MKT. Leather, double moon roof, 3rd row seat. 184 K miles. \$11,900. As low as \$249 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2015 GMC Yukon Denali. Moon roof, leather. 3rd row seat. 4WD. 179K miles. Sale Price \$27,995. As low as \$489 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2015 Kia Soul. Sale Price \$6,495. As low as \$219 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2016 Kia Soul. High miles. Sale Price \$8,995. As low as \$229 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2017 GMC Terrain. AWD, leather, rear camera, low pig, 111k miles. As low as \$349 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2018 Chevy Equinox. AWD. \$14,800. As low as \$289 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

**SUV**

2018 Chevy Tahoe. Rear camera, low pig, 52K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2018 Chevy Trax LT. Leather, 75 K miles. \$20,900. As low as \$329 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2018 Chevy Trax LT. Rear camera, great MPG, 75K miles. Sale Price \$20,895. As low as \$349 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2018 GMC Terrain SLT. Leather, rear camera, tow pig, 168K miles. \$20,900. As low as \$359 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2019 Chevy Equinox. AWD. 130 K miles. \$18,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2019 Chevy Equinox. AWD, 130 K miles. \$18,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2019 Chevy Equinox. AWD, 130 K miles. \$18,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2019 Chevy Equinox. AWD, 130 K miles. \$18,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2019 Chevy Equinox. AWD, 130 K miles. \$18,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2019 Chevy Equinox. AWD, 130 K miles. \$18,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2019 Chevy Equinox. AWD, 130 K miles. \$18,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2019 Chevy Equinox. AWD, 130 K miles. \$18,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2019 Chevy Equinox. AWD, 130 K miles. \$18,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2019 Chevy Equinox. AWD, 130 K miles. \$18,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

**TRUCKS**

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2012 Ford F-150 Club cab, 6 spd, 120K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$389 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

**TRUCKS**

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

A few weeks ago we had about 35 of these vehicles. We are down to about 20 vehicles now. Hurry In. Choose from cars, trucks, SUV, vans all \$2,500 or less. Most need some work or TLC. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

**VANS**

2015 Dodge Grand Caravan. Rear camera, 150K miles. \$13,900. As low as \$329 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2018 Honda Pilot. AWD, 33 K miles, 3rd row seat. \$30,500. As low as \$449 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2018 Honda Pilot. AWD, 3rd row seat, rear camera. Only 33 K miles. As low as \$445 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2018 Nissan NV van. 6 passenger, large cargo area. 202 K miles. \$19,900. As low as \$299 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2015 Ram ProMaster City Cargo Van. 138 K miles. Sale Price \$19,995. As low as \$329 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2019 Nissan Frontier SV. 4x4, backliner, low pig, quad cab, rear camera. 63 K miles. Sale Price \$38,995. As low as \$619 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2021 Chrysler Voyager Limited. 4 asphalt chairs, leather, rear camera. Sale Price \$26,495. As low as \$469 a month. 2 to Choose From. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2021 Chrysler Voyager. Leather, 3rd row seat, rear camera. 75 K miles. \$26,900. As low as \$399 a month. Onaway Auto, 21061 M-68 Hwy, Onaway. 989-733-8191. www.OnawayAuto.com

2018 Dodge Grand Caravan. Rear camera, 4 captain chairs, 63K miles. Sale Price \$18,995. As low as \$399 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2018 Dodge Grand Caravan. Rear camera, 4 captain chairs, 63K miles. Sale Price \$18,995. As low as \$399 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2018 Dodge Grand Caravan. Rear camera, 4 captain chairs, 63K miles. Sale Price \$18,995. As low as \$399 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2018 Dodge Grand Caravan. Rear camera, 4 captain chairs, 63K miles. Sale Price \$18,995. As low as \$399 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2018 Dodge Grand Caravan. Rear camera, 4 captain chairs, 63K miles. Sale Price \$18,995. As low as \$399 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

2018 Dodge Grand Caravan. Rear camera, 4 captain chairs, 63K miles. Sale Price \$18,995. As low as \$399 a month. Rivertown Auto Sales & Leasing. 989 VW Rd, Cheboygan. 231-627-6700. www.rivertownautosales.com. Need a car a day or a week. We rent vehicles.

**ELMIRA TOWNSHIP MINUTES**  
Regular meeting held on December 12, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. Frankowiak, Schaeffig, Hofschu and Hanke present. Furgel excused. Deputy Treasurer, Sandy Maudoff also attended. Accepted minutes and reports. Motions approved to pay bills, to reappoint Wright, Tomasiak, Oagood to two year term to Elmira Township Board of Rte. To pay expenses for our board member to attend MIA Conference on April 17-20 in 2023 and to approve the Osago County Recreation Plan as approved by ETFC. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. Next meeting January 11, 2023 at 8:00 p.m.  
Sue Schaeffig, Clerk

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE RECREATION PLAN FOR ELMIRA TOWNSHIP**  
The Elmira Township Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing on the Osago County and Elmira Township Recreation Plan during their regularly scheduled meeting on January 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Elmira Township Hall located at 2055 Mt. Jack Rd, Elmira, MI 49730.  
The public hearing provides an opportunity for the public to participate in the final development of the recreation plan. The recreation plan contains goals, objectives and action items pertaining to recreation in Osago County for 2023-2027. The draft plan may be reviewed at: <http://www.districtofeastmichigan.org/recreation.asp>. Written comments may be submitted to Nico Tucker, Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, P.O. Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734; or by e-mail at [ntucker@nemcog.org](mailto:ntucker@nemcog.org).

# Resolution of Elmira Township Board Adopting the Recreation Plan

## OTSEGO COUNTY/ELMIRA TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

Elmira Township Board of Trustees  
January 11, 2023

**WHEREAS,** Otsego County and Elmira Township have undertaken a joint 5- Year Recreation Plan update which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreational facilities during the period 2022 – 2027, and

**WHEREAS,** an online recreation survey was published on December 1, 2021, and remained open for public input until August 8, 2022, providing residents with ample opportunity to comment and guide recreation In the County, and

**WHEREAS,** a public notice was published in the Weekly Choice on October 20, 2022, which began a 30 –day public review period for the draft plan, and

**WHEREAS,** Otsego County and Elmira Township have developed the plan for the benefit of the entire Township and County to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the entire Township, and

**WHEREAS,** a public hearing was held on January 11, 2023, at the Elmira Township Hall to provide residents the opportunity to ask questions and express opinions on the recreation Plan; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Elmira Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Elmira Township.

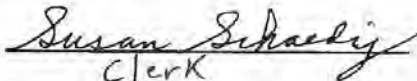
Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the forgoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Elmira Township Board, held on January 11, 2023.

1-11-2023

  
Clerk



# Minutes from the Elmira Township Board Meeting /Public Hearing

## ELMIRA TOWNSHIP COUNTY OF OTSEGO JANUARY 11, 2023

A regular meeting of the Elmira Township board was held on January 11, 2023 at the Elmira Township hall commencing at 6:00 p.m. with Supervisor, Diane Franckowiak calling the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance were Supervisor, Diane Franckowiak, Clerk, Susan Schaedig, Treasurer, Diane Purgiel and Trustees, Jessica Henke and Dale Holzschu.

Others attending were Norm Brecheisen and Richard Carlson of Livingston Township.

Jess made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Dale and carried unanimously.

Diane F made a **motion** to recess the meeting at 6:03 p.m and go into a public hearing for the Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Plan. Seconded by Sue and carried unanimously.

Diane F. introduced the recreation plan and Sue read the resolution.

Diane F. invited public comment. There were no comments.

Sue made a **motion** to close the public hearing and resume the regular meeting. Seconded by Jess and carried unanimously.

Meeting resumed at 6:07 p.m.

Diane P made a **motion** in the form of a resolution to adopt the Otsego County/Elmira Township Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of Elmira Township. Seconded by Jess and carried unanimously.

AYES: Diane Franckowiak, Susan Schaedig, Diane Purgiel, Dale Holzschu, Jessica Henke

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Norm Brecheisen and Richard Carlson from Livingston Township discussed road projects in Elmira and Livingston townships. Livingston stated that they are still firm on their participation with Elmira Township on the North Townline project.

## Minutes from the Elmira Township Board Meeting /Public Hearing (Continued)

READING OF THE BILLS:

13518 Nicolet National Bank	122.98
13519 GFL Environmental	138.70
13520 Election Source	615.00
13521 Kirkpatrick, Dubois & Slough PLC FOIA, Kyles	396.00
13522 Choice Publications	26.40
13523 Susan Schaedig, reimb phone-internet, mileage	36.55
13524 United States Postal Service, postage	240.00
13525 Sandra Maufort, reimb mileage	25.00
13526 Diane Purgiel, reimb mileage, phone & internet	186.89
13527 Diane Franckowiak, reimb use of computer, phone & internet	50.00
13528 Anna Wasylewski, assessor salary	1,750.00
13529 Susan Schaedig, clerk salary	1,829.42
13530 Sandra Maufort, deputy treasurer wages	570.00
13531 Randall Osgood, BOR December mtg	50.00
13532 Kenneth Tomaski, BOR December mtg	50.00
13533 Jessica Henke, trustee salary	255.00
13534 Diane Purgiel, treasurer salary	1,829.42
13535 Diane Franckowiak, supervisor salary, Road Comm mtg	1,305.00
13536 Dale Holzschu, trustee salary, liquor inspector	377.83
13537 Roderick Wright, BOR December mtg	50.00
ACH Michigan Dep of Treasury, December taxes	918.44
ACH MERS, December retirement	167.89
ACH MERS, 457 plan	70.00
ACH Singler Design, Web, email	159.98
EFTPS December taxes	2,714.26
13538 Brightspeed	59.70
13539 Great Lakes Energy	

Jess made a **motion** to pay the bills. Seconded by Dale and carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gen Fund Ckg \$298,586.24 Gen Fund Bal \$117,728.56 ARPA \$180,857.68  
 Savings held for CD's \$5.00 ICS Gen Fund Sweep \$601,686.68 Huntington CD \$250,000.00  
**TOTAL 1,150,277.92**

**TOTAL TAX ACCT \$98,097.63**

OLD BUSINESS:

Paul Slough informed the board that the court is waiting on Fifth 3<sup>rd</sup> Bank to receive money for the Kyles mortgage and if any left the township will receive the rest from the insurance money.

Diane F reported that she has not heard anything about the Elmira Post Office.

## Minutes from the Elmira Township Board Meeting /Public Hearing (Continued)

### NEW BUSINESS:

Diane F stated that she and the Board of Revue members will attend training in Charlevoix on January 23, 2023 from 1 to 4pm.

The board briefly discussed their thoughts on the upcoming 2023-2024 budget.

There being no further business to come before the board Sue made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Jess. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Susan Schaedig, Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Schaedig".

## Copies of Submittal Letters



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd Suite U-108 | PO Box 457 | Gaylord, MI 49734 | Voice: 989.705.3730 | Fax: 989.705.3729 | nemcog.org

January 18, 2023

Mr. Thomas Marquard, Planning & Zoning Director  
225 W. Main Street, Suite 203  
Gaylord, Michigan 49735

On behalf of Otsego County and Elmira Township, we are pleased to inform you that the County and Township have approved and adopted a 5-year Recreation Plan. This plan received public input from online surveys, in person public hearings, and other public meetings.

Please find enclosed a complete copy of the final Recreation Plan. The plan will serve as a guide for improvements of recreational opportunities and facilities in these communities over the next five years.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nico Tucker".

Nico Tucker  
Senior Planner  
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG)

Regional  
Cooperation  
Since  
1968

Alcona \* Alpena \* Cheboygan \* Crawford \* Emmet \* Montmorency \* Oscoda \* Otsego \* Presque Isle

An  
Equal Opportunity  
Employer





Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

80 Livingston Blvd Suite U-108 | PO Box 457 | Gaylord, MI 49734 | Voice: 989.705.3730 | Fax: 989.705.3729 | nemcog.org

January 18, 2023

Doug Baum, Executive Director  
PO Box 457  
Gaylord, MI 49734

On behalf of Otsego County and Elmira Township, we are pleased to inform you that the County and Township have approved and adopted a 5-year Recreation Plan. This plan received public input from online surveys, in person public hearings, and other public meetings.

Please find enclosed a complete copy of the final Recreation Plan. The plan will serve as a guide for improvements of recreational opportunities and facilities in these communities over the next five years.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Nico Tucker  
Senior Planner  
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG)

Regional  
Cooperation  
Since  
1968

Alcona \* Alpena \* Cheboygan \* Crawford \* Emmet \* Montmorency \* Oscoda \* Otsego \* Presque Isle

An  
Equal Opportunity  
Employer



## Chapter 5

---

# Goals, Objectives and Action Plan

The following are goals and objectives for recreation projects formed directly from review of the 2017 Recreation Plan, contributions from OCPRC and Elmira Township Planning Commission, feedback from community members and the public input methods. The items listed are not ranked by importance.

---

## Goals & Objectives

**Goal 1. To continue to offer a wide variety of recreational activities for all ages.**

Objective 1A: Evaluate existing program offerings and maintain/enhance viable programs.

Objective 1B: Maintain community support and volunteers for youth activities.

Objective 1C: Maintain appropriate staffing levels and contracts with specialized vendors.

**Goal 2. To improve existing recreational offerings and facilities for recreation in Otsego County and Elmira Township. Coordinate recreation programs within the County and include County-wide non-profit group information as well.**

Objective 2A: Make user-friendly physical changes at the Otsego Lake County Park and Community Center.

Objective 2B: Review security and safety features at County facilities with appropriate County-wide emergency services. Revise as necessary.

Objective 2C: Review existing facilities and make upgrades as desired.

Objective 2D: Review existing offerings and make improvements as desired.

**Goal 3. To maintain County and Elmira Township recreational facilities and equipment.**

Objective 3A: Provide appropriate parking and access at all County and Elmira Twp. facilities.

Objective 3B: Assure continued public access to lakes and beach areas.

Objective 3C: Acquire new property, equipment and structures as necessary.

Objective 3D: Enhance current equipment and facilities as necessary.

**Goal 4. To establish new multi-faceted indoor recreational facilities.**

Objective 4A: Respond to public demand for expanded indoor recreational facilities.

Objective 4B: Establish the capacity to hold multiple indoor events & activities simultaneously.

**Goal 5. To establish new multi-faceted outdoor recreational facilities.**

Objective 5A: Respond to public demand for expanded outdoor recreational facilities.

Objective 5B: Develop gifted properties and incorporate them into Otsego County and Elmira Township recreational facilities.

---

## Action Plan

This section provides an overview of the proposed recreation projects for the next five years, which were identified as a result of input received from the public and County and Elmira Township officials. These projects will implement the identified goals and objectives, as well as help counter any perceived deficiencies in service that may arise over the next five years. They are not ranked by importance.

### Proposed Projects

**Action 1. Complete necessary improvements at the Otsego County Community Center**

Description: The Community Center is a popular recreational facility for County residents and beyond. Proposed improvements will maintain and expand the various opportunities at this facility. Proposed projects include, but are not limited to a new roof, new interior flooring, the installation of baseboard heat registers, computer upgrades, tennis court maintenance and improvements, purchase of gymnasitcs equipment, new large flat panel TV's and associated equipment, new recreational games (including pool tables, ping pong tables and air hockey games), toys, improvements and additions to off-street parking, reconfiguration of on-street parking, functional and aesthetic improvements to the interior and exterior of the community center, and landscaping improvements.

Goals & Objectives Met: These improvements will make user-friendly changes and upgrades to this popular existing recreational facility (Objectives 2A, 2C, 2D, 3A, 3C, 3D, and 4A).

## **Action 2. Develop the remainder of the former MDNR property into a County Park**

Description: The State of Michigan deeded the former MDNR Repair Facility property near downtown Gaylord to Otsego County in 2005. The property was then transferred to the Otsego County Parks & Recreation in 2017. Part of this 9-acre property has since been developed into Pontresina Park (Dog Park); improvements made on the remainder of the parcel include fencing, signage, a drinking fountain, benches and garbage cans. The County intends to continue development of the remainder of the land into a park using grant funds.

Potential improvements may include statues, art, fountains, information kiosks and a splash park. Use areas could include topography changes with berms and landscaping, indigenous plants, a unique ice-skating rink including the potential of synthetic ice to skate year-round; small scale sledding hills, picnic/sheltered areas, a community fire pit, benches and furniture. Landscaping improvements and connecting Pontresina Park (Dog Park) to the Gaylord Gateway Trail will improve usability and aesthetics. Structures may include a depot building along the paved Gaylord Gateway Trail/Iron Belle Trail which could include restrooms, a maintenance area, a welcome center, a concession stand or a community center. A band shell could be placed in the northwest portion of the property which would direct sound south and be buffered so it would not disturb residential uses to the north. Parking could be placed at the east side of the railroad tracks. The Park could also be connected to the Otsego County Library, located to the southeast.

Goals and Objectives Met: This project will expand the recreational opportunities for the community and enhance its physical appearance. This facility will also respond to public demand for expanded outdoor recreational facilities (Objectives 2C, 3A, 3D, and 5A).

## **Action 3. Complete necessary improvements at the Otsego Lake County Park and Campground**

Description: The County Park and Campground is a popular recreational facility as noted in this plan. Proposed improvements will maintain and expand the various opportunities at this facility. Proposed projects include, but are not limited to, a new roof for the campground shower building, replacing the concrete for the pavilions, new maintenance equipment (including small lawn mowers, weed trimmers and leaf blowers), enhanced and accessible playground equipment, an outdoor washing station, a new fish cleaning station, new electric pedestals for campsites and continued upgrading of the electrical at all campsites and outbuildings. Overall land improvements include erosion control efforts along the lakeshore to protect the recreational areas and facilities, acquiring adjacent lands that become available to expand the campground and park facilities, and forest management planning and improvements.

Goals and Objectives Met: These improvements will provide needed changes and upgrades to this popular recreational facility (Objectives 2A, 2C, 3B, 3C, 3D, and 5A).



#### **Action 4. Enhance the Dr. Robert S. Libke Memorial Fields**

Description: These fields are located on a 5-acre facility, which, based on the online survey, receive very little use. OCPRC would like to install barrier-free vault restrooms and make other improvements to create public interest and increased use of this day-use park.

Goals and Objectives Met: Improvements at this facility should create additional public interest and increased use of this facility (Objectives 1A, 2C, 3A, 3C, and 5A).

#### **Action 5. Add/enhance barrier-free access to all existing parks and recreation facilities**

Description: Encourage the development of balanced recreational opportunities for both active and passive usage, and for all levels of physical and mental abilities. Complete renovations, as appropriate, to existing facilities so they can be enjoyed by persons of all abilities.

Goals and Objectives Met: This project would provide barrier-free access and use of existing and future community recreation facilities (Objectives 2C and 3A).

#### **Action 6. Further develop the Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve**

Description: OCPRC will continue to maintain the nearly 800 acres of the Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve (Preserve) at the former Echo Valley Ranch. This includes keeping most of the land in its natural state, maintaining the multi-use trails for hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and equestrian use, as well as the newly constructed park restroom, benches, drinking fountain, and park office building. Over the next five years, OCPRC will begin to implement the objectives outlined in the conservation easement for the preserve.

Goals and Objectives Met: This project will expand the recreational opportunities for the community and enhance its physical appearance. This facility will also respond to public demand for expanded outdoor recreational facilities, including trails (Objective 5A).

#### **Action 7. Complete needed improvements at Frank Wilkinson (Irontone Springs) Park**

Description: OCPRC will make further improvements at the park to improve the amenities and offerings available. Improvements include, but are not limited to, improving the accessibility of the trail, a new pedestrian bridge, a gazebo, fixing the artesian well, replacing the concrete for the pavilion, and conducting forest management planning and improvements.

Goals and Objectives Met: This project will improve the recreational opportunities for the site and enhance its physical appearance (Objectives 2C, 3D, and 5A).

#### **Action 8. Complete needed improvements at Pleasant View Park (Wah Wah Soo)**

Description: Wah Wah Soo is a small but popular park and beach area on Otsego Lake. Improvements will enhance the overall usability of the facility. Proposed improvements include expanding the beach area, installing a drinking source, reinforcing the breakwall and stairs to the beach, and repairing the concrete around the vault toilets.

Goals and Objectives Met: This project will improve the usability and accessibility of the park and enhance its physical appearance (Objectives 2C, 3B, and 3D).

#### **Action 9. Acquire land for recreational purposes in Otsego County**

Description: Acquire land in Otsego County to provide new/additional recreational opportunities to residents and visitors of the County. Potential land acquisitions include obtaining parcels adjacent to existing parks should they become available and acquiring new land that holds recreational potential.

Goals and Objectives Met: This project will expand the recreational opportunities available to the community (Objectives 3C and 5A)

#### **Action 10. Continue improvements and expansion of facilities at the Otsego County Sportsplex**

Description: The Sportsplex is a popular and highly used facility offering multiple recreational opportunities. Planned improvements include the reconfiguration of the three outdoor pickleball courts into four courts, and the construction of a large indoor multi-purpose facility. Reconfiguration of the pickleball courts will allow for expanded use of the already popular facility, and adding landscaping and fencing around the courts will improve security and safety. The addition or construction of a large multi-purpose facility housing indoor tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball courts, and a multi-purpose room to allow for expanded recreational access for county residents, providing a place to play and teach sports such as tennis, baseball, football, cheerleading, etc. during the winter months.

Goals and Objectives Met: This project will expand the recreational opportunities available to the community (Objectives 2C, 2D, 3D, 4A, 4B and 5A)

#### **Action 11. Acquire land for recreational purposes in Elmira Township**

Description: Acquire land in Elmira Township to provide new/additional recreational opportunities to residents within and near the Township. Specific areas for possible target acquisition include land adjacent to the lake Twenty-Seven boat launch in the central portion of the Township, and land that would provide public access to Porcupine Lakes in the eastern portion of the Township. The existing Lake Twenty-Seven boat launch is gravel and has a very steep grade. Acquiring additional lots adjacent to the boat launch would allow the area to be expanded and upgraded in the future. Parmater Road runs between the Porcupine Lakes, and cars park along

the road to access the lakes. The Township would like to acquire land that becomes available to provide and develop legal public access.

Goals and Objectives Met: These land acquisitions would expand recreational opportunities for the community by providing a Township park with waterfront access, and also respond to public demand for expanded outdoor recreational facilities (Objectives 3B and 5A).

#### **Action 12. Make improvements to the Elmira Township Park**

Description: Elmira Township would like to design and develop improvements within the Park, including improved accessibility, replacement of aging or missing fixed recreational equipment, parking, construction of a pavilion, and create a vegetative management plan. Other potential improvements include installing physical fitness stations and a gazebo structure. These improvements will enhance the recreational opportunities in the western portion of the county (and adjoining communities in Antrim County) and draw more users of all ages and abilities to the park.

Goals and Objectives Met: This project will expand the recreational opportunities for the community and enhance the park (Objectives 2C, 3C, and 3D).

#### **Action 13. Develop non-motorized linkage trails within Elmira Township**

Description: Elmira Township would like to construct non-motorized trails within their Township that would link them to other points of interest outside the Township, such as the Jordan River Valley Pathway System (hiking trails shared in part with the North Country Trail) to the west/southwest in Antrim County; the Gaylord Industrial Park; and the North Central State Trail/Iron Belle Trail. These would be multi-use, non-motorized trails for mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Under no circumstances would the trails be used by snowmobiles in the winter.

Goals and Objectives Met: These improvements will respond to public demand for expanded outdoor recreational facilities, particularly trails (Objective 5A).

#### **Action 14. Develop non-motorized trails on State-owned land within Elmira Township**

Description: Elmira Township would like to construct non-motorized trails on State-owned land that is adjacent to Hallenius Road and Burdo Road, within Sections 35 and 36 of the Township. These trails would be used for mountain biking, horseback riding and hiking in the summer months and for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter months. Under no circumstances would the trails be used by snowmobiles in the winter. The Elmira Township Planning Commission has identified this as a top priority.

Goals and Objectives Met: These improvements will respond to public demand for expanded outdoor recreational facilities, particularly trails (Objective 5A).

---

# General Basis for Action Plan

There are a number of issues to consider when planning for recreational facilities in Otsego County and Elmira Township:

1. In 2019 the median age of residents in Otsego County was 44.9 years; for Elmira Township, it was 45.6 years. Compared to data from the 2010 U.S. Census, this statistic represents an increase of 1.7 years for all of Otsego County, and an increase of 0.6 years for Elmira Township.

Furthermore, 2020 Census data indicates that while the County as a whole grew by 927 persons, or 3.8%, the population of ages 45 and over slightly decreased compared to the previous decade; a .4% decrease in 45-64 year olds in the County and an increase of 4.8% for those aged 65 and older in the County. Elmira Township, while a much smaller 2020 population of 1,714 persons, saw a 2.0% increase in 45-64 year olds and a 5.0% increase in persons over age 65.

Therefore, as the community is expected to grow in overall population in the future, much of the growth will be in an aging, older adult population. With people living longer in general these days, many older adults will want to continue to lead active lifestyles. Recreational features that are designed for universal accessibility, such as pathways with crosswalks and a firm and stable surface, will be needed for this growing market of recreational users. Also, consideration must be given to planning for a growing retirement/seasonal population, which as both the time and desire for age-appropriate recreational activities.

2. Young persons of ages 0-19 years comprised 23.3% of the County's population in 2019; a decrease of 2.1% compared to 2010. In Elmira Township, persons under age 19 comprised 27.4% of the overall population, also representing an increase since 2010, of 2.9%. Only 26.8% of the County's population was aged 20-44 in 2019; Elmira Township's at 24.5%, representing a decrease of .9% to .4% compared to 2010.

Younger generations tend to choose their place of residence based on the quality of life offered in a community, which is often determined by the recreational and adventure opportunities offered. Recreational opportunities, such as quality programming and universally accessible playgrounds for children and families, as well as a variety of outdoor and indoor year-round recreational opportunities and special events, can help attract and keep young people in Otsego County.

3. Otsego County's median household income is an estimated \$54,332, compared to that of the State of Michigan's average of \$57,144. An estimated 40.8% of the households in the County include Social Security recipients, compared to 34.7% statewide. Over 25.6% of households have retirement income, compared to 23.7% statewide. Accordingly, to be truly accessible, recreation



must also be affordable, which means that nearby facilities should be enhanced to lessen the driving time and expenses that residents would incur to travel to facilities farther away.

4. There is significant seasonal resident population in the County. The US Census does not report seasonal populations; however, seasonal structures are reported. An estimated 30.0% of the housing units in the county, or 4,454 units, are used as seasonal, recreational, or occasional use homes. Based on the average household size in the county of 2.47 persons per unit, the expected seasonal increase would be 11,002 persons.

When developing and providing recreational opportunities, consideration should be given for individuals with diverse incomes, including recreation available at a no-cost or low-cost basis, as well as appealing to potentially higher-income visitors from more urban areas.

5. Otsego County and Elmira Township are very proud of their natural resources and rural character, balanced with a growing commercial center and small-town charm. It is important to those planning for growth and development that efforts be made to balance ecological concerns with changes such as residential/commercial development or natural resource extraction. Protection of natural resources, including groundwater, and scenic areas must therefore be a major element of the planning process. Existing and new recreational facilities must be developed, maintained and operated in a manner that preserves ecological and scenic values.

*Figures obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates.*

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Results of Online Recreation Survey**

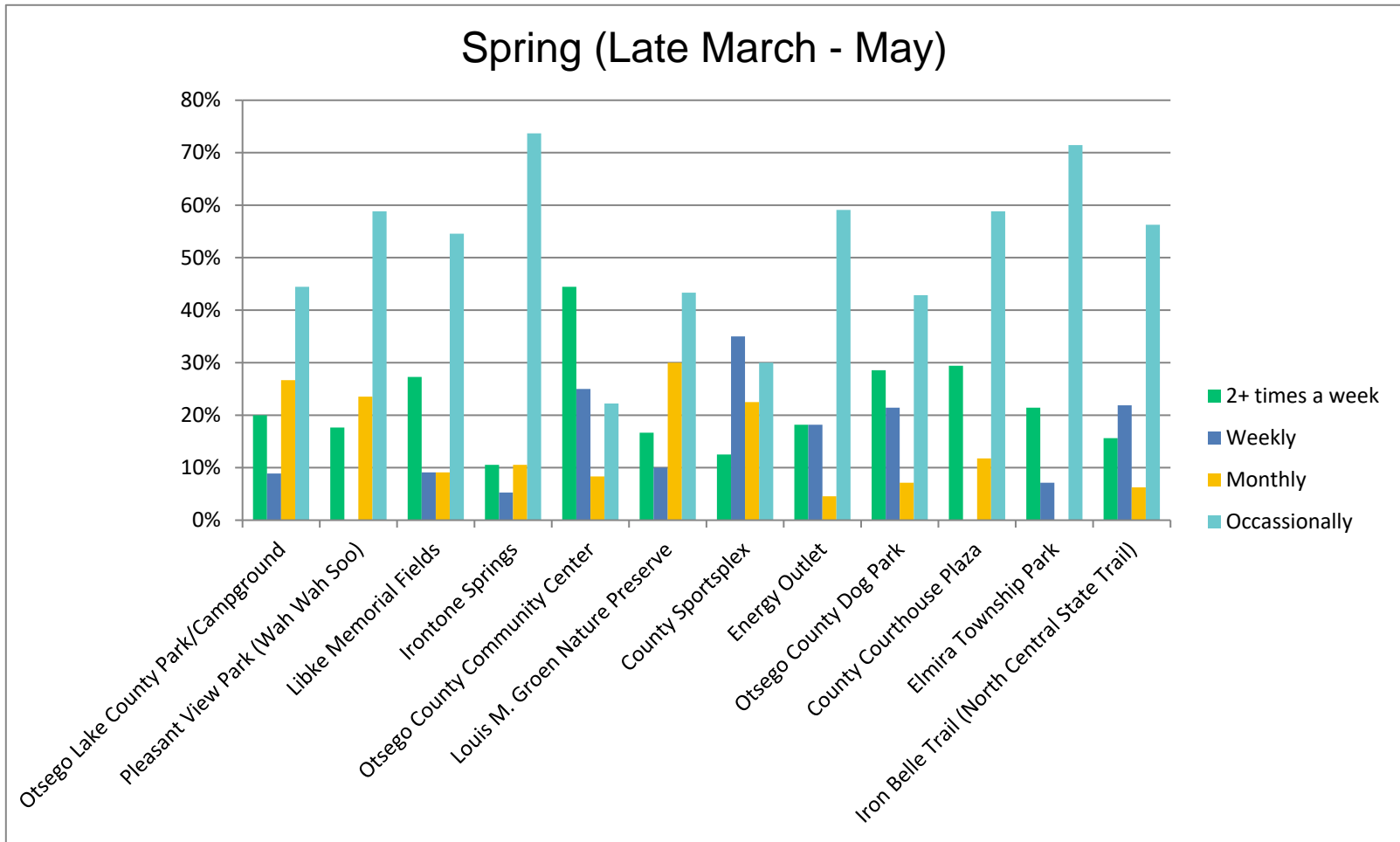


## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

If you use any of the recreational facilities, please indicate how often you frequent them during the season(s) of use  
**Spring (Late March - May)**

	2+ times a week		Weekly		Monthly		Occasionally		Total
Otsego Lake County Park/Campground	20%	9	9%	4	27%	12	44%	20	45
Pleasant View Park (Wah Wah Soo)	18%	3	0%	0	24%	4	59%	10	17
Libke Memorial Fields	27%	3	9%	1	9%	1	55%	6	11
Irontone Springs	11%	2	5%	1	11%	2	74%	14	19
Otsego County Community Center	44%	16	25%	9	8%	3	22%	8	36
Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve	17%	5	10%	3	30%	9	43%	13	30
County Sportsplex	13%	5	35%	14	23%	9	30%	12	40
Energy Outlet	18%	4	18%	4	5%	1	59%	13	22
Otsego County Dog Park	29%	4	21%	3	7%	1	43%	6	14
County Courthouse Plaza	29%	5	0%	0	12%	2	59%	10	17
Elmira Township Park	21%	3	7%	1	0%	0	71%	10	14
Iron Belle Trail (North Central State Trail)	16%	5	22%	7	6%	2	56%	18	32
							<b>Answered</b>		<b>100</b>
							<b>Skipped</b>		<b>9</b>



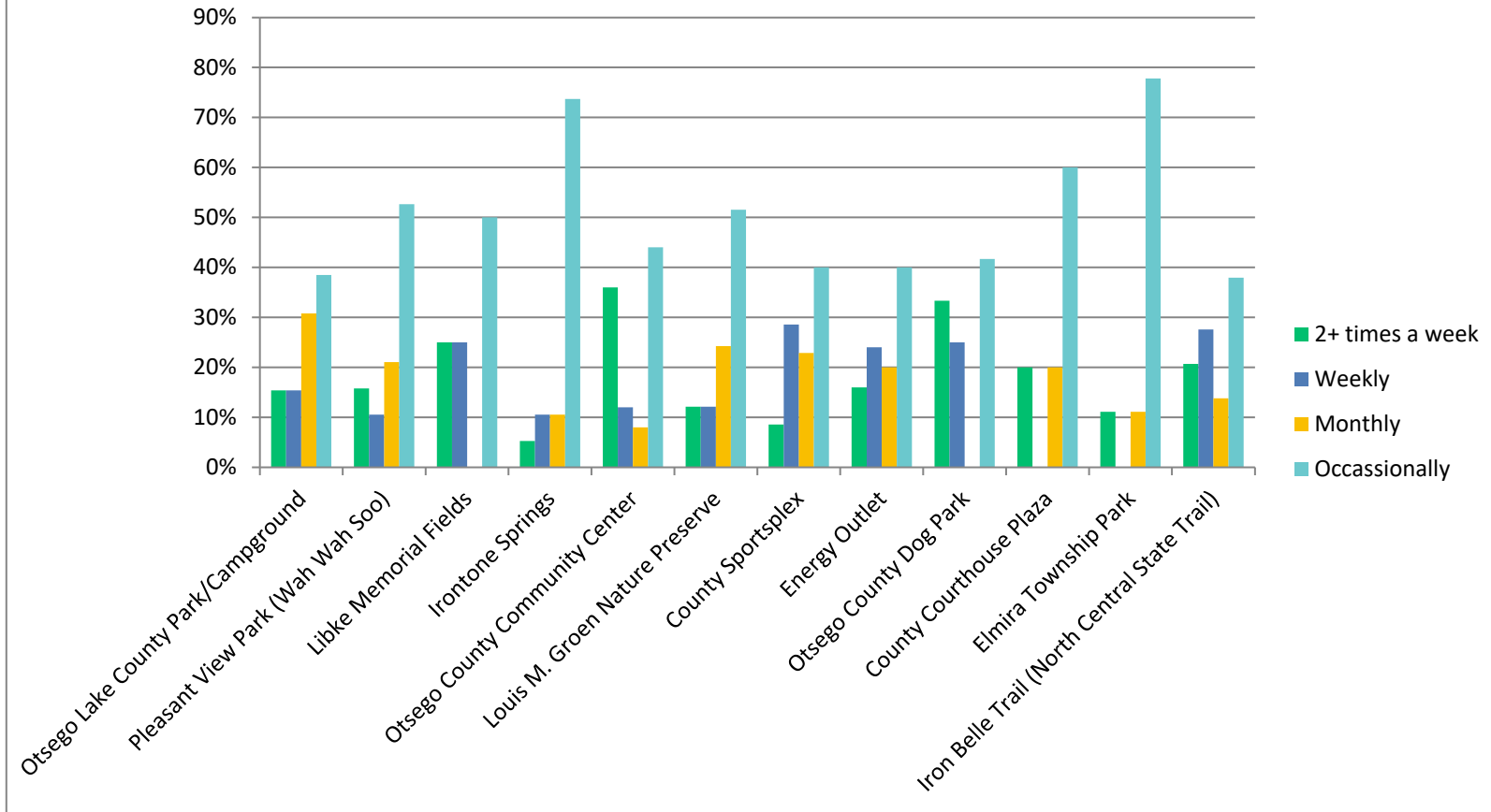


**Summer (June - August)**

	2+ times a week		Weekly		Monthly		Occasionally		Total
Otsego Lake County Park/Campground	15%	8	15%	8	31%	16	38%	20	52
Pleasant View Park (Wah Wah Soo)	16%	3	11%	2	21%	4	53%	10	19
Libke Memorial Fields	25%	1	25%	1	0%	0	50%	2	4
Irontone Springs	5%	1	11%	2	11%	2	74%	14	19
Otsego County Community Center	36%	9	12%	3	8%	2	44%	11	25
Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve	12%	4	12%	4	24%	8	52%	17	33
County Sportsplex	9%	3	29%	10	23%	8	40%	14	35
Energy Outlet	16%	4	24%	6	20%	5	40%	10	25
Otsego County Dog Park	33%	4	25%	3	0%	0	42%	5	12
County Courthouse Plaza	20%	3	0%	0	20%	3	60%	9	15
Elmira Township Park	11%	1	0%	0	11%	1	78%	7	9
Iron Belle Trail (North Central State Trail)	21%	6	28%	8	14%	4	38%	11	29

**Answered            100**  
**Skipped                9**

## Summer (June - August)

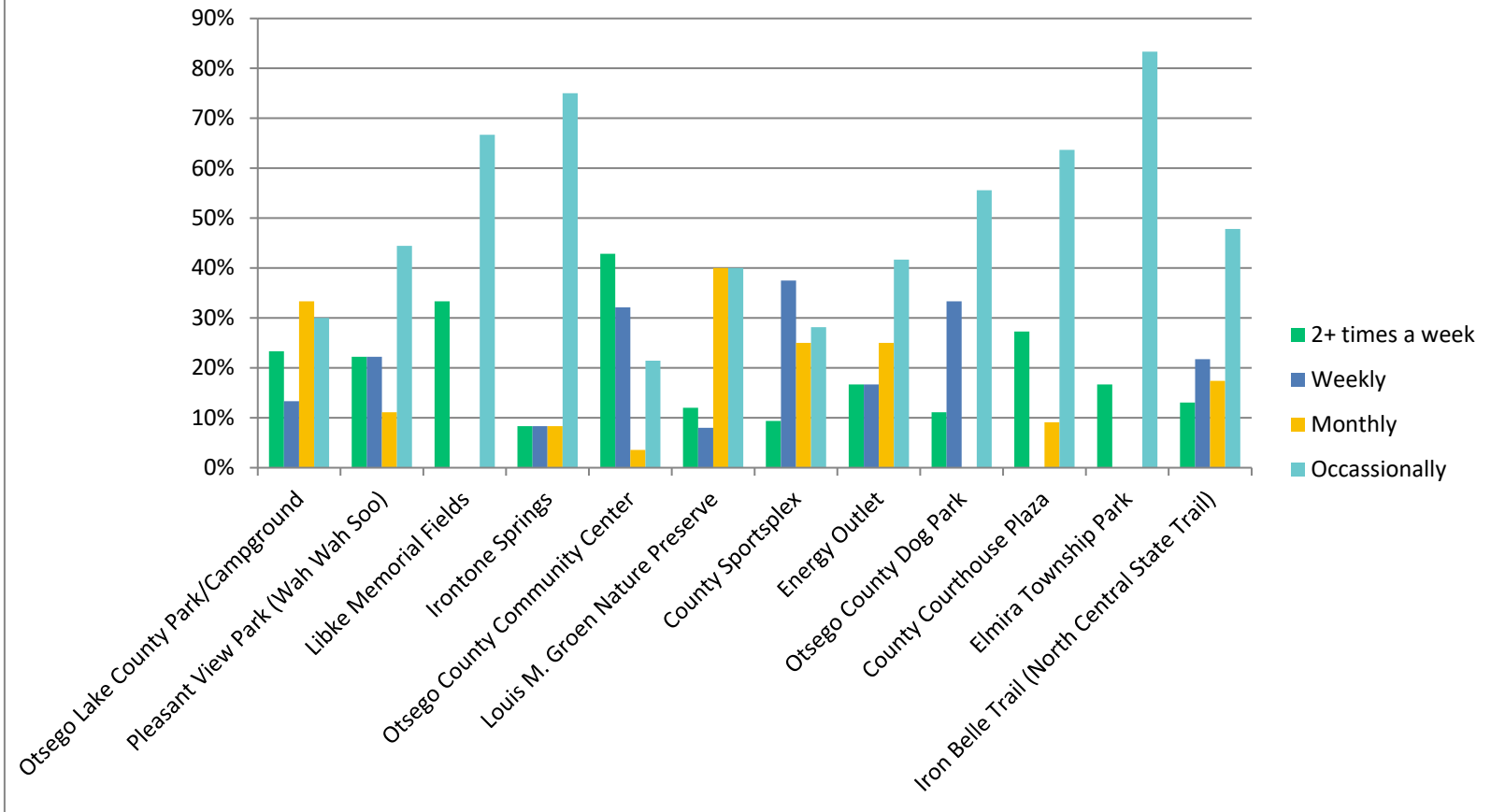


**Fall (September - November)**

	2+ times a week		Weekly		Monthly		Occasionally		Total
Otsego Lake County Park/Campground	23%	7	13%	4	33%	10	30%	9	30
Pleasant View Park (Wah Wah Soo)	22%	2	22%	2	11%	1	44%	4	9
Libke Memorial Fields	33%	1	0%	0	0%	0	67%	2	3
Irontone Springs	8%	1	8%	1	8%	1	75%	9	12
Otsego County Community Center	43%	12	32%	9	4%	1	21%	6	28
Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve	12%	3	8%	2	40%	10	40%	10	25
County Sportsplex	9%	3	38%	12	25%	8	28%	9	32
Energy Outlet	17%	2	17%	2	25%	3	42%	5	12
Otsego County Dog Park	11%	1	33%	3	0%	0	56%	5	9
County Courthouse Plaza	27%	3	0%	0	9%	1	64%	7	11
Elmira Township Park	17%	1	0%	0	0%	0	83%	5	6
Iron Belle Trail (North Central State Trail)	13%	3	22%	5	17%	4	48%	11	23

**Answered 100**  
**Skipped 9**

## Fall (September - November)



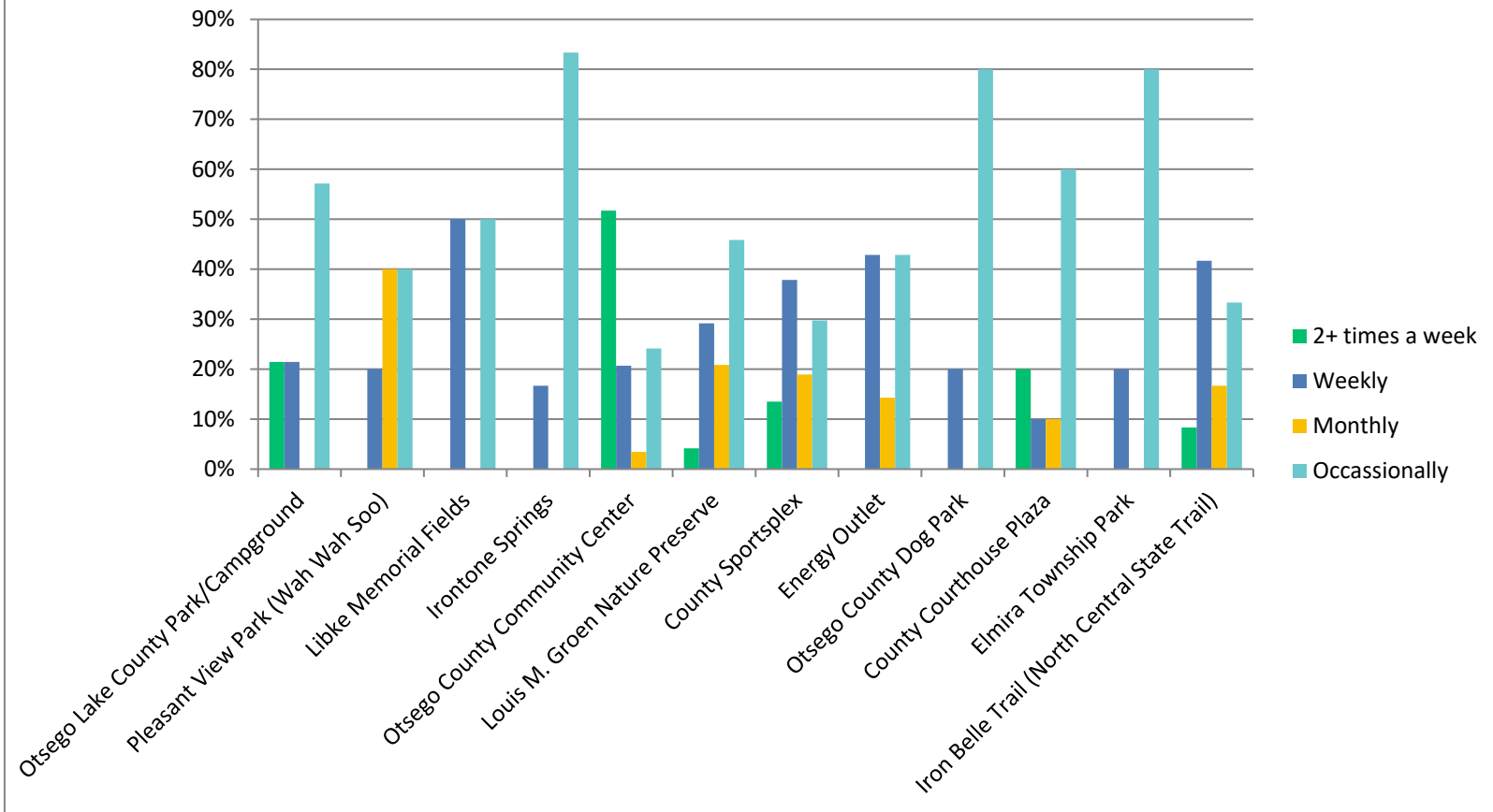


**Winter (December - mid-March)**

	2+ times a week		Weekly		Monthly		Occasionally		Total
Otsego Lake County Park/Campground	21%	3	21%	3	0%	0	57%	8	14
Pleasant View Park (Wah Wah Soo)	0%	0	20%	1	40%	2	40%	2	5
Libke Memorial Fields	0%	0	50%	1	0%	0	50%	1	2
Irontone Springs	0%	0	17%	1	0%	0	83%	5	6
Otsego County Community Center	52%	15	21%	6	3%	1	24%	7	29
Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve	4%	1	29%	7	21%	5	46%	11	24
County Sportsplex	14%	5	38%	14	19%	7	30%	11	37
Energy Outlet	0%	0	43%	3	14%	1	43%	3	7
Otsego County Dog Park	0%	0	20%	1	0%	0	80%	4	5
County Courthouse Plaza	20%	2	10%	1	10%	1	60%	6	10
Elmira Township Park	0%	0	20%	1	0%	0	80%	4	5
Iron Belle Trail (North Central State Trail)	8%	1	42%	5	17%	2	33%	4	12

**Answered            100**  
**Skipped                9**

## Winter (December - mid-March)



## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

### What activities do you participate in at the following recreational facilities?

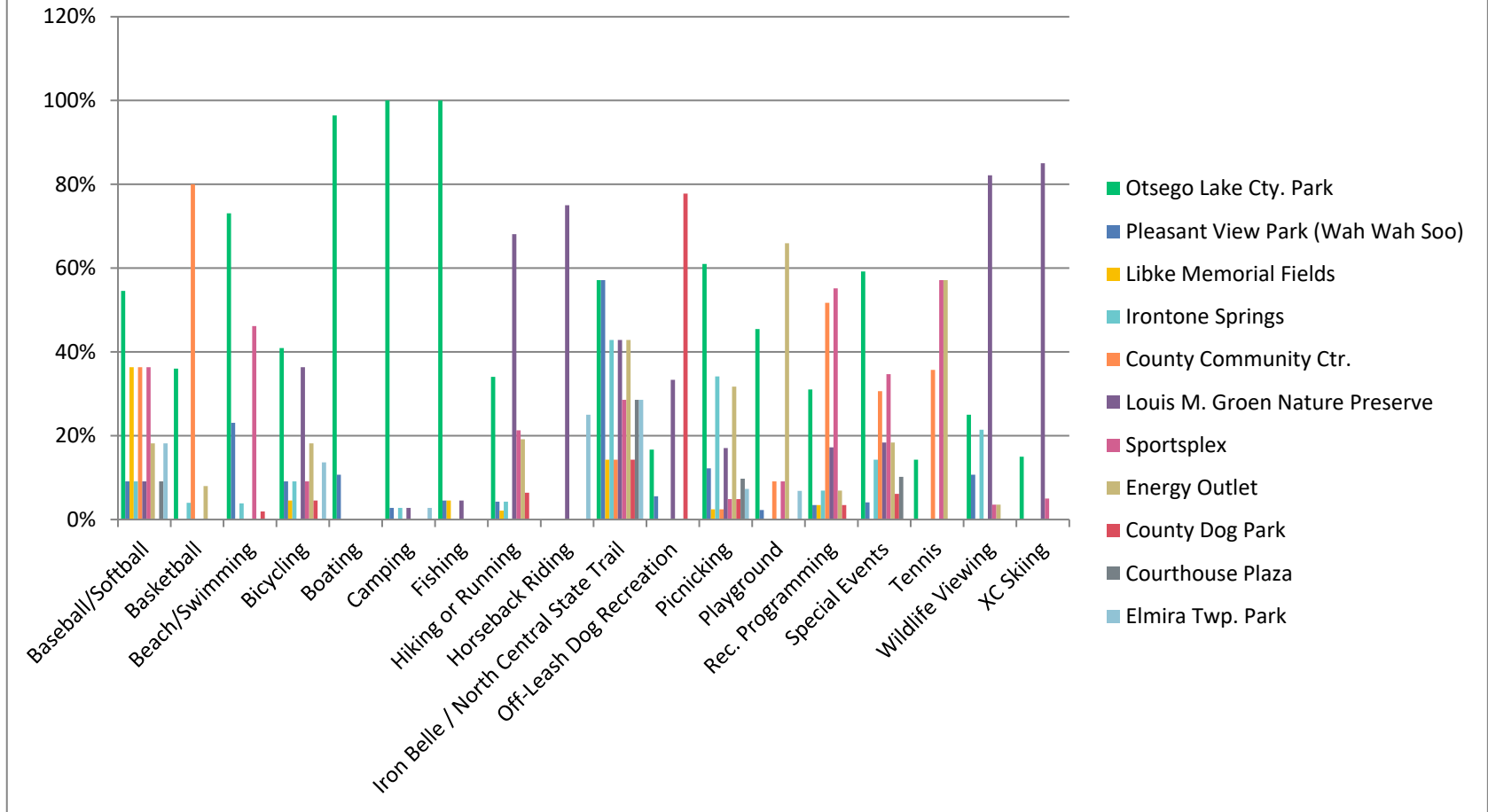
	Otsego Lake Cty. Park		Pleasant View Park (Wah Wah Soo)		Libke Memorial Fields		Irontone Springs		County Community Ctr.		Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve	
Baseball/Softball	55%	6	9%	1	36%	4	9%	1	36%	4	9%	1
Basketball	36%	9	0%	0	0%	0	4%	1	80%	20	0%	0
Beach/Swimming	73%	38	23%	12	0%	0	4%	2	0%	0	0%	0
Bicycling	41%	9	9%	2	5%	1	9%	2	0%	0	36%	8
Boating	96%	27	11%	3	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
Camping	100%	36	3%	1	0%	0	3%	1	0%	0	3%	1
Fishing	100%	22	5%	1	5%	1	0%	0	0%	0	5%	1
Hiking or Running	34%	16	4%	2	2%	1	4%	2	0%	0	68%	32
Horseback Riding	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	75%	3
Iron Belle / North Central State Trail	57%	4	57%	4	14%	1	43%	3	14%	1	43%	3
Off-Leash Dog Recreation	17%	3	6%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	33%	6
Picnicking	61%	25	12%	5	2%	1	34%	14	2%	1	17%	7
Playground	45%	20	2%	1	0%	0	0%	0	9%	4	0%	0
Rec. Programming	31%	9	3%	1	3%	1	7%	2	52%	15	17%	5
Special Events	59%	29	4%	2	0%	0	14%	7	31%	15	18%	9
Tennis	14%	2	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	36%	5	0%	0
Wildlife Viewing	25%	7	11%	3	0%	0	21%	6	0%	0	82%	23
XC Skiing	15%	3	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	85%	17
Other (please specify)												

**What activities do you participate in at the following recreational facilities?**

	Sportsplex		Energy Outlet		County Dog Park		Courthouse Plaza		Elmira Twp. Park		Total
Baseball/Softball	36%	4	18%	2	0%	0	9%	1	18%	2	11
Basketball	0%	0	8%	2	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	25
Beach/Swimming	46%	24	0%	0	2%	1	0%	0	0%	0	52
Bicycling	9%	2	18%	4	5%	1	0%	0	14%	3	22
Boating	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	28
Camping	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	3%	1	36
Fishing	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	22
Hiking or Running	21%	10	19%	9	6%	3	0%	0	0%	0	47
Horseback Riding	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	25%	1	4
Iron Belle / North Central State Trail	29%	2	43%	3	14%	1	29%	2	29%	2	7
Off-Leash Dog Recreation	0%	0	0%	0	78%	14	0%	0	0%	0	18
Picnicking	5%	2	32%	13	5%	2	10%	4	7%	3	41
Playground	9%	4	66%	29	0%	0	0%	0	7%	3	44
Rec. Programming	55%	16	7%	2	3%	1	0%	0	0%	0	29
Special Events	35%	17	18%	9	6%	3	10%	5	0%	0	49
Tennis	57%	8	57%	8	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	14
Wildlife Viewing	4%	1	4%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	28
XC Skiing	5%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	20
Other (please specify)											15

**Answered 85**  
**Skipped 24**

## What activities do you participate in at the following recreational facilities?





### Open Responses to Question

Ironstone Springs: This roadside park was really overgrown and not maintained very much, then two years ago the Sheriff's prisoner crew cleaned and trimmed it up, trimmed along the creek that flows thru the park and even made a hiking trail. It was beautiful! Now 1 1/2 years the park is again getting overgrown, it is like no one takes their job of maintenance very serious, doing the bear minimum just to be able to say "I took care of the park". Maybe a supervisor should check out all the work that was done AND not done up to par. Our county mileage pays your salary and we deserve people who make it a priority to do their best each and every job.
Volleyball
Snowmobiling on Iron Belle Trail
The community center is in desperate need of newer playgroup toys and gym equipment. Please don't neglect the Nature Preserves and Parks
I snowshoe at Groen and Lone Pine
use of the porta potty
Hockey at the sportsplex
Bicycling, hiking and running on Iron Belle Trail
Pickleball at the Community center and the Sportsplex.
Using walking track at Sportsplex in the winter
Snowshoe Groen.
Do not use any
Snowshoe at Groen, walk and bike on the Iron Belle
Ice skate at the Sportsplex. Plus bike on the Iron Belle Trail.
Snowshoeing at Groen

## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

### What improvements would you like to see at the following facilities?

#### Otsego Lake County Park/Campground

A better basketball area for the kids the one we have a small would be nice if there was a double, no one plays with the horseshoes hardly that area would be nice to have a basketball court or more playground stuff for the kids

LESS development!! Tree need to e planted to replace ones removed.

More campsites

Get in to camp

More parking

Better reservation system and policies

More play equipment for kids. Different beach access, with sand and not stairs with rocks.

None - Park is very functional.

More full hookup, activity building for indoor meeting, paved sites, Better bathroom facilities, swimming area cleaned out more good sand.

Larger bathrooms, updated playground equipment

Better playground

Improvements to sand volleyball court

None

Better beach. I do realize the erosion fix, but it's not very good for wading/swimming due to the rocks.

Privacy fence along North side campsites by houses sites @ 5-27

Can reserve too far in advance! Park always booked well over a yr in advance and by the same campers .

Availability to get in, things sure have changed for our locals!!

Fire pit upgrades

Grassy sites. There is so much dirt!

Playground equipment

Playground beach and bathrooms

Water at lake end of campground. Not hand pumps

Handicap kayak launch

Parking

Full hook up camp sites!

New Playground Equipment, Full Hook-up Sites and more Programs (movies in the park, yard games, etc.)

Better wi fi

New playground

fix campsite flooding

### **Pleasant View Park (Wah Wah Soo)**

Nothing

Better parking, more beach, play equipment

Parking improvements

More beach space

### **Libke Memorial Fields**

Nothing

Play equipment

Use it for something different. 3d archery, Baseball isn't played or softball anymore. Better parking. Maybe soccer fields, community sledding hill in the winter, paintball course.

None

More diverse use of property



Picnic table/grille for a picnic, bathroom facility and a more smooth parking space.

Fencing/backstops

### **Irontone Springs**

Flowers on the flower beds.

better trimming - see previous page

Nothing

Pavilion

Full bathrooms

None

Hiking trail

Weeds cut down by the water or at least some pathways

Restore the artesian well

Dead trees/stumps removed, new fencing where it has fallen down, and the old drinking fountain fixed or removed

Finish nature trail

### **Otsego County Community Center**

More parking/handicapped

Parking

Very cold for basketball games.

New volleyball net system.

Playgroup toys

New playgroup toys

More indoor activities, laser tag, archery tag, meeting room for parties upstairs,

More programs for kids of all ages

None

Supervision of the youth.

More activities for kids

Beautification of the grounds outside the building

More events or available times

More parking

Fire alarm system false alarms

Picnic area/playground added, fix bumps in the outdoor pickle ball courts, better parking.

Parking

### **Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve**

Projects completed that are currently being worked on the property. It seems they are taking forever to complete tasks. Signs describing the antique items would be wonderful.

Nothing

Play equipment. Swings specifically.

Preserve open til dusk every day like every other park. You can close off areas with groen buildings. Full bathrooms, way more activities there,

Bike trails

Mountain biking, skate skiing, disc golf, ice rink, sledding

restoration of the old stone building. They could be gift shops, nature education, vacation rentals.

Single track mountain bike trails

Open during hunting season would be great. Allow off leash dogs would be great.

None

Mountain bike trails

Add a main entrance in Joburg and connect to the trail system. Add some informative signage near the buildings and historical sites on that side also. Buy the store and rehab it as a visitor center. More people would use the park.

More marketing

Beautiful as is

Keep people from trampling the ski trails.

I wish the preserve was open during firearms deer season.

Open up entire property around lake and expand hours

Better hours, fishing program of some kind (catch and release), more programming (example: overnight survival skills program)

### **Sportsplex**

Painted lines

More programs for kids of all ages

Indoor tennis, workout facility  
None  
More advertisement  
Updated maintenance to pool  
Keep building it up  
Reduced rates, more activities

### **Energy Outlet**

Nothing  
Beach volleyball courts  
Sandbox  
Sandbox  
Normal maintenance, park is over grown and dirty in the summer months  
None  
Remove the ice from the track in winter  
Restroom with electricity and running water.  
Nice playground  
More shaded seating, better ground cover under play equipment

### **Otsego County Dog Park**

Big water bowls.  
Grass  
Dog toys  
Open more often  
None  
Open all year  
Improved parking (can get mucky/hard to drive into in spring and fall)  
Do not use  
Smooth out parking and driveway, opened longer during the year, new signs to make it easier to locate the dog park.  
Develop the rest of the park

### **Otsego County Courthouse Plaza**

Something else but the rock  
Better Christmas decorations. Art and sculptures.  
None



### **Elmira Township Park**

Nothing



Pavillion,  
None



## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

### What new or expanded recreational facilities do you feel are needed in Otsego County?

Answered 45

Skipped 64

1	Community swimming pool..outdoor...??
2	At this time, I think we have the maximum in recreational facilities we can care for on a timely and basis and not be left to revert to overgrown facilities.
3	At Siegel Lake County Park is a wonderful place we could use more playground equipment for the children, we could also use a new basketball area for several kids to play.
4	It would be very nice if Bike trails were asphalted. For older people the stone are hard to ride on, where a hard surface would get more use. We go a couple of time to Petoskey as they have hard trails.
5	Louis M. Groen - should have more events for non-profit organizations. It would be nice to have people run programs on this property.
6	Something nicer for the out door courts at the community center
7	More Pickle ball courts
8	Community Center in Vanderbilt Discovery Center/Science Museum
9	Playground
10	Beach volleyball courts.
11	More art and sculptures in the parks we have, added swings at every park. Roller skate rink with arcade. It would be a good Place for teens to go hang out at night. The closest one is 1 1/2hr away. It should be by the sportsplex.
12	More family oriented things
13	Multi indoor Basketball courts
14	Indoor soccer football or golf facility. Winter is too long here
15	More outdoor concerts and public speakers. We need more public access to lakes and rivers. Where do you go if you just want to sit next to a quiet river?
16	We need more facilities for kids of all ages. Like a YMCA. More programs for kids to get involved in but geared towards all ages.
17	Non-motorized trails to connect these facilities and make it easier to get from the outer vicinities into Gaylord.
18	Mountain bike trails and ORV trails!!!!

19	Our baseball fields don't come close to comparing to neighboring communities. It should be taken over by our Parks and Rec Dept. Also we need to expand recreational opportunities in our county because we are a recreation destination. Grayling has Hansen Hills, Boyne City has Avalanche Park, Petoskey has their winter park, Indian River also all which offer publicly funded facilities for the community and visitors to enjoy. And they do! The county needs to dramatically increase the budget for Parks and Rec.
20	None
21	More XC skiing
22	Single track mountain bike trails.
23	Off leash hiking trails
24	I would like to see a township park and boat launch put in on porcupine lake. The water level has closed parmater road, so why not capitalize on the situation and provide an additional public access point.
25	-Indoor playground. Jump/bounce/climb -Indoor track for bikes/roller blades -Expand sportsplex to offer more indoor sports and activities (indoor playground, tennis, basketball, martial arts, etc.) -Kids fishing pond
26	Please no new stuff
27	More hiking/biking trails
28	I really think a privacy fence is needed along the campsites that have houses behind it. Even if you increase site rental fees by \$1 or so should pay for it over a couple years.
29	Walking and biking paths in Johannesburg, perhaps along M-32
30	Kids things
31	Hiking trails, nicer water access sites, bathroom facilities, parking, more events overall
32	ORV and snowmobile trails in/out and through town. We always eat in other towns because they are more ORV friendly.
33	Paved walking paths (would be a bonus if there was snow removal during the winter)
34	I would love a roller skating rink! Or outdoor ice skating rink in winter. Any family friendly activities to keep everyone active
35	Dedicated bike/walking pathways within the city and townships. I would like for me and my children to safely ride bikes into town.
36	Better sidewalks in town for bike riding.
37	More bike lanes or biking areas would be nice.
38	PO
39	Water trails on local rivers
40	More bike lanes, mountain bike trails
41	Pickleball Courts Picnic Areas Big Dog Park if the Jail takes the spot of the current dog park.

42	None
43	I think more opportunity of indoor activities during rain in the spring/summer and colder months is needed.
44	I feel Otsego County is well represented in many different aspects for public involvement. Great job Tom Pratt even though I don't participate in many of them!
45	Disc golf course-one that is owned and maintained by the county parks and rec dept

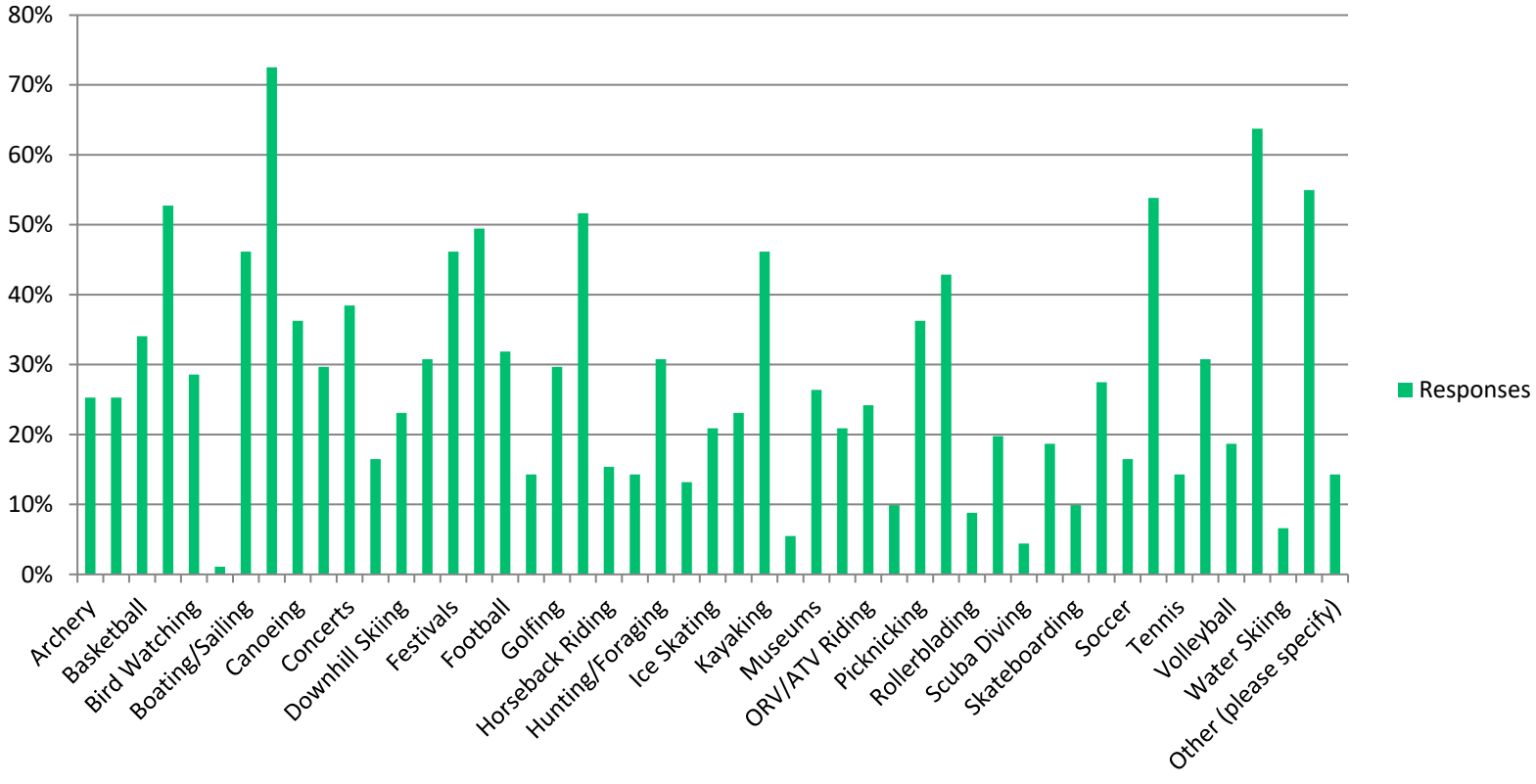
## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

**What recreational activities do you and/or your family enjoy? Please check all that apply.**

Answer Choices	Responses			
Archery	25%	23	ORV/ATV Riding	24% 22
Baseball/Softball	25%	23	Pickelball	10% 9
Basketball	34%	31	Picknicking	36% 33
Bicycling	53%	48	Playgrounds	43% 39
Bird Watching	29%	26	Rollerblading	9% 8
BMX Bikes	1%	1	Running	20% 18
Boating/Sailing	46%	42	Scuba Diving	4% 4
Camping	73%	66	Shooting Sports (skeet, targets)	19% 17
Canoeing	36%	33	Skateboarding	10% 9
Cross-Country Skiing	30%	27	Snowmobiling	27% 25
Concerts	38%	35	Soccer	16% 15
Disc Golf	16%	15	Swimming	54% 49
Downhill Skiing	23%	21	Tennis	14% 13
Exercise Classes	31%	28	Theaters (live & cinema)	31% 28
Festivals	46%	42	Volleyball	19% 17
Fishing	49%	45	Walking	64% 58
Football	32%	29	Water Skiing	7% 6
Geocaching	14%	13	Wildlife/Nature Viewing	55% 50
Golfing	30%	27	Other (please specify)	14% 13
Hiking	52%	47		<b>Answered 91</b>
Horseback Riding	15%	14		<b>Skipped 18</b>
Horseshoes	14%	13		
Hunting/Foraging	31%	28		
Hockey	13%	12		
Ice Skating	21%	19		
Ice Fishing	23%	21		
Kayaking	46%	42		
Martial Arts	5%	5		
Museums	26%	24		
Off-Leash Dog Recreation	21%	19		



## What recreational activities do you and/or your family enjoy? Please check all that apply.



Dog sports..
Boardgames
Thank you
Snowshoeing and stargazing. Night hikes. Interpretative signs. Water access for off leash dogs. Enjoying a beautiful meadow where, when the sun is just right you feel nothing but hope and love for the world. And bbq.
Hockey
wilderness survival training
Bowling
Would enjoy other things above too, and hope to at some point. Some like snowmobiling/atv, I have in the past. And will when I can afford to. Others like excerise classes, martial arts, gymnastics, and other things we would as a family if they were more available.
Snowshoeing
Photography
Gaga is a popular game for kids now and we don't have any Gaga pits that I know of in the county.
Snowshoeing
Ultimate Frisbee

## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

**What other public or private recreational facilities do you use in Otsego County? (For example: school playground, city/village park, Michigan DNR site, Iron Belle Trail (North Central State Trail), golf course, or church recreational facility)?**

**Answered 48**

**Skipped 61**

1	Mostly use the at Siegel County Park in iron Springs is beautiful
2	Iron Belle Trail, Gaylord City Pavilion, lakes in area, Waters playground, Loon Golf courses (all 3 courses), Gaylord State Park,
3	iron belle trail
4	None
5	Nothing
6	Iron bell trail biking
7	E-Free Gym and Youth room, Freel and Doumas city parks
8	State Park, Dumas Park, Freel Park
9	Aspen Park
10	Freel park almost every day in summer. State park.
11	All golf courses in Otsego County. Genie Hobbies of Gaylord
12	North central state trail
13	All of it
14	All public lake and River access is a high priority for canoeing, camping, hiking and swimming with my dog. I love the disc golf course. Lone pine or pine Barron or whatever is a fantastic and under utilized area. I hike all local trails with my dog, from Aspen park to high country pathway, NCT, Iron Belle, Jordan River, Pigeon River. I'm constantly looking for more hiking/biking trails and would volunteer for maintenance days if they were made more public. I follow White Birch Outfitters on Facebook for my local recreational updates. Casey is involved in a lot so I get news from him. I also hike, camp, hunt, fish and trap all public lands in the area. Keeping access to these lands and waters is essential.
15	We use the school playgrounds as well as city parks, skate park, iron belle trail, Aspen Park, E-free church activities.
16	Aspen Park for summer walking and winter XC skiing. Elk viewing. Pine Baron Pathway XC ski trail on Lone Pine Rd.

17	I frequently leave the county to mountain bike (Grayling, Boyne City, Walloon Lake, TC. We also hike parts of the North Country Trail in our county and outside. We have also enjoyed outside ice rinks in Boyne City, Indian River and Petoskey. Also sledding in Petoskey and Boyne City at their community parks. It would be great not having to leave our county. We need to expand here as we have beautiful property here. Groen needs to be expanded to offer a multitude of recreation. It will draw from far and wide once it becomes known.
18	Iron Belle Trail
19	Golf, bowling
20	Aspen Park, Pigeon River Country State Forest, Iron Belle Trail, soccer fields for Ultimate Frisbee, XC skiing at Michaywe, Pine Barrons
21	golf (Treetops), ski (Treetops and Otsego Club on cheap days), XC ski trails (Treetops, also on our own property)
22	City playgrounds in Gaylord, Otsego Christian School playground
23	Martin Lake public access site
24	Michaywe club house pool/hot tub/sauna. Aspen Park occasionally Lone pine ski trails in the past State park regularly Dumas Park Disc golf course behind middle school Call of wild/museum/golf/carts. Jordan River Valley hiking/hunting/morel picking Occasionally golf at several different courses in are, same with ski...both will increase as kids get older. (3.5 year olds)
25	There's not enough to do here, that's the proble.
26	None
27	Iron Belle Trail State park
28	Ride Iron Belle trail regularly
29	Otsego lake state park
30	Aspen Park, Elk Viewing, Iron Belle
31	Most things for keeping kids busy!
32	City parks,
33	ORV/snowmobile trails.
34	Aspen Park, and all playgrounds.
35	Aspen park trails, soccer fields/fairground parking field near animal shelter, treetops trails

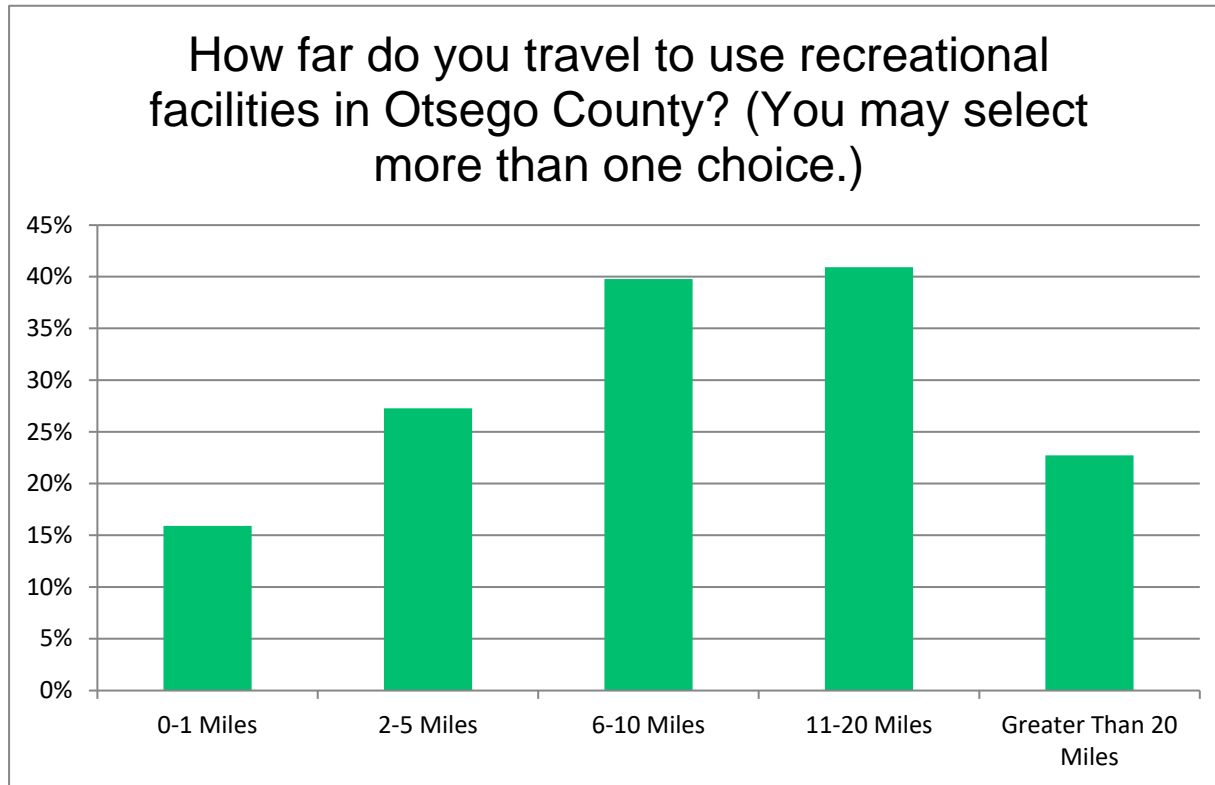
35	Iron belle trail Trailhead in Gaylord Aspen park Elk park
36	Dumas park, aspen trails,
37	Aspen Park ski and biking paths.
38	School playgrounds, Vanderbilt parks, Disc Golf behind middle school, State Park
39	City park
40	Aspen Park for walking, running, mountain biking and cross country skiing. Pine Baron ski trail for skiing, mountain biking, walking and running.
41	Headwaters Consvacy sturgeon valley preserve. Aspen park.
42	Aspen park mountain bike trails, Jiu Jitsu at Skye High Gymnastics studio through Flesh Is Stronger Fighting Systems, Otsego Club and Treetops downhill skiing, Pigeon River hiking trails, Iron Belle Trail
43	Aspen Park. Golf courses. DNR cross country trails.
44	Otsego County Campground Otsego State Campground Wah Wah Soo Beach Libke Fields Irontone Springs Dog Park Community Center Sportsplex
45	None
46	Pigeon River just enjoying wildlife as well as hunting.
47	Golf courses, e-free gym
48	E-Free, Doumas Park, Freel park,



## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

How far do you travel to use recreational facilities in Otsego County? (You may select more than one choice.)

Answer Choices	Responses	
0-1 Miles	16%	14
2-5 Miles	27%	24
6-10 Miles	40%	35
11-20 Miles	41%	36
Greater Than 20 Miles	23%	20
<b>Answered</b>		<b>88</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>21</b>



## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

### What recreational activities do you leave Otsego County for?

Answered 51

Skipped 58

1	Camping boating fishing
2	I play Senior softball out of state. 60+ division
3	cultural offerings, large beaches, vacationing i the u p
4	Camping
5	Camping
6	Boating
7	Mountain biking camping hiking
8	Discovery Center, Youth rec facilities
9	Camping
10	Beach volleyball
11	Roller skate, winter tubing, bigger park with things fun for teens and littles (zip lines), arcade, laser tag, hiking paths/nature paths with a destination or beautiful things through out, water parks and bigger pools.
12	Camping, Hunting, Snowmobiling
13	Camping, fishing, golfing, hiking. I do all of these activities in Otsego County as well
14	Better beaches, more arts (Concerts, shopping
15	Hiking, camping, beaches. Wildlife/nature rehab volunteer activities. Live music.
16	Trampoline Parks, larger outdoor parks, indoor soccer.
17	Boating - Lake Charlevoix & Traverse Bays, Hiking various DNR trails, Downhill Skiing.
18	Side by side riding
19	Beach
20	Answered prior
21	Bike riding and golf.
22	I live in Montmorency County
23	Mountain biking (Boyne City has many more miles and better trails); Canoeing (Au Sable in Grayling)
24	None
25	Snowshoeing
26	Good fishing
27	Hiking

28	Zoo (Garlyn) Kayaking (canoe liveries)- Grayling mostly, Wolverine also Avalanche Bay Waterpark  Thought about traveling to Indoor Playplaces and indoor bounce/trampoline parks downstate, but didn't because of distance and kids age.
29	Snowshoeing races Running races Bicycling races
30	Mountain biking,camping,downhill skiing
31	Camping
32	Camping
33	Most everything. We desperately need more here, especially in Johannesburg area.
34	Camping ! Activities like markets!
35	Wildlife viewing
36	Down hill skiing, hiking, biking, water activities, camping. Facilities and access are nicer and more enjoyable in other cities
37	ORV/snowmobile trails
38	Camping
39	Hiking, downhill skiing, camping.
40	Splash pads, trampoline park, tractor rides
41	Biking and walking along Lake Michigan Cross country skiing at Boyne mtn
42	Waterparks
43	Theater, special events
44	Wilderness State Park, by the bridge, for kayaking and hiking. Rockport, north of Alpena on Lake Huron, for kayaking and hiking.
45	Hiking and snowshoeing and kayaking and bicycling
46	Mountain Biking, Hiking, Downhill Skiing, Running, Hot Yoga, Camping, Disc Golf,
47	Travel hockey games. Concerts. Plays.
48	Gaga Pits Archery Playgrounds (occasionally)
49	Some camping and hiking

50	Snowshoeing, hiking, biking, hockey
51	Disc golf, golf, xc skiing

## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

**Do you have family or friends who travel to Otsego County who use its' recreational facilities? If so, which facilities?**

**Answered 42**

**Skipped 67**

1	Yes we have several families that travel chat Seago county park to camp in vote
2	Bike Trails
3	Louis M. Groen
4	one family comes up to the county park for a weekend
5	None
6	The state park
7	Yes, camping at Otsego park
8	no
9	Camping at the county park
10	Otsego community center
11	Community center
12	Otsego Lake County Park
13	No
14	Yes. Camping, Golfing, Snowmobiling
15	Yes. Camping
16	Yes parks, beaches, camp grounds
17	All of them
18	Yea. Play hockey at the sportsplex. And see the elk. And go to call of the wild. And hunt public lands
19	No
20	State Campground
21	New tennis courts
22	Yes, the pool.
23	friends use Groen Nature preserve for hiking & horseback riding
24	I have friends who travel from Gralying for volleyball at the community center. I also know people who have traveled from outside the county for Ultimate Frisbee at the soccer fields
25	Snowmobiling, ORV trails, snowshoeing, boating.
26	Otsego Lake County Park & Campground



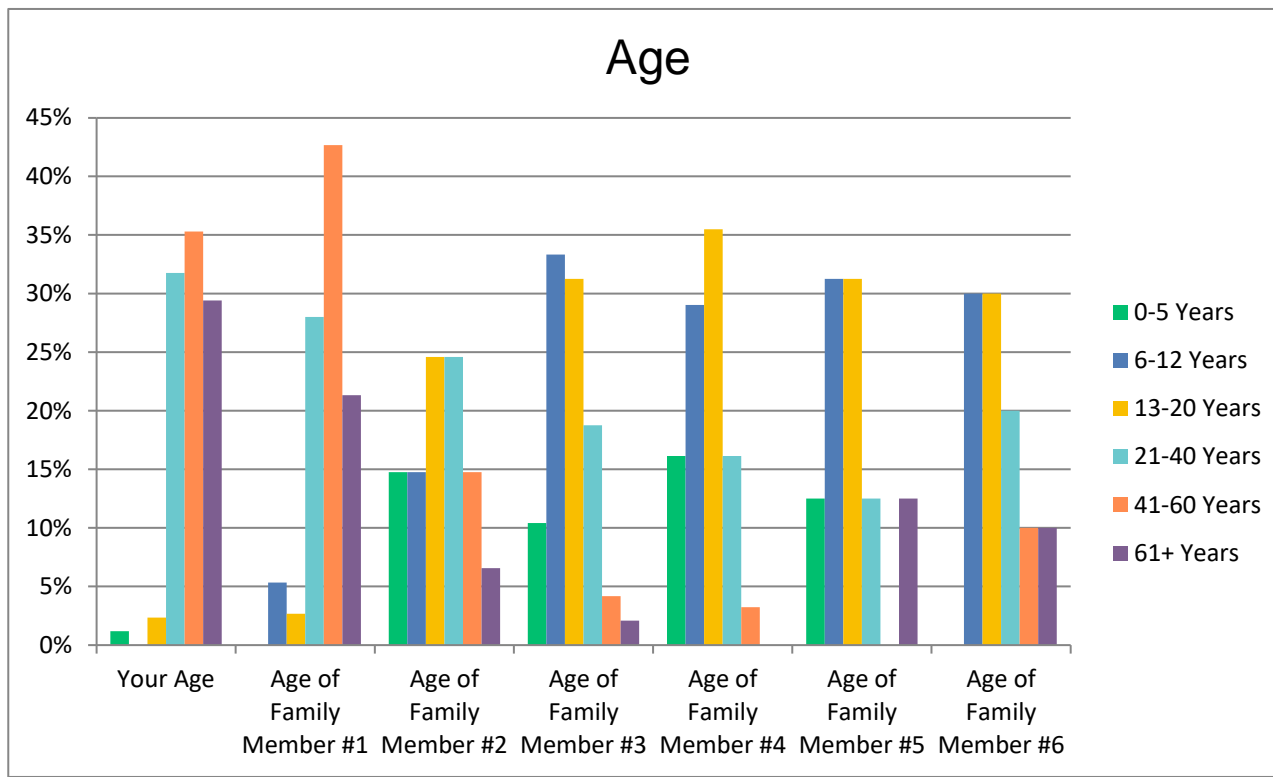
27	Yes ! Park when can get in! People who make reservations a year ahead , just never know! More money for people out of the Otsego county!
28	Camping
29	No
30	Skiing and snowmobiling trails
31	Golfing, sportsplex pool and ice rink
32	Aspen Park and the Gaylord City Elk park.
33	Otsego Lake County Park
34	I live in Lansing area and have a cottage in Gaylord area. I come up for outdoor recreation
35	Sportsplex
36	Camp ground
37	Hiking trails
38	Yes.  Otsego County Park Otsego State Park Community Center Dog Park Sportsplex Libke fields Irontone Springs Wah Wah Soo Beach
39	No
40	Yes. Sportsplex
41	The County Park
42	Community Center to watch basketball league

# Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

## What are the ages of you and your family members?

### Age

	0-5 Years	6-12 Years	13-20 Years	21-40 Years	41-60 Years	61+ Years	Total							
Your Age	1%	1	0%	0	2%	2	32%	27	35%	30	29%	25	85	
Age of Family Member #1	0%	0	5%	4	3%	2	28%	21	43%	32	21%	16	75	
Age of Family Member #2	15%	9	15%	9	25%	15	25%	15	15%	9	7%	4	61	
Age of Family Member #3	10%	5	33%	16	31%	15	19%	9	4%	2	2%	1	48	
Age of Family Member #4	16%	5	29%	9	35%	11	16%	5	3%	1	0%	0	31	
Age of Family Member #5	13%	2	31%	5	31%	5	13%	2	0%	0	13%	2	16	
Age of Family Member #6	0%	0	30%	3	30%	3	20%	2	10%	1	10%	1	10	
													<b>Answered</b>	<b>85</b>
													<b>Skipped</b>	<b>24</b>



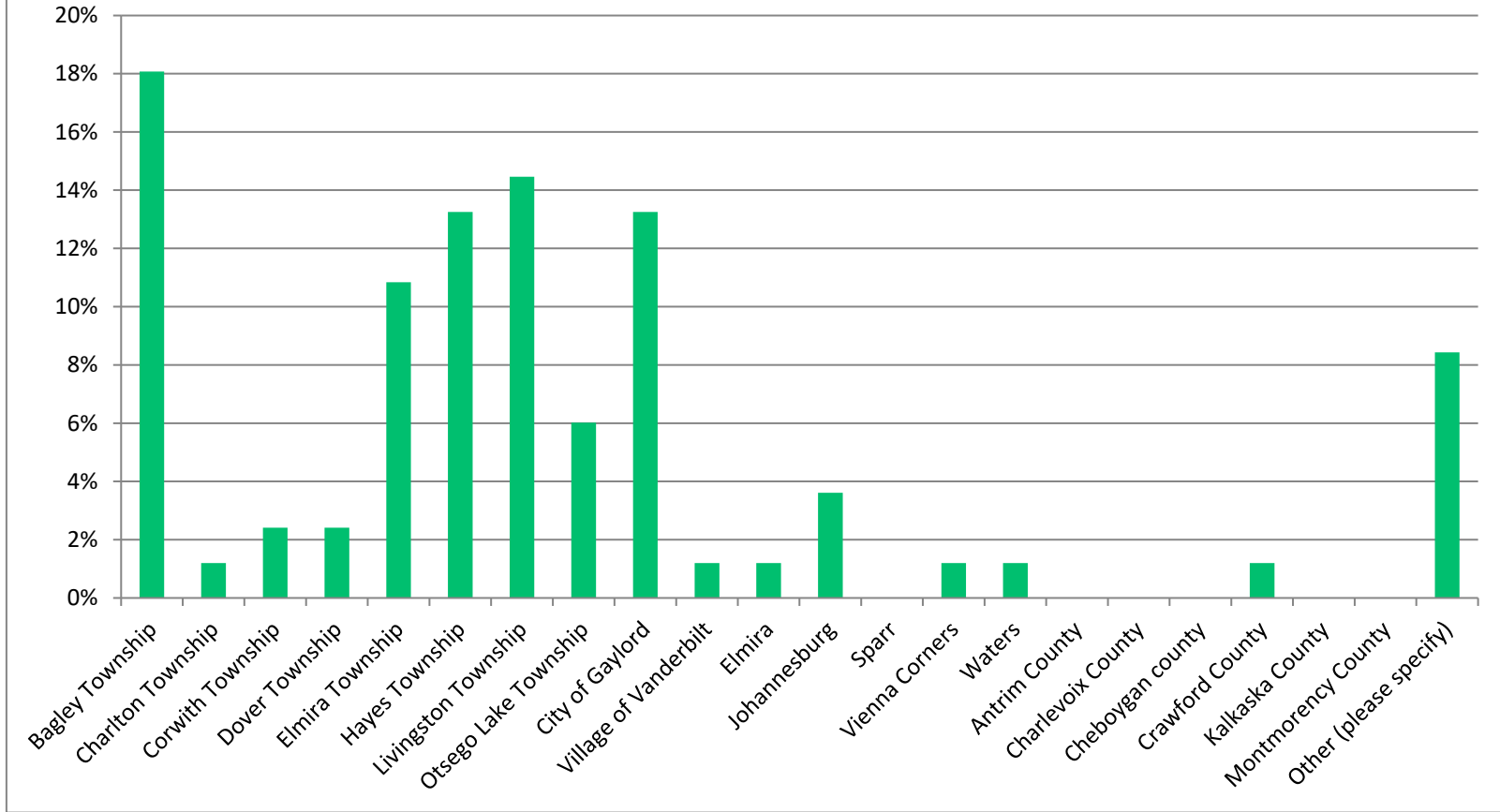
## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

### Where is your permanent place of residence?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Bagley Township	18%	15
Charlton Township	1%	1
Corwith Township	2%	2
Dover Township	2%	2
Elmira Township	11%	9
Hayes Township	13%	11
Livingston Township	14%	12
Otsego Lake Township	6%	5
City of Gaylord	13%	11
Village of Vanderbilt	1%	1
Elmira	1%	1
Johannesburg	4%	3
Sparr	0%	0
Vienna Corners	1%	1
Waters	1%	1
Antrim County	0%	0
Charlevoix County	0%	0
Cheboygan county	0%	0
Crawford County	1%	1
Kalkaska County	0%	0
Montmorency County	0%	0
Other (please specify)	8%	7
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>83</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>26</b>

Emmet  
 Avery Twp. Atlanta  
 Chester Twp  
 Clinton county  
 Chester Township.  
 Isabella County  
 Haslett

## Where is your permanent place of residence?



## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

### Name, address, or email (optional)

**Answered**                    **20**

**Skipped**                    **89**

Stacy Guthrie 1589 Orange Grove Gaylord Beaglesnboys40@gmail.com

Jill Browning4774 Manuka Lake Rd.Email browning\_99@yahoo.com

John and Ann Wenner4368 West Otsego Lake DriveGaylord, MI 49735john.wenner@yahoo.com

Stephen Hartz336 E 4th St

Anna Garborg, 2525 hemlock lane petoskey marrigarborg@gmail.com

Stephanie clover

Jess BardenJwbarden@gmail.com

Off Hallock Rd.Thanks

Luke Nossnossluke@gmail.com

Mary.a.billman@gmail.com

Jessica Kanejeskane@gmail.com

Dan Franckowiak

Kyle Larson247 Edelweiss TrailAlpineltt@gmail.com

Steven roache, sprwrench2003@yahoo.com

franckowiakh@cityofgaylord.org

Fred Dick Frdick1@netzero.net

Courtney Cadotte 4088 N. Townline Rd.Gaylord, MI 49735

214 west 7th street

Holly Whitehead1511 Fessenden AveMt Pleasant, MI 48858white1he@cmich.edu


Matt Soderquist420 E. 2nd St. Gaylord, MI 49735Soderquistmatthew@gmail.com

## Otsego County and Elmira Township Recreation Survey

Please enter any other comments you have below.

Answered 15

Skipped 94

1	A dog agility park would be nice... 
2	We truly enjoy Otsego Lake County Park and would love to see more improvements such as playground things for the kids.
3	Solve the trespassing issues from snowmobilers, and rude golfers who trespass with no regard for neighbors, because they can't keep their ball on the course in the first place, . Frankly, fewer golf courses, and snowmobiles, would improve the quality of life in this county
4	Gaylord was a awesome place to live and people cared about their city! Now it's more about money and things that we do not need!
5	We have 5 rivers with their headwaters in Otsego County. Why don't we promote them. We're central to everything, promote our hockey team, the the Snow. Our city is ugly. Freeway, power lines, fast food and box stores. Get rid of 3 blocks downtown and the only cohesive thing is I-75. We should be a town you want to walk or bike, not get gas and a burger and leave.
6	Nice big Otsego Lake & it is too bad that only a third of it is safe enough for boating unless you have a pontoon. Recommend working with appropriate parties to dredge & deepen all of it to a safe boating depth with no logs.
7	Would love to see some wilderness survival classes
8	Why are some private facilities listed and others are not? Why is cinema listed and other activities like golf and bowling are not?
9	There is a group in town looking to expand mountain biking trails in our county. You can reach out to Ron Carr (rracnor@yahoo.com) and Alex Code (acode@line-45.com) for more info. I've forwarded this survey to them.
10	Sportsplex upgrades/additions
11	Absolutely love OLCP campground. The staff is amazing!!!! Look forward to going several times a year.
12	Hard for making reservations! Keep up to date things going on!!
13	Recreation is soooo important to community's! Let's keep building them up and making them great!!!
14	Great facilities overall, but some are a bit older, so they just need some updating and they will be good as new. Staff is very friendly at every location I have been.
15	County parks and rec dept should take over maintenance of existing disc golf course on school property or purchase about 40 acres and make a disc golf course.





## **APPENDIX B**

### **Post Completion Self Certification Forms**





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [ ] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [x] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Otsego County

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01217

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Otsego Lake County Park

40 cmpgrd. sites, restrooms, playground, picnic areas, utilities,

PROJECT SCOPE: prkng

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Otsego County, Matt Barresi, County Administrator, 225 W. Main Street, 989-731-7520, Gaylord, MI 49735, mbarresi@otsegocountymi.gov

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s). [x]Yes [ ]No

Continued improvemnts through the years including cabin rentals, boat launch, beach
improvments.

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please
describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation
buildings.) [ ]Yes [x]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ]Yes [x]No

Note: While not considered obsolete, the playground equipment is aging and the County
Parks Commission is considering replacement of playground components in the near future.

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [x]Yes [ ]No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [x]Yes [ ]No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [ ]Yes [x]No

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.  Yes  No  
Daily, seasonal and annual maintenance tasks scheduled and implemented  
by Park Coordinator and Parks and Recreation Director.

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)  Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.  Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.  Yes  No  
See comments below.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
Campground open May-September. Day use areas open all yr; lake access ice fishing.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

Vehicle Pass Rates Day Pass \$4  
Resident and Non-Resident Season Pass \$15  
Senior and Veteran Season Pass \$7  
Camping Fees/Night Otsego County Resident \$25 - \$33  
Non-County Resident \$26 - \$34  
Cabin Rental \$55 - \$ 90  
Fees vary based on electric service and lakefront sites

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

MATT BARRIESI

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

12/21/2022

Date

Mel Meyer

Please print



Witness Signature

12/31/2022

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



**Park Entry Sign along W. Otsego Lake Drive**



**LWCF Grant recognition plaque near entrance to the North Campground**





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Otsego County

PROJECT NUMBER: TF86-115

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Otsego County Fairgrounds

40 cmpgrd. sites, restrooms, playground, picnic areas, utilities,

PROJECT SCOPE: prkng

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Otsego County, Matt Barresi, County Administrator, 225 W. Main Street, 989-731-7520, Gaylord, MI 49735, mbarresi@otsegocountymi.gov

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [X]Yes [ ]No

Gaylord's local non-motorized pathway system crosses the northern portion of the site, parallel to Fairview Rd.

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ]Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ]Yes [X]No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [ ]Yes [X]No

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No  
The Otsego County Fairgrounds Board leases the site from the County, and maintains the lawn, entry sign, lights, entry road and perimeter fencing on a regular/as needed basis.

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No  
Fees are charged for parking on site for special events and for rental of the property for special events; prices vary.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
The County Fairgrounds is open for scheduled public and private events April-October.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

The site is used primarily for outdoor parking/camping for the annual County Fair and for other outdoor special events (i.e., concerts)from April-October.

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

MATT BARRIESI

Please print



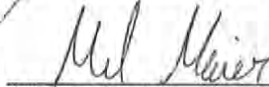
Grantee Authorized Signature

12/21/2022

Date

Mel Meyer

Please print



Witness Signature

12/31/2022

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



**Entry sign, near northern boundary**



**Original MNRTF Grant recognition plaque, on the entrance sign.**





**New MNRTF Grant recognition plaque, near the entrance sign.**

This plaque is also for grant number TF16-0067 as a corner of the fairgrounds parking area serves as an Iron Belle Trail trailhead.





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [ ] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [X] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Otsego County

PROJECT NUMBER: BF90-277

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Otsego Lake County Park

PROJECT SCOPE: 4" well, drwgs./plans, dump sta., electric for pumps/campsites, septic

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Otsego County, Matt Barresi, County Administrator, 225 W. Main Street, 989-731-7520, Gaylord, MI 49735, mbarresi@otsegocountymi.gov

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [X]Yes [ ]No

Continued improvements including cabins for rental , improved boat launch, additional camp sites, and beach improvements

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ]Yes [X]No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ]Yes [X]No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X]Yes [ ]No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [ ]Yes [X]No

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No  
Daily, seasonal and annual maintenance tasks scheduled and implemented  
by Park Coordinator and Parks and Recreation Director.

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No  
See comments below.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
Campground open May-September. Day use areas open all yr; lake access ice fishing.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

Vehicle Pass Rates Day Pass \$4  
Resident and Non-Resident Season Pass \$15  
Senior and Veteran Season Pass \$7  
Camping Fees/Night Otsego County Resident \$25 - \$33  
Non-County Resident \$26 - \$34  
Cabin Rental \$55 - \$ 90  
Fees vary based on electric service and lakefront sites

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

MATT BARRIESI

Please print



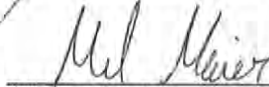
Grantee Authorized Signature

12/21/2022

Date

Mel Meyer

Please print



Witness Signature

12/31/2022

Date

**Send completed report to:**

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

Otsego Lake County Park Entry Sign along W. Otsego Lake Drive, Gaylord





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [ ] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [X] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Otsego County

PROJECT NUMBER: CM 00-026

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Otsego Lake County Park

20 Modern cmpstes, paved rds, elec., lights, 2 privy/2 lav, potable

PROJECT SCOPE: wtr

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Otsego County, Matt Barresi, County Administrator, 225 W. Main Street, 989-731-7520, Gaylord, MI 49735, mbarresi@otsegocountymi.gov

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

Continued improvements including cabins for rental , improved boat launch, additional camp sites, and beach improvements

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [ ] Yes [X] No

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No  
Daily, seasonal and annual maintenance tasks scheduled and implemented  
by Park Coordinator and Parks and Recreation Director.

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No  
See comments below.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
Campground open May-September. Day use areas open all yr; lake access ice fishing.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

Vehicle Pass Rates Day Pass \$4  
Resident and Non-Resident Season Pass \$15  
Senior and Veteran Season Pass \$7  
Camping Fees/Night Otsego County Resident \$25 - \$33  
Non-County Resident \$26 - \$34  
Cabin Rental \$55 - \$ 90  
Fees vary based on electric service and lakefront sites



**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

MATT BARRIESI

Please print

*[Signature]*

Grantee Authorized Signature

12/21/2022

Date

Mel Meyer

Please print

*[Signature]*

Witness Signature

12/31/2022

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

**Otsego Lake County Park Entry Sign  
along W. Otsego Lake Drive,  
Gaylord**



**CMI Grant recognition plaque, near  
entrance to South Campground**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Otsego County

PROJECT NUMBER: TF16-0016

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Iron Belle Trail Otsego County South Developmnet

PROJECT SCOPE: Develop 11-mile multi-use pathway from Waters north to Wisconsin Ave

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Otsego County, Matt Barresi, County Administrator, 225 W. Main Street, 989-731-7520, Gaylord, MI 49735, mbarresi@otsegocountymi.gov

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

No specific park entry sign, but there is various trail markers, kiosks, and wayfinding signage along the trail. Trailheads owned by other agencies do have entry signs.

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [ ] Yes [X] No

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No  
Trail segments are inspected regularly and maintained as needed by County maintenance staff and trail volunteers.

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Open year round 24 hours a day.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

MATT BARRIESI

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

12/21/2022

Date

Mel Meier

Please print



Witness Signature

12/31/2022

Date

**Send completed report to:**

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

### **MNRTF Grant recognition plaque**

This plaque is located next to the Otsego County Fairgrounds entrance sign as a corner of the fairgrounds parking area serves as an Iron Belle Trail trailhead.







PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Otsego County

PROJECT NUMBER: TF16-0016

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Otsego County Sportsplex Tennis Courts

PROJECT SCOPE: Development of a outdoor tennis court facility with 4 courts.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Otsego County, Matt Barresi, County Administrator, 225 W. Main Street, 989-731-7520, Gaylord, MI 49735, mbarresi@otsegocountymi.gov

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please
describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation
buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No
No part of the facilities are obsolete, however, due to the high use the Sportsplex
Board is in planning stages to expand further.

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [ ] Yes [X] No

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No  
All parts of the facility are inspected regularly and identified maintenance items are  
addressed immediately as needed.

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No  
Walk ons at open times are free. Reserved court fee is \$10/hour. Fees for tennis clinics,  
lessons, and leagues vary. See <https://www.ocsportsplex.com/> for all fees at Sportsplex

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
See below.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

Sportsplex building is open year around for general use:

Monday - Thursday 6:00 am to 9:00 pm

Friday 6:00 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

The building facilities ar open outside of above posted hours for special events.

The Tennis courts are open 24 hours a day 7 days a week seasonaly as the weather allows.

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

MATT BARRIESI

Please print

*[Signature]*

Grantee Authorized Signature

12/21/2022

Date

Mel Meyer

Please print

*[Signature]*

Witness Signature

12/31/2022

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

**Entry sign, on Sporsplex Building**



**Tennis Courts entry sign and bulletin board**



## MNRTF Plaque







PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [ ] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [x] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Otsego County

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01217

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Otsego Lake County Park Drainage Improvements

PROJECT SCOPE: Campsites, Fire Pits, Landscaping, Picnic Tables, Rain Garden

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Otsego County, Matt Barresi, County Administrator, 225 W. Main Street, 989-731-7520, Gaylord, MI 49735, mbarresi@otsegocountymi.gov

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [x] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please
describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation
buildings.) [ ] Yes [x] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [x] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [x] Yes [ ] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [x] Yes [ ] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [ ] Yes [x] No



**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.  Yes  No  
Daily, seasonal and annual maintenance tasks scheduled and implemented  
by Park Coordinator and Parks and Recreation Director.

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)  Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.  Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.  Yes  No  
See comments below.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
Campground open May-September. Day use areas open all yr; lake access ice fishing.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

Vehicle Pass Rates Day Pass \$4  
Resident and Non-Resident Season Pass \$15  
Senior and Veteran Season Pass \$7  
Camping Fees/Night Otsego County Resident \$25 - \$33  
Non-County Resident \$26 - \$34  
Cabin Rental \$55 - \$ 90  
Fees vary based on electric service and lakefront sites

This projects is ongoing. PA in progress as of 12/14/2022. There is a LWCF plaque from previous grant number 26-01217. A new plaque can be installed as this project is completed.

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

MATT BARRIESI

Please print

*[Signature]*

Grantee Authorized Signature

12/21/2022

Date

Mel Meyer

Please print

*[Signature]*

Witness Signature

12/31/2022

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

**Park Entry Sign along W. Otsego Lake Drive**



**LWCF Grant recognition plaque near entrance to the North Campground from prior grant number 26-01217**



