

FINAL DRAFT



2024-2028 RECREATION PLAN
CITY OF HARRISVILLE, MICHIGAN

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City of Harrisville Recreation Plan

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*2016-2020 Recreation Plan assistance &
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CHAPTER

1

COMMUNITY
DESCRIPTION



City of Harrisville Recreation Plan

Extent of Plan Focus

This Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and opportunities within the boundaries of the City of Harrisville. The Plan evaluates the

community characteristics and recreational opportunities to assist in future recreation-related planning decisions.

Regional Location

The City of Harrisville covers 0.6 square miles in the northeastern section of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The City is bordered by Lake Huron to the east, and Harrisville Township to the north, south, and west (**Figure 1-1**). The latitude of the City is approximately halfway between the North Pole and the equator and is also located along the Mississippi Flyway, a bird migration route.

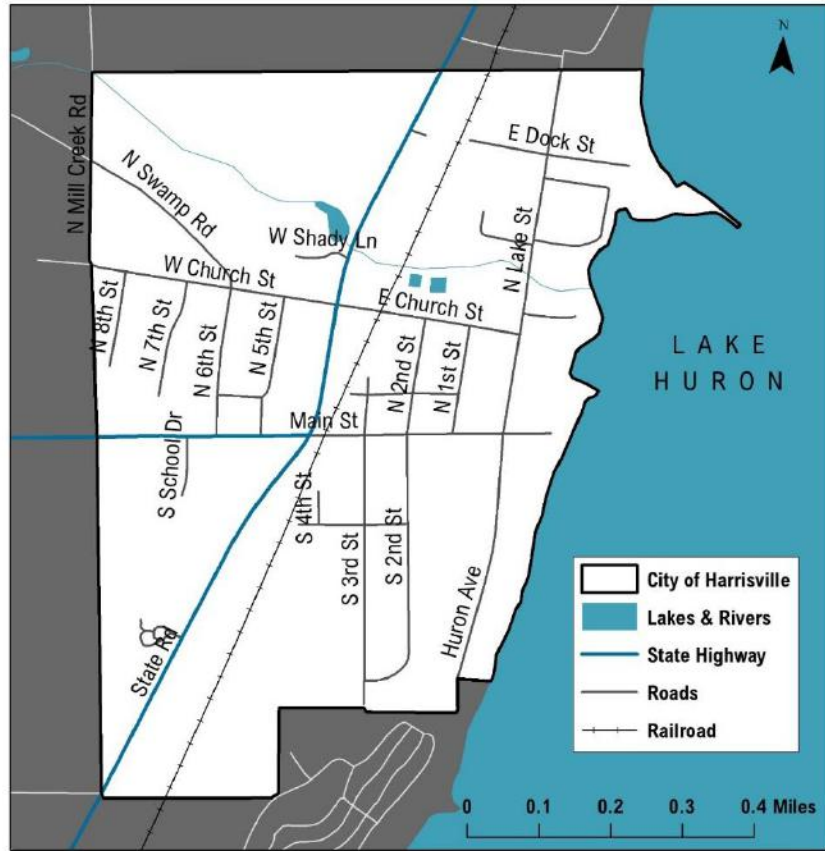
Mill Creek flows through the northern part of the city and empties into Lake Huron near Harrisville Harbor. Along the creek, there is a small manmade pond. Brown trout, steelhead, and various species of salmon are found in Lake Huron.

Population, Housing, & Transportation

According to the 2021 American Community Survey, the City of Harrisville has a population of 473 people compared to Alcona County's population of 10,138 people. There are 319 total housing units with 222 classified as occupied and 97 classified as vacant. Out of the vacant units, 44 are classified as seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Based on the city's average household size of 1.98, the estimated seasonal population would be approximately 88 persons. However, this estimate does not include persons who stay at private lodging places, campgrounds, or at homes with family or friends, which makes it difficult to obtain a seasonal population estimate.

Many residents and visitors travel along U.S. 23 and M-72, which connect within the city at the only signalized intersection in Alcona County. U.S. 23 travels along Lake Huron's shoreline to connect the city with Alpena to the north and Oscoda to the south. M-72 travels east-west and connects the city with Mio, Grayling, Kalkaska, and Traverse City. The Thunder Bay Transportation Authority provides an on-demand public transportation service within Alcona, Alpena, and Montmorency Counties. In addition, the City of Harrisville owns and operates the only public airport serving Alcona County, which can accommodate small aircraft.

Figure 1-1 Location Map



ALCONA COUNTY



CHAPTER

2

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



City of Harrisville Recreation Plan

Administration

The City of Harrisville is governed by an elected nine-member city council consisting of a mayor, clerk, treasurer, and two council members from each of the City's three wards (**Figure 2-1**). The council employs a part-time zoning administrator, a contractual assessor, and three maintenance department employees (one part-time, two full-time). The maintenance department is responsible for snow removal, street maintenance, operation of the city's water and sewer system, and maintaining the city-owned properties except the harbor and its docks. The city has the following committees: the Beautification Committee, the Tree Board, and the Memorial Committee.

The Planning Commission and Harbor Commission are primarily responsible for the planning and operation of the recreational facilities in the City of Harrisville.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission consists of nine members who are appointed for up to three year terms. The Planning Commission is responsible for all aspects of planning in the city, including the development of a comprehensive plan, reviewing site plans, and providing recommendations to the

City Council on zoning-related amendments and requests.

In 1985, the City passed a resolution for the Planning Commission to assume the functions of a Parks and Recreation Commission, including the development of a recreation plan, overseeing the operation of city owned and/or maintained recreational facilities, and other duties as assigned by the City Council.

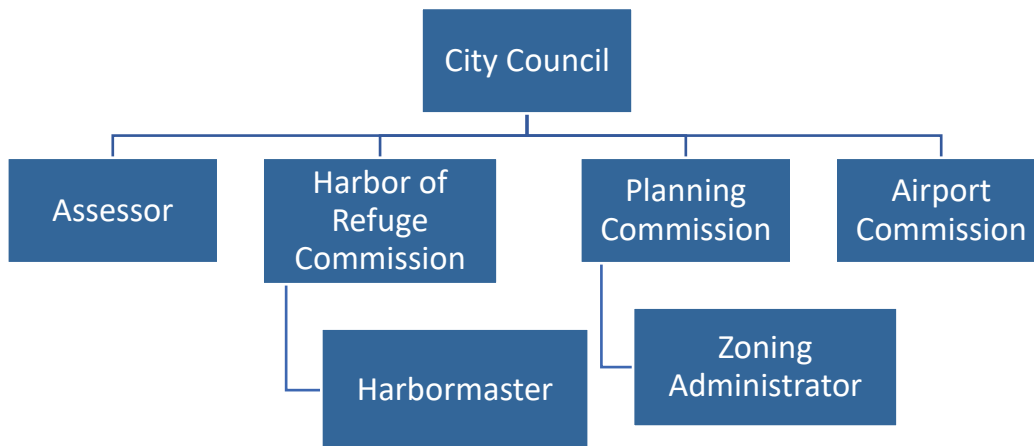
Harrisville Harbor of Refuge Commission

The Harrisville Harbor of Refuge Commission consists of seven members who are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council to serve a three year term. The harbormaster serves as an ex-officio member. The harbor commission has the authority to operate and maintain the Harrisville Harbor, including hiring employees, maintaining the harbor's budget, and overseeing the harbor's financial and physical activities. During the summer, the harbor commission may employ between six to ten individuals.

Airport Commission

The Airport Commission operates and maintains the City's Airport.

Figure 2-1 Administrative Organizational Chart



Other Agencies & Civic Organizations

US 23 Heritage Route – Alcona Heritage Route Team

Each county along the US 23 Heritage Route has a team of volunteers who participate on the US 23 Management Council to coordinate efforts along the route. The team also works with the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) to implement projects and consists of representatives from the City of Harrisville, Harrisville Township, Negwegon and Harrisville State Parks, Alcona County, MSU Extension, Sanborn Township (Alpena County), and the public. The team established a historic walking

trail through the city and with technical assistance from NEMCOG and a grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan, the team was able to develop signage and a brochure for the trail. Additionally, the team has developed brochures and a tourism website to promote the recreational facilities and activities in the county and along the US 23 Heritage Route. Currently, the group is interested in developing a countywide trail system along US-23 that will connect to the city trail.

Sunrise Garden Club

The Sunrise Garden Club contributes to the beautification of the city's facilities and has worked with the Alcona Heritage Route Team to beautify the trailhead at the corner of Harbor Drive and Lake Street. The garden club holds garden walk events to display the gardens throughout the

community, and proceeds have gone to the Friends of Negwegon State Park for park improvements, the Harrisville Library for garden maintenance, Alcona County Extension office for landscaping, and to the Harrisville Harbor trailhead garden and beautification projects.

Alcona Quilt Trail Committee

The Alcona County Quilt Trail Committee developed Michigan's first quilt trail. The trail consists of wooden quilt blocks mounted to the sides of historic barns, at local parks, on historic

churches, at a train depot, and at other interesting places. Each quilt square tells a story about the location.

Harrisville Arts Council

The Harrisville Arts Council coordinates over 500 exhibitors around the Craftmaker's Cabin and the area near the tennis courts on U.S. 23 during the Labor Day Art Fair.

East Shore Art Guild

The East Shore Art Guild operates a gallery in downtown Harrisville and sponsors an art show at the harbor.

Lions Club

The Harrisville Lions Club sponsors recreational events in Harrisville, such as the Duck Race on July 4th.

Parks & Recreation Funding

The majority of the City of Harrisville’s parks and recreation revenue comes from the general fund. The 2023-2024 parks & recreation budget is ~\$97,910, which includes capital outlay, salaries, utilities, beautification, supplies/uniforms, professional services, refuse, equipment, repairs/maintenance, ballpark expenses, pocket park, mill pond light, etc. In addition, the City of Harrisville has a line item for maintenance and supplies for Harbor Park, which is ~\$13,120 in the 2023-2024 budget. The projected 2024-2025 budget is expected to be similar to the 2023-2024 budget.

The Harrisville Harbor of Refuge Commission maintains all revenues accrued from the Harrisville Harbor to be used for harbor operations (**Table 2-1**). From 2016-2020, the City of Harrisville was in a five year grant process with the State of Michigan Waterways Commission to replace all of the docks at the Harrisville Harbor for a total project cost of \$2,787,200 under five separate contracts (project was budgeted over five separate grant rounds). The City of Harrisville does not anticipate major replacement or rehabilitation of the harbor building for the next 3 years.

| Table 2-1 Annual Major Maintenance Schedule | |
|--|--------------------|
| Maintenance Items | Annual Cost |
| Start-up Costs | \$500 |
| Restroom & Supplies | \$300 |
| Office & Supplies | \$1,000 |
| Painting | \$200 |
| Vehicles | \$1,000 |
| Parking Lot | \$1,000 |
| Winterizing | \$1,000 |
| Tools & Hardware | \$300 |
| Cleaning Supplies | \$500 |
| Garbage Removal | \$600 |
| Utilities | \$15,000 |
| Equipment Rental | \$2,000 |
| Miscellaneous | \$2,000 |

Recreation Grant History

The City of Harrisville received and successfully completed two grants and acquired one grant through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources recreation grants program.

1. **Harrisville Park Development, 1985, Grant # 26-01346:** Develop a playground, picnic areas, paved parking and burial of overhead wires, pavilion, LWCF sign.
2. **Harrisville Harbor Park Playground Development, 2018, Grant # RP18-0116:** Development at the Harbor Park in the City of Harrisville to include the replacement of a playground. The new

playground will serve as a vibrant attraction for residents and visitors with children, thereby enhancing the quality of life in the City of Harrisville as well as the surrounding community residents within Alcona County. The scope includes an access pathway 6' wide or more, bench(es), picnic table(s), play equipment, and playground safety surfacing.

3. **Harrisville Recreation Area, 1989, Grant # BF89-530:** This grant was originally received by Alcona County for park development. In the mid-1990's, it was transferred to Harrisville Township and became known as the Harrisville Township Recreation Area. Recently, the property has been transferred to the City of Harrisville. The grant funded the renovation of two existing baseball diamonds.

CHAPTER

3

RECREATION INVENTORY



City of Harrisville Recreation Plan

Inventory Method & Classification System

Staff from the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) visited each recreation facility to do an on-site assessment in order to update the park’s information, accessibility rating, and photos from previous years. In addition, information from previous strategic plans and city officials was used to update the plan.

An evaluation of each park’s accessibility was completed during the on-site inventory. This assessment visually evaluated the accessibility of facilities and routes to facilities for persons with

mobility constraints. Barrier-free accessibility in parks and recreational facilities is important for current and future programming as it makes these spaces more inclusive and easier for all to use. The assessment followed the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ scale for evaluating park accessibility in the *2021 Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plans* on a scale of 1 to 5.

| DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities | |
|--|--|
| Accessibility Grade | Definition |
| 1 | None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines |
| 2 | Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines |
| 3 | Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines |
| 4 | The entire park meets accessibility guidelines |
| 5 | The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design |





| Harrisville Harbor & Harbor Park Location: 1 East Harbor Drive | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|---|
| Size (acres) | Purpose/Use | Accessibility Rating | Accessibility Notes |
| 4.5 | Community Park & Special Use: Harbor, playground, pavilion | 3 | The property has designated barrier-free parking, and accessible benches and sidewalks. |

Description

Harrisville Harbor accesses Lake Huron and is part of the State of Michigan’s Harbor of Refuge network. It is managed and overseen by the Harrisville Harbor Commission. The State of Michigan holds ownership of the water and lake bottom surrounding the harbor, while the City of Harrisville owns the docks within the harbor, and maintains and dredges the water around the docks. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed and owns two break walls surrounding the harbor.

In the 1960’s, the harbor was established as a Harbor of Refuge and has served as an important refuge between Alpena and Oscoda. It is open to boaters between May and October. In 2007, the harbor was completely reconstructed and is acclaimed by boaters to be the nicest harbor on the Lake Huron shore. The harbor includes 71 boat slips (35 for transient boaters and 36 for seasonal boaters). Facilities include a fuel station (gasoline and diesel), pump-out service, slip rentals, 30 and 50 amp electrical service, potable water, public restrooms/showers, minimal boating supplies, laundry service, wireless internet, ice, boat launch, benches, trash receptacles, a coin-operated viewing device for Lake Huron, and a courtesy van to visit the nearby restaurants, stores, and historic attractions. Local business partners have provided funding to purchase bicycles and adult trikes for use by the visiting boating community.

On March 31, 2015, Edgewater Resources, LLC conducted a preliminary engineering study and recommended the harbor have 70 traditional slips



and 8 broadside dockage spaces to meet customer demand. Based on the 2015 report, the harbor is too small and does not meet boater demand.

In 2014, the entrance channel and ramps fairway were dredged under the State of Michigan emergency dredging program at a cost of \$230,692. A total of 6,330 cubic yards of material was removed and transferred from a barge directly into trucks located south of the north breakwater before being hauled away to a 25-acre city-owned property several miles north and west of the harbor.

In 2015, the City of Harrisville removed 9,950 cubic yards of material from around the docks at an equivalent value of \$429,100. The city built a temporary confinement area in the same transfer area used by the State. Dredged material settled in this location over the Summer and Fall of 2015, and was removed to the same disposal area used by the State.



For marketing purposes, the Harrisville Harbor maintains a website: <https://harrisvilleharbor.com> and receives visitors from the Michigan DNR and Pure Michigan websites. In addition, harbor activities are promoted by the Alcona County Chamber of Commerce and by the US 23 Heritage Route partnership – a six county collaborative effort to market the Lake Huron coastal area known as the Sunrise Coast. A recent effort has been proposed to engage in a collaborative marketing effort with marinas in Alpena and Rogers City. Possible harbor marketing tools include websites, brochures, free item giveaways, travel shows, videos, and billboards. The harbor partners with the Michigan DNR, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the City of Alpena Marina, and the Rogers City Marina.

Harrisville Harbor encompasses Harbor Park. The park offers volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, a pavilion, grills, picnic tables, trash receptacles, benches, a playground, and a dog run area. The playground features benches, bike racks, a water fountain, three play structures, a tire swing, a swing set, and a tire in the ground.

There are three parking lots with one lot providing 37 spaces next to the harbor building, the second lot providing 36 spaces and a viewing area, and the third lot providing 30 spaces next to Lake Street.

| Harrisville Mill Pond | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Location: Off of U.S. 23 | | | |
| Size (acres) | Purpose/Use | Accessibility Rating | Accessibility Notes |
| 8.5 | Community Park: Fishing, picnic and viewing areas | 1 | The property has minimal accessibility since it is primarily grass with a gravel parking lot and a pond. |

Description

The Mill Pond was formed by damming Mill Creek and is stocked with trout. The pond is open to the public for fishing.



| Veteran’s Club Property Location: Off of Lake Street, directly across from Harbor Park | | | |
|--|---|----------------------|---|
| Size (acres) | Purpose/Use | Accessibility Rating | Accessibility Notes |
| 11.93 | Community Park: Basketball Courts and sports area | 2 | The property has barrier-free parking and the basketball courts and sidewalks provide some accessibility. |

Description

The Veteran’s Club Property is the site of the former Harrisville Fish Hatchery. The State of Michigan owns the building and property. The building houses the Health Department, and the

city leases the property. There is a pond, which is a favorite fishing site for children. The site has basketball courts and, in the winter, there is a lighted ice rink with temporary benches.

| City Office Park Location: State Street | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|---|
| Size (acres) | Purpose/Use | Accessibility Rating | Accessibility Notes |
| 1.2 | Mini Park: Pavilion, tennis courts, events | 2 | The park has designated barrier-free parking at the city office and the sidewalks provide some accessibility. |

Description

Located adjacent to the City of Harrisville Offices, there are two fenced, concrete tennis courts with partial backboards, benches, and a pavilion. This facility is used for events, such as Harmony Fest.



| Dock Street Road End Location: Dock Street Road Ends at Lake Huron, north of the Michigan DNR boat launch | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|--|
| Size (acres) | Purpose/Use | Accessibility Rating | Accessibility Notes |
| 0.06 | Mini Park: Scenic viewing and swimming area | 1 | The property does not have designated barrier-free parking, or accessible sidewalks and paths. |

Description

This property is not available for development.

| Main Street Scenic Overlook | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Location: Main Street Road End on the Lake Huron shoreline | | | |
| Size (acres) | Purpose/Use | Accessibility Rating | Accessibility Notes |
| 0.07 | Mini Park: Scenic viewing area | 1 | The site does not have designated barrier-free parking, and has limited accessibility for its sidewalks and benches. |

Description

This overlook offers a breathtaking view of Lake Huron and has benches, a reinforced break wall, safety fencing, and landscaping.



| Craftmakers' Cabin | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Location: 106 South State Road at the corner of U.S. 23 & M-72 in downtown Harrisville | | | |
| Size (acres) | Purpose/Use | Accessibility Rating | Accessibility Notes |
| 0.77 | Special Use: Events, historical site | 2 | The property is grassy and has some accessibility. |

Description

The log cabin serves as an information and visitor center during the summer months and houses a variety of crafts made and sold by local senior citizens. The cabin is staffed by local volunteers.



| City Airport Location: Walker Road | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------------|--|
| Size (acres) | Purpose/Use | Accessibility Rating | Accessibility Notes |
| 40 | Special Use | 1 | The property does not have designated barrier-free parking and consists of a runway surrounded by grass, which offers minimal accessibility. |

Description

The class “D” airport is currently used for recreational purposes by the local flying club and individuals who fly light aircraft. There are two runways and tie-down services are offered.

| Harrisville Heritage Route Trail Location: U.S. 23, & along the city’s streets (Lake, Church, Main, 3 rd , and 2 nd Streets), sidewalks, and paved non-motorized trail | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Size (miles) | Purpose/Use | Accessibility Rating | Accessibility Notes |
| 2.5 | Pedestrian & Bicycle Trail | 3 | The trail is hard surface following roadways, sidewalks, and is paved across greenspace. |

Description

The trail connects Harrisville Harbor to Harrisville State Park and Harrisville Township Park. Brochures provide information about historic structures along the route, such as the Harrisville Depot, Craftmakers’ Cabin, and former Harbor Master’s House.

| Harrisville Recreation Area (previously Harrisville Township Recreation Area) Location: North Lake Street Road End, north of the City of Harrisville | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|---|
| Size (miles) | Purpose/Use | Accessibility Rating | Accessibility Notes |
| 17 | Regional Park: Playground, events, and baseball fields | 2 | The property is grassy with a gravel parking lot. The restrooms are not accessible. |

Description

The Harrisville Recreation Area was originally owned by Alcona County and was given to Harrisville Township in 1994. Recently, Harrisville Township gave the property to the City of Harrisville. The site includes one softball diamond, two baseball diamonds, bleachers, dugouts, restrooms, a pavilion, a picnic area, and a playground with a sandbox and jungle gym. The site is also home to the Harrisville Community Hoop House, which is sponsored by the Alcona Local Foods Association.

Other Publicly-Owned Recreational Facilities

Harrisville Michigan DNR Boating Access Site

Description

The boating access site consists of 130 parking spaces, a public restroom, and the ramp is wide enough to accommodate two skid piers. The site

is available for day use only and does not have overnight camping. A recreation passport is required to use the site.

Alcona County Quilt Trail

Description

The Alcona County Quilt Trail is Michigan’s first quilt trail and includes a self-guided walking and driving tour throughout the county. The trail has

stops at merchants in downtown Harrisville. The map highlights the locations of quilt squares and has historic descriptions of each site.

Other Privately-Owned Recreational Facilities

Campdoyawanna Campground & Party Store LLC

Description

The campground offers electricity, water, a dump station, and wireless internet. There is a playground, a volleyball/badminton court,

horseshoes, a fish cleaning station, and bike rentals. The campground also has daily and seasonal events.

Harrisville Depot

Description

In 1901, the train depot was built for the Detroit and Mackinac Railway Company and was bustling due to the lumber industry. As the lumber

industry diminished, rail travel became less common. The depot is not open for public access, but is available for photos outside.

Other Recreation Facilities

Residents can utilize recreational facilities outside of the City of Harrisville. Listed below are the public and private recreational facilities in Alcona

County. Complete information about the recreational facilities can be found in the appropriate recreation plans.

Haynes Township

| Public | Private |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sturgeon Point Lighthouse | Cedarbrook Trout Farm |
| Bailey School | |

| Harrisville Township | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Public | Private |
| Harrisville State Park | Springport Hills & Loggers Trace Golf Course |
| Alcona Recreation Area | 80-acre Reserve |
| Harrisville Township Hall | |
| Trask Lake Road End | |
| Springport Road End | |

| Alcona Township | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Public | Private |
| Negwegon State Park | Lost Lake Woods Club |
| Huron National Forest | Viking Marine |
| Black River/Lake Huron Site | |
| Black River Recreation Area | |
| Hubbard Lake Access Site | |

| Caledonia Township | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Public | Private |
| Hubbard Lake Access Site | Paul Bunyan Campground |
| Hickey Hill | Monarch Ridge Golf Course |
| Spruce Park | Hubbard Lake Marine |
| | Churchill Pointe Inn |

| Curtis Township | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Public | Private |
| Indian Lakes Park | Alcona Canoe Rental & Campground |
| Alcona Park | Middleton Campground |
| Vaughn Lake Public Access | Eagle Ridge Golf Course |
| AuSable National Scenic River | |

Greenbush Township

| Public | Private |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cedar Lake Access | Greenbush Golf Course |
| Ten Acres | |
| Greenbush Recreation Area | |
| Greenbush Country School | |
| Swart House | |
| Two access sites on Lake Huron | |

Gustin Township

| Public | Private |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Alcona Community Schools | |
| Former Memorial Hall | |

Village of Lincoln

| Public | Private |
|--|---------|
| Barlow Road Park/Flights of Imagination Playscape | |
| Brownlee Lake Park (Village of Lincoln Municipal Beach) | |
| Lincoln Lakefront | |
| Railroad Park (Veteran’s Park) | |
| Lincoln Area Multi-Use Pathway (LAMP) | |

Hawes Township

| Public | Private |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Public Access Site (West Branch River) | Former Timber Creek Resort |
| Jewell Lake | White Pines National Golf Course |

Mikado Township

| Public | Private |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bruce Park | Chippewa Indian Settlement |
| Ball Parks | Indian Mission Church |
| Ten Acres | |
| Pine River National Forest Campground | |
| Vandercook Trail Head | |

| Millen Township | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Public | Private |
| Barton City Community Park | Barton City Eagles Club |
| Hoist Lake Area | |
| O'Brien Lake | |
| McCullum Lake State Forest Campground | |
| AuSable River | |

Recreation outside of Alcona County

In addition to recreation within Alcona County, city residents have access to recreational opportunities in Alpena, 32 miles to the north, and Oscoda, 16 miles south. However, it is important to note that many of these opportunities require fees and all require travel to access them. The City of Alpena offers 22 recreational properties, including an indoor community pool, an ice rink for hockey and pleasure skating, and many community parks with swimming and fishing

access. Oscoda has a waterfront park on Lake Huron with a playground and tennis courts, and the Oscoda High School has an indoor swimming pool, which is open to the public on a limited basis. Picnicking and boating are also available at Van Etten Lake in Oscoda. A lake-side park, located just north of Oscoda on U.S. 23, offers picnicking and swimming. Finally, several campgrounds are located in or near the Huron National Forest.

Festivals & Events

- **Harmony Fest:** The annual Harrisville Arts & Crafts Show is held Saturday & Sunday preceding Labor Day near the downtown area. Over 400 exhibitors display their wares on the courthouse grounds. A parade is held, and Barbershop Quartets and Sweet Adelines perform from the hill at various times. The harbor can see an increase in usage each year over this weekend.
- **Christmas in the Village:** First Saturday in December.
- **City-wide Garage Sale/Boaters Swap 'n' Sale Event:** Second Saturday in June. Boaters Swap 'n' Sale Event is held at the harbor.
- **Lincoln Lions Fishing Tournament:** The event is held at the harbor in June.
- **Fourth of July Weekend:** The event is held at the harbor. The event includes fireworks, a Children's Parade, Sidewalk Chalk Art Competition, duck race, and a craft show at Craftmakers' Cabin.
- **Antique & Collectibles Tent:** Second week in July.
- **Sunrise Wine & Food Festival:** The event is held at the harbor on the third Saturday in July.
- **Harbor Fish Fry:** The event is held at the harbor in July.
- **Harbor Nights Summer Concert Series:** The event is held at the harbor weekly in July & August.
- **Blues Cruise:** The event is held at the harbor in August.
- **Pirate's Party:** The event is held at the harbor.

Expansion of harbor events will only occur if a new pavilion in the upper parking area is constructed.

CHAPTER

4

PLANNING PROCESS



City of Harrisville Recreation Plan

Planning Process

The development of a community recreation plan must involve interaction and input from citizens and community groups. The City of Harrisville Planning Commission was the lead entity in developing the recreation plan. The Planning

Commission, City Council, and Harbor Commission meetings were open to the public with time allocated for comments. A timeline for the recreation plan update can be found below:

Schedule

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| April 2023 | The City of Harrisville contracted with the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) to update its recreation plan. |
| June 2023 | The Planning Commission reviewed the draft survey and NEMCOG staff made the survey available to the public. NEMCOG staff also began updating the recreation plan, including visiting the recreational facilities and properties within the city limits to conduct barrier-free assessments. |
| August 2023 | A public notice was placed in the <i>Alcona Review</i> to advertise the recreation survey. |
| September 2023 | NEMCOG staff developed a flyer to promote the survey at local events. |
| October 2023 | NEMCOG staff closed the public survey. |
| November 2023 | NEMCOG staff met with the Planning Commission to review and update draft recreation chapters and discuss the goals, objectives, and action plan. A public notice about the draft plan’s availability for a 30-day public review period was published in the <i>Alcona Review</i> , and was posted on NEMCOG’s website and was available at the City of Harrisville Municipal Offices. |
| December 2023 | A public notice about the draft plan’s public hearing was published in the <i>Alcona Review</i> and posted at the City of Harrisville Municipal Offices. |
| January 2023 | The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the draft recreation plan. XXXXX comments were received about the plan. The Planning Commission passed a resolution to approve the plan and recommend its adoption to the City Council. The City Council passed a resolution to adopt the recreation plan. |

Public Input

Citizen opinion on recreation priorities is vital to the development of a recreation plan. An online survey was offered to citizens to gain input for the update of the city’s recreation plan. The survey was open for approximately four months and had

228 people who participated, although not every person completed all survey questions. The survey results can be viewed in Appendix XX. The Planning Commission felt the community was well represented throughout the process.

Planning Documentation

Documentation for the planning process can be found below:

Public Input Survey Outreach

Page 4, Alcona County Review August 30, 2023

Thank you for buying my 2023 Market Animals:

Swine:
Alcona Tool 

Sheep:
Kris Mart and Haus Construction

Turkey:
Ossineke Hardware and Cox Plumbing 

Christopher Kroon

CITY OF HARRISVILLE RECREATION PLAN SURVEY

The City of Harrisville is in the process of updating its Recreation Plan. The Recreation plan survey reflects the long-term vision for the City of Harrisville recreational facilities. Input from the public is an essential part of the planning process, so we need your input regarding future goals and projects! Please take the time to fill out this survey and let your voice be heard! Your feedback is very important to us. Hard copies of the survey are available at the City of Harrisville Office and may be returned to 200 North 5th Street, P.O. Box 278, Harrisville, Michigan 48740. Thank you!

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

DISCOVER
Northeast Michigan
EAST OF EXPECTED

Prepared with Assistance from:
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
80 Livingston Boulevard,
P.O. Box 457
Gaylord, Michigan 49734



Local Notes

Hole in One

On Friday, Aug. 25, Jenny Glass of Glennie, had the first-ever hole-in-one on hole number 11 at Eagle Ridge Golf Course in Glennie. Glass, who is a member of Eagle Ridge and an employee, was golfing with family when she made the shot.



Jenny Glass

Away at School

• Brandy Tudor of Spruce received a Bachelor of Science-Nursing degree, Cum Laude, in May from Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Mich.

• Brock Franklin of Lincoln received certification in Welding from Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Mich.

Giving Tuesday Application

The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan is accepting grant applications for nonprofit participation in its 2023 Giving Tuesday Northeast Michigan event. This year, Giving Tuesday is November 28. Applications are available at the foundation's website at

cfnem.org and are due by September 20.

- Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations that:
 - Are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, or a school, church or government agency.
 - Have an active and current Facebook page.
 - Serve at least one of the

following counties: Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan (and/or Mackinaw City), Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, and Presque Isle.

Giving Tuesday is a global day of fundraising, always held on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving—after Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday. Locally, the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan is now in its ninth year of hosting this initiative for many local nonprofits. Last year, over \$314,000 was raised online for 62 nonprofits during the 24-hour period.

Tools for Cancer Patients

A cancer diagnosis and treatment can bring an avalanche of emotions for the patient and their family. To help cope, MyMichigan

Health, in partnership with Friends Together, is offering a free program on Thursday, Sept. 14.

Offered in person in Alpena, the event will focus on the use of mindfulness for current or post-cancer patients, survivors and their care givers.

Mindfulness is a way to help manage emotions, reduce stress and cope with the physical challenges that comes with a diagnosis and treatment. "Mindfulness techniques can create better health outcome by helping patients focus on the present moment and steering them away from the worry of the unknowns that cancer may bring," said Travis Steinka, occupational therapist, MyMichigan Medical Center Midland.

Travis will lead the mindfulness program and provide tools to help with anxiety, reduce stress and improve overall well-being. The program will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Friends Together office, located at 105 Prentiss Street, Alpena.

Those interested in registering for the program may visit www.mymichigan.org/mindfulness or call (989) 837-9090.

Greenbush manhunt concludes in two hours

By Cheryl Peterson
Editor

Deputies from the Alcona County Sheriff's Office participated in a wanted fugitive search following his attempt to escape from being arrested on a warrant from Florida.

On Wednesday, Aug. 23, at approximately 3:50 p.m. Alcona deputies assisted members of the Oscoda Township Police Department and Michigan State Police (MSP)



The screenshot shows a Facebook post from Jacquelyn Schwanz, dated August 12 at 11:06 AM. The post text reads: "Please help us create a comprehensive recreational plan! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cityofharrisvillerecsurvey>".

The main content of the post is a flyer for the "City of Harrisville Recreation Plan Survey". At the top of the flyer is a photograph of a waterfront park area with a paved path, a rocky shoreline, and a body of water in the background. Below the photo, the text states: "The City of Harrisville is in the process of updating its Recreation Plan. The Recreation Plan Survey reflects the long-term vision for the City of Harrisville recreational facilities. Input from the public is an essential part of the planning process, so we need your input regarding future goals and projects! Please take the time to fill out this survey and let your voice be heard! Your feedback is very important to us. Hard copies of the survey are available at the City of Harrisville Office and may be returned to 200 North 5th Street, P.O. Box 278, Harrisville, Michigan, 48740. Thank you!".

Below the text is the survey URL: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cityofharrisvillerecsurvey>. To the right of the URL is a QR code.

At the bottom of the flyer is the logo for "DISCOVER Northeast Michigan EAST OF EXPECTED". Below the logo, it says "Prepared with Assistance from: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, 80 Livingston Boulevard, P.O. Box 457, Gaylord, Michigan, 49734".

The Facebook interface at the bottom of the screenshot shows "Warner Vanderheuel and 28 others" and "35 comments". At the very bottom are icons for "Like", "Comment", and "Send".

Notice of Draft Plan's Availability for a 30-day Review Period & Public Hearing Notice

Signed Public Hearing & Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Planning Commission Adoption Resolution

Signed City Council Meeting Minutes

City Council Adoption Resolution

Alcona County Submittal Letter

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) Submittal Letter

CHAPTER

5

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



City of Harrisville Recreation Plan

Goals & Objectives

After reviewing input from the community and the city's demographic characteristics, the Planning Commission developed the following goals,

objectives, and action items to provide guidance during the development of recreation-related projects.

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

- Objective 1 Improve universal accessibility across all parks in the city.
- Objective 2 Use signage and maps to connect the local trail system with established trail systems and points of interest.
- Objective 3 Provide year-round recreational amenities which are oriented towards the aging population, the younger population, and families in an effort to increase the desirability and livability of the community to attract retirees, young families, and older youth.
- Objective 4 Market the city's recreational programming and amenities.

Goal 2 Actively improve and maintain recreational resources in the City of Harrisville and on Lake Huron.

- Objective 1 Adopt a capital facilities program to prioritize and identify funding for improving and expanding existing amenities that would serve the city's population and to support the ongoing activities at those facilities.
- Objective 2 Prepare and implement a regular maintenance plan to keep the city's parks in good condition.
- Objective 3 Repair and replace worn out and damaged equipment.
- Objective 4 Improve and expand the restrooms, internet service, and cell phone service at all parks in the city.

Goal 3 Ensure a thorough and regional Recreational Planning Process.

- Objective 1 Regularly update the 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan to ensure the recreation system reflects the current needs of the community.
- Objective 2 Develop and maintain strong city involvement when creating recreational and tourism planning and projects for people of all abilities and recreational needs.
- Objective 3 Seek grant funding and other financial assistance to assist in creating recreation-related jobs, and acquiring and developing recreational facilities.
- Objective 4 Support cooperative regional recreation planning and development with Alcona County, local and state governmental agencies, community service agencies, and local businesses/entrepreneurs.
- Objective 5 Improve the quality of life for residents and attract visitors to the city by maintaining, improving, and expanding recreation within the city and surrounding areas.

Goal 4 Provide new opportunities for passive recreation to allow residents and visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the city.

Objective 1 Promote the use, development, and expansion of non-motorized trails in the city’s preserved natural spaces.

Objective 2 Acquire and develop natural areas to provide ecotourism opportunities, such as nature trails, sitting areas, nature centers, etc.

Action Plan

The Action Plan provides proposed improvements to each site with anticipated cost estimates, funding sources, completion years, and priorities. It should be noted these anticipated items may change due

to unforeseen circumstances, such as changes in market conditions, unavailable funding, changes in priorities, etc.

| Action Plan Key | |
|-----------------|--|
| Funding Source | |
| City | City General Fund |
| Commission | Harbor Commission |
| EGLE | Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy |
| Government | Other governmental units |
| Local | Local Funding (e.g. non-profit organizations, community agencies & groups, private contributions, donations, partnerships, etc.) |
| MDNR | Michigan Department of Natural Resources |
| Sea | Michigan Sea Grant |
| US 23 | Alcona County US 23 Heritage Route Team |

| Harrisville Harbor & Harbor Park | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Priority | Proposed Improvement | Estimated Cost | Funding Source(s) | Year |
| High | Upgrade docks | ~\$2,000,000 | MDNR, Local | 2024-2028 |
| High | Continue providing general maintenance & implementing the general maintenance plan | TBD | Commission, City, Local | 2024-2028 |
| High | Maintain shoreline vegetation | TBD | Commission, City, Local | 2024-2028 |
| High | Upgrade/maintain the harbor pavilion | ~\$100,000 | MDNR, Local | 2024-2028 |
| High | Construct a new pavilion in the upper harbor parking area | ~\$100,000 | MDNR, Local | 2024-2028 |

| Harrisville Harbor & Harbor Park | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Priority | Proposed Improvement | Estimated Cost | Funding Source(s) | Year |
| High | Investigate the feasibility of solar/wind energy to power the bubbler system | TBD | Commission, City, EGLE, MDNR, Local | 2024-2028 |
| High | Construct a volleyball court | ~\$2,000 | MDNR, Local | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Determine feasible locations for and install a 200-300 foot portable fishing dock | TBD | City, MDNR, Local | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Install energy efficient lighting | TBD | City, Commission, Local | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Participate in the Michigan Clean Marina Program | TBD | City, Commission, Sea | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Investigate local and regional marketing opportunities to promote the harbor | TBD | Commission | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Determine how to become a Michigan DNR fish hatchery/rearing ponds release site. | TBD | Commission, City | 2024-2028 |

| Harrisville Mill Pond | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Priority | Proposed Improvement | Estimated Cost | Funding Source(s) | Year |
| High | Install screening for the porta potties | TBD | City, Local, MDNR | 2024-2028 |
| High | Construct permanent restrooms | TBD | City, Local, MDNR | 2024-2028 |
| High | Construct universally accessible walkways to view the natural features | TBD | City, Local, MDNR | 2024-2028 |
| High | Investigate the feasibility of connecting the park's trail system to the city's trail system | TBD | City, Local, MDNR | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Dredge and restore the pond as a fishing site | TBD | City, Local, MDNR, EGLE | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Investigate introducing fish into the pond (e.g. determine how to become a Michigan DNR fish hatchery/rearing ponds release site) | TBD | City | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Install interpretive and wayfinding signage | TBD | MDNR, Local, City | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Install drinking fountains | TBD | MDNR, Local, City | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Construct a pavilion | TBD | MDNR, Local | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Install playground equipment | TBD | MDNR, Local, City | 2024-2028 |

| Veteran's Club Property | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Priority | Proposed Improvement | Estimated Cost | Funding Source(s) | Year |
| High | Upgrade/maintain the basketball court area | ~\$2,500 | City, Local | 2024-2028 |
| High | Convert the basketball court area into an ice rink during the winter months | ~\$5,000-\$10,000 | Local, City | 2024-2028 |
| High | Upgrade lighting | ~\$3,000-\$5,000 | City, Local, MDNR | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Upgrade the ponds | TBD | MDNR, City, Local | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Purchase picnic tables for the property | ~\$2,500 | City, Local | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Construct universally accessible walkways | TBD | City, MDNR, Local | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Investigate the feasibility of routing the Heritage Route Multi-Use Trail System through the property | TBD | City, MDNR, Local | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Maintain the fishways | TBD | Commission, City | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Determine the feasibility of an additional MDNR fishery and research center for Atlantic Salmon in the city | TBD | City, MDNR | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Determine how to become a Michigan DNR fish hatchery/rearing ponds release site | TBD | City, MDNR | 2024-2028 |

| Harrisville Recreation Area | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Priority | Proposed Improvement | Estimated Cost | Funding Source(s) | Year |
| High | Construct a disc golf course | TBD | MDNR, City, Local | 2024-2028 |

| Lake Huron | | | | |
|------------|---|----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Priority | Proposed Improvement | Estimated Cost | Funding Source(s) | Year |
| High | Develop & promote bird watching areas | ~\$5,000 | MDNR, City, Local | 2024-2028 |
| High | Improve accessibility & aesthetics at the Main Street Overlook | ~\$10,000 | MDNR, Local, City | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Install a fishing pier | TBD | MDNR, City, Local | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Investigate the feasibility of leasing land from the Michigan DNR to develop a public beach | TBD | MDNR, City, Local | 2024-2028 |

| Other Recreation Areas | | | | |
|------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Priority | Proposed Improvement | Estimated Cost | Funding Source(s) | Year |
| High | Resurface tennis & pickleball courts, and fix the backboards | ~\$6,000 | City, Local | 2024-2028 |
| High | Develop a park & recreation facilities maintenance plan | TBD | City | 2024-2028 |
| High | Install screening for the porta potties | TBD | City, Local, MDNR | 2024-2028 |
| High | Construct permanent restrooms | TBD | City, Local, MDNR | 2024-2028 |
| High | Install coordinated wayfinding signage for all recreation facilities | ~\$2,000-\$3,000 | Local, City | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Construct a community recreation center | TBD | City, MDNR, Local | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Improve & maintain the Craftmaker's Cabin | TBD | City, Local | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Work with the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary to develop the Maritime Heritage Trail and highlight facilities in the city | TBD | City | 2024-2028 |
| Medium | Create a branding campaign to promote the city's recreational amenities and programming, which includes brochures and maps | TBD | City | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Participate in the Alcona County Quilt Trail project | TBD | Local, City | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Establish a designated snowmobile route to enhance winter recreation | TBD | MDNR, Local, City, Government | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Assist in connecting the City of Harrisville's trail system to Alcona County's trail system (e.g. connect Harrisville State Park to Sturgeon Point and Black River) | TBD | MDNR, City, Local, US 23, Government | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Support efforts to promote Harrisville as a recreation destination | TBD | US 23, City | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Support the goals of the US 23 Corridor Management Plan | TBD | US 23, City | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Support the designations of local historical sites and the creation of local historical districts | TBD | City | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Investigate the feasibility of implementing and enforcing dark skies initiatives to become an International Dark Sky Community | TBD | City | 2024-2028 |
| Low | Develop a railway corridor trail if the Lake State Railway ceases operation | TBD | MDNR, City | 2024-2028 |

Basis for Action

1. The City of Harrisville has a significantly older population with individuals aged 60 years and older comprising about 43.6% of the population compared to the State of Michigan at 24.2%. The majority of migration into the city is from persons aged 60 years and older. Therefore, this large population has the time and desire to participate in age appropriate recreational activities that are easily accessible. In addition, approximately 15.0% of the city's population is under the age of 19 and has very little access to recreational opportunities in the city. This younger population also needs transportation to the recreation-related amenities at the school facilities, which are located six miles west of the city. Finally, individuals in the city between the ages of 20 to 44 years represent 26.6% of the population and should be given consideration during the planning process.
2. The City's median household income is \$33,500 compared to the State's median income of \$63,202. About 61.7% of the households in the city receive social security income compared to 34.6% statewide. Additionally, almost 62% of the households receive retirement income compared to 38.5% statewide. Consideration should be given to whether or not residents and visitors are able to afford the cost of recreational activities and the drive time and expenses associated with travelling to recreational facilities.
3. The city's natural beauty contributes to its quality of life and provides opportunities for social interaction. Providing year-round recreational opportunities in these spaces will attract visitors and offer a means of enjoyment for residents. It is important to consider the city's natural resources when planning for the city's economic growth and development, and tourism potential.
4. All residents and visitors should have access to safe routes that connect recreational facilities, residential areas, and local attractions throughout the city. Consideration of public safety, accessibility and inclusivity will be taken into account when planning for recreational opportunities within the city.
5. The City has an opportunity to brand itself into a premier ecotourism/recreation destination due to its location on Lake Huron. The attraction of visitors to the city's coastal recreational amenities has the potential to create direct tourism-related jobs, but also to increase sales at local establishments (e.g. motels, cottage rentals, watercraft rentals, restaurants, resorts, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.).

**Figures obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year estimates.*