

# Recreation Plan

2022 - 2027 DRAFT



Tuscarora Township  
Cheboygan County, Michigan



**Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan  
2022 - 2027**

Tuscarora Township  
Cheboygan County, Michigan

**Adopted: Month DD, 2022**

*Prepared for:*

**Tuscarora Township Board of Trustees**

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**TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION PLAN**

Table of Contents

**CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

Extent of Plan Focus.....	1-1
Regional Setting and Historical Context.....	1-1
Transportation.....	1-2
Population.....	1-2
Climate.....	1-4
Wetlands.....	1-4
Water Resources.....	1-4
Fish and Wildlife.....	1-5
State of Michigan Land.....	1-7
Soil Limitations/Topography.....	1-8
Existing Land Use/Land Cover Characteristics.....	1-8

**CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

Administration.....	2-1
Planning Commission.....	2-1
Parks and Recreation Commission.....	2-1
Additional Township Commissions and Boards.....	2-2
Staff/ Parks & Recreation Maintenance.....	2-2
Administrative Chart.....	2-2
Relationships with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers.....	2-3
Finances/Park & Recreation Maintenance: Current Funding.....	2-4

**CHAPTER 3: DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

Tuscarora Township Planning Process.....	3-1
Public Input.....	3-2
Notice of Public Input Session.....	3-3
Minutes/Notes From Public Input Session.....	3-4
Notice of Availability.....	3-5
Public Hearing Notice.....	3-6
Public Hearing Minutes & Notes/Comments.....	3-7
Parks & Recreation Commission Resolution of Adoption.....	3-8
Township Board Meeting Notice.....	3-9
Township Board Resolution of Adoption.....	3-10
Township Board Minutes.....	3-11
Submittal Letters.....	3-13

**CHAPTER 4: RECREATION INVENTORY**

Township Owned Recreation Property & Facilities.....	4-1
Cooperation Park.....	4-1
DeVoe Beach & Veterans Pier.....	4-2
Marina Park.....	4-3
Green Docks.....	4-4
Hideaway Park.....	4-4
Tuscarora Township Hall and Library.....	4-4
Other Publicly-Owned Recreation Properties.....	4-4

Burt Lake State Park.....	4-4
Inland Lakes Schools.....	4-4
Inland Waterway.....	4-4
State lands.....	4-5
Trails.....	4-5
Preserves.....	4-5
Campgrounds.....	4-5
Water Access Sites.....	4-5
Oden State Fish Hatchery.....	4-6
Privately-Owned Recreational Facilities.....	4-6
Indian River Golf Club.....	4-6
National Shrine of the Cross in the Woods.....	4-6
Indian River Sportsmen's Club.....	4-6
Burt Lake Community Club.....	4-6
Big Bear Miniature Golf.....	4-6
NorEast Outdoors.....	4-6
Camps.....	4-6
Campgrounds.....	4-6
Marinas.....	4-6
Motels/Resorts/Cottage Rentals.....	4-7
Canoe/Kayak/Tube Rentals.....	4-7
Regional Recreation in the "Tip of the Mitt".....	4-9
Parks.....	4-9
Campgrounds.....	4-9
Boat and Water Access Sites.....	4-10
Public Fishing Access Sites.....	4-13
Marinas, Harbors, Ferry Service.....	4-13
Wildlife Flooding Areas.....	4-13
Unique Natural Features.....	4-13
Trailheads.....	4-14
Downhill Skiing.....	4-14
Inventory Procedures.....	4-14
Recreation Grant Inventory.....	4-14

## **CHAPTER 5: GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTION PLAN**

General Goals.....	5-1
Cooperation Park.....	5-2
DeVoe Beach.....	5-2
Marina Park.....	5-3
Green Docks.....	5-3
West Burt Lake Area.....	5-3
Trails.....	5-4
Water Access.....	5-4
Recreational Facility Expansion.....	5-4
Basis for Action Program.....	5-5
Capital Improvements Plan.....	5-6

**LIST OF MAPS**

Map 1 Regional Location ..... 1-3

Map 2 Wetlands & Water Resources ..... 1-6

Map 3 Public Lands ..... 1-7

Map 4 Soil Conditions ..... 1-9

Map 5 Existing Land Use/Land Cover ..... 1-10

Map 6 Recreational Facilities ..... 4-8

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1 Existing Land Use/Land Cover ..... 1-8

Table 2 Current & Future Fiscal Year Budget ..... 2-5

Table 3 Capital Improvements Schedule ..... 5-6

**APPENDICES**

- Appendix A:** Recreation Plan Certification Checklist
- Appendix B:** Post Completion Self Certification Reports

# CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

## Extent of Plan Focus

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

## Regional Setting and Historical Context

Tuscarora Township is ideally situated for year-round outdoor recreation. The Township is located on the west side of Cheboygan County in the northern tip of the Lower Peninsula and comprises a total area of 42 square miles. The Township is adjacent to Burt and Mullett Townships on the north, Koehler Township on the east, Mentor and Ellis Townships on the south, and Littlefield and Springvale Townships in Emmet County on the west. **Map 1** shows the general location of Tuscarora Township. Two unincorporated communities, Indian River and Burt Lake, serve as population centers for the Township. With its central location, just off I-75 and in the heart of the very popular Inland Waterway, Tuscarora Township is a primary gateway for visitors reaching the region. The Township - with its proximity to large tracts of State Forestland, location between two of the State's largest lakes, Burt and Mullett, and home to blue-ribbon trout stream, the Sturgeon River - has become a popular destination for fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, snowmobiling and many other forms of outdoor recreation.

As with all of the United States, Tuscarora Township was originally the homeland for Native Americans. In the early 1600's, the French explored the area and established a profitable fur business and missions. In the mid 1700's, both the British and French courted the friendship of the Native Americans. Control of the Michigan territory was in a state of flux between the nations for about 100 years.

In 1828, the area that is now Cheboygan County was part of Michilimackinac County. It was transferred to Mackinac County in 1840. In 1856, Cheboygan County was vastly enlarged to include most of Northeast Michigan. At one time, Cheboygan County was divided into the two counties of Cheboygan and Wyandot. From 1860 to the present, Cheboygan County's boundaries have remained essentially the same. The area was first surveyed from 1840 to 1843, by State surveyors Messrs. Burt and Mullett. Burt and Mullett Lakes are named in their honor.

Tuscarora Township is located at the heart of the "Inland Water Route". The "Inland Water Route" has been important in the early development of the Cheboygan area. The route consists of the Cheboygan River, Mullett Lake, The Indian River, Burt Lake, Crooked River, Crooked Lake and Pickerel Lake. This connected waterway provides access between Lake Huron at Cheboygan and Conway (a village nine miles north of Petoskey). The route has always been heavily used. At first the Native Americans paddled canoes through the water systems, then early crews used the route for commercial transportation of the great log booms of the late 1800's. It was later dredged and dammed to facilitate water travel. This water route is still heavily used to this day, mostly by small

pleasure crafts.

With the settlement of northern Michigan by Europeans, the area's economic base went from fur trading to farming and timber. After a large amount of virgin timber was harvested in northern Michigan and agricultural practices began to become more modern, these two major industries saw a big decline in this region. Cheboygan County's economy was hit hard by the loss of jobs from these industries. Many of the area's residents left in order to find work in southern Michigan and elsewhere. At about the same time, however, the region began to become a popular recreation and resort area. Resorts were built in Cheboygan County on the "Little Great Lakes", as the lakes of the Inland Water Route were often called. This surge in the resort business helped the economy, but largely only during the summer months. As with all of the nation, Cheboygan County was devastated due to the Great Depression in the 1930's. A reawakening of the economy took place, however, in response to the need for goods and materials during World War II. With the advent of modern automobiles and the construction of I-75 through the Township, the region has grown into the community it is today.

## **Transportation**

The major roads within the township are M-68, I-75, and S Straits Hwy/M-27 (Formerly US 27). M-68 runs east/west through the Township. I-75 runs north/south through the east side of the Township, and S Straits Hwy mostly parallels I-75 through the Township. Several paved county roads and an extensive system of dirt and gravel roads provide access to the lakes and forests that serve as sites for residential and recreational activities.

Public transportation is offered by Straits Regional Ride, a four-county transit system operated by Cheboygan County. Commercial passenger air service and air cargo service is available at Pellston Regional Airport. The community of Indian River also maintains an airport for private and chartered aircraft.

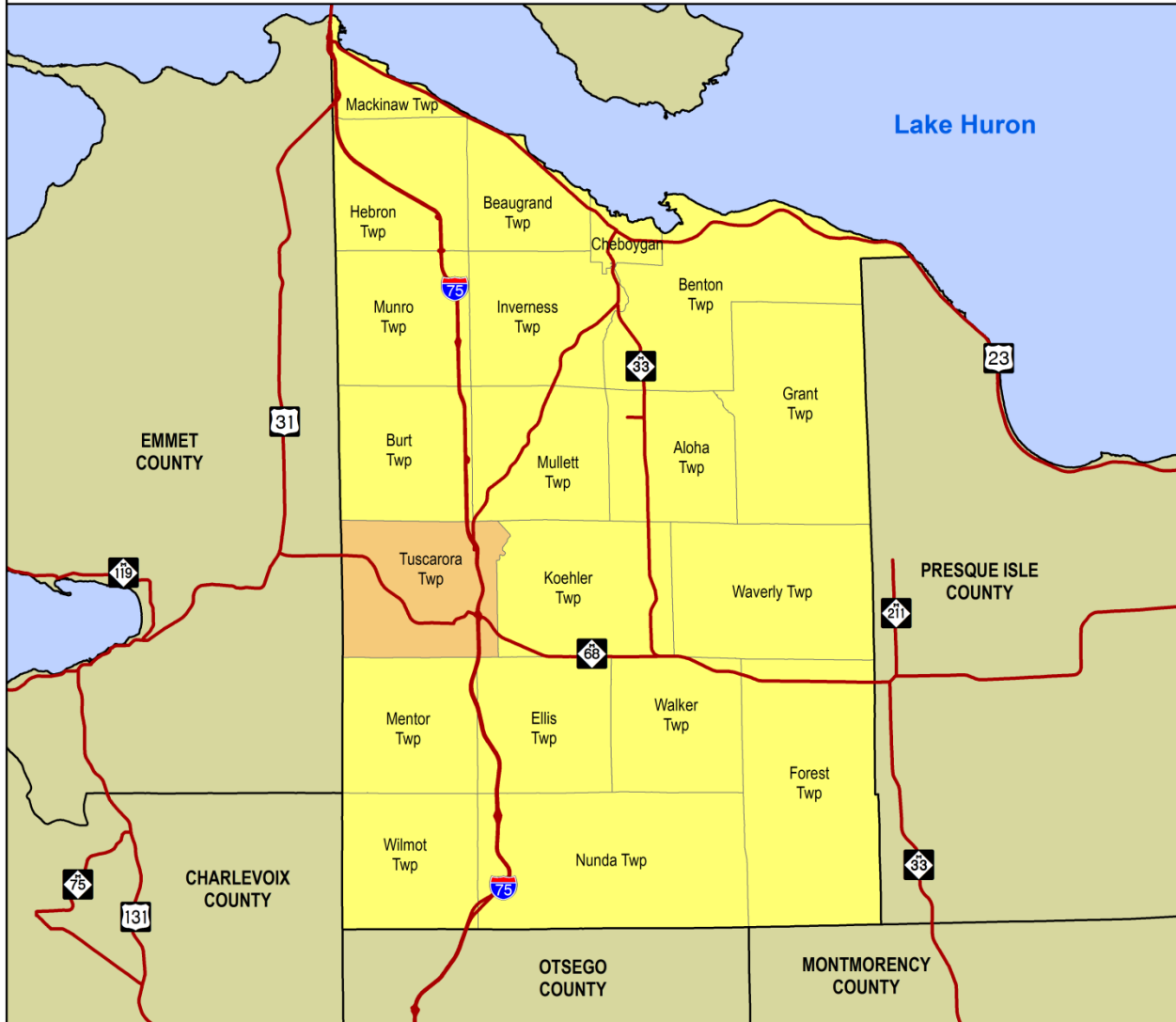
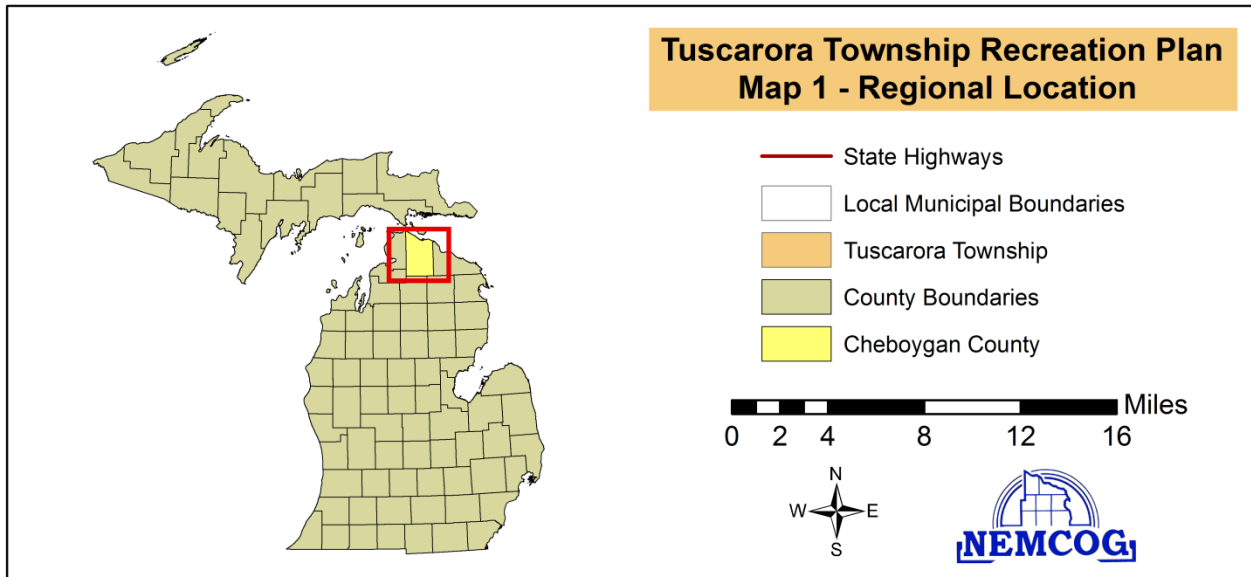
The former Lake State Railroad line, now known as the North Central State Trail, which connects Mackinaw City and Gaylord runs through the township and the community of Indian River. The beautiful 62-mile trail with a crushed limestone surface, has become one of the premier cycling trails in the Midwest. The crushed, compacted limestone surface also provides excellent walking and hiking opportunities.

## **Population**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population for Tuscarora Township in 2020 was 3,080 persons. However, this does not reflect the seasonal residents of the Township. In reviewing the 2019 American Community Survey data, the figures presented for housing characteristics show 872 units as vacant. Many of these are seasonal, recreational, or occasional use homes. Based on the average household size in Tuscarora Township of 2.45, the expected seasonal increase could be approximately 2,136 persons. In addition, many seasonal or recreational visitors stay at private lodging places or at the homes of family or friends.



## Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan Map 1 - Regional Location



## **Climate**

Tuscarora Township's long cold winters and short cool summers provide ample opportunities for year-round outdoor activities. Snowmobiling, skiing and ice fishing are just some of the areas popular winter sports, and summertime activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, and camping can be enjoyed when the weather turns warm. Spring-time brings out the mushroom hunters and bird watchers, while many await the autumn months for hunting and fall color tours.

The presence of the Great Lakes tends to keep the temperature near the shoreline portions of the county warmer in the winter and cooler during summer months than areas further inland. This affects the length of the growing season in various parts of the county. A growing season of as long as 140 days is not unusual for the lakeshore region. Tuscarora Township with its interior location, however, is limited to a shorter season, typically 70 to 80 days.

The average summertime temperature as recorded by the Cheboygan weather station is 65 degrees Fahrenheit, while the winter average is 21 degrees (data from NOAA;1960 through 2020). The overall annual average temperature for Tuscarora Township is 43 degrees, although variations occur. Historical temperature data shows county-wide temperature extremes, with temperatures ranging from the highest recorded temperature of 104 degrees on August 6, 1947, to a low of 35 degrees below zero on February 9, 1934.

Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year with the growing season, May to October receiving an average 15.3 inches, 50% of the total annual average. Average annual precipitation for the Indian River area is 30 inches. Snowfall ranges from 120-130 inches in Tuscarora Township.

## **Wetlands**

A wetland is land where water is found, either on the surface or near the surface, at any time during the year. Poorly drained soils and water-loving vegetation also may be present. Wetlands are often referred to as marshes, swamps or bogs. Residents of Michigan are becoming increasingly more aware of the value of wetlands. Beyond their aesthetic value, wetlands improve water quality of lakes and streams by filtering polluting nutrients, organic chemicals and toxic heavy metals. Wetlands are closely related to high groundwater tables and serve to discharge and recharge aquifers. Additionally, wetlands support wildlife, and wetland vegetation protects shorelines from erosion. In Tuscarora Township, significant wetlands exist along stream channels, especially adjacent to the Sturgeon and Indian Rivers. The township's largest and most ecologically significant wetland area lies south of Mullet Lake, along the Indian River, and is locally known as the Indian River Spreads.

## **Water Resources**

The abundance of waterways in Tuscarora Township are its defining characteristic. Several streams of varying sizes cut through the landscape providing habitat to a myriad of wildlife, and opportunities for quality fishing. The most prominent waterbody in the township is Burt Lake. The lake is the fourth largest inland lake in Michigan, with its northern half lying in Burt Township,

and the southern half covering over 25 percent of Tuscarora Township.

Major rivers and streams in the township include the Sturgeon River, which begins to the south in Otsego County and flows north into Burt Lake near Indian River. The Sturgeon River contributes 50% of all water entering Burt Lake. The Indian River, which connects Burt Lake to Mullet Lake, serves as a focal point of the Inland Waterway. Encompassing a good deal of northern Michigan, the Inland Waterway stretches from Round Lake in Emmet County to the mouth of the Cheboygan River at Lake Huron. All waters in the township and Cheboygan County drain into the Cheboygan River watershed system and eventually into Lake Huron. **Map 2** shows the wetlands and water resources within Tuscarora Township.

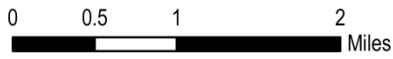
## **Fish and Wildlife**

Tuscarora Township's varied topography, climate, abundant inland waters and forests provide extensive fish and wildlife habitats. Some of the species found in the area include wild turkey, pileated woodpecker, Bald Eagle, black bear, coyote, deer and numerous songbird species. A few of the rare or endangered species found within the township include Michigan Monkey Flower, Lake Cress, Hill's Thistle, Allegheny Plum, Red Shouldered Hawk, Common Loon, Piping Plover and the Eastern Massasauga Rattle Snake.

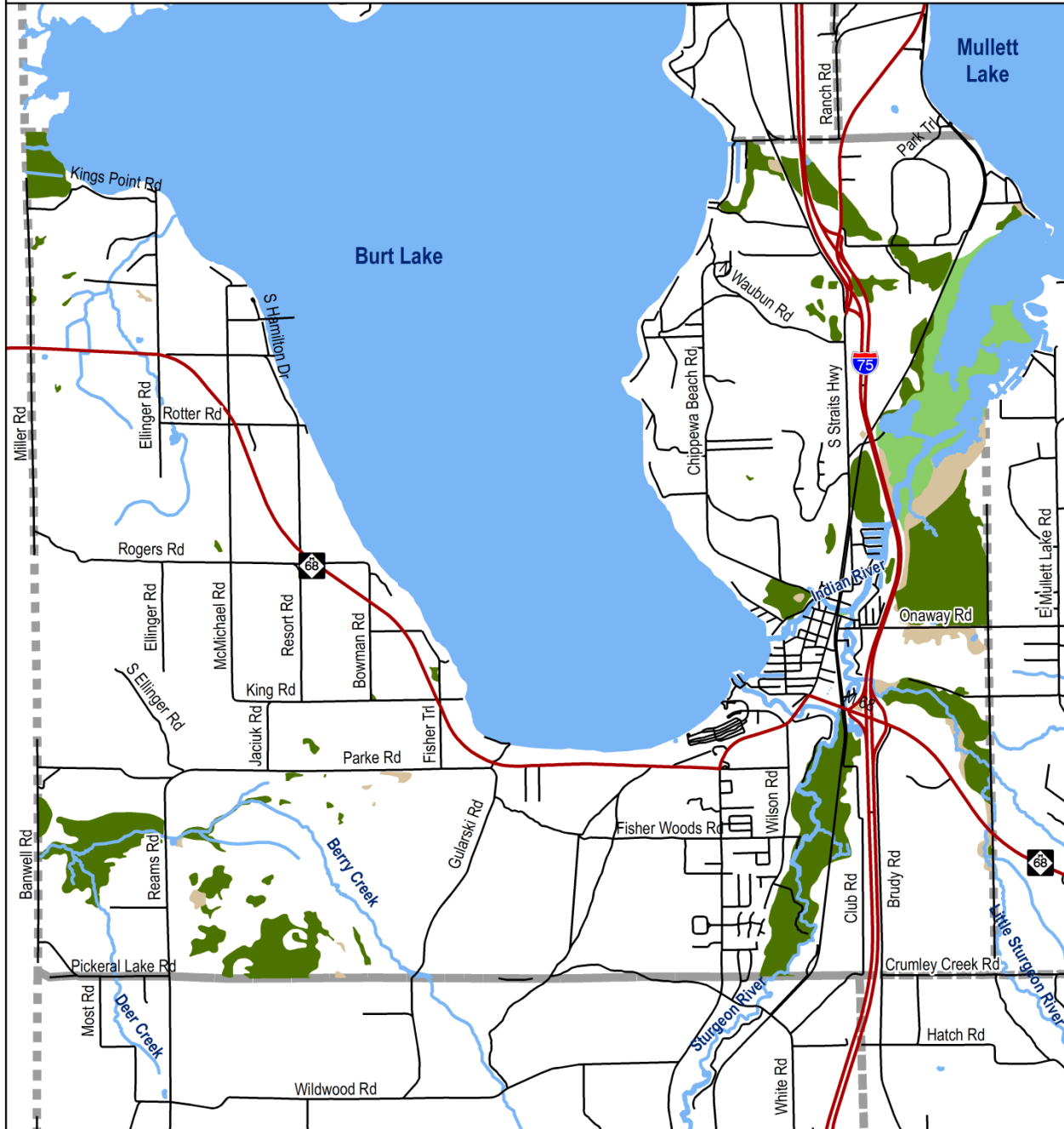
Tuscarora Township's waterways also teem with life. Burt Lake is home to 49 species of fish including Trout, pike, walleye, perch, and abundant panfish. In addition, the lake is periodically stocked with lake sturgeon and rainbow trout in cooperative efforts between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (LTBB), Sturgeon for Tomorrow (SFT) and the Burt Lake Preservation Association (BLPA). Multiple trout species swim the waters of the Sturgeon River, and the Indian River is a spawning ground for the Great Lakes' muskellunge population.

# Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan

## Map 2 - Wetlands & Water Resources



- Wetland Class**
- Emergent
  - Forested
  - Open Water
  - Scrub-Shrub
- State Highways  
 County Roads  
 Rivers/Streams



# State of Michigan Land

State land covers a significant portion of Tuscarora Township (**Map 3**). Together, the Mackinaw



State Forest covers approximately 4,370 acres or over 16 percent of Tuscarora Township.

## Soil Limitations/Topography

Soil characteristics help to define the land's capacity to support certain types of land uses. Soils most suitable for development purposes are well drained and are not subject to a high water table. Adequate drainage is important to minimizing stormwater impacts and the efficient operation of septic drainfields. Adequate depth to the water table is necessary to prevent groundwater contamination from septic systems or other non-point source runoff. A high water table also limits the construction of basements. Though civil engineering techniques can be employed to improve drainage and maintain adequate separation from the water table, such techniques are expensive to construct and maintain. **Map 4** illustrates specific soil conditions, which may pose constraints to building construction. The map shows hydric or wetland type soils scattered throughout the Township and in areas generally adjacent to the waterbodies. Some of these areas may be considered unbuildable. Soils with slopes greater than twelve percent are also noted on the map, because they may present development challenges. While soil condition information discussed in this report can be used for general guides for the planning process, it should not be used for development of specific sites. More detailed soil and vegetation information for specific sites may be obtained from *Soil Survey of Cheboygan County, Michigan* by contacting the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Cheboygan County.

The topography of Tuscarora Township ranges from 577-643 feet above sea level at the shore line of Burt Lake to gently rolling hills that reach an elevation of 907-971 feet above sea level. The higher elevations in the township correspond markedly with the areas of glacial outwash plains.

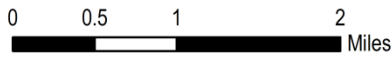
## Existing Land Use/Land Cover Characteristics

**Table 1** provides a breakdown of land cover/land use in Tuscarora Township. Of the 42 square miles encompassed in Tuscarora Township, only 29.5 square miles is land area. The remaining area is water, with Burt Lake accounting for the majority of that. **Map 5** shows that large areas of woodlands occur throughout the Township, with the State Forest lands primarily occurring in the southern part of the Township.

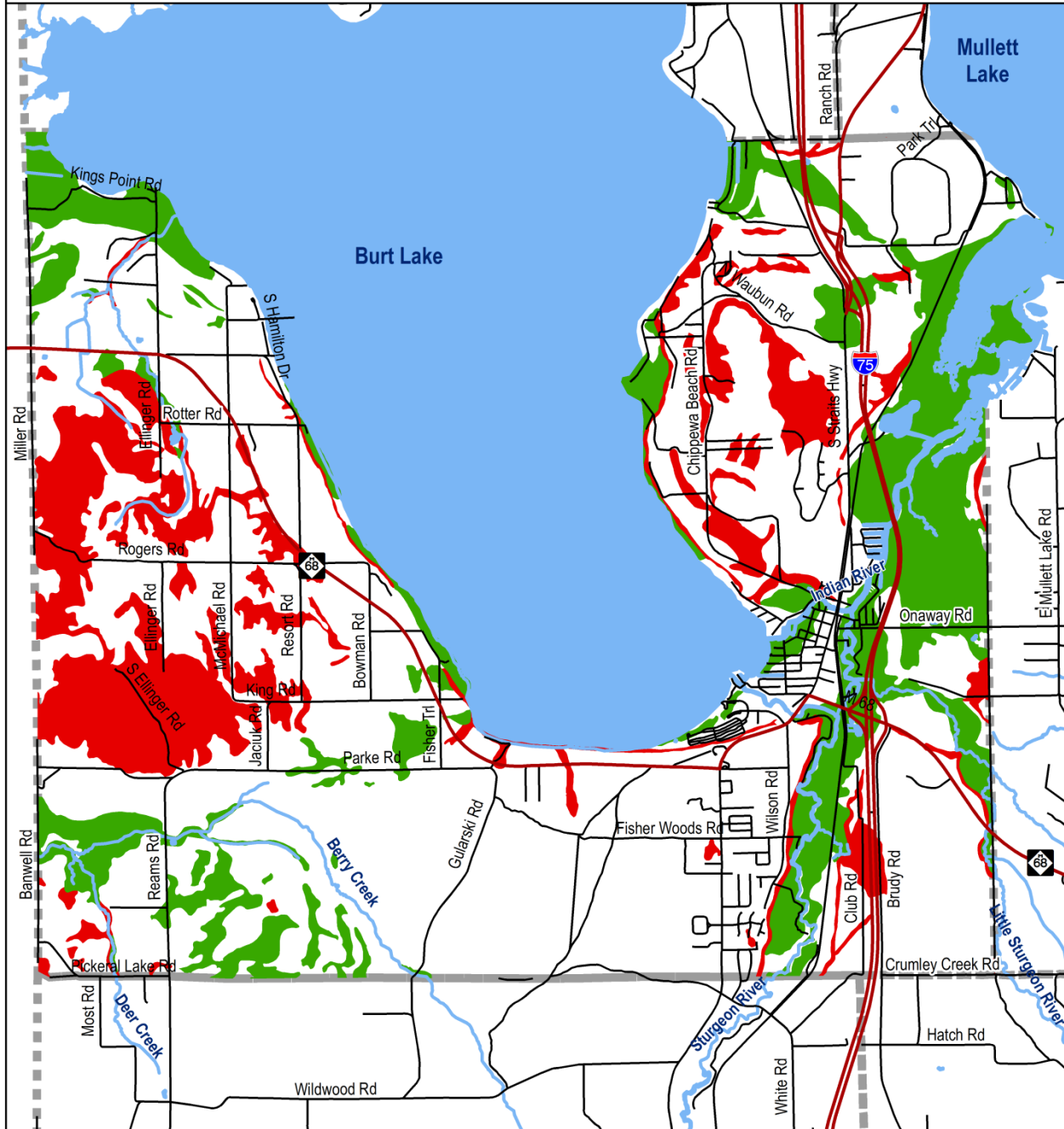
Table 1: Existing Land Use/Land Cover, 2009		
LAND USE/LAND COVER CATEGORY	ACRES	PERCENT
Upland forest	8,793	32.7%
Water	8,147	30.3%
Residential	3,442	12.8%
Non-forested uplands	1,694	6.3%
Lowland forest	1,533	5.7%
Non-forested wetlands	968	3.6%
Institutional/Recreational	807	3.0%
Industrial/Transportation	672	2.5%
Commercial	484	1.8%
Agricultural	350	1.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26,890</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Source: 2012 Tuscarora Township Master Plan Update		

# Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan

## Map 4 - Soil Conditions

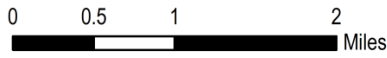


- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| State Highways | Hydric Soils  |
| County Roads   | Severe Slopes |
| Rivers/Streams |               |
| Lakes          |               |



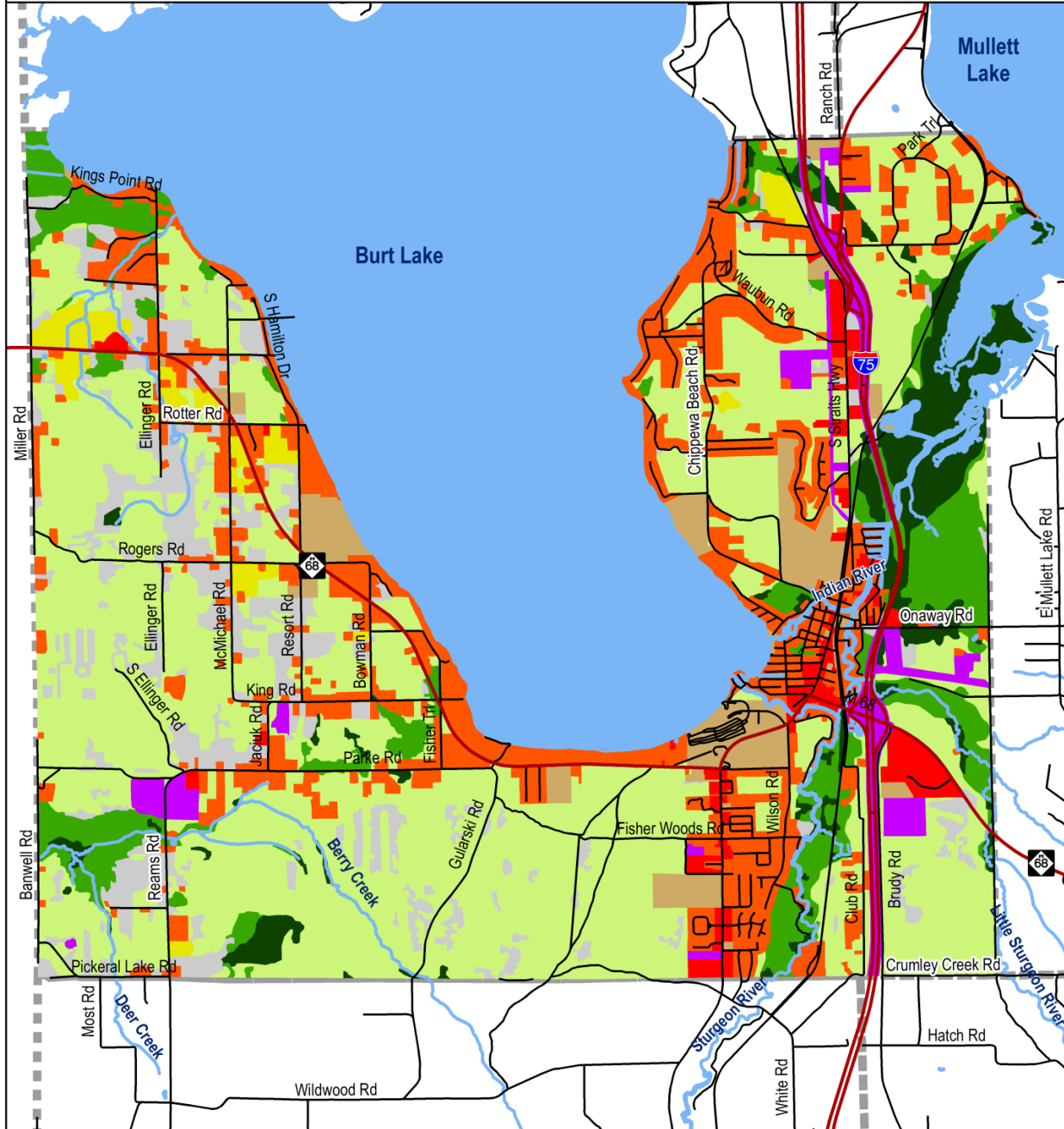
# Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan

## Map 5 - Existing Land Use/Land Cover



- State Highways
- County Roads
- Rivers/Streams
- Lakes

- ### Land Use/Land Cover
- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Residential                | Nonforested Upland  |
| Commercial                 | Upland Forest       |
| Industrial/Transportation  | Lowland Forest      |
| Institutional/Recreational | Nonforested Wetland |
| Agricultural               | Water               |





## CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

### **Administration**

Tuscarora Township, the only participating community in this Recreation Plan, operates under an administrative structure consisting of a Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer and two Township Trustees. These positions are chosen by registered voters of the Township in an at-large election held every four years. Bylaws adopted by the Township Board determine the order of business and method of conducting regular township business. In the case of issues that require a vote for making a determination, a simple majority of trustees present is required. Parks and recreation facilities are under the direct control of the Township Board of Trustees. The Parks and Recreation Commission reports to the Board, but is directly responsible for administration of the Recreation Plan.

### **Planning Commission**

The Tuscarora Township Planning Commission is a seven-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 commissioners 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, the Tuscarora Township Planning Commission is charged with reviewing development projects as they are proposed.

### **Parks and Recreation Commission**

The Tuscarora Township Parks and Recreation Commission is a five member board elected by the Township voters to four year terms. Recommendations and proposals are made by the Commission, subject to approval by the Township Board. The duties of the Parks and Recreation Commission are as follows:

- 1) Oversee the use and operation of the parks and other recreation facilities in the Township.
- 2) Consider and study the reasonable needs and requirements of the Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan and amend where applicable.
- 3) Serve in an advisory capacity when so requested.
- 4) Act as a recommending body to the Township Board on matters of general recreation policy.
- 5) Formulate and report its findings from time to time to the Tuscarora Township Board.

## Additional Township Commissions and Boards

The Tuscarora Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) works on many issues in an effort to improve the downtown Indian River area. The DDA works and initiates programs to retain businesses, recruit new business, enhance the aesthetics of the downtown area, and secure funding for many improvements. The Marina Park Committee assists the Township Board and Parks and Recreation Commission with efforts to improve Marina Park. They oversee development plans for Marina Park by obtaining design plans and cost estimates, seeking and securing funding, and planning fundraising activities.

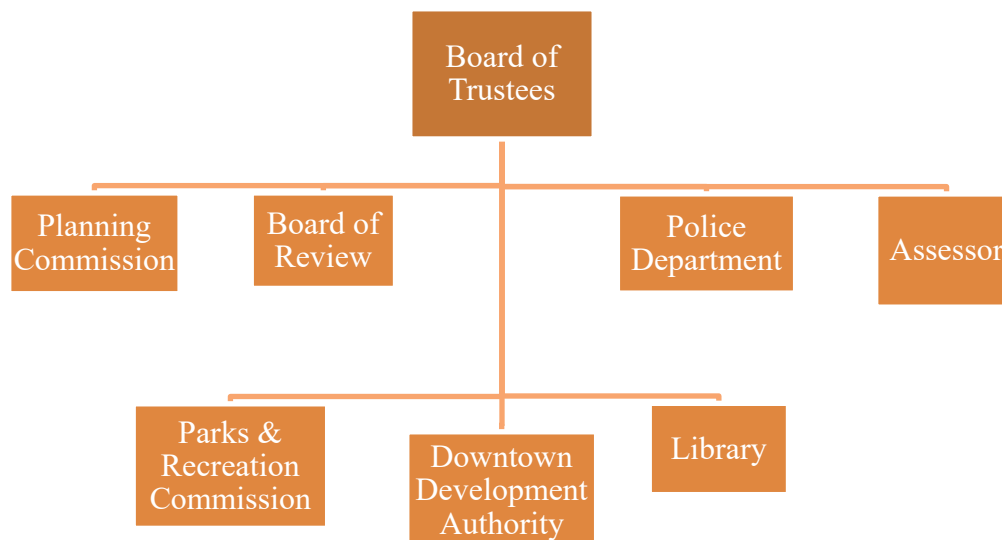
## Staff/Parks & Recreation Maintenance

Tuscarora Township employs one permanent full-time supervisor, and additional seasonal part-time staff as needed in its maintenance department. These employees are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all Township owned property, including parks and recreation facilities. Snow removal, lawn care and landscaping, and facility maintenance are all duties that fall within their area of responsibility.

The Township also employs its own police force. The Tuscarora Township Police Department is a 24 hour, 7-day a week operation. The department patrols the entire township including all recreational/park facilities.

## Administrative Chart

An organizational chart for the Township is as follows:



## **Relationship with Other Agencies & Role of Volunteers**

Volunteers play an integral role in the design, fundraising, and implementation of the parks commission's objectives. As an example, the playground equipment at Cooperation Park, Project Playground, was designed and funds raised by volunteer community members. Cash donations from individuals and private foundations were raised, as well as in-kind donations from area businesses. Below is a list of some of the volunteer agencies and groups that volunteer time, funds, or materials to improve and/or maintain recreational assets in the Tuscarora Township Area.

**Indian River Snowmobile Grooming Club:** The Indian River Snowmobile Grooming Club is a local snowmobile club that grooms and maintains 56 miles of area snowmobile trails. They maintain a website which covers trail conditions, maps, recent and upcoming events, and club information. In addition, monthly newsletters are sent out to members to keep them informed of club activities, membership, trail conditions, work bees, and other snowmobile issues.

**Inland Lakes Snowmobile Club:** The Club works in cooperation with the Indian River Snowmobile Grooming Club to prepare area trails. The snowmobile club undertakes trail brushing/clearing and signage. They also support the grooming club with financial donations. In addition to trail maintenance, they organize group snowmobile trips, fundraising activities, and participate in community service events.

**Indian River Chamber of Commerce:** The Chamber sponsors and/or assists with most of the recreational activities and festivals that occur in the area throughout the year. They actively promote the businesses and everything the Indian River area has to offer.

**Local Youth Program:** The Local Youth Program was implemented between Inland Lakes Schools and the Tuscarora Township Police Department. The program identifies students with discipline issues at school. Instead of the usual punishment – suspension from school – the students are required to undertake a community service project or event. They often provide maintenance activities at township recreational facilities. This not only provides students with a level of intervention and moral support that suspension would not have provided, they often come away with a stronger sense of community pride having contributed to a community project.

**Volunteer Committees:** Community members and Township officials often form committees to work towards implementing a recreation goal or project in the Township. These volunteer committees take on tasks such as development plans, fundraising, construction/installation of facilities, and maintenance activities. One recent such committee was the Veterans Pier Committee. They actively worked with the Township through the planning, design, funding, and construction of Veterans Pier. Other examples include the Beautification Committee and the West Side Recreation Committee.

Other organizations that partner with the Township to participate in, or offer, recreational activities or other events include: Inland Lakes Schools Boosters, Burt Lake Preservation Association, Women's Club, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Little Traverse Conservancy, Top of Michigan Trails Council, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Mullett Lake Area Preservation Society, Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Burt Lake Sturgeon Club, Indian River Sportsmans Club, and the Eagles Club.

## Finances/Park & Recreation Maintenance: Current Funding

Funding for park maintenance and improvement comes from the General Operating Fund and park fees collected. In addition, many capital improvements are financed through a combination of public and private grants, private donations, and township funds.

<b>Table 2: Current and Future Fiscal Year Budget: Recreational Facilities (not updated yet)</b>		
	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023 Proposed</b>
<b><i>Municipal Property Maintenance (includes all recreation facilities)</i></b>		
Salary	\$79,500.00	\$89,000.00
FICA	\$6,900.00	\$6,900.00
M.E.S.C.	\$4,450.00	\$4,450.00
Hospitalization	\$10,200.00	\$12,000.00
Supplies	\$3,200.00	\$19,500.00
Maintenance-Cooperation Park	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
Maintenance-DeVoe Beach	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Maintenance-Green Dock	\$400.00	\$0.00
Maintenance-Marina Park	\$1,300.00	\$0.00
Maintenance-Beautification	\$7,200.00	\$0.00
Contracted Services	\$6,300.00	\$5,000.00
Transportation	\$7,000.00	\$6,000.00
Insurance	\$1,520.00	\$1,520.00
Workmens Comp.	\$2,300.00	\$2,200.00
Utilities	\$11,600.00	\$11,600.00
Repairs, Maintenance	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Spec. Improvement Proj.	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Fertilizer	\$4,100.00	\$4,000.00
Equipment.	\$15,468.00	\$20,000.00
Parks Long Term Debt	\$197.40	\$0.00
Long Term Debt Interest	\$566.43	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	\$182,401.83	\$195,370.00
<b><i>Boat launch</i></b>		
Salary	\$1,500.00	\$600.00
Operating Supplies	\$1,300.00	\$1,100.00
Contracted Services	\$1,200.00	\$2,600.00
Boat Launch Utilities	\$600.00	\$600.00
Maintenance & Repairs	\$900.00	\$1,200.00
Rentals	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	\$7,000.00	\$7,600.00
<i>Source: Tuscarora Township operating budget</i>		

The entire Tuscarora Township operating budget follows:

Insert township budget here

## CHAPTER 3: PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

### Tuscarora Township Planning Process

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

<b>August - October, 2021</b>	Tuscarora Township expresses the need to update their Recreation Plan and contracts with the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments to develop the update.
<b>November-December, 2021</b>	The Tuscarora Township Parks & Recreation Commission members review the existing recreation plan and make comments, provide additions, and other comments.
<b>December 16, 2021</b>	A notice was placed in the <i>Straitsland Resorter</i> and posted at the Township Hall announcing a public input session to be held January 13, 2022 at the Township Hall.
<b>January 13, 2022</b>	A public input session was held to gather input from Tuscarora Township residents and area recreation groups to assist in planning for recreational improvements in the Township.
<b>February-March, 2022</b>	Northeast Michigan Council of Governments staff developed a draft Recreation Plan update.
<b>October DD, 2022</b>	The draft plan is posted for a 30-day public review at the Township Clerks Office, Indian River Library, and NEMCOG website. Notice of the plan was posted on the NEMCOG and Tuscarora Township websites and printed in the <i>Straitsland Resorter</i> .
<b>November, 2022</b>	Comments received during the 30-day review period were reviewed and incorporated into the plan.
<b>Month DD, 2022</b>	Notice of a public hearing on the draft plan is posted in the <i>Straitsland Resorter</i> .
<b>Month DD, 2022</b>	The Parks and Recreation Commission hosted a public hearing to present the draft recreation plan and receive public comment. Following the public hearing, the Parks Commission met and recommended adoption of the plan by the Township Board pending any final public comment received.

<b>Month DD, 2022</b>	The Township Board met in open session and approved and adopted the Recreation Plan.

**Public Input**

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is key to the development of a recreation plan. The Parks and Recreation Commission opted to hold a public input session to gather comprehensive public opinion and ideas about the future of recreation in the Township. A notice was placed in area news media. Additionally, citizens have had, and will continue to have, the opportunity for comment and change at each step of project development. Annual implementation is also subject to revision based on budget, needs, donations and public input. Those present at the input session discussed the current state of Township recreational facilities as well as general recreational needs in the area.

# Notice of Public Input Session (Straitsland Resorter)

## Obituaries

### Randy J. Brovage

Randy Jene Brovage, 60, son of Barbara Lee Allen and Gerald E. Brovage, passed on to Heaven Oct. 14, 2021.

Randy was born in Petoskey Mich. at the Lockwood General Hospital on Jan. 11, 1961 and was reborn Oct. 14, 2021 at the McLaren Hospital. Randy was reborn when he said yes to the offer that Jesus Christ offers to everyone.

So now he is a part of the family of God, and now residing in Heaven. He joined his grandparents Warner and Thelma Murray and Anthony and Beulah Brovage, plus many other family members who also said yes to Jesus, and His offer for eternal life.

Randy's earthly body was put to rest at the Ohioville Cemetery awaiting Jesus call for his body to come up to Him. This is called the Rapture, when Jesus will come from heaven and meet his in the air where every single human being that said yes to Jesus, and accepted Jesus offer, will meet together, and have their earthly bodies

changed by Jesus into glorified bodies, then they will follow Jesus back up to heaven, and safely wait for the horrid tribulation to be over with.

This is just the beginning of Randy's new life, as after the seven and a-half of tribulation, there will be a final war, called the battle of Armageddon. This is when Jesus will return back to earth with all who have been living with Him in heaven, and Jesus will put an end to the war, and He will rule and reign over all the earth bringing peace back to earth.

This is when Randy will spend the rest of his life back here on earth, living forever and ever, loving and serving Jesus in Gods' Kingdom, forever and ever, in peace, love, and good health. No more hatred, anger, sickness and pain. All thanks to Jesus Christ, who lives everyone so much that He suffered, shed His blood, died, then rose back to life, and waits in Heaven for the rest of His earthly family.

## Michigan residents will receive auto insurance refunds

The Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) has issued a bulletin to Michigan's insurers and launched a consumer FAQ page to inform insurers and consumers of the timeline and other requirements for Michigan's upcoming \$400 per vehicle auto insurance refunds. All drivers will receive the \$400 refunds as a result of the surplus in the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA) fund.

The bulletin and website lay out the timeline and requirements so that insurers understand that they must process the refunds as quickly as possible, and Michiganders know when and how they will get the surplus money

they are owed.

The refund plan issued by the MCCA will result in \$400 refunds sent to policyholders for every vehicle that was insured as of 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 31, 2021. Surplus funds will be transferred by the MCCA to insurers by March 9, and the new DIFS bulletin directs insurers to issue refunds via check or ACH deposit to consumers as expeditiously as possible, but in no event no later than May 9, 2022.

In addition to issuing industry guidance, DIFS has also launched a consumer FAQ page at Michigan.gov/MCCarefund. The webpage contains information and answers common questions about the refund timeline, eligibility requirements, and tells consumers what they can do if they have questions or concerns about their refunds.

### Public Notices

#### Synopsis of Mullett Township Board of Trustees

#### Minutes for December 13, 2021

The Mullett Township Board of Trustees met at Mullett Township Town Hall in Topinabee, MI on December 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Members present were Laz Surabian, Denise Ackerman, and Brenda Bowers. Mike Goerke and Brett Lindgren were absent. The following Board actions were taken: Approved minutes for November 8, 2021; Approved Agenda for December 13, 2021; Paid the bills; Approved \$250 expense for Mesh wi-fi system in Hall; Approved Motion to dissolve all current committees with ability to re-form as ad-hoc community action groups; Adopted Resolution 2022.01 Regular Meeting Schedule for 2022; Adopted Fixed Capitalization Policy; and approved authorization for Supervisor to contract repainting certain roads with log lines not to exceed \$2300 plus 10% override.

Denise Ackerman, Mullett Township Clerk  
www.mullettgov-clerk.org

### Public Notice

Please take notice that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioner's minutes of the Finance/Business Meeting of November 9, 2021 and the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 23, 2021 are available at the County Clerk's Office, 870 South Main Street, Cheboygan, Michigan, or on the county's website at www.cheboygancounty.net.

Karen L. Brewster,  
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

### Public Notice

The Cheboygan County Road Commission will hold a Public Hearing, to discuss Proposed 2022 Budget, Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., Regular Meeting to follow, at the Cheboygan County Road Commission, Indian River Office, 5302 S. Straits Hwy., Indian River, MI 49749.

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY  
ROAD COMMISSION  
Dana S. Stempky, Clerk

#### SYNOPSIS OF December 7th, 20201 MEETING MINUTES

**TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Ridley. Present: Ridley, Webb, Vance, Kramer  
Absent: Ballazovic  
Approved: November meeting minutes as amended  
Approved: Agenda adopted with addition chairs, Website/Office Assistant and Sexton  
Approved: Payment of bills  
Approved: Police Department Personnel Plan  
Approved: Proceed with DDA permit to assume ROW @ 68 and Straits Hwy  
Approved: Library basement sink addition  
Approved: Hiring Policy  
Approved: Employee handbook as amended for legal review  
Approved: Fire Dept contract

Approved: Acceptance of Letters of Engagement (Sewer)  
Approved: Expenditure for meeting room chairs  
Approved: Advertisement for Sexton position  
Approved: Addition of Website management to Office Assistant duties  
Approved: ARPA premium pay for essential workers (Police/Parks)  
Rejected: Waiver of FOIA costs  
Rejected: Humane Society Contract  
Tabled: Chamber MOU  
Tabled: Engineering Contract  
Tabled: Library Signage  
The next Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, January 4th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.  
A draft copy of the minutes may be requested from the Township Clerk and are available online at www.tuscaroratwp.com.  
Dawn Webb, Clerk  
Michael Ridley, Supervisor

### Notice – Public Input Session

#### Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan

The Tuscarora Township Parks and Recreation Commission will host a Public Input Session on Thursday, January 13, 2021, 1:30 p.m. at the Tuscarora Township Hall at 3546 S Straits Highway, Indian River. The input session is being held to take public input on the development of the Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan. Public input is key in developing a recreation plan to guide recreational development for the next 5 years. All are welcome to attend and all comments accepted. If you cannot attend please submit comments to Tuscarora Township, P.O. Box 220, Indian River, MI 49749.

49-31

### Burt Township Public Notice

#### REGARDING ADOPTION OF ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

On December 2, 2021, the Burt Township Board of Trustees passed an ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance effective December 15, 2021 amending Article II Section 2.02: Definitions, Article III Sections 3.02.3, 3.03.03, 3.04.4, 3.05.4, 3.06.3, 3.07.4, 3.08.3: Dimensional Standards, pertaining to the regulation of accessory buildings as a principal use.

A copy of the amendments may be viewed at the Township hall during regular office hours. Questions or comments can be submitted to jmyers@bria2.com or via letter to Burt Township, 7029 Birchwood Road, Cheboygan, MI 49721.

## Full Circle Home Center

119 N. F St. Cheboygan  
(231) 627-6535  
fullcirlenorth.com  
info@fullcirlenorth.com

Your full service  
Carpet Source!



## INDIAN RIVER TRADING POST

**We Have Novelties, Gifts & Cards**

FUDGE  
GREETING CARDS  
Unique Souvenirs

McDonald's ■ GIFT SHOP ■ SHELL GAS

M-68 – Just west of I-75 • 238-9081 • OPEN 24 HRS.

Rogers City - Manitou Trails Subdivision - 1 acre in Twin Lakes Associations, great amenities including private access to sandy beach on Lake Huron. **\$14,900**

Indian River - Devereaux Lake Rd. - .57 acre lot, nicely treed with well and septic. Close to Mullett Lake boat launch. **\$19,000**

Gaylord - Hearth Haven Place - 8.83 acres backs up to state land. Electric, well and septic. **\$30,000**

HEIDI DUNN REALTOR  
231.290.0827  
heid.dunn@exp Realty.com  
Dunn Sold It! www.dunn Sold It.com  
EXP Realty, 101 W. Big Beaver Rd, Ste. 1400, Troy, MI 48064



# Notice of Public Input Session (Township Website)

tuscaroratwp.com

Account - Increase your productivity, customize your experience, and engage in information you care about.

Search

- Notify Me®
- Latest News
- Meeting Minutes
- Online Bill Pay

Happy Holidays!

Sewer Expansion Project

New! Township Financials

Employment Opportunities

Photo Gallery

### Home

#### Upcoming Events

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Mon, Dec 20  
[Tuscarora Township DDA Meeting](#)

Tue, Jan 4  
[Tuscarora Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting](#)

Thu, Jan 13  
[Public Input Session-Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan](#)

[View All](#)

#### In the News

[Veterans Pier on Burt Lake](#)

The Paver Brick Program is one of the most popular features at Veterans Pier. You can honor your own veteran and family member with an engraved brick. Forms are available at locations throughout town, at the Township Hall and in the documents section of this web

tuscaroratwp.com/Calendar.aspx?EID=1170

Account - Increase your productivity, customize your experience, and engage in information you care about.

**TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP**  
Heart of the Inland Waterway

Home Government Community Residents

Home > Calendar

### Calendar

View all calendars is the default. Choose Select a Calendar to view a specific calendar.

Select the arrows on either side of the current month to change the month.

List Week Month

Find a Facility Notify Me Print Subscribe to iCalendar

Start date End date Search Show Past Events Select a Calendar

[Return to Previous](#) [View Map](#)

#### Event Details

**Public Input Session-Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan**

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Date: January 13, 2022  
Time: 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM  
Address: Indian River, MI 49749

Public Input Session- Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan

The Tuscarora Township Parks and Recreation Commission will host a Public Input Session on January 13, 2022 at 1:30 pm at the Tuscarora Township Hall at 3546 S Straits Highway, Indian River. The input session is being held to take public input on the development of the Tuscarora Township Recreation Plan. Public input is key in developing a recreation plan to guide recreational development for the next 5 years. All are welcome to attend and all comments accepted. If you cannot attend please submit comments to Tuscarora Township, P.O. Box 220, Indian River, MI 49749.

**INSERT Minutes/Notes From Public Input Session**

**INSERT** Notice of Availability of Recreation Plan for at least 30 days

**INSERT Public Hearing Notice**

**INSERT Public Hearing Meeting Minutes/Notes and Comments**

**INSERT Resolution of the Parks & Recreation Commission Recommending Adoption of the Recreation Plan**

**INSERT Website Notice of Township Board Meeting**

**INSERT Resolution of the Township Board Adopting the Recreation Plan**



**INSERT** Minutes from the Township Board Meeting of March 7, 2017



**INSERT** Copies of Submittal Letters

# CHAPTER 4: RECREATION INVENTORY

## Tuscarora Township Recreation Inventory

### Township Owned Recreational Property & Facilities

1. **Cooperation Park:** This park is located two miles south of downtown Indian River and is 63 acres in size. It has six enclosed baseball fields with dugouts and score booths with a practice field including two diamonds. There are four tennis courts, an outdoor basketball court, horseshoe pits, three soccer fields, a hiking path, two restroom/concession facilities, a skate park, sledding hill, ice/roller skating rink with warming hut, pavilion and state of the art children's playground. In winter, the ice rink is lighted and the hiking trails are used for cross-country skiing. The children's playground, known as Project Playground, is a 5900 square foot play structure within a fenced area providing young children with a multitude of activities. A walking track encircles the perimeter of the playground, inside the fence, allowing exercise for parents/guardians while overseeing the children's play.

The park is utilized by Little Leagues, Soccer Leagues and two area high schools for organized sports. It has been the site of Little League and MHSAA District, Regional and State playoff games

**Type:** Large Community Park

**Service Area:** Township and surrounding areas with a much larger area when hosting organized sporting events

**Barrier Free Accessibility = 3** (most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines)





*Cooperation Park hockey rink and warming shelter*



*Cooperation Park sledding hill*



*Cooperation Park skateboard facility*



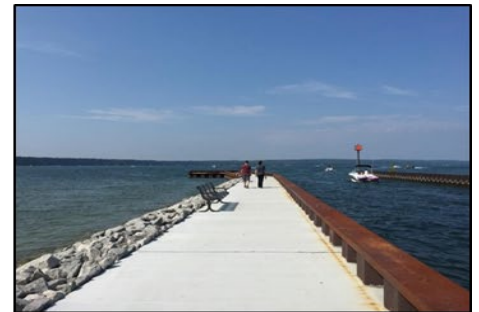
*Cooperation Park basketball court*

2. **DeVoe Beach and Veterans Pier:** DeVoe Beach Park is located in the heart of Tuscarora Township and is just a short walk from the middle of downtown Indian River. The park has a large sandy beach with volleyball net, picnic area with tables and grills, handicap accessible restrooms, boardwalk with benches, and hosts the annual Independence Day fireworks display, the Top O' Michigan Boat Races and the Indian River Chamber of Commerce family night during Summerfest. The park is also home to the recently constructed Veterans Pier, a universally accessible fishing pier on Burt Lake. Collectively this creates an inviting and multi-faceted recreational area. Without a doubt however, the main attraction is the pristine water resources of Burt Lake and the Indian River.

**Type:** Community Park

**Service Area:** Township and surrounding areas

**Barrier Free Accessibility = 4** (the entire park meets accessibility guidelines)



3. **Marina Park:** This 4.4 acre park is located at the confluence of the Indian River and Little Sturgeon River. It features docks for fishing, benches, picnic tables, grills, and a childrens

playground. It is also home to the Tuscarora Township Boat Launch, located directly across the Little Sturgeon River. The launch is a dual ramp deep water launch with parking for 26 vehicle/trailer combinations. The Township recently added boat dockage through a Michigan Department of Agriculture grant. The Marina Park Trailhead servicing the North Central State Trail is located here as well. The recently constructed trailhead provides safe, off-street parking, trail gateway feature, landscaping, lighting, benches, trash receptacles, bike rack and upgrading bathrooms in the adjacent Chamber of Commerce building. The trailhead functions as a staging area for people to access the NCST and serve as an access point to welcome trail users into downtown Indian River. A feature being considered for the park is a bandshell.



**Type:** Neighborhood Park & Special Use Area

**Service Area:** Township and surrounding areas

**Barrier Free Accessibility = 3** (most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines)



4. **Green Docks:** Green Docks is public access site on the north side of the Indian River located just west of the Indian River Bridge on Prospect St. The site has historically been a local's favorite swimming spot for many generations and is a short walk to the Indian River Golf Club and downtown Indian River. The site features a new boardwalk, and benches and picnic tables. The park has become a highly used site for fishing, swimming, picnicking and grilling.



**Type:** Neighborhood Park

**Service Area:** Township and surrounding areas

**Barrier Free Accessibility = 3** (most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility)

5. **Hideaway Park:** Located in downtown Indian River at the west end of River St, this small park offers a relaxing view of the Indian River from its picnic table. The name Hideaway Park was chosen by students at Inland lakes Schools, who also built the boardwalk.



**Type:** Pocket Park

**Service Area:** Indian River Area

**Barrier Free Accessibility = 3** (most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility)

6. **Tuscarora Township Hall and Library:** The Township Hall's meeting room is available for rent to persons and organizations in the community. The Indian River area Library, located in the township building, is open 30 hours a week, and has a large collection of books, videos, audio books, and magazine subscriptions.

**Type:** Special Use Area

**Service Area:** Township

**Barrier Free Accessibility = 4** (the entire facility meets accessibility guidelines)

### **Other Publicly Owned Recreational Facilities in and surrounding Tuscarora Township**

7. **Burt Lake State Park:** This 400 acre park, located in Indian River, has 380 modern and rustic campsites and an organization campsite. There is a large sand beach and swim area on Burt Lake, boat launch, day use and picnic area with ball field. All campsites have picnic tables. Modern campsites offer electric service, modern restrooms with showers, and one mini cabin. Visitors to the park can enjoy swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, sightseeing, and bird/wildlife viewing.
8. **Inland Lakes Schools:** The high school built a gymnasium in 1989 and has been the site of many District and Regional tournaments. The school's old gym is used for school and community activities. A football field, adjacent to the high school's P.E field, and an all weather track were completed in the fall of 1996. Playground equipment adjoins the elementary school. The school utilizes the baseball and softball fields at Co-Operation Park. A new field house, The Rowan Athletic Center, provides locker room facilities for home and visiting athletic teams, as well as a fitness center open to the public for a small usage fee.
9. **Inland Waterway:** Tuscarora Township is located at the center of the Inland Waterway. Over 40 miles of a combined chain-of-lakes and rivers, eventually leading to Lake Huron, it has tremendous historical and recreational significance.






10. **State Lands:** There are over 4,000 acres of State owned lands within the township which are open for public hunting and recreation. Townships adjacent to Tuscarora Township also have considerable state owned lands. Many have significantly more than Tuscarora Township. In addition to hunting, state owned lands offer excellent opportunities for sightseeing, bird and wildlife viewing and hiking.
11. **Trails:** Several trails lie within or adjacent to the township. Most notably, the Gaylord to Cheboygan Rail Trail (North Country State Trail) runs through the township. The 61 mile trail is one of the premier multi-use trails in the Midwest. A groomed snowmobile trail begins just south of town in the township. Also, a groomed cross-country ski trail begins in Mentor Township to the south. Burt Lake State Park offers a short hiking trail. The Lost Tamarack Pathway and Wildwood Hills Pathway are nearby in Mentor Township. There are several preserves and campgrounds nearby that also offer hiking/cross country skiing trails.
12. **Preserves:** There are numerous preserves within, or a short distance from Tuscarora Township. The Seven Springs Preserve and the Robert Fergus Memorial Preserve are within the Township. The Chaboiganing Nature Preserve is on the northwest shore of Burt Lake in Burt Township. The Giauque Preserve is on the shore of Mullet Lake, just north of the Township in Mullett Township. The Andreae Preserve lies on the pristine Pigeon River in Koehler Township just a few miles east of Indian River. There are also several preserves/conservancy lands in both Springvale and Littlefield Townships (Emmet County) just to the west of Tuscarora Township. Most of the preserves of hiking trails with some having interpretive trails. All offer excellent opportunities for birding and wildlife viewing.
13. **Campgrounds:** There are no public campgrounds in Tuscarora Township except for Burt Lake State Park. However, there are several public campgrounds in nearby areas. Maple Bay State Forest Campground is just to the north of the Township on the northwest shore of Burt Lake. Weber Lake State Forest Campground is just to the south in Mentor Township. Aloha State Park is not far to the northeast in Aloha Township. Camp Pet-O-Se-Ga (Emmet County) is just west of the Township.
14. **Water Access Sites:** There are sixteen small access sites on the Indian River and six on Burt Lake. Most were created when roads ended at the lake or river. The level of development and facilities provided varies from site to site.
15. **Oden State Fish Hatchery:** Lying about 8 miles west of Tuscarora Township, in Emmet County, is the Oden State Fish Hatchery. The original hatchery was established in 1921 and operated until 2002. The new Oden State Fish Hatchery complex was completed in 2002 and is one of the most advanced fish culture facilities of its kind. The facility has production buildings for rearing and broodstock, outdoor rearing facilities and a state of the art effluent treatment system. The old hatchery has been transformed into a Great Lakes watershed interpretation area, featuring the Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center that includes a replica of a fish transportation railcar.

### **Privately Owned Recreational Facilities in/adjacent to Tuscarora Township**



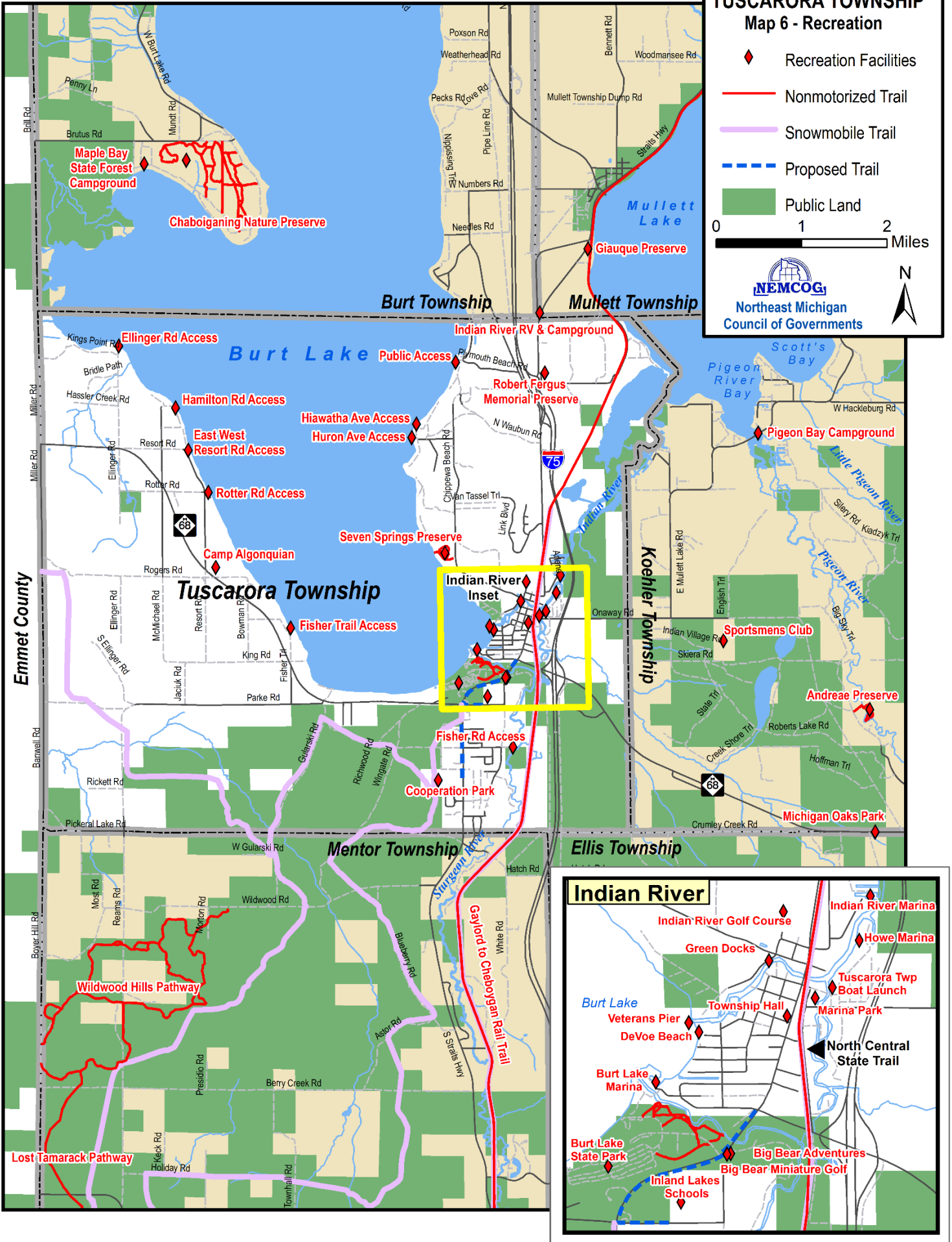
16. **Indian River Golf Club:** This beautifully maintained eighteen-hole golf course is open to the public. They also have a clubhouse with a restaurant, as well as a driving range.
17. **National Shrine of the Cross in the Woods:** The Catholic shrine is home to indoor and outdoor churches, several small shrines, and the largest crucifix in the world. It has become one of the most famous and most frequently visited shrines in Michigan. Each year, over 300,000 people from all over Michigan and the U.S. visit the Cross in the Woods Shrine.
18. **Indian River Sportsmen's Club:** Located just outside the Township in Koehler Township, the facility has a meeting hall and outdoor rifle, pistol, and skeet range.
19. **Burt Lake Community Club:** The Burt Lake Community Club offers a small park with a basketball court and tennis court.
20. **Big Bear Miniature Golf:** Completed in 1990, this highly successful business is located in Indian River directly across the road from Burt Lake State Park.
21. **NorEast Outdoors:** This unique store is focused on designing and developing a range of products to support many outdoor activities.
22. **Camps:** There is one camp, Camp Algonquian, within Tuscarora Township. It is owned by the Ann Arbor YMCA/YWCA and primarily used as a summer youth camp. Wolverine Camps, a sports and educational camp, is located in Mentor Township to the south.
23. **Campgrounds:** There are three privately owned campgrounds in the Indian River area. Indian River RV and Campground is just north of Indian River. Michigan Oaks is only a few miles east of the Township on highway M-68. Pigeon Bay Campground sits just east of the Township on the southern shore of Mullett Lake.
24. **Marinas:** There are three privately owned marinas in the area. Burt Lake Marina on Burt Lake, and Indian River Marina and Howe Marina on the Indian River. All three are in the community of Indian River. They offer boat sales and service, boating supplies and boat rentals.
25. **Motels/Resorts/Cottage Rentals:** There are approximately ten motels in the area. Available amenities vary from one location to another. Many of the resorts offer small boat rentals. There is one motel with a swimming pool, open during busy months only to its guests. Short term rental services such as VRBO and Airbnb also have listings in the area.
26. **Canoe/Kayak/Tube Rentals:** There are two canoe/kayak rental facilities in the area. Big Bear Adventures (also home to Big Bear Miniature Golf) located across from Burt Lake State Park and Sturgeon River Paddlesports located in the Village of Wolverine about eight miles south of the Township.

**TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP**  
**Map 6 - Recreation**

-  Recreation Facilities
  -  Nonmotorized Trail
  -  Snowmobile Trail
  -  Proposed Trail
  -  Public Land
- 0 1 2 Miles



Northeast Michigan  
 Council of Governments



## **Regional Recreation in the “Tip of the Mitt”**

Complete information on all public and private recreational facilities in the region can be found in the Cheboygan County Recreation Plan and the Emmet County Recreation Plan. Below is a summary list of recreational sites in the “Tip of the Mitt” region.

### **Parks**

Aloha State Park  
Onaway State Park  
Black Mountain Forest Recreation Area  
Cheboygan State Park  
Wilderness State Park  
Petoskey State Park  
Douglas Lake Picnic Area  
Fort Michilimackinac State Park  
Historic Mill Creek State Park  
Mullet Township Park  
Munro Township Picnic Grounds  
Nine Mile Point State Roadside Park (US23)  
"Point Nipigon" State Roadside Park (US23)  
Polish Line Beach, Mullett Lake  
Topinabee Beach Park  
Topinabee Park  
Wilmot Township Roadside Park  
Village of Wolverine Park  
Gordon Turner Park, Straits of Mackinac, Cheboygan  
Washington Park, Main St & Cheboygan River, Cheboygan  
Kiwanis Park Playground, Mackinaw Ave, Cheboygan  
Veterans Memorial Park, Court St, Cheboygan  
Major City Park, Cleveland Ave, Cheboygan  
James Felix Merchant Neighborhood Park, Eastern Ave, Cheboygan  
Indian Pathways Park, Mackinaw City  
Alexander Henry Waterfront Park, Mackinaw City  
Sinclair Park, Mackinaw City  
Depeyster Park, Mackinaw City  
Scherf Park, Mackinaw City  
Wawatam Park, Mackinaw City  
Old School Park, Mackinaw City  
Arnold Line Playground Park, Mackinaw City  
Conkling Heritage Park, Mackinaw City  
McRae Nature Park, Mackinaw City  
Headlands, Emmet County, Mackinaw City

### **Campgrounds**

Black Lake State Forest Campground  
Haackwood State Forest Campground  
Maple Bay State Forest Campground

Pine Grove State Forest Campground  
Pigeon River Country Horse Camps  
Stoney Creek Trail Camp  
Twin Lakes State Forest Campground  
Weber Lake State Forest Campground

**Boat and Water Access Sites**

Aloha State Park  
Black Lake State Park  
Black Lake State Forest Campground  
Stewarts Beach & Co. Line Rd

Black River

Neuman Rd  
Kuras Dr  
Klieber Rd, Black River at Klieber Pond

Burt Lake

White Goose Rd  
Lawless Lane  
Greenman's Point Rd.  
Sturgeon Bay Rd  
Shawnee Ave  
Ellinger Rd, King's Point  
Maple Bay State Forest Campground  
Roberts Rd  
E Fisher Rd  
Rotter Rd  
N Hamilton Dr & Resort Rd  
Hamilton Rd & N Hamilton Dr  
Woodmansee Rd  
Hardwood Rd  
Mundt Rd  
Brutus Rd  
Needles Rd  
Chippewa & Straits Hwy, Indian River  
Hoppie's Launch

Cheboygan River

Paully Rd, Cheboygan/Black Rivers  
McRae Rd, Cheboygan/Black Rivers  
Cheboygan River, Cheboygan  
Beebe Rd, S Cheboygan River  
S Cheboygan River, Cheboygan

Crooked Lake

Glenn Rd  
Birch Rd  
Elizabeth St  
Graham Rd

Douglas Lake

Near Ingleside Resort  
N Wilson Rd  
Bently Point Dr  
Ashton Bay Rd  
Young Rd  
Van Rd  
Douglas Lake Rd  
S Pell's Island Dr

The Indian River

Indian River Marina, Apple Blossom Rd  
Tuscarora Township Boat Launch (Marina Park), Nabanois Trail  
The Landings, Beatty Dr & Inland Route Rd  
Witt Blvd  
Constance Ave  
Lake St.  
Hideaway Park, River St  
Green Docks, Prospect St  
Juno St  
Marina Park, Onaway Rd  
Modoc Rd

Klieber Pond

Shanty Rapids Rd  
Twin School Rd  
Klieber Rd  
Koepke and W Lancaster Lake Rd, Lancaster Lake  
Lake Land Rd, Long Lake

Mackinaw Area

Mackinaw City  
Freedom Rd & US23, Straits of Mackinac

Mullett Lake

Dorvia Beach Rd  
Bowersocks Camp  
Boy Scout Camp  
Coedy Trail  
Mullett Lake Rd

McDonald & Orchard Beach Rd  
Mullett Lake Woods Rd  
Cater & McDonads Rd  
Foote Rd  
Bayshore Dr  
Island Route Dr  
Mullett Lake Dr  
Beebe Rd & Gower Ln  
Lakeside Dr & Parrott Point Dr  
Deroshia Ln  
S Gradview Beach & Pleasant Beach  
Bennett & M27  
M-27  
Red Bridge Rd  
Silver Beach Rd  
Zolner Rd  
Taylor Rd  
Corbat Rd  
Birch Ridge Rd  
Brandau Rd, Munro Lake  
Osmun Rd, Osmun Lake

Pickerel Lake

Artesian Ln  
Botsford Rd  
Mission Rd

Pigeon River

Hazard & Afton Rd  
Eddy Rd  
Big Sky Tr & Skiera Rd  
Webb Rd  
Shady Trail  
Campsite Rd  
Abrahamson Rd, Puncan Bay  
Roberts Lake Rd, Roberts Lake  
Stoney Creek Rd, Stoney Creek Flooding

Sturgeon River

White Rd  
S Straits Hwy & Hackwood Rd  
Scott Rd  
Fisher Woods Rd

Tower Pond

Co-Op Rd & E Tower Rd

Co-Op Rd & Barkely Ave  
M33/M68

Upper Black River  
S Black River Rd & Dixon Hwy  
Clark Bridge Rd

Wildwood Lake  
Wurns Rd  
Island Dr

Other small lake access sites  
Cochran Lake Dr, Cochran Lake  
Cornwall Lake Rd, Cornwall Lake  
Oshmun Rd, Dog Lake  
Weber Lake State Forest Campground  
Twin Lake Forest Campground

**Public Fishing Access Sites**

Brady & Waveland Rd, Stoney Creek  
Onaway Dump Rd, Upper Black River  
Black River Rd, Upper Black River  
Wigglesworth Rd, Upper Black River  
Section 36, Upper Black River  
Fisherman's Landing, South St and Lincoln Ave, Cheboygan  
Fishing and Observation Pier, Mackinaw City

**Marinas, Harbors, Ferry Service**

Cheboygan City Marina  
Cheboygan County Marina  
Ferry to Bois Blanc Island, Cheboygan  
Harbor, City of Cheboygan  
Harbor, Mackinaw City  
Johnson Marine, Main St, Cheboygan  
Walstrom Marine, State St, Cheboygan  
Duncan Bay Boat Club, Harrison Ave, Cheboygan

**Wildlife Flooding Areas**

Cornwall Lake State Wildlife Flooding  
Dingman Marsh State Wildlife Flooding  
Dog Lake State Wildlife Flooding  
Stoney Creek State Wildlife Flooding

**Unique Natural Features**

Ocqueoc Falls

Underground river (part of Oqueoc River)  
Sinkholes  
Pigeon River Country

### **Trailheads**

Indian River Trailhead  
Black Mountain Pathway Trailhead, Dorvia Beach Rd  
Black Mountain Pathway Trailhead, Black Mountain Rd  
Bummer's Roost Motorcycle Trailhead  
Lost Tamarack Trailhead, Weber Lake State Forest Campground  
Indian Waterway Trailhead  
Tomahawk Motorcycle Trailhead, Wilson Rd  
Wildwood Hills Pathway Trailhead  
Health Path & Exercise Trail, Major City Park, Cheboygan

### **Downhill Skiing**

Nub's Nob, Harbor Springs  
Boyne Highlands, Harbor Springs  
Boyne Mountain, Boyne Falls  
Otsego Club Resort, Gaylord  
Treetops, Gaylord

## **Inventory Procedures**

The methods used by NEMCOG staff to compile this recreational inventory include verification and compilation of information from previous Recreation Plan, compilation of information provided by Tuscarora Township officials, and a compilation of information from the Cheboygan County Recreation Plan, Emmet County Recreation Plan, and the Tuscarora Township Master Plan. Compiled information was compared to existing information to ensure consistency and/or accuracy.

## **Recreation Grant Inventory**

**Project Title:** Cooperation Park

**Project Number:** 26-00696

**Year:** 1976

**Grant Amount:** \$27,000

**Project Description:** Develop and improvements to Cooperation Park including: Road improvements, playground equipment, ballfield fencing, multi-use court, burial of overhead wires, and LWCF sign.

**Current Status:** Details of the park development are described above in *1. Cooperation Park*. The Park is a highly used park and one of the primary recreational facilities within the Township. With the exception of the playground equipment, all of the developments funded by this grant are still in use. The playground equipment was replaced in 2002 with modern equipment. Aside from annual maintenance and some needed reconditioning, all of the elements are still in good condition. The township has continued to improve the park and add amenities through other funding sources



as well. Ball fields have been added and improved, an ice skating rink was developed, and a skate park added.

**Project Title:** Cooperation Park Phase II

**Project Number:** 26-01218

**Year:** 1981

**Grant Amount:** \$15,000

**Project Description:** Overall site improvements and landscaping in the park, construction of a ball diamond, extension of the park road and parking area, fencing for the tennis court, and LWCF sign.

**Current Status:** Details of the park development are described above in *1. Cooperation Park*. All of the funded elements are still in use and in good condition. The ball diamond is in need of some reconditioning due to the extensive use. The township has continued to improve the park and add amenities through other funding sources as well. Ball fields have been added and improved, an ice skating rink was developed, and a skate park added.

**Project Title:** DeVoe Park Burt Lake

**Project Number:** TF1033

**Year:** 1985

**Grant Amount:** \$135,000

**Project Description:** Acquire 1.16 acres of property with 120 feet of Burt Lake Frontage.

**Current Status:** Details of the park development are described above in *2. DeVoe Beach*. Since acquisition in 1985, the Township has made continuous improvements to the park. The park and its facilities are still used extensively and remain in good condition. Maintenance activities are performed continuously to ensure the park is safe and pleasurable to use.

**Project Title:** Tuscarora Township Park Acquisition

**Project Number:** TF00-040

**Year:** 2000

**Grant Amount:** \$1,184,000

**Project Description:** Acquisition of approximately 5 acres of property with 1200 feet of Indian and Little Sturgeon River frontage.

**Current Status:** Details of the park are described in *3. Marina Park*. Since the acquisition, the township has continued to improve the park. Waterways grants were obtained in 2008, for construction of the boat launch, and again in 2010 to develop the parking lot for the boat launch. All existing facilities are in good condition. The boat launch is heavily used.

**Project Title:** Indian River Pathway Development

**Project Number:** TF09-072

**Year:** 2009

**Grant Amount:** \$393,400

**Project Description:** The project created a pathway from the North Central State Trail west to Straits Hwy, and then south across the Sturgeon River and ending at the Burt Lake State Park

entrance, and will include a pedestrian bridge over the Sturgeon River. Signage, pathway markings, benches and trash receptacles will also be included.

**Current Status:** Construction was completed in 2014. The pathway was extended to Inland Lakes Schools. The pathway is widely used with future extensions in planning.

**Project Title:** Veterans Pier Development

**Project Number:** TF10-063

**Year:** 2010

**Grant Amount:** \$384,900

**Project Description:** Construction of a universally accessible fishing pier at the Townships DeVoe Beach Park along the Indian River and Burt Lake, part of the famed Inland Waterway. The facility is the only universally accessible structure of its type on Burt Lake.

**Current Status:** Construction was completed in 2014 with a grand opening and dedication ceremony in 2015. The facility is heavily used and very popular.

**Project Title:** Marina Park Trailhead

**Project Number:** TF11-084

**Year:** 2011

**Grant Amount:** \$250,900

**Project Description:** Construct a trailhead adjacent to the North Central State Trail. The project provides safe, off-street parking, trail gateway feature, landscaping, lighting, benches, trash receptacles, bike rack and upgrading bathrooms in the adjacent Chamber of Commerce building. The trailhead functions as a staging area for people to access the NCST and serve as an access point to welcome trail users into downtown Indian River.

**Current Status:** Construction was completed in 2016 and is widely used.

## CHAPTER 5: GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTION PLAN

After reviewing community input and the demographic characteristics of the township, the following goals and objectives will provide overall guidance in recreational project development to the parks commission, and community groups and organizations. Table 3 contains the Capital Improvement Schedule.

### General Goals

1. Improve the quality of life for residents and bring visitors to Tuscarora Township by maintaining, improving and expanding recreation within the Township and surrounding areas by working cooperatively with local and State governmental agencies, community service agencies, and local businesses.
2. Provide a balance of recreational amenities which are oriented to the aging population to increase the desirability of the community to retirees.
3. Provide recreational amenities which are oriented toward the younger population and families in order to increase the livability of the community to attract young families to the area and retain older youth.
4. Improve the overall local economy by enhancing the livability of the community in order to attract entrepreneurs and encouraging the creation of new tourism-based jobs.
5. Develop recreational facilities in a manner that enhances water access and recreational opportunities, yet supports the environmental sustainability of the Townships high quality water resources.
6. Enhance and expand recreational opportunities at existing facilities by acquiring adjacent properties should they become available.
7. Support cooperative regional recreation planning and development with Cheboygan County, Michigan DNR, other surrounding communities, and local groups and organizations.
8. Increase the accessibility of recreational facilities to meet the needs of users of all ages and impaired mobility.

## A. Cooperation Park

**Goal:** Continue to develop and improve Cooperation Park to provide multi-generational recreation opportunities for the enjoyment of year-round and seasonal residents, tourists and visitors.

1. **Objective:** Improve the recreation center of the Park by addressing needs of existing facilities.
  - a. **Action:** Improve park signage and landscaping.
  - b. **Action:** Improve and pave park driveway and parking areas.
  - c. **Action:** Improve and add additional driveway and parking areas lighting.
  - d. **Action:** Recondition softball/baseball fields.
  - e. **Action:** Add lighting for baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts to allow extended hours of usage.
  - f. **Action:** Replace benches and tables to maintain quality park amenities.
2. **Objective:** Expand existing park facilities to meet existing demand, and/or encourage expanded use.
  - a. **Action:** Construct new tennis courts to meet demand.
  - b. **Action:** Construct new restrooms.
3. **Objective:** Increase recreational opportunities at the Park to meet current and future multi-generational needs of the community and surrounding areas.
  - a. **Action:** Acquire 40 acres north of park from MDNR, and Mason property, to allow expansion of park and recreational opportunities.

## B. DeVoe Beach

**Goal:** Enhance the recreational opportunities at DeVoe Beach to encourage its establishment as a primary recreational facility in the Township.

1. **Objective:** Facilitate easy access to Burt Lake and the Indian River for fishing and scenic viewing.
  - a. **Action:** Maintain fishing pier to allow easy access for the young, elderly, or physically challenged.
2. **Objective:** Provide amenities to improve the overall usability of the park.

- a. **Action:** Construct modern restrooms once sewer system is in place.
- b. **Action:** Install drinking fountain and foot wash.

### C. Marina Park

**Goal:** Continue improvements to Marina Park to establish it as a recreational attraction, and stopping point for boaters on the Inland Waterway, and snowmobilers and other users on the North Central State Trail.

- 1. **Objective:** Support the overall development of the Park by providing developments and amenities that support the Inland Waterway boaters and other users.
  - a. **Action:** Add park amenities as needed.
  - b. **Action:** Monitor park use patterns and determine other supporting developments that may be needed.

### D. Green Docks

**Goal:** Continue improvements to the Green Docks site to support its continued use as a quality recreational site.

- 1. **Objective:** Provide amenities to improve overall usability of the park.
  - a. **Action:** Install restroom facilities.
  - b. **Action:** Install caps on dock pilings to enhance safety and discourage climbing.

### E. West Burt Lake Area

**Goal:** Expand the recreational opportunities on the West side of Burt Lake.

- 1. **Objective:** Assess options for increased/improved recreational opportunities.
  - a. **Action:** Develop a plan for motorized and/or walk-in access at public road ends along the west Burt Lake shoreline.
  - b. **Action:** Assess the recreational needs on the West side of Burt Lake.
  - c. **Action:** Develop funding/volunteer program for west side recreation improvements.

## F. Trails

**Goal:** Develop recreational trail systems to increase the livability of the community, and preserve and improve access to public lands, local amenities and water resources.

1. **Objective:** Develop an overall trails system plan to connect recreational facilities with schools, tourist destinations, downtown, and waterfront areas.
  - a. **Action:** Organize key stakeholders to provide a coordinated approach for trails development.
  - b. **Action:** Develop a non-motorized trail plan which links parks, schools, downtown, tourist destinations and water access sites, and rail-trails.
  - c. **Action:** Obtain local, state and federal funding for the construction of a trails system.
2. **Objective:** Construct non-motorized trails system and supporting facilities.
  - a. **Action:** Construct non-motorized trail/sidewalks from schools south to M-68, shrine, and Cooperation Park.

## G. Water Access

**Goal:** Continue to expand and improve access to the water features in the Township.

1. **Objective:** Work with local citizens and/or committees to expand and improve access to the waterways for various user types.
  - a. **Action:** Research options, costs, and potential locations for an “EZ Launch” type handicap accessible kayak launch system.

## H. Recreational Facility Expansion

**Goal:** Continue to improve recreational opportunities within the Township through the expansion of existing facilities.

1. **Objective:** Expand and improve existing recreational facilities to meet future needs through property acquisition and development.
  - a. **Action:** Determine property requirements to meet future recreational needs at existing recreational facilities.
  - b. **Action:** Identify key parcels for acquisition adjacent to existing recreational facilities that will support identified property requirements.

- c. **Action:** Acquire identified parcels as they become available.
- d. **Action:** Determine property needs and location to develop a disc golf course.
- e. **Action:** Determine property needs and location to develop a dog park.

### **Basis for Action Program**

There are a number of issues to consider when planning for recreational facilities in Tuscarora Township:

1. The Township has a significant older population according to the 2019 American Community Survey estimates. Individuals 60 years of age and older make up 38% of the population, compared to the statewide average of 23 %. The majority of in-migration appears to be due to relocation of persons aged 60 and older. Therefore, thought must be given to planning for this large resident population which has both the time and desire for age appropriate recreational activities.
2. Young people ages 0-19 comprise 15% of the townships population and 33% of the population is between 25-54 years of age (the age where there would typically be children living at home). When planning recreational facilities for the younger population, careful consideration should be given to both location (close to population) and ease of access (non-motorized access to facilities).
3. Tuscarora Township is a small rural community with a maintenance staff consisting of one permanent full-time employee and variable seasonal employment. This staff is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all township properties including parks and recreation facilities.
4. Tuscarora Township is very proud of its natural beauty and rural character. It is important to those planning for its growth and development that every effort be made to balance ecological concerns with tourism potential. Protection of natural resources and scenic areas must therefore be a major element of the planning process.
5. The issue of improving the local economy by establishing the area as a premier recreation destination is important. Local communities have been forced to take a look at employment opportunities and future jobs. Tuscarora Township sees an opportunity to continue transforming itself into a premier tourist destination by capitalizing on its abundant natural resources, central northern Michigan location, and proximity to major trail systems. The attraction of visitors to these recreational amenities has the potential to create not only direct tourism related jobs, but also to increase sales at local establishments which serve those visitors (i.e. local motels, cottage rentals, watercraft rentals, restaurants, resorts, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.). In addition, the Township strives to create a community with a defined sense of place and a high quality of life which will attract young families and entrepreneurs. This quality of life will also help to retain local youth who otherwise would leave the area upon reaching adulthood. The retention of youth and attraction of visitors are two methods with which the Township hopes to continue its economic turn-around.

With these issues in mind, other factors to be considered in recreational plan development for Tuscarora Township include:

1. Development of recreation opportunities which are appropriate to the Townships major population groups. Both active and passive recreation opportunities require easy access to allow use by those with limited transportation resources, including the elderly and youth of the Township.
2. Maintenance and operation of existing and new recreational facilities in a manner which preserve their ecological and scenic value, with limited staff.

### Capital Improvement Plan

The Capital Improvement Schedule found below describes what recreational improvements the parks and Recreation Commission as well as the Township would like to pursue over the next five years.

<b>Table 3: Capital Improvements Schedule 2022-2027</b>				
<b>Cooperation Park</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
High	Recondition softball/baseball fields	\$25,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2023
Medium	Lights for basketball/tennis courts	\$15,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2025
Low	Baseball/softball field lights	\$60,000/field	Local, State, Private Donations	2027
Medium	Replace benches, and wooden tables	\$17,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2025
Medium	New soccer field.	\$35,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2025
High	Construct new tennis courts	\$50,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2023
High	Construct new restrooms	\$16,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2024
High	Improve & pave driveway & parking areas	\$150,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2024



High	Improve park signage & landscaping	\$50,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2023
Medium	Driveway & parking area lighting	\$25,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2025
High	Acquire Mason property	TBD	Local, State, Private Donations	2024
High	Acquire land from DNR - 40 acres	\$60,000	Local, State, Private Donations	2024
<b>DeVoe Beach</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
High	Restrooms (contingent on sewer system)	\$60,000	Local, State	2023
High	Install drinking fountain & foot wash	TBD	Local, State	2023
High	Acquire adjacent property	TBD	Local, State	As available
<b>Marina Park</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Add park amenities as needed	TBD	Local, State, Volunteer	Ongoing
	Monitor park use patterns and determine needed developments to support use	TBD		Ongoing
<b>Green Docks</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Low	Construct restroom facilities	\$16,000	Private	2023 >
High	Install caps on dock pilings	TBD	Local, State, Private Donations	2024
<b>West Burt Lake Area</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
High	Develop plan for road-end walk-in access improvements on west Burt Lake shoreline		Volunteers	Ongoing
High	Assess recreational needs on West side of Burt Lake		Volunteers	Ongoing
High	Develop funding/volunteer program for west side recreation improvements		Volunteers	Ongoing
<b>Trails</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
High	Construct non-motorized trail/sidewalks from schools south to M-68, shrine, and Co-op Park	\$250,000	Local, State, Federal, Private Donations	2025
<b>Water Access</b>				

Priority	Improvement	Estimated Costs	Funding	Timeframe
High	Research kayak launch options and locations	TBD	Volunteers	2023
<b>Recreational Facility Expansion</b>				
High	Determine property requirements at existing facilities		Volunteers	Ongoing
High	Identify key parcels for acquisition		Volunteers	Ongoing
High	Acquire identified parcels as available	TBD	Local, State, Private Donations	As Available
Medium	Determine best location and develop a disc golf course	TBD	Volunteers, State, Local, Private Donations	TBD
Medium	Determine best location and develop a dog park	\$15,000	Volunteers, State, Local, Private Donations	TBD