

# **Suttons Bay Township**

## **Community Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, 2024-2028**

# **DRAFT**



**January 2024**

**Suttons Bay Township  
95 W. Fourth St.  
Suttons Bay, MI 49682**

# 1. Executive Summary

The previous Five-Year Community Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan 2018-2023 expired December 31, 2023. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Planning Guidelines require that that an update be submitted prior to the expiration date. The following plan (2024-2028) is considered an updated plan.

Suttons Bay Township adopted its first (Five Year) Community Recreation Plan in 2002, and accomplished many of its goals including the acquisition of two parcels that are now known as the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park and Herman Park. These acquisitions were made possible with grants from the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund.

Herman Park's active and passive recreation development continues to be the number one priority for the township based on previous and current public input. The Park's location enhances the "walkability initiative" in the community. It is conveniently located near the downtown Village of Suttons Bay, the Suttons Bay Public Schools, the Leelanau Trail, marinas and many residential homes. It is easily accessed by walking or bicycling. The Bay Area Transit Authority can also stop at the Park if scheduled. A children's playground and permanent rest rooms continue to be the highest ranked future items for Herman Park.

Financial assistance for Herman Park was provided from many private family foundations, the Traverse Area Pickleball Association, The Leelanau Soccer Club, "Friends of Herman Park, Inc.," The Bay Garden Club, The Dog Park Ambassadors, The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and many private individuals from around the community. Those donations provided four Pickleball courts, multiple use playing fields, a memorial "Blue Star" garden, the start of four more Pickleball courts, a Pump Track, and a Dog Park.

Upgrades at Graham Greene Park were the next highest overall priority. Hiking trails at Herman Park and 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park are also high priorities.

A full list of Recreation Objectives and Action Program including priority rankings can be found in Table 4. Recreation Objectives and Action Programs for the next five years are also discussed in Section 12.

The Township Parks and Recreation Committee will also work with any new parks supervisor to update individual master plans for each park.

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## **4. Introduction and Background**

In accordance with the State's five-year cycle for recreation planning, the 2024-2028 Suttons Bay Township Community Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan was prepared by the Township Parks and Recreation Committee and adopted by the Suttons Bay Township Board on January XX, 2024 to serve as a guide and decision-making document for future park and recreation facilities and programs.

The planning process included: an online or hard copy survey using "Google Forms", and distribution of surveys at Suttons Bay Public Schools. Leelanau County and other jurisdictions' plans were reviewed to ensure alignment of objectives. A formal public review and adoption process was completed. For those in the community not having access to computers, paper surveys (as noted in the local newspaper) were available at the Township Office and the Suttons Bay / Bingham District Library. Upon completion, they were manually entered online.

This Plan presents an inventory of existing recreation facilities and environmentally significant open spaces within the Township and surrounding communities. Based on public input and Board member review, it evaluates park and recreation opportunities, needs, and anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities and programs. It outlines the Township's Park, Recreation and Open Space goals and 5-year action program.

This Plan provides the Township Board with direction for preparing annual budgets, applying for funding assistance from various agencies and working toward implementing the Township's goals for future recreational development/ programming. The Plan will be accessible on the Suttons Bay Township website as well as the Parks and Recreation website.

This Plan has been prepared to satisfy recreation planning requirements established under the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines and provides for five years of grant eligibility.

## 5. Community Description

The jurisdiction of this Plan is strictly for Suttons Bay Township. Leelanau County, surrounding townships and villages prepare their own recreation plans. The plans prepared by other communities are available on-line and are reviewed to better understand recreation development trends. Information from Suttons Bay Public Schools, Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation (TART) Trails, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other organizations that may affect ongoing or future recreation plans are always important for consideration.

*Leelanau County*

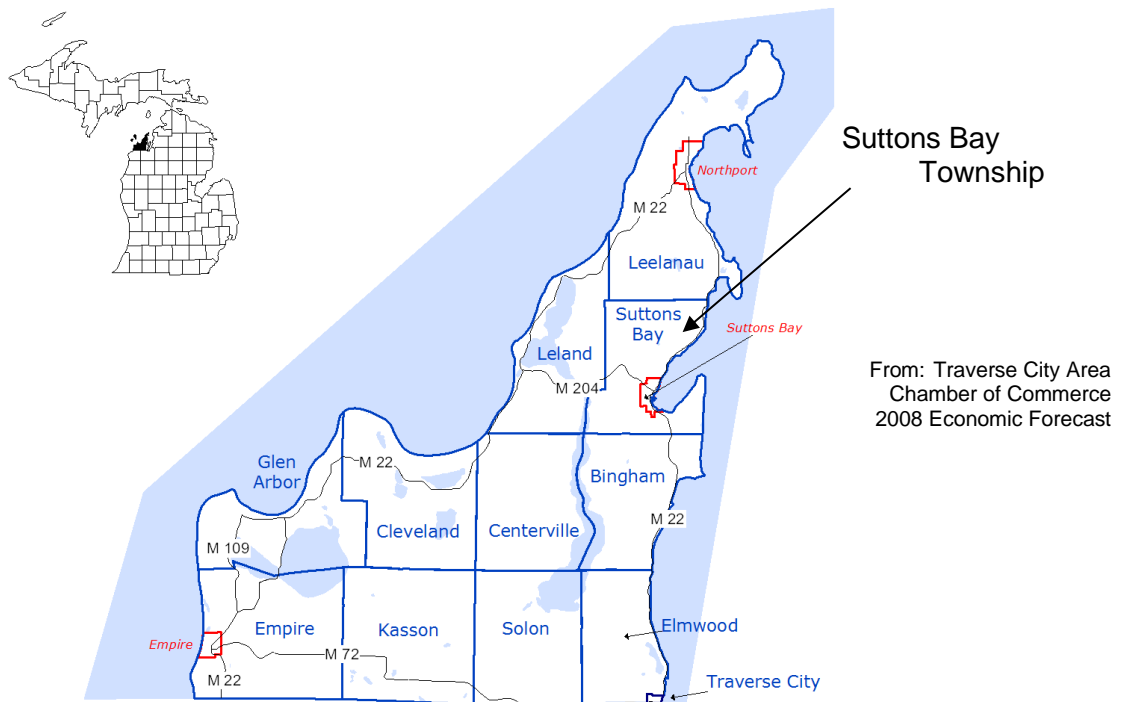


Figure 1. Location of Suttons Bay Township

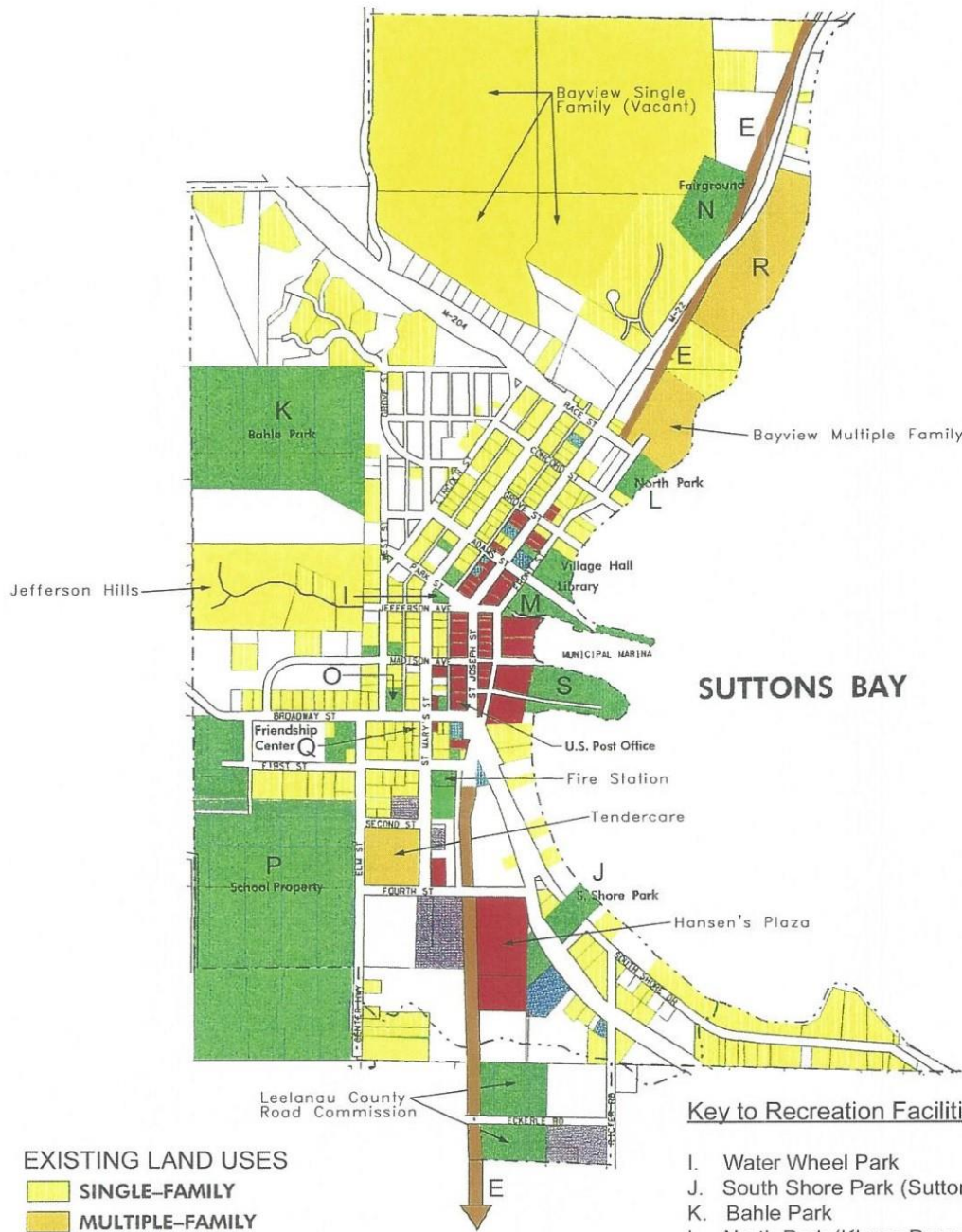
The Suttons Bay Public Schools District serves all of the Township, the Village of Suttons Bay, and Bingham Township. The school campus facilities are located in the southwest corner of the Village of Suttons Bay.

The Village of Suttons Bay serves both as the focal point and as the activity center of the Township. The Village is compact and characterized by traditional small-scale development and a pedestrian-friendly environment. Most of the commercial and industrial development that serves the community is located within the Village.

Outside the Village limits, there are three business nodes in the Township. The first is along M-22 south of the Village. This is an important segment of M-22 because it

serves as the southern gateway into the Village, thus forming a first impression for the traveler. The second is found north of the Village along M-22 in Peshawbestown, the settlement of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. This area of development is centered on the casino and related facilities. There is a third area, at the Township's western boundary on M-204 where the commercial district of the Village of Lake Leelanau begins. The county seat is located in Suttons Bay Township, midway between the Village of Suttons Bay and the community of Lake Leelanau.

The population of Suttons Bay Township at the last Decennial Census (2020) was 2,883 which included a Village of Suttons Bay population of 613 ([data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)). The population of Bingham Township (also served by Suttons Bay Public Schools) was 2,577 at the last census. The combined population for the Village and two Townships is 5,460. The population triples in the warmer months. Seasonal (vacant) residences account for 36% (427 of 1202) of the improved properties in Suttons Bay Township and the Village.



- EXISTING LAND USES**
- SINGLE-FAMILY
  - MULTIPLE-FAMILY
  - COMMERCIAL
  - OFFICE
  - INDUSTRIAL
  - PUBLIC/SEMI-PUBLIC

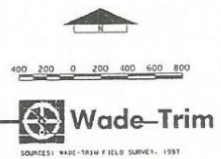
Source: Village of Suttons Bay Master Land Use Plan

**Key to Recreation Facilities:**

- I. Water Wheel Park
- J. South Shore Park (Sutton Park)
- K. Bahle Park
- L. North Park (Klump Parcel)
- M. Village Marina Park Complex
- N. Fairgrounds Recreation Area
- O. Ice Skating Park
- P. Suttons Bay Schools
- Q. Suttons Bay Friendship Center
- R. Port Sutton
- S. Village Coal Dock
- E. Leelanau Trail

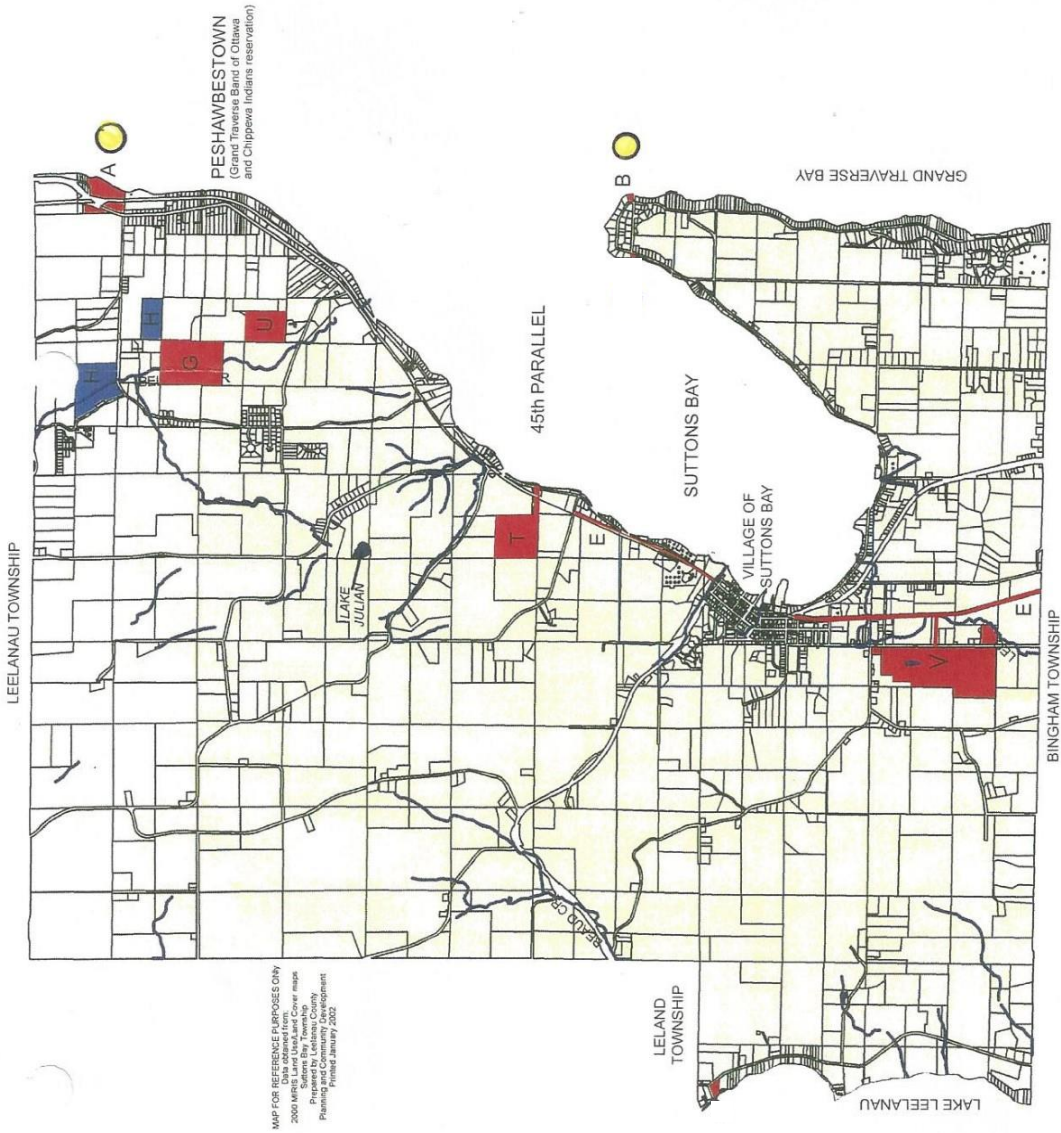
# EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

## SUTTONS BAY VILLAGE LEELANAU COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Map 1





**LEGEND**

Township Parks

Public Guided Tours Only

Unimproved Boating Facilities  
for carry-down kayaks, canoes,  
etc.

**Key to Recreation Facilities**

A. Graham Greene Park

D. Lake Leelanau Access

E. Leelanau Trail

F. Leo Creek Preserve

G. 4-H Parcel Johnson Property

H. Leelanau Conservancy Parcel

O. Ice Rink Park

T. 45th Parallel Park

U. Strong Heart Center

V. Herman Community Park

*For facilities I through S, refer to Village of  
Suttons Bay Recreation Maps.*

**Suttons Bay Township  
Recreation Facilities**

**Map 2**

## 6. Administrative Structure

Suttons Bay Township is governed by a five-member Township Board. In Michigan, townships have been granted their powers and responsibilities as expressly provided by state law. Oversight of parks and recreation facilities and programs is an example of a governing function that townships may choose to perform under Public Act 157 of 1905, as amended. The Suttons Bay Township Board is responsible for the following public parcels: Graham Greene Park, Vic Steimel Park, 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park, Herman Park, and Ice Rink Park. Lover's Lane road end was determined to no longer be Township responsibility as it is considered a road end covered by the Leelanau County Road Commission. Likewise, the old M-204 bridge parcel is the responsibility of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The Suttons Bay Township Planning Commission is appointed by the Supervisor and approved by the Township Board. It serves as a recommending body in the area of zoning and land use. The Suttons Bay Township Parks and Recreation Committee working with the Parks Supervisor, advises the Township Board on parks and recreation matters, and has developed this master plan update. The Village of Suttons Bay has their own Parks and Recreation Master Plan that was adopted in 2022 and was reviewed for common interests with the Township.

The Suttons Bay Township Board established a Parks and Recreation Committee in 2001 to create the First Community Recreation Plan (2002-2007), based on an inventory of existing facilities, local recreation needs and community input. This document serves as the updated Community Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2024-2028.

The current Committee is made up of volunteers from the community at large. Their focus has been to identify what recreational opportunities exist and how might they be expanded or strengthened.

### A. Parks and Recreation Committee Role

The Parks and Recreation Committee plays an advisory role to the Township Board, which makes the final decisions on budgets, funding and expenditures. The Parks and Recreation Committee develops the Community Park and Recreation Plan and provides recommendations to the Township Board based on a public input process. The Committee investigates opportunities for grants, supports grant applications (with the Parks Supervisor), and submits them to the Township Board for approval. Committee members "adopt" certain parks. They focus on a specific park and perform minor work or report back if there are any major shortcomings.

Committee members also solicit community volunteers to help in yearly clean-up or special projects such as tree planting.

The Township currently hires a local contractor to maintain the mowing and plowing (where necessary) for all parks. Trash pick-up and porta-john rentals are also contracted out. The Township depends on volunteers to assist where necessary. In

2018 the Township appointed a Township Parks Supervisor who has specific responsibilities for overseeing all the parks in the Township.

**B. Organizational Chart**

<b>SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>			
<b>SUPERVISOR</b> Doug Periard			
<b>CLERK</b> Jean Moe	<b>TREASURER</b> Dorothy Petroskey	<b>TRUSTEE</b> Debbie Slocombe	<b>TRUSTEE</b> Eric Carlson
<b>PLANNING COMMISSION</b> 9 Member Board		<b>ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS</b> 3 Member Board	
<b>PARKS SUPERVISOR</b> Vacant			
<b>RECREATION COMMITTEE</b> Liz Clark Hadley Dickinson Liz Mahaney Pete Ostrowski (chair) and Assistant Parks Supervisor Dennis Rathnaw Debbie Slocombe			

**C. Current Funding Sources**

State shared revenue provides the largest (60% approximate) share of Township funds. A one Mil tax levy provides the balance of funds. It is anticipated that public and foundation grants and fund raising will continue to augment the Township’s budget for any future acquisition of park land and development of recreation plans, facilities, and programs. The Township can consider a balloted millage up to one mil for targeted recreation and open space projects.

**D. Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations and Maintenance**

The Township Board budgets for the operation and maintenance of the Township including those of the existing park properties. In addition to general funding, considerations are given to any grant applications that require matching and placing the funds in a restricted line-item so they may carry over to following years. The Township fiscal year is March to March. Budget strategy meetings start in January, finalized in March with a Public Hearing held at the end of that month.

**E. Relationships with Other Agencies**

The Township Board always seeks opportunities to work with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Leelanau County, Bingham Township, TART Trails, and The Leelanau Conservancy in developing community recreation facilities.

The Township has established an ongoing program with Suttons Bay Public Schools. Students are able to select required “Senior Projects” at selected township parks. Students are permitted to use any of the recreational facilities at Herman Park, which is adjacent to the school.

The Township has gotten requests from local Eagle Scouts for projects they need to fulfill their personal requirements. Past projects included Bat houses and Life Ring structures at the pond in Herman Park.

## **F. Parks and Recreation Policies and Procedures**

The Parks and Recreation Committee members are appointed by the Township Board. Up to seven members are authorized to be on the Committee. Members must be Township residents and serve a rotating three-year term. There are also several ad-hoc members that support recreational development.

Park ordinances, rules, and reservation procedures are published and accessible on the Township website. The Township enforces their ordinance covering hours of operation of the parks. All applicable ordinances, permit and reservation requests are available on-line at the Township website and are updated as needed.

The Suttons Bay Township Parks website provides information on specific recreation activities that may require contact with local community league play such as tennis and pickleball. This is done more for convenience and this information is posted on message boards located at those facilities.

## **7. Recreation Inventory**

### **A. Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory:**

The inventory of Suttons Bay Township owned Park and Recreation Facilities and Public Open Spaces is kept updated by the Township. Accessibility rankings are not included for non-Township Parks and Recreation Facilities. Those communities are responsible for their own rankings.

Table 1 adds an Accessibility Ranking for Township owned parks in the second column to assess the accessibility of each recreation area. The following ranking system follows the 2010 American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design. The Township relies on the guidance from our Engineering Firm to follow these guidelines for all development at Herman Park. The other Township parks are rustic and no development has occurred other than providing ADA compliant picnic tables.

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park is designed using the principles of universal design

Suttons Bay Township owns five (5) parks. They include Herman Park, Graham Greene Park, Vic Steimel Park, Ice Rink Park and the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park (undeveloped).

Due to a limited revenue stream, recreation development has been focused on Herman Park. Every project completed in the past ten years has been compliant with ADA Standards except the recent multipurpose playing fields, Dog Park, and Pump Track.

See Maps on page 8 and 9 for Existing Park and Recreation Facilities.

## B. Inventory of All Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Township, Village, and Other Governmental Units

The following Table identifies the existing recreation facilities within the Township.

TABLE 1 PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP							
KEY (See Maps 1 & 2)	PARCEL NAME (SB Twp in Bold) (Accessibility Rank)	FACILITIES	ACRES	PUBLIC	SCHOOL	PRIVATE	LOCATION
A.	<b>Graham Greene Park (2)</b>	Rocky beach frontage on Grand Traverse Bay. Non-ADA access for Swimming, kayaking, picnicking, grills, non-ADA tables, porta-jon, wooded. Accessible parking only.	15	X			M-22 Section 2
B.	<b>Vic Steimel Park (2)</b>	Rocky beach frontage on Grand Traverse Bay. Swimming, kayaking, picnicking, small boat launching, grills, trash containers, 7 picnic tables & porta-jon. Accessible picnic table on concrete pad & accessible parking only.	1	X			Nanagosa Trail Section 23
E.	Leelanau Trail	15 Mile linear recreational trail, hiking, biking and cross-country skiing, approximately 3 miles long in Suttons Bay Township. (TART Trails, Inc. – non-profit organization)				X	M-22 & Cedar St., South to Township Line Sections 21 & 33
F.	Leo Creek Preserve	Outdoor Learning Laboratory and Permaculture Gardens located along Leo Creek. Created in 2016, protected by conservation easement. (not for profit)	9			X	Leelanau Trail 800 ft. south of Fourth St. in Village
G.	Johnson 4-H Nature Preserve	Hiking, picnicking, shelter structure, restroom, woodlands, wetlands and creek.	60			X	Stallman Road Section 10
H.	Leelanau Conservancy Parcel	Guided tours by the Leelanau County Nature Conservancy.	70	X			Roubal Road, Section 3
O.	<b>Ice Rink Park (2)</b>	<b>Picnic table (non-ADA), lighted ice skating, covered bench. Accessible parking.</b>	.5	X			Lincoln Ave. and W Broadway, Section 28
T.	<b>45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park (Undeveloped)</b>	<b>Future plans to create walking &amp; snowshoe trails. Picnic, scenic overlooks</b>	43	X			M-22, Section 16

	(1)	and shoreline access to Grand Traverse Bay.					
V.	Herman Park (3)	Tennis courts, Pickleball courts, ½ mile paved trail, fishing pond with dock, disc golf course, soccer field, gazebo at pond, large pavilion, picnic tables, benches & grills, Pump Track, and Dog Park. All facilities & parking ADA compliant.	126	X			Herman Road & Center Highway (631) Section 28

The following Table identifies the existing recreation facilities within the village.

<b>TABLE 2            PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE            VILLAGE OF SUTTONS BAY</b>							
KEY (See Map 2)	PARCEL NAME	FACILITIES	ACRES	PUBLIC	SCHOOL	PRIVATE	LOCATION
I.	Water Wheel Park (Village)	Tennis and basketball courts. Picnic tables, open field, bike rack, and water wheel on creek.	.3	X			St. Mary's Ave. Section 28
J.	Sutton Park (South Shore Park) (Village)	Swimming, picnicking, bathroom, picnic shelter, playground, 300 ft. shoreline.		X			South Shore Drive Section 28
K.	Bahle Park (Village)	Sledding hill, nature trails, cross country skiing, warming and meeting house. (for rent)	30	X			West Street Section 29
L.	North Park (Village)	1,500 feet of frontage, boat launch, covered pavilion, restrooms & boat parking	4.5	X			East of the intersection of M-204 & M-22, Sec.28
M.	Village Marina Park Complex (Village)	Swimming, bathhouse, boating, walking paths, and 130 boat docks, fishing, playground, 3,000 ft. water frontage.	10	X			End of Adams Street, Section 28
N.	Fairgrounds Recreation Area (Village)	Lighted and fenced fields, restrooms, bleachers, concession building, natural wooded area, and parking.	4	X			M-22 north of M-204, Section 21
P.	Suttons Bay Public Schools	Football field, Track, Soccer Fields, Baseball Fields, Softball Fields 1 Auditorium, Indoor Gyms, Playground Equipment and Fitness Center	70		X		Herman Road and Center Highway Section 28
Q.	Suttons Bay Friendship Community Center	Meeting Room, Leelanau Investing for Teens (LIFT), youth lounge, office.	--			X	St. Mary's Ave., Section 28
R.	Port Sutton	Private condominium with tennis courts, swimming beach and pool, clubhouse, 40 private boat slips	4			X	M-22 north of M-204 Section 21
S.	Village Coal Dock	Fishing pier, boat docks, walking path, docking facilities for Inland Seas Education Program.	2	X			Section 28

W.	Bay View	Private condominium with tennis court, indoor pool & clubhouse, 40 public, 40 private boat slips, fishing pier.	2			X	M-22 north of M-204 Section 21
	Grand Traverse Bay Shoreline	Small boat launch available at seven public parks in Township and Village.		X			Township boundary along Grand Traverse and Suttons Bays

The following Table represents existing recreation facilities by other Governmental Units within Suttons Bay Township.

<b>TABLE 3            PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE            OTHER GOVERNMENTAL UNITS IN SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP</b>							
KEY (See Map 1)	PARCEL	FACILITIES	ACRES	PUBLIC	SCHOOL	PRIVATE	LOCATION
T.	MDOT 45th Parallel Roadside Park M-22	Water access, swimming, kayak and canoe launch along the road by the waters of Grand Traverse Bay.	1.5	X			M-22, Section 16
U.	Strong Heart Recreation Center G.T. Band	Baseball/Soccer field, basketball courts, skatepark, playgrounds, bathrooms, horse shoes, disc golf course, Pow Wow Grounds, picnic tables, grills, sand volleyball courts. Indoor facilities: locker rooms, rubberized track, weight room, aerobics/dance studio, and cardiovascular area.	40			X	Stallman Road Peshawbestown Section 10
	Leelanau County Government Center	Community Meeting Room. Exercise classes open to the public.	39	X			Government Center Drive, Section 19

### C. Recreation Opportunities

Coinciding with the abundance of natural resources in the region, many opportunities exist for individual recreation and team sports. The Township has many access points to the water for summer swimming and boating. Most roads in the Township are lightly traveled by cars and trucks, allowing excellent bicycling, walking, and running. The Leelanau Trail offers year-round recreation, allowing safe walking, hiking, bicycling,

cross-country skiing, etc. Winter sports opportunities include ice skating and sledding; groomed cross-country skiing on the Leelanau Trail; snowshoeing; and some snowmobiling. The following summarizes individual opportunities within the Township:

**Baseball/Softball:** The Suttons Bay Youth League provides both baseball and softball opportunities for Suttons Bay youth each summer. In addition, a local T-Ball League is offered.

**Bicycle (Road & Mountain):** The Tart Trail has been extended through the Village of Suttons Bay and north to Dumas Rd. M-22 and M-204 are good, paved roads but shoulders in some areas are small and care must be used. Suttons Bay Township's Herman Park has hosted the finish line activities for Cherry Capital Cycling Club events. A Pump Track has also been added at Herman Park that can be used by non-motorized bicycles, skateboards, and scooters.

**Birding:** The combination of Township lands along the shoreline and inland provides varying habitats for birding. Close to 150 species either nest or migrate through the Township. The area has become more popular as a destination birding location because of Saving Birds through Habitat, which has a 44-acre sanctuary north of the Township. An annual birding festival began in 2011 and grows in attendance each year.

**Boating:** The Township has two parks (Vic Steimel & Graham Greene) where anyone can launch personal watercraft, such as kayaks, paddle boards, row boats, and wind surfers. Larger boat ramps are located at North Park in the Village. There is also a boat launch in Lake Leelanau at the old M-204 bridge abutment.

**Camping:** There is one privately owned and operated campground/RV park in the Township. A state park with camping sites, Leelanau State Park, is 18 miles north of the Village center.

**Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing:** The Leelanau Trail, which runs the length of the Township, offers the only groomed trail in the Township for both skating and Nordic (classic) cross-country skiing. Volunteers groom the trail. Herman Park offers 26 acres for snowshoeing.

**Disc Golf:** Herman Park has an 18-hole course that can be played year-round. Peshabestown offers a newer 27-hole course.

**Dog Park:** Dog Park Ambassadors was formed to raise funds and design a three-quarter acre Dog Park at Herman Park. The subcommittee raised all the funds needed to construct the park in 2023 with additional volunteer donations.

**Down Hill Skiing:** The closest Alpine skiing is at The Homestead in Glen Arbor Township, a 25-mile distance from the Township. Many people also travel to Crystal Mountain, in Benzie County to the south, which is the nearest major ski area.



**Fishing:** There are year-round fishing opportunities in Suttons Bay Township. In addition to access to the Great Lakes fishery via Suttons Bay there are several lakes and numerous ponds and creeks that produce consistent results for the fisherman. Herman Park has two fishing ponds and a creek that are easily accessible.

**Football Programs at Suttons Bay Public Schools:** Football venues vary year to year depending on student enrollment. The Suttons Bay Public Schools website provides information about athletics.

**Golf:** There is one 18-hole public golf course just outside the Township, The Leelanau Club. Leelanau County also has other public and private courses.

**Hunting:** Hunting is allowed in Herman Park and the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park. State regulations, rules and laws must be followed. Hunters should notify the Township of their intent to hunt in these parks.

**Ice Skating:** The Township floods and maintains the outdoor ice rink in the Village, at the corner of W. Broadway and Lincoln Ave. The rink has lights for night skating. New upgrades to the rink include side boards, and an equipment storage and warming shed.

**Pickleball:** Herman Park has four pickleball courts built to United States Pickleball Association specifications. The courts were funded almost entirely by community donations. Reservation processes are posted on-line as well as on the park message boards. The start of four more courts was again made possible from many community donations including from the Traverse Area Pickleball Association, family foundations, and private donations.

**Roller Blading:** The paved Leelanau Trail offers the longest area for roller blading in the Township. The pavement on the Leelanau Trail offers a local full 17-mile stretch of asphalt. Roller blading is also permitted on the paved trail at Herman Park.

**Sledding:** The Village has a sledding hill at Bahle Park.

**Soccer:** The recreational soccer program is spearheaded by the Leelanau Soccer Club who raised funds for the development of multipurpose fields at Herman Park. Recreational opportunities are available on their website.

**Snowmobiling:** There are some private property owners who allow snowmobiling on their land but there are no public trails in the Township.

**Swimming:** The Village has swimming beaches at the Marina and Sutton (South Shore) Park. The Township also has many informal swimming access sites. The closest indoor swimming is in Northport at the Wurm Health Center with a two-lane pool and small shallow area.

**Tennis:** Herman Park has four tennis courts built to USTA specifications. There is one public tennis court at Water Wheel Park in the Village of Suttons Bay. Two private courts are owned by Port Sutton Condominiums. The Bay View Condos also has one private court. Nearby Leland Township has one court at Grove Park in Lake Leelanau.

**Volleyball:** Two sand courts are available at the Suttons Bay Village Marina beach. Sand courts are also available at the Strong Heart Center in Peshawbestown

**Walking, Hiking, & Running:** People walk and run on most roads in the Township. M-22 and M-204 are the only roads with paved shoulders. Bahle Park in the Village offers walking and hiking trails. TART Trails has considerable trail extensions through Leelanau County as well as Suttons Bay Township.

**D. Recreation Programs:** Due to the Township's limited revenue stream, it does not have staff or offer any recreation programming. It does, however, allow the use of its facilities for some programming as long as it does not interfere with public use. A local United States Tennis Professional provides tennis instruction to children 3 years to 12 and over at Herman Park. She also provides an adult clinic and adult instruction upon request. Class schedules and contact information is provided online and at the Herman Park message boards. A local women also offers pickleball lessons at Herman Park..

#### **E. ADA Assessments for Suttons Bay Township Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities:**

**Herman Park: (#3 assessment)** – 126-acre parcel with 26 acres of upland (for development) meets accessibility guidelines and was designed using the principles of universal design. The facility includes (4) tennis courts, (4) pickleball courts (with fund raising efforts for 4 more), 3600 sq. ft. pavilion, (4) ADA compliant picnic tables, kids' fishing dock, shade structure, half-mile paved trail and paved driveway and parking. There are no permanent restrooms at this site. An accessible porta-jon is provided every year. There is electrical service at the pavilion and a water bottle filling station outside of the storage shed. Recent additions to Herman Park include a multipurpose (soccer) field, a Dog Park (including water fountains), and a Pump Track that at the present are not accessible. An area west of the pavilion has been reserved for future Universal Design / ADA compliant children's playground.

**Vic Steimel Park: (#2 assessment)** – The 1-acre park located on West Bay provides (1) ADA picnic table located on a large concrete pad. Other than a few grills and benches with backs, there are no other facilities. A seasonal porta-jon is provided. The short gravel driveway does not provide proper accessibility. Accessibility to the water's edge is difficult. The park has an un-improved small boat, kayak, canoe launch.

**Graham Greene Park: (#2 assessment)** – The 15-acre park located on Suttons Bay, north of the Village of Suttons Bay, has a paved accessible roadway into the park with paved parking. Two old picnic tables are not to ADA standards. A seasonal porta-jon is provided. Grassy areas have many stumps and uneven surfaces. An old wood stairway

to the beach is not accessible to all. The wooded acreage has limited accessibility. No other facilities are provided.

**Ice Rink Park: (#2 assessment)** – The half-acre parcel located within the Village limits is flooded during the winter months for skating. Paved Village streets and parking are accessible. One non-ADA picnic table on site. The grassy sloped area minimizes accessibility. One accessible porta-jon is provided during winter season only. The parcel is used in the summer for special events and outdoor movies.

**45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park: (#1 assessment)** – The 43-acre parcel is undeveloped with no facilities on site and limited accessibility. This steep and hilly parcel is planned for future mountain-biking and hiking.

#### **F. Primary Service Area:**

- 1) Herman Community Park is the focal point of development because of its “walkability initiative”. It is located within a quarter-mile radius of Suttons Bay Public Schools, the downtown Village of Suttons Bay business corridor, the Leelanau Trail, a senior care facility and the Suttons Bay Marina complex. The latest population in the Village of Suttons Bay is over 600 persons. Farming properties and residential housing border Herman Park. There has been a substantial increase in new home construction within a mile of the park.
- 2) Ice Rink Park is located within the Village of Suttons Bay on Lincoln and Broadway. It is closer to the same resources as shown for Herman Park. It is used primarily during the winter as a lighted skating rink (approximately 80’ x 120’). The “pond hockey” sized rink has a pond hockey league during the winter months as the ice allows. This past year it was home for “LIFT”, the Leelanau Investing in Youth non-profit organization that uses a portion of the park for community functions.
- 3) Vic Steimel Park is located at the tip of Stony Point in a residential and former agricultural area. It is used for picnics, bicycling stops, kayak or canoe launching, and access to Grand Traverse Bay.
- 4) Graham Greene Park is located at the north end of the Township property line, off of the M-22 corridor and adjacent to Peshabestown. Primarily used for picnics and water access. The natural part of the park is undeveloped.
- 5) 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park was acquired in 2009 with a MNRTF grant. Its use is intended for future walking and bicycle trails. The development is on hold pending final decisions by MDOT for making changes on M-22 and a roadside pull-off. MDOT has provided a future easement once their plans are completed.

Note: All of the above park locations are shown on maps, pages 8 & 9.

## **8. Inventory of Existing Recreational Boating Facilities (UNIMPROVED)**

Graham Greene Park and Vic Steimel Park are the only Township Parks located on the shores of Lake Michigan's West Bay and Suttons Bay. These sites are defined as 'unimproved' locations where residents can carry down kayaks, canoes, standup paddleboards, wind surfers, etc. Vic Steimel Park has an un-paved boat launch that can accommodate a 10'-12' trailered boat.

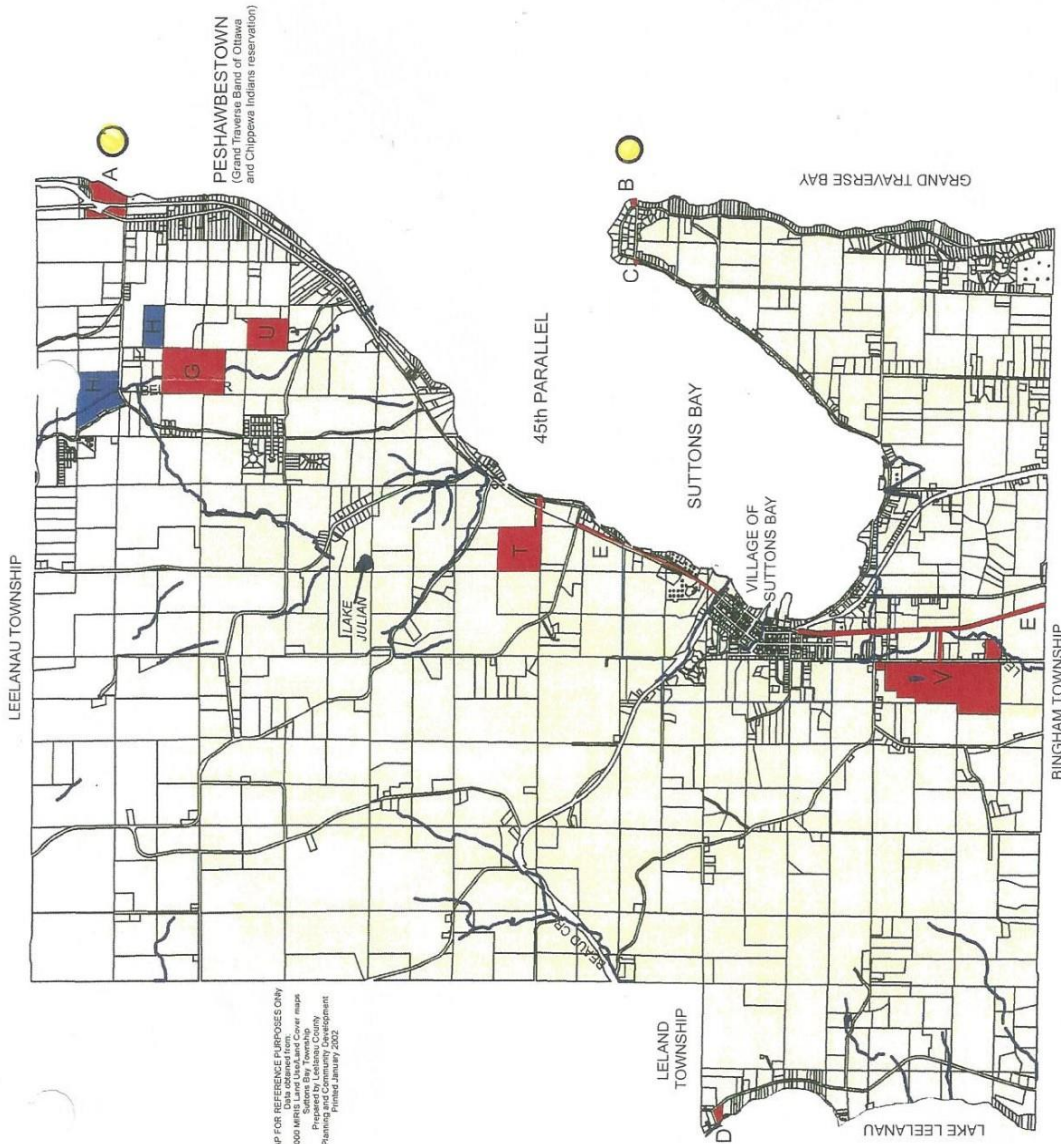
Table 1 on page 13 of this plan lists the subject parks, the facilities available, location, ADA accessibility and size.

The general purpose of each of these facilities is recreational, typically for picnics with on-site picnic tables and grills. Porta-jons and waste receptacles are available. Electrical service is not available. Table 4 on page 30 of this plan identifies the objectives and action programs for the subject parks.

These sites do not require dredging nor repairs and maintenance.

Vic Steimel and Graham Greene Parks are listed as part of Michigan Water Trails. Suttons Bay is part of Lake Michigan Water Trail Northwest, West Grand Traverse Bay Trail. Both parks are shown on the Michigan Water Trails website ([www.michiganwatertrails.org](http://www.michiganwatertrails.org))

Development at Graham Greene could include lockable kayak/canoe storage racks, rustic camping, and a water well. This park is adjacent to the Tribal-owned Arthur Duhamel Marina. There are no current marketing plans at this time. There is a potential for future collaboration with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.



MAP FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY  
 Data obtained from:  
 2000 USGS Topographic Map  
 Suttons Bay, Township  
 Prepared by Leelanau County  
 Planning Department  
 Printed January 2002

- LEGEND**
- Township Parks
  - Public Guided Tours Only
  - Unimproved Boating Facilities  
for carry-down kayaks, canoes,  
etc.
- Key to Recreation Facilities**
- A. Graham Greene Park
  - B. Vic Steimel Park
  - E. Leelanau Trail
  - F. Leo Creek Preserve
  - G. 4-H Parcel Johnson Property
  - H. Leelanau Conservancy Parcel
  - O. Ice Rink Park
  - T. 45th Parallel Park
  - U. Strong Heart Center
  - V. Herman Community Park

For facilities I through S, refer to Village of  
 Suttons Bay Recreation Maps.

**Suttons Bay Township  
 Recreation Facilities**

Map 3

## Unimproved Boating Locations



### Vic Steimel Park – Traverse West Bay Access

Kayaks, canoes, standup paddleboards. Small gravel ramp for very small, trailered boats. Located at the intersection of Lover's Lane Road and North Nanagosa Trail.

(GPS 44.996736, -85.635984)

#### Objectives and Action Program

Develop an accessible path to water's edge, investigate lockable kayak storage racks and collaborate with Michigan Water Trail initiative.



### Graham Greene Park – Traverse West Bay Access

Carry down kayaks, canoes, standup paddleboards, or very small boats. Located adjacent to Arthur Duhamel Marina in Peshabestown

(GPS 45.035509, -85.598552)

#### Objectives and Action Program

Improve existing steps to the water's edge. Investigate design for accessible ramp to beach area. Thin out vegetation and add benches. Remove rocks and tree stumps for easier access. Collaborate with Michigan Water Trail initiative.

## 9. Natural Resource Inventory

In 2010, Suttons Bay Township and the Village of Suttons Bay collaborated to develop a Joint Master Plan. With assistance provided by LIAA (Land Information Access Association) “Partnerships for Change Sustainable Communities,” the planning and zoning departments of both entities worked over a year to develop the plan which was published in August 2011. Currently, the Village of Suttons Bay has developed their own Master Plan (2022). The Township will be developing their own Master Plan in the coming year.

The 2011 Plan is almost 100 pages long and identifies by layers and maps the resource inventory in our community and includes political boundaries, roads and parcel maps. The Plan addresses policy, objectives, future land use and zoning strategy.

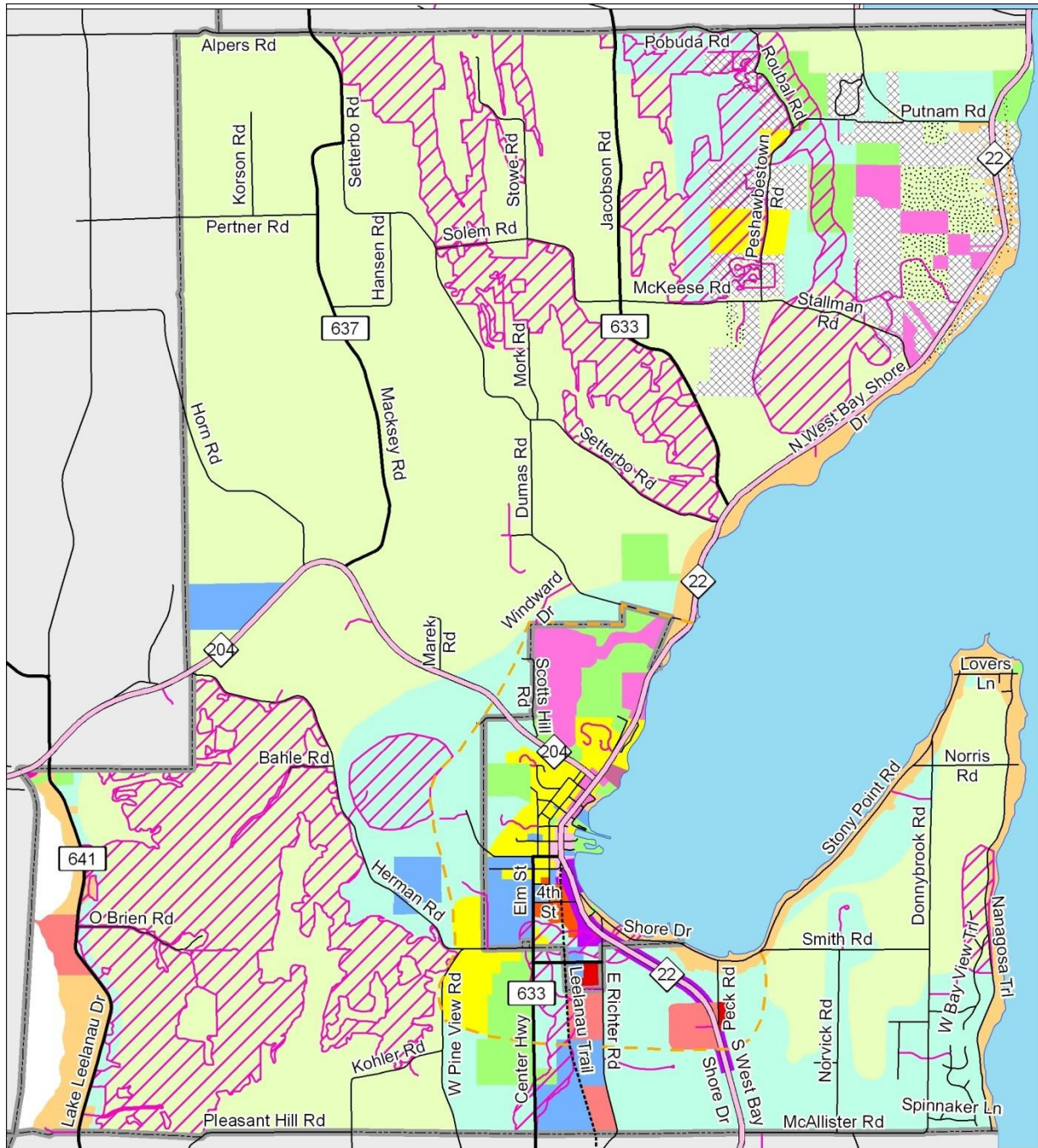
The 2011 Joint Master Plan includes maps for:

- a) Prime Farmland
- b) Commercial Forestlands
- c) Existing Land Use
- d) Leelanau Conservancy Priority Lands
- e) Steep Slopes
- f) Wetlands
- g) Road Classifications
- h) Trust and Non-Trust Lands (Tribal)
- i) Recreation

The 2011 Joint Master Plan can be accessed at:

[www.leelanau.cc/downloads/joint\\_master\\_planaugust\\_2011.pdf](http://www.leelanau.cc/downloads/joint_master_planaugust_2011.pdf)).

The following page shows one example of the Future Land Use Map for Suttons Bay Township. Additional maps helping to develop the 2024-2028 Plan are at the referenced 2011 Joint Master Plan.



**Future Land Use - Township**

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Village Growth Management Area | Public/Quasipublic             |
| General Commercial             | Recreation                     |
| Shoreline Residential          | Commercial Forest              |
| Neighborhood Residential       | G.T. Band Trust Properties     |
| Conservation (overlay)         | G.T. Band Non Trust Properties |
| Lake Leelanau Mixed Use        | Jurisdictions                  |
| Mixed Use Center               | Heritage Route (M-22 & M-204)  |
| Mixed Use North                | Primary Route                  |
| Mixed Use South                | Private Roads                  |
| Mixed Use Waterfront           | Other Roads                    |
| Rural Residential              | Leelanau Trail                 |
| Working Lands                  |                                |
| Business Park                  |                                |
| Rural Commercial               |                                |

**Partnerships for CHANGE**  
Sustainable Communities

0 0.5 1 Miles

**LIAA**

Sources:  
Leelanau County and Leelanau Conservancy  
Natural Resources and Conservation Services  
Michigan Center for Geographic Information,  
Department of Information Technology  
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and  
Chippewa Indians  
MSU RS&GIS and TART Trails

Map Produced June 2011

Map 4



## 10. Description of the Planning Process

Suttons Bay Township has used and is currently using the “Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Plans” as a template for their decision making.

### A. A Community Based Approach to Park, Recreation and Open Space Planning

Community input was sought prior to updating the “Suttons Bay Township Community Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan for 2019-2023”. The use of a “Google Form” online survey was used for input prior to updating this plan. It had been decided to follow the same format to update the plan for the next 5 years which starts in 2024. To get as many responses as possible, a combination of an online survey and in-person survey was offered. High School students at Suttons Public Schools were encouraged to take the survey. Several strategies have been discussed on how to get the word out to the public on the survey. Ideas range from QR Codes on signs around town to notices in the tax bills. Paper surveys were available for those in the community who prefer this option over an online survey. Survey questions were approved by the Township Board.

The Township revenue stream is limited, and the preference has been to complete the development goals and objectives at Herman Park before moving on to another park. Recent additions to Herman Park include a multipurpose (soccer) field, a Dog Park, a Pump Track, construction of four additional Pickleball Courts, and expanded parking.

Along with the completion of a soccer field, current projects under construction at Herman Park are the addition of a Dog Park, new Pickleball Courts, and a Pump Track. There is preliminary work centered on a children’s playground.

This Five-Year Plan can be updated and changed at any time depending on the needs of the Community.

The top ten items (in order of preference) from the 2019 survey were:

1. Drinking water (completed)
2. Permanent restrooms
3. Playground equipment
4. Dog Park (completed)
5. Basketball courts
6. Longer paved walking trails
7. BBQ grills (completed)
8. Benches along walking trails
9. Winter hockey opportunities (completed)
10. Youth soccer field development (completed)

The top ten items from the 2023 survey are:

1. Permanent Restrooms at Herman Park
2. Nature Trails at Herman Park
3. Playground at Herman Park
4. Hiking Trails at 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park
5. Ice Rink Improvements
6. Canoe / Kayak Launch at Vic Steimel Park
7. Canoe / Kayak Launch at Graham Greene Park
8. Observation Deck at Graham Greene
9. Parking, Picnic Tables, etc. ADA compliant at Graham Greene Park
10. Pavilion at Graham Greene Park

## **B. Identification of Potential and Priority Conservation Areas**

The *Suttons Bay Community Joint Master Plan* from 2011 was based primarily on The Leelanau Conservancy's Natural Lands Inventory, which maps Potential Conservation Areas. It is a science-based approach to identify potential conservation areas throughout the Leelanau Peninsula that, with proper management, would ensure the long-term persistence of the region's biodiversity, the ecological processes needed to maintain these elements and ecological integrity.

Potential Conservation Areas are defined as places on the landscape dominated by native vegetation that have various levels of potential for harboring high quality natural areas and unique natural features. In addition, these areas may provide critical ecological services such as maintaining water quality and quantity, soil development and stabilization, pollination of cropland, wildlife travel corridors, stopover sites for migratory birds, sources of genetic diversity, and floodwater retention.

The process established by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory of identifying potential conservation areas, can be used to track and update the status of these remaining sites. Site maps and ranking data can then be used by the Leelanau Conservancy, local municipalities such as Suttons Bay and other agencies to prioritize conservation efforts and assist in finding opportunities to establish an open space system of linked natural areas throughout the peninsula.

An area of opportunity that could be explored is working with the Forestry Department to implement some of their *Assisted Tree Range Expansion Project (ATREP)* program. This is an important program that is trying to maintain the diversity of Michigan forests as tree species are being lost to invasive threats.

The master plan also stresses that the shoreline and waters of Grand Traverse and Suttons Bay are community assets that are currently underutilized.

## **C. Comparison to Recreation Standards**

Leelanau County has a large tourism economic base. There has been a significant increase in the second home market over the last couple of decades as well as properties being used for vacation rentals. Suttons Bay Township experiences the

pressures from this seasonal population growth. The existing recreation facilities in the Suttons Bay community (Township and Village) have a very high usage during the summer season because of seasonal residents and tourism. There are no county parks, state parks or federal recreation lands in the Township to serve the tourism industry.

There is and will continue to be a need for improved waterfront access as the population of the area grows. All age groups use waterfront parks, especially if they provide barrier-free facilities.

The active “empty nesters” and seniors of today are using trails, and multi-purpose sports fields right along with our youth. Suttons Bay Township continues to see growth in this demographic.

The ageing population in our area has shown a preference for more pickleball courts as opposed to more tennis courts that were preferred just a few years ago. To meet this need, money was raised for four more pickleball courts which are now under construction at Herman Park. There continues to be a need for more youth soccer fields, especially in Leelanau County. There is conversation around how we could expand our soccer field so multiple games could be played at Herman Park at the same time. This would limit the need for families to travel if they have more than one child participating in the sport.

## **11. Public Input Process**

Incorporating public input for the recreation planning process is the most important part of developing a good “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan”. Suttons Bay Township used the following methods to solicit public awareness and input:

- 1) Held a visioning meeting on April 26, 2023 as advertised in the Leelanau Enterprise on April 13, 2023. The meeting used a +/Delta format asking participants to put post-it notes on a display board with + (what you liked about the park), and delta (what you change to make it better). The results are shown in Appendix A.
- 2) Developed an online or hard copy survey that was released in July 2023 with signs at all the parks with QR codes for the survey.
- 3) Released newspaper announcements several times about the survey including the Leelanau Ticker.
- 4) Discussed the availability of the online survey at the monthly Township Board meetings in which the minutes were printed in the Leelanau Enterprise.
- 5) Distributed paper copies of the survey at the Suttons Bay Village Hall, Suttons Bay-Bingham District Library, as well as making available paper surveys at the Township office.
- 6) Suttons Bay Public Schools were provided information about the survey and also were given paper copies. Students were encouraged by the staff to complete the

surveys online or fill out paper copies. Students were asked to take copies back to their home and encourage parents to fill them out.

- 7) Parks and Recreation members approached the public at Herman Park to discuss the opportunity of completing the surveys.
- 8) Notice of Public Hearing was posted in the Leelanau Enterprise on the December 21, 2023 issue stating that the Public Hearing would be held on January 3, 2024. A further ad for parks and recreation input was in the Leelanau Enterprise on December 28, 2024.
- 9) The Public Hearing was held on January 3, 2024, at the Suttons Bay Township Office. After the Public Hearing, the Suttons Bay Township Board of Trustees voted on the **resolution to approve the “Five Year Community Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan 2024-2028”**.

Supporting documentation for the public input process is provided in Appendix A. Included are notes from the Public Hearing and a letter from Derenda LeFevre, a Certified Recreation Therapist and Disability Inclusion Specialist who attended the Public Hearing. Tom Nixon also sent comments on the public survey and on the DRAFT Plan.

The Community Survey Questions are provided in Appendix B.

The Community Survey Responses are provided in Appendix C

## **12. Park, Recreation, and Open Space Goals and Objectives**

The Parks and Recreation Committee has established the following goals based on a formal community survey and visioning session. Since the number one priority for park development in the past has been Herman Park, the survey was basically geared to other developments and understanding the budget limitations that the Township has to work with. Some of the goals are carry-overs from the previous Recreation Plans.

1. Continue to provide barrier-free access to all future projects and ensure they meet the requirements of the 2010 ADA Guidelines.
2. Address the top ten most desired facility items described in the community survey and public input (visioning session) as the Township budget allows. See Table 4.
3. Utilize the 2017 Forestry Stewardship Program created for Graham Greene, Herman Park and the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park. Develop a tree inventory, tree removal schedule, tree planting schedule and maintenance program.
4. Incorporate control of invasive plant species (based on a previous invasive species inventory completed) within the park system.

5. As funding becomes available, create trail accessible systems throughout Herman Park and 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park.
6. Increase and improve birding, fishing, and hunting access points to public and private lands.
7. Preserve and promote wildlife habitat protection as well as outdoor education opportunities.
8. Expand sports activity options to meet the growing and changing recreation programs and needs of the community.
9. Provide passive recreation opportunities by developing the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park in partnership with The Leelanau Conservancy and the Grand Traverse Band for passive recreation (trails, outdoor education, picnic facilities, possible backpack camping site, etc.).
10. Work with the Michigan Department of Transportation to protect the M-22 and M-204 scenic corridors, improve water access, and develop an accessible picnic area along Grand Traverse Bay that will augment the future management plan for 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park.
11. Continue to involve the students at Suttons Bay High School in the parks programming for the Township. Encourage senior projects at the Township parks. Continue to involve local Boy Scout Troop 131 for rank advancement and Eagle Projects.
12. Coordinate with Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians on promoting any existing and new recreation facilities for the community.
13. Discuss the possibility of a long-term maintenance and facilities improvement plan in partnership with the Village of Suttons Bay.
14. Explore partnerships for developing the Michigan Water Trail System along the shoreline of the Township, using existing public lands as access points. Explore the possibility of providing an accessible launch site and primitive camping sites for users.
15. Consider opportunities for forming a Joint Parks Authority with the Village of Suttons Bay and or Bingham Township.

### 13. Recreation Objectives and Action Program

The following Table identifies the priorities for park, recreation and open space for the Township of Suttons Bay and specific actions for park facilities & recreation development over the next five years.

<b>TABLE 4 2024 to 2028 RECREATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PROGRAM SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES</b>				
Priority #	Year	Development/Improvement	Cost	Potential Funding/Source/Opportunity
1	Completed 2019 - 2023  2024 –2028	<u><b>Herman Community Park</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Electric Service (comp 2019)</li> <li>▪ Well &amp; Water (comp 2019)</li> <li>▪ Youth Soccer Fields (comp 2021)</li> <li>▪ Community Garden (comp 2022)</li> <li>▪ Small Storage Shed (2022)</li> <li>▪ Pickleball Courts (4 in 2022)</li> <li>▪ Extend road and parking (2023)</li> <li>▪ Dog Park (comp 2023)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Permanent Restrooms</li> <li>▪ Playground Equipment</li> <li>▪ Longer Paved Trails</li> <li>▪ Benches Along Trails</li> <li>▪ Trails thru wetlands</li> <li>▪ Pickleball Courts (comp 2024)</li> <li>▪ Maintenance / Storage Shed</li> </ul>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund</li> <li>▪ Traverse City Rotary Charities</li> <li>▪ Township Funds</li> <li>▪ G.T. Band (2% money)</li> <li>▪ Friends of Park Cash Donations</li> <li>▪ Potential Partnerships:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suttons Bay Village</li> <li>• Suttons Bay Public Schools</li> <li>• Leelanau County</li> <li>• Bingham Township</li> <li>• Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa</li> <li>• Grand Traverse Watershed Council</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	Completed 2019 - 2023  2024 –2028	<u><b>Graham Greene Park</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tree removal (comp 2019)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tree planting</li> <li>▪ Signage</li> <li>▪ Improve parking</li> <li>▪ Provide barrier-free access</li> <li>▪ Accessible picnic tables</li> <li>▪ Steps &amp; boat ramp to water</li> <li>▪ Trash &amp; Dog Waste Containers</li> </ul>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund</li> <li>▪ Township Funds</li> <li>▪ Local Grants</li> <li>▪ Local donations</li> <li>▪ G.T. Band (2% money)</li> <li>▪ Coastal Zone Management Program</li> </ul>
3	Completed 2019 - 2023  2024 –2028	<u><b>Ice Rink Park</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On-Site Storage Building (2022)</li> <li>▪ Engineering Assistance for rink design (2023)</li> <li>▪ Picnic Table &amp; Benches (2023)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summer Usage</li> <li>▪ Site leveling</li> </ul>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund</li> <li>▪ Traverse City Rotary Charities</li> <li>▪ G.T. Band (2% money)</li> </ul>

**TABLE 4 (continued)**  
**2024 to 2028**  
**RECREATION OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PROGRAM**  
**SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

Priority #	Year	Development/Improvement	Cost	Funding/Source/Opportunities
4	2024 –2028	<p><b><u>Michigan Water Trail along Grand Traverse Bay Shoreline</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaborate with the Michigan Water trail Initiative.</li> <li>▪ Provide an accessible kayak launch (Vic Steimel &amp; Graham Greene parks)</li> <li>▪ Signage, Maps, Website</li> <li>▪ Rustic Camping study</li> </ul>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund</li> <li>▪ Local donations</li> <li>▪ Rotary Charities</li> <li>▪ G.T. Band (2% grant)</li> <li>▪ Michigan Coastal Zone Mgmt. Program</li> </ul>
5	Completed 2019 - 2023 2024 –2028	<p><b><u>Vic Steimel Park</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tree removal (comp 2019)</li> <li>▪ Tree planting</li> <li>▪ Boat ramp improvement</li> <li>▪ Accessible ramp to water's edge</li> <li>▪ Trash &amp; Dog Waste Containers</li> </ul>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Township Funds</li> <li>▪ Local grants</li> <li>▪ Local donations</li> </ul>
6	2024 –2028	<p><b><u>45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Marked hiking trails</li> <li>▪ Access road &amp; parking</li> </ul>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MDOT Collaboration</li> <li>▪ TART TRAILS Collaboration</li> <li>▪ DNR Grants</li> <li>▪ Local Grants/Donations</li> </ul>
7	2024 –2028	<p><b><u>Management Plan for Park System</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Long term management plan for park system including tree plantings &amp; invasive species removals.</li> <li>▪ Survey and mark boundaries</li> <li>▪ Park address w/County</li> <li>▪ Research parks history.</li> </ul>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Township Funds</li> </ul>
8	TBD	<p><b><u>TART/Leelanau Trail Connector</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and develop trail connections between all parks and Leelanau Trail</li> <li>▪ Develop trail north to the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park.</li> </ul>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Township Funds</li> <li>▪ Local grants/donations</li> <li>▪ TART Trails</li> </ul>

## 14. Action Program Justification

### **Herman Park:**

It is a prime location for many options of both passive and active recreation activities. There are opportunities for birding, hiking trails, and hunting. The varied wetland and forested ecosystems provide outdoor education opportunities. The park protects wildlife habitat, wetlands, and the Leo Creek Watershed. Recent options for active recreation focused on a Dog Park, a Pump Track, and additional Pickleball courts. The remaining highly desired items (in both previous plans and the recent community survey) are a children's playground, permanent toilet facilities, and additional nature trails.

### **Graham Greene Park:**

Park improvements came out high in the recent community survey. Diseased and dead trees in Graham Greene Park were removed in early 2019. Planting trees for the future will be needed to maintain the pleasant, wooded setting. Accessibility and features in this park can be improved and expanded. Maintain a trash container for regular pickup. A dog waste bag station has been added.

### **Ice Rink Park:**

The popularity and use of this park increases every winter. Skating has become very popular among the students and families in the community; many are involved in the maintenance of the rink. Better leveling of the site would improve the rink use. Exploring additional uses of this park during spring, summer, and fall.

### **Michigan Water Trail - Suttons Bay and Grand Traverse Shoreline:**

Suttons Bay has a series of existing public access points and facilities which are suitably spaced along Suttons Bay and Grand Traverse Bay and provide a safe paddling experience. The infrastructure needed for the Michigan Water Trail System is minimal and includes safety and access information, maps, signage at launch sites and parks, and website updates. The Suttons Bay/West Grand Traverse Bay Trail will be a key component of the Michigan Water Trail, which will circumnavigate the entire Lake Michigan shoreline.

### **Vic Steimel Park:**

Improvements and accessibility have been added to this park in recent years. Infected or dead trees have been identified and were removed in early 2019. Maintain a trash container for regular pickup. A dog waste bag station has been added.

**45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park Master Plan and Development:** A trail needs to be developed to provide access to this hilly wooded setting. No actions can be taken until MDOT resumes plans for developing their pull-off on M-22, which will provide access to the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park.

### **Management Plan for Park System:**

A Parks Supervisor was appointed in 2018 to maintain and manage the Township parks and to assist in developing a comprehensive plan that would map out a strategic plan, goals, improvements, and support system. The Township has all the records for the parks. This includes deeds and site plans (including marked boundaries). The history of the parks could be updated.. The Parks and Recreation Committee will work with the Parks Supervisor to update Management Plans for specific parks.



**TART/Leelanau Trail Connector:**

The first goal is to link the Township and Village park and recreation facilities including the Suttons Bay Public Schools campus. The Township will work with the Village of Suttons Bay and TART Trails, Inc. to create a safe trail route and accessible trail through the Village and link all park properties by a non-motorized trail system. Future goals include extending the Leelanau Trail north from Dumas Road to 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park, and then further north to the Township boundary.

## 15. Bibliography

Guidelines for the Development of Community Park and Recreation Plans, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Management, IC 1924, (Rev. 11/20/2018)

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Plan, 2020-2024, prepared by Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences, Inc. for County Parks and Recreation Commission  
2014-2021 Plan Updated by Leelanau County Planning and Community Development

Leelanau County General Plan, by Leelanau County and The Planning and Zoning Center, Inc., First adopted 1995, with updates 2000, 2005, 2012, and 2019

Leelanau Township Parks and Recreation Plan, Prepared by Leland Township Recreation Committee, 2016-2021, updated 2022

Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, Roger A. Lancaster, Ed., Natural Recreation and Park Association, 1983

Suttons Bay Township Community Recreation Plan 2013 – 2017, 2018 - 2023

2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (on-line), September 15, 2010

Suttons Bay Township Forestry Stewardship 10-Year Plans for Herman Park, Graham Greene and 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Park, by Linda Thomason PhD (Two by Two Wildlife Consultant) July 2017

Suttons Bay Community Joint Master Plan, Prepared with assistance from Partnerships for Change: Sustainable Communities. Adopted August 2011

Suttons Bay Township Zoning Ordinance, Prepared by Suttons Bay Township Board and Planning Commission, Adopted September 14, 1994, as amended through 2017

Suttons Bay Village Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2012 – 2016, 2022 – 2026, Village of Suttons Bay, 2012, 2022

Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation (TART) Trails, Inc., 3- 5-Year Plan, February 2014

Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce 2008 Economic Forecast – Leelanau County, 2007, Page 58 of 60, November 2007

Grand Traverse Bay Watershed, Resources – Leelanau County & Suttons Bay (Website)

# Appendix A – Public Input Process Documentation, Resolutions and Meeting Minutes

The following pages contain the results of the committee's April 26, 2023, visioning session. The following pages also contain copies of the Resolutions by the Suttons Bay Township Board of Trustees and the Parks & Recreation Committee. The draft of the meeting minutes after the Public Hearing are also included as well as copies announcing public comment periods posted in the Leelanau Enterprise.

### 'Visioning' meeting set

The Suttons Bay Township Parks & Recreation Committee is inviting citizens to attend a "visioning meeting" on Wednesday April 26 at 7 p.m. in the township office building in the Hansen Foods plaza off 4th Street in the Village of Suttons Bay.

The committee is in the process of updating its Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The plan is updated every five years and is needed for the township to apply for various grants to support parks and recreation programs. Part of the process

is to gather public input on the status and possible future development of the township's parks. Suttons Bay Township parks include Herman Community Park, Vic Steimel Park, Graham Green Park, 45th Parallel Park, and an ice rink park in the village.

The April 26 meeting will include a brief overview of current development at the parks. That will be followed by a public input session on what citizens like about the parks and what might make them better.

*Leelanau Enterprise  
April 13, 2023  
Section 2, page 14*

# VISIONING

## FOR RECREATIONAL FUTURE OF SUTTONS BAY AREA

The Suttons Bay Township Parks & Recreation Committee is holding a visioning session on Wednesday, April 26, 2023  
At 7 P.M. at the Township Office at 95 W. 4th Street,  
P.O. Box 457, Suttons Bay, MI 49682

All area residents and groups are encouraged to bring ideas and dreams for potential recreational developments at township parks. Help us develop recreational opportunities for the Suttons Bay Area.

*If you cannot make the session, you can send comments to the Committee at the P.O. Box address above.*

SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

*Leelanau Enterprise April 20, 2023 Section 2  
Page 11*

## **Public 5-Year Plan Visionary Meetings - Started at 7:00 P.M. April 26, 2023**

- Public in Attendance: Sharon Betzler, Filed Carden, Courtney Yaple, Rick Simonton (TART Train Board), John Chase (Grand Traverse Park & Recreation Supervisor- observing how process is done since he has one coming up)
- Pete explained process of Positives at each park and Deltas - things to change with solutions.
- Pete reviewed list of accomplishments over the past 5 years (See notes above)
- Each Committee Member took a park and explained location and characteristics of that park
- Pete then explained the +/-Delta process we would use to get public feedback. All members of the public were given sticky notes to write their comments to be placed on a flip chart sheet of paper for each park. We gave everyone 15 minutes to complete this process.
- Each P&R Committee member took their same park and read the feedback for that park out loud and group discussion followed.
- Graham Greene
  - Positives
    - “My favorite low traffic beach”
  - Delta
    - Better access to beach
    - Kayak Launch
    - Kayak Slide
    - Kayak launch
    - “Perhaps more frequent garbage pick up- the firepit tends to be used just as a dumpster and build up as summer goes on.”
      - *Bill explained the public dumping issues that go on at all our Township Parks. He shared that some parks had their trash cans removed last year because of dumping. He indicated he is waiting for Board mandate to put out the trash receptacles for this year.*
    - Dispersed campsites
      - *Discussed that while some have been recommended, none have been approved*
    - Nice to have a deck for observation
- 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel-
  - “Jewel in the rough”
  - Bill explained he lives across the street and mows it. Appreciation was given.
  - Positives
    - None
  - Delta
    - Parking Area
      - *Bill explained parking on the east side of M-22 (pull off), west side-room for one car to pull off, and access off Setterbo*
    - Walking Trails
    - Snow Plowing in Winter for use all year

- Parking
  - Trail
- Ice Rink
  - Positives
    - Hockey & Community Skate
    - Great Upgrades
    - Excellent Ice
  - Delta
    - Summer use idea: community garden, music, food truck, family events
    - “Has a lot of summer potential”
    - Scoreboard and Lights
    - Croquet...is it level?
    - Seating and Picnic Benches
  - Bill shared the history since the school building purchase in the 1800s
  - Park can be reserved- forms can be found on Township website
- Vic Steimel
  - Positives
    - Nice bike stop
    - Kayak lunch site
  - Delta
    - Launch ramp
    - Improvement/stability- parking area
    - Request not to mow every week
    - Leave as natural as possible
    - New or revamped picnic benches
- Herman Park
  - Positives
    - Great Tennis & Pickleball Courts
    - Pickleball Courts
    - Open space
    - Flower Garden
    - Disc Golf
    - Pond and paved trail
    - Beautiful open space
    - Like the new Pickleball Courts
  - Delta
    - Extend asphalt trails
    - “Don’t see why tennis courts can’t be used with temporary lines (with removeable tape) when not being used by tennis players
      - *Pete led group discussion around the number of lines already on tennis courts for adult and youth play.*
    - Dog Park at the Orchard
    - Looking forward to the Dog Park
    - Would love to see some outdoor fitness equipment

- *Group discussion about equipment that could be placed so as people are doing their job, they stop and do for example pull-ups*
  - “Allow soccer to expand so families can get multiple kids to games” and not have to travel to multiple locations for games at the same time
  - Asphalt path from Eckerly across culvert
    - *Group Discussion around desire to have this accomplished yet project is currently cost prohibitive*
  - Too much signage
  - Bad sight lines
  - Playground for kids of all ages
    - *Group discussion around plans for playground and SPARK grant. Courtney Yaple is very busy and not sure she has the time, but may be interested in championing this cause. Possible fundraising champion. Liz offered to assist he get started if she decided to do this. Knows she must get Board approval first.*
    - *Unanimous agreement this is a community need at HP.*
  - Snow plow parking lot in the winter
  - Connect with local Disc Golfers for course planning. Aloft Disc Golf- a local group who plays Disc Golf and creates courses & tournaments
    - *Group discussion about Aloft Disc Golf Group. Possibility we could host a tournament. Night tournaments sound fun- glow in the dark discs with a simple light on each basket*
  - Dog Park- revisit location due to cost
  - Welcoming- make room for all at the park
    - *Discussion around public feeling that not everyone is welcome at HP. Meaning if we get a Dog Park, we can’t get a playground too. Or if we get more Pickleball Courts, we can’t have a Dog Park. Maybe need a public campaign to say “All are Welcome at HP. We have room for everyone to enjoy!”*
- General/Trails
  - Positive
    - Nothing
  - Delta
    - Partner with TART on Dumas to Setterboro
    - Michigan Water Trail
      - *Pete reviewed expectations to be on the BWT*
    - SPARK Grant for TART expansion
- Conclusion
  - Pete thanked everyone for their input

- Explained there will be another public meeting for feedback and a Survey Monkey put out. Encouraged everyone to spread the word to we can get as much public input as possible.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

The following pages show the announcements for the January 3, 2024 public hearing and notes from the hearing.

### Suttons Bay Township Public Hearing

Draft of Community Park, Recreation,  
and Open Space Plan, 2024-2028

The Suttons Bay Parks and  
Recreation Committee is holding a public  
hearing on Wednesday January 3,  
2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Suttons Bay  
Township Office at 95 W. 4th Street,  
P.O. Box 457, Suttons Bay, MI 49682

The Draft Plan can be viewed online  
at the township website:

<https://www.leelanau.gov/suttons-baytwprd.asp> or at the Suttons Bay  
Bingham District Library or at the town-  
ship office.

All area residents and groups are  
encouraged to comment on the Draft  
Plan at the public hearing or by sending  
comments to the P.O. Box address  
above.

Suttons Bay Township Parks &  
Recreation Committee

# VISIONING

## FOR RECREATIONAL FUTURE OF SUTTONS BAY AREA

The Suttons Bay Township Parks & Recreation Committee  
is holding a visioning session on Wednesday, January 3, 2024  
At 6:30 P.M. at the Township Office at 95 W. 4th Street,  
P.O. Box 457, Suttons Bay, MI 49682

All area residents and groups are encouraged to bring ideas  
and dreams for potential recreational developments at township parks.  
Help us develop recreational opportunities for the Suttons Bay Area.

*If you cannot make the session, you can send comments  
to the Committee at the P.O. Box address above.*

SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE



**Suttons Bay Township  
Parks and Recreation Committee  
Draft Minutes of January 3, 2024 Public Meeting  
Review of 5-Year Plan**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Pete will present Board with 5-Year Plan at next week's meeting
2. Goal for approval next week to meet MNRTF Deadline of 2/1/24
3. Only one member of public at meeting - they had ADA focus

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Pete Ostrowski, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM at the Suttons Bay Township Office

**ATTENDEES**

Present: Pete Ostrowski, Liz Mahaney, Debbie Slocombe

Public: Derenda LeFever

**Public Comment**

- Derenda submitted a letter regarding ADA and Universal Design (Attachment B)
- She works in a capacity to assist persons with disabilities to transition/bridge the gap from hospital to home/community- she is certified and fee based. Helps people experience access to the community
- Relocated to community 3 years ago. Does not currently have clients in Leelanau County
- She was happy to see ADA language on the 5-Year Plan
- Knows we do not handle downtown Suttons Bay (Village)
- Emphasized prioritizing access not just for today, but for the future. Aging population may need access in the future
- "Building access for the future should be a priority"
- "My goal: Universal Access by Design"
- University of North Carolina at the forefront of Access by Design
  - Website is a resource
  - Set if principles- How to apply to your space
  - "Meet everyone's needs"
  - "Level the playing field"
- Said P&R should consider having a person with disabilities on the Committee
- Debbie asked her:
  - About funding sources P&R may have not yet uncovered
    - MPARKS...formally known as MRPA
  - Would she like to be on P&R Committee? (she stated time would be the issue since she home-schools, but will keep it in mind)
  - Debbie stated we would welcome any input anytime as subjects come up
  - Might be able to find someone through TC-Based Disability Network

- Pete
  - Dog Park accessibility is a priority
    - Liz M currently working on this
    - May have up to \$10k of funding left over to apply
    - Should not need an engineering drawing (Debbie)
    - SB Township and Dig Park Ambassadors need to partner to fund
  - Pump Track doesn't have access. P&R needs to discuss if this is a priority
  - All else at HP is accessible
  - Kayak Launch
    - Anyone know why Boardman Lake access was removed? Pete will look into why
    - Feedback by engineers for Graham Greene was the water level issues: would have to be adjusted every year
    - Water down 20 feet right now (Debbie)
- Grant Ideas/Deadlines from Debbie
  - Olsen Grant deadline is April 1
    - We got one 2017/2018 for Soccer
  - 2% Tribal Grant
    - May 31 deadline for June grants
    - November 30 deadline for December grants
  - YAC- Youth Advisory Council
    - Youth decide on grant
    - Have to give presentation
    - July 10 deadline for August 1 grants
  - Bingham-Suttons Bay Endowment
    - Given throughout the whole year
    - 2023- gave out \$10k total to 8 groups
    - We have gotten in the past
  - Rotary
    - When a Rotarian gives \$250, Rotary will match with \$250
    - Need to rally a lot of Rotarians!
  - Community Foundation
    - Lots of different ones
    - We have gotten before
  - 3 Sisters
  - Overall
    - Need to go to Board before applying
    - P&R Committee needs to set priorities before going to the Board
    - The Committee goes to Board
    - Then Committee will apply for grants
      - Debbie has agreed to help grant writing
- We know Community wants Herman Park Restrooms and Playground
  - Cost is an issue for both projects
  - We need to look at past proposals (SPARK Applications) to understand why costs were so high
    - Are there opportunities to scale back?
    - Looks at more vendors bidding
    - Discount Playgrounds:
      - Snider Recreation
        - [www.cvsnyder.com](http://www.cvsnyder.com)

- SINCLAIR RECREATION
      - [www.sinclair-rec.com](http://www.sinclair-rec.com)
      - P&R will discuss at 1.31 meeting
- Discussion around community supporting Library mileage this year so not going to ask for P&R Milage too.
- Pete
  - Will ask SB Township Office if anymore feedback came in
  - Pete will send out Tom Nixon second letter to Committee (Attachment C)
    - Group consensus to leave name Herman Park since signs say that as well as last 5-year plan (not HP Community Park as suggested by Tom Nixon)
    - First Letter- concerns around amount of community feedback.
  - Goal to give to 5-year Plan to Township Board at Meeting next week
    - So we can have approval to meet Feb 1, 2024 MNRTF Grant Deadline
- Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Attachment A  
Suttons Bay P^R Committee 2024-2028 5-Year Plan

Attachment B  
Derenda letter

Attachment C  
Toim Nixon's second letter

## Appendix B



# Help Suttons Bay Township's Parks and Recreation Planning



Please take the Township  
Community Survey - Scan  
the above QR code.

Hard copies of the survey are available at the  
Suttons Bay / Bingham Public Library and Township  
or Village Offices.

# Appendix B

## Parks and Recreation Survey 2023

Suttons Bay Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan Community Survey

- Please tell us which of the Suttons Bay Township Parks you have visited in the past five years.

*Mark only one oval per row.*

	Not Familiar With This Park	Never	Occasionally	Weekly	Daily
<b>Graham Greene Park</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Herman Community Park</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Ice Rink Park</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Vic Steimel Park</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>45th Parallel Park</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Do you use Graham Greene or Vic Steimel Parks for water access (swimming, kayak or canoe launch) to West Bay?

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Herman Community Park has been the number one priority for recreation development in the past. Please check the top THREE activities based on your usage.

*Check all that apply.*

Tennis Courts

Pickleball Courts

Disc Golf

Children's Fishing Pond

Paved Walking Trail

Soccer Fields

Picnics

Dog Walking

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Check the FIVE most important items you think should be considered for future development at the other township parks.

*Check all that apply.*

- Vic Steimel Park Canoe / Kayak Boat Ramp
- 45th Parallel Park Hiking Trails
- Ice Rink Park Improvements (leveling, etc.)
- Graham Greene Improved Parking
- Graham Greene Canoe / Kayak Launch
- Graham Greene Observation Deck
- Graham Greene Pavilion
- Graham Greene Americans With Disability Act Accessible (parking, picnic tables, etc.)
- Add Graham Greene to State Blue Water Trail for Kayak / canoe users
- Nature Trails at Herman Park
- Playground at Herman Park
- Permanent Restrooms at Herman Park
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What do you like most about the parks?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you like least about the parks?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Please write in any thoughts for improving your park experiences.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Due to the limited township parks budget, do you support a dedicated millage which would be used solely to ensure ongoing programming and facility maintenance in the parks?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Strongly Oppose
- Somewhat Oppose
- Somewhat Support
- Strongly Support

9. Where in Leelanau County do you reside? Check all that apply.

*Check all that apply.*

	Year-Round	Seasonal	Own Home	Rent
<b>Suttons Bay Township</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Village of Suttons Bay</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Peshabestown</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Outside the Township,, but in the county</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Outside of Leelanau County</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. What is your age (optional)?

\_\_\_\_\_



11. Please check the number of people in each age group living in your household.

*Mark only one oval per row.*

	1	2	3	4	5	More than 5
<b>12 and under</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>19</b> <b>13 to</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>39</b> <b>20 to</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>64</b> <b>40 to</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>65 and above</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Optional - Your name and contact information (name, email address, phone number)

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Would you like someone to contact you about the

survey? *Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

14. Do you have any interest in being part of the Suttons Bay Township Parks and Recreation Committee?

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

Maybe

15. How do you prefer to find out about Suttons Bay Township Parks? Please check all that apply.

*Check all that apply.*

Suttons Bay Township Website

Suttons Bay Township Parks Newsletter

Suttons Bay Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, County

Facebook

Leelanau Enterprise

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Date Survey Completed: Thank You for Participating

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Example: January 7, 2019*

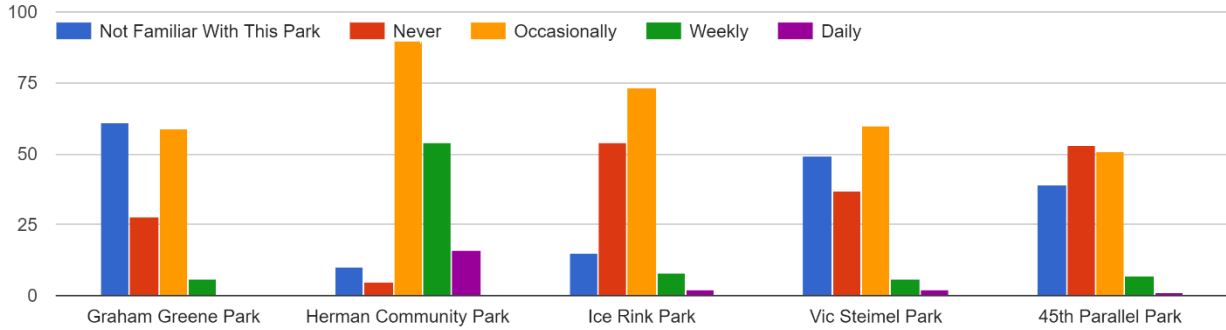
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**Google** Forms

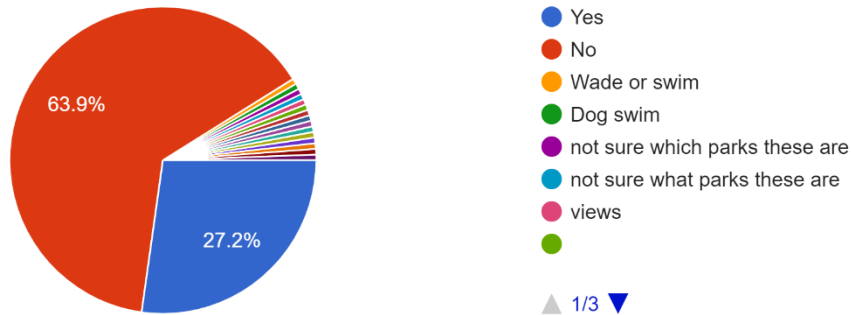
## Appendix C – Parks and Recreation Survey 2023 Responses

Please tell us which of the Suttons Bay Township Parks you have visited in the past five years.



Do you use Graham Greene or Vic Steimel Parks for water access (swimming, kayak or canoe launch) to West Bay?

169 responses



Graham Green Park is so lovely and not well developed. The waterfront is nearly hidden by weeds and brush. Only Graham Green for swimming.

Haven't so far.

I'd like the ability to easily launch my kayak there; we are lucky to live near the water - focus updates on improving residents' ability to use the water.

Not unless this is where the playground is, but I simply don't know the official name of it?

I have been there but don't really remember going there

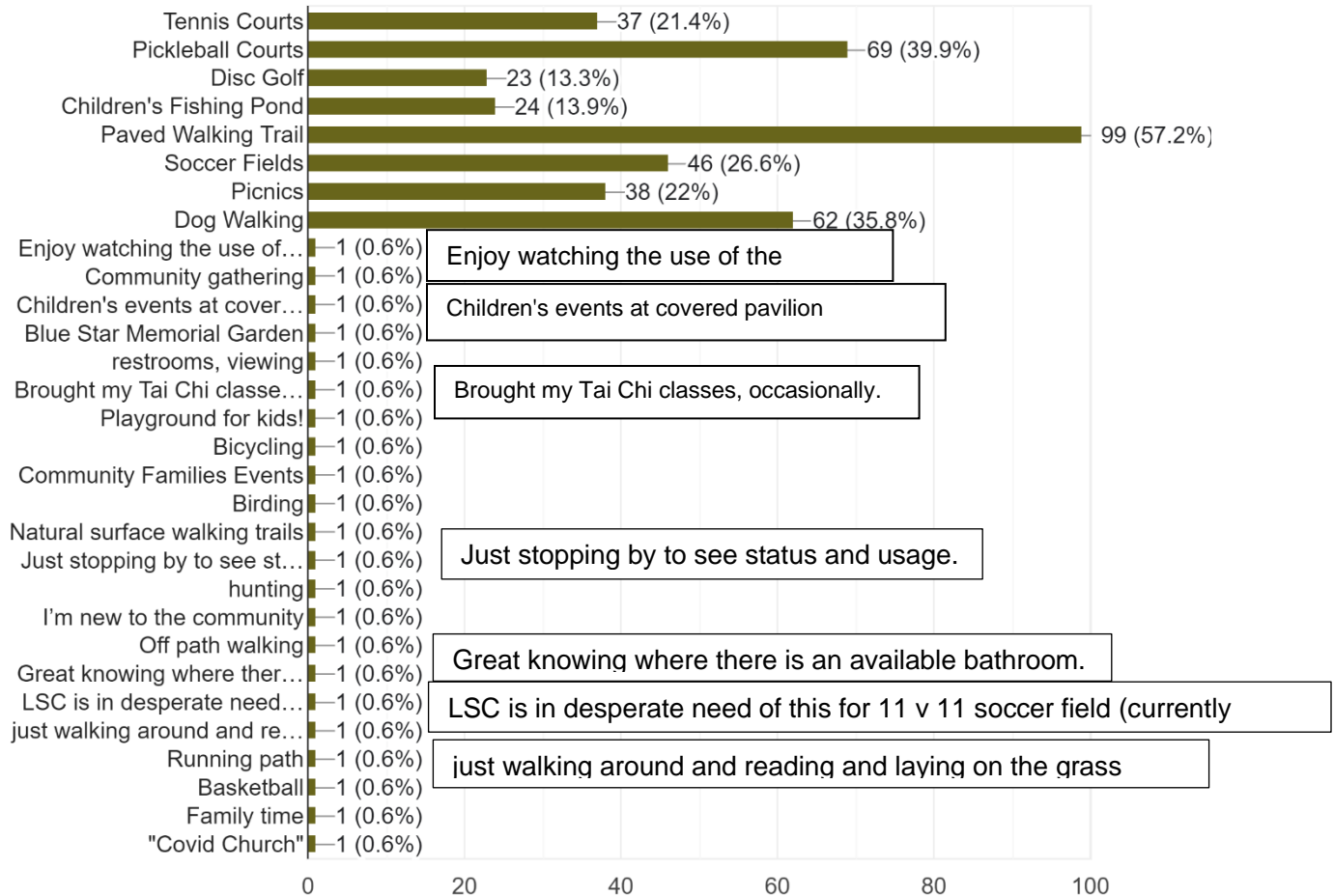
Also quiet nature enjoyment and picnic tables

Relaxing

Buy Fish

Herman Community Park has been the number one priority for recreation development in the past.  
Please check the top THREE activities based on your usage.

173 responses





## What do you like most about the parks? Page 1 of 3

### Access

For some parks, a place to get on the water Having them available yer round  
access to water and hiking Water access providing public water access  
Easy access easy access Easy access for locals Easy to access Easy to get to and use.  
Convenient

I like easy access to nature trails and spaces to gather, like picnic areas and pavillions.

Herman Park convenient to our house, pickle ball and future dog park at Herman

i like gram green because it is close to my moms boyfriends and access with the water

Easy access and that they're quiet. Except when pickle ball is being played.

Easy access

Community access Community use

Open for public use Public space for all to use

Proximity to leelanau recreation trail

Proximity to my home Close to home

Proximity to town/village and it's free to access

Public access - well cared for - expanding activities at Herman Park!

Access for disabled Access for disabled users of the park Accessibility Accessibility for all  
accessible recreation Handicap access

### Amenities

amenities

Active recreation and passive recreation at Herman Park in particular.

disc golf

herman park soccer\disc golf\fishing

Free recreation area and orchard at herman park

I love that we have these parks to gather

Great wide open space, soccer fields

I love the variety of activities. While my daughter practice for soccer, the pavilion provides shelter for those needing it, the walking trail is excellent and I love seeing the kids and community members utilizing the pickleball courts!

I'll like the dog park a lot when it's done.

The variety available The variety of uses. Variety Variety of activities outside activites

That we have such a variety of parks

soccer Soccer fields soccer fields The soccer fields The soccer fields for our kids are close to home

Really Nice Pavilion

The shaded picnic area at Herman

the sports areas

trails

Reliable parking and location

(but we need a playground at Herman Park!!!)

**What do you like most about the parks? Page 2 of 3**

**Clean and well maintained**

Clean Clean Clean Clean and well kept Cleanliness Cleanliness, openness well cared for  
Clean and well maintained Most well maintained and clean WELL MAINTAINED well-kept  
herman - cleanliness - not familiar with others Well maintained, variety of parks in the township  
We'll maintained  
Maintained and inviting and generate a happy town feel for all visitors.  
Well mailed (maintained?) garden

**General**

A public place to gather with friends  
All very nice in many ways  
A quiet place to walk  
Choice of moods and activities  
community involvement community spirit and outdoor activity  
Herman Park has become a real gem.  
I like the idea of continuing to improve Herman park.  
herman park has always been nice but needs something more people are just so use to it nothing is exciting  
Ice rank park is okay really just plain and boring.  
Look to Peterson Park for truly great park experience.  
Love Herman expansion.....well done  
low rate of use for some of the parks - too self serving, I know!  
Playgrounds and safe areas for families to play  
Freedom from the dangers of traffic. Space to walk without cars  
Space to spend time w family  
That its peaceful and sometimes it has swings  
That we have them for the people to use.  
That we have these various parks  
The activities The activities you can do there.  
they are for everyone, they sometimes represents the only outdoor structured environment (rules, accountability, respect for property) that some people are exposed to. That's a good thing!  
they are fun to go to  
They are not rented for events and always open to the public  
u can go there you can go there  
We are at Herman park twice/week for soccer. I like having a safe place, off the road, to walk. It is also dog friendly with waste bags/receptacles.  
Too many which have very limited use

## What do you like most about the parks? Page 3 of 3

### Natural Beautiful

Beauty Beautiful

Being in the great outdoors, fun places to go with young kids

Being outside, for everyone

Greenspace, walking trails

Herman park is always quiet, very natural and such a big space. Im

I like the remote and natural feel of Graham Greene. I like the idea of continuing to improve Herman park.

I love being able to spend time outside.

Most of them are very peaceful.

nice landscaping

no one is ever at Graham Greene - don't change a thing

Scenery The views

Solitude

They provide access to our natural beauty of Northern MI and community spaces for families to unite.

Unimproved rural nature. The natural areas Natural environment their natural beauty and setting

The preservation of natural characteristics of place.

Natural aspects, not built structures. Natural aspects, not built structures. Preservation of greenspace

### Pickleball

New pickleball courts will be great once they are open.

good quality courts for pickleball perfect Picklball courts

Pickleball Pickleball Pickleball Pickleball Pickleball courts Pickleball courts Pickleball courts

Pickleball at Herman Park Pickleball easy access ability to play pickleball

Great Pickleball courts, beautiful garden, nice pavillion

Ability to get together with friends and play pickleball no matter what level we are !

### Tennis

good quality courts for tennis

Great tennis courts

Tennis courts and programming

To be able to play tennis & pickleball

the opportunity to provide youth and adult tennis programming and community. a place to gather and find movement outdoors



## What do you like least about the parks? Page 1 of 3

### Access

Lack of Accessibility Features

Access to bathrooms BATHROOM ACCESS

Not all seem ADA compliant, but I may be wrong.

The way you can't walk from one park to another park

### Amenities

Lack of facilities at some - restroom, picnic tables, kayak launch

lack of potable water

Accommodations

The pond at Herman Park Needs more fish in pond

### Bathrooms

Lack of bathroom at Herman Park Lack of bathrooms Lack of bathrooms Lack of permanent restrooms.

No permanent bathroom No permanent Rest Rooms No permanent restrooms

Lack of permanent restrooms at Herman Park No bathrooms at Herman Park

Lack of restrooms/running water

Porta potty porta pottys

lack of restrooms lack of restrooms No regular bathrooms available

Dirty bathroom-no tissue-can't wash hands

### Bike Trails

not enough trails or connectivity

Safe walking and biking connections to town and to other parks

### Dog Related (and Geese)

Dog poop

Dog poop that is not picked up.

People need to pick up their waste

Parks all need doggie poop bag stands

No dog park

Dogs off leash

The addition of the dog park at Herman.

a fenced in dog park area out in the woods (45th Paralell) there would be fantastic!

The new dog park at Herman is going to cause a lot of frisbee loss. Already one. Please lay out new course.

Geese at Herman Park

Geese poop all over the fields

Smell

## What do you like least about the parks? Page 2 of 3

### General

Disrespectful users      Irresponsible users

Herman Park should be included in the County Park system due to the heavy no resident use

How much we fight to improve them

No complaints      No negatives      i don't know

Not a strong focus on the needs of our community children

Not bothered about anything

Not enough knowledge as new to Suttons Bay

Not merged or coordinated with village parks

Not used as often

Not very developed. Would love more robust playgrounds, walking/hiking trails

Nothing      Nothing      Nothing! They are great no-fee community resources.

overuse of Herman Park - scheduled events

person in charge doesnt take other opinions into account.

Rules

That the county has not offered to help.

That there are bugs.      The bugs there

Theres never anything new or exciting at any of these parks ever and some of them need playgrounds and bigger and better things to do at the parks.

### Ice Rink

Ice Rink Park although a Township Park is located in the village and most people think it is a Village Park. Ice Rink park should be turned over to the Village and the physical and financial resources should be used in the townships other parks that need development like 45th Parrell Park very very underutilized. Our township needs a millage to support the future development and maintenance of our park system and to form a joint park and rec relationship with the Suttons Bay Village and Suttons Bay Township.

Would like to see more activity in the summer at Ice Rink Park, also the tarp roll is an eyesore in the summer

### Maintenance

Lack of trash cans

Portable bathroom—Need to be cleaned more often      Restrooms not cleaned enough

Maintenance

neglected maintenance in parking lots,

Surface conditions of soccer fields, grass, and painted lines

the weeds/how long the grass is

the parks

Trash      The litter

## What do you like least about the parks? Page 3 of 3

### Natural Areas

No forested trails in parks.

No hiking trails of any length

Needs more trees at Herman Park. More tennis programs.

Stopped going to Graham Greene Park as it was so uninviting.

### Parking

Parking

Lack of parking

Limited parking at 45th P.

Need better parking at some and more hiking trails.

Too much area dedicated to parking

### Pickleball & Tennis & Soccer

inability to play pickleball due to only 3 available courts with an overload of people in the summer, and not being able to use the 4th court during this busy time

Need more Pickleball courts

Noise and foul language on the pickle ball courts

Pickleball

The pickleball courts are always so busy!

Two few Pickleball courts at Herman Park in the past

The inability to get court times at Herman Park because one group is given priority over their court (4) and upper levels can play more often; very discriminatory.

pickleball noise, no restrooms

too much pickle ball, dog parks are ridiculous, would like to see more mountain bike options in the area

Not enough soccer fields

Tennis courts

### Playgrounds

no playhouse    no playhouse    No playground    No playground for the kids to play at

We live right across from Herman Park with 2 young kids, we would use a playground and hiking trails DAILY.

**Access**

Continue to make them accessible for many activities. There is very limited access to the water unless one owns property ( for the locals and number of people up here). With kind signage and enough trash bins, dog clean up stations, potty's, etc. , most people will take care of the parks. Don't restrict things because of the FEW idiots out there!

I would love to see more publicly about how residents have all this water access

Open up the access road to Herman Park that goes to the fishing pond and establish a parking lot thus allowing easier access to the fishing pond and also easier access to the 200 additional acres available for hunting as MDNR Trust Fund provided monies for the land acquisition.

Please incorporate Universal Access features into your current and future park designs.

Trails in the that are handicap accessible

**Amenities**

Add pavilions

Adding a skatepark

Allow kayak rentals to deliver to the beach. Seniors like to kayak but, they are heavy to move.

better fishing and soccer field and disc golf

Flower and vegetable gardens for everyone including the disabled

Maybe picnic tables.

More things for kids: playgrounds, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, etc.

Redo frisbee course to minimize loss in fog area.

More variety of activities other than pickle ball, wooded walking trails, love the pump track idea, skate park or something that would attract children besides a play ground - Playgrounds available in two locations in SB Village and at the school

**Bathrooms**

Bathroom Bathrooms Better bathrooms Bathrooms at Herman Park Build permamant bathroom's having good bathrooms Need bathrooms Permanent bathrooms at Herman park.

Public rest rooms at Herman Park. A nice building with restroom facilities look forward to permanent bathrooms.

Bathrooms are needed not porta pottys but real bathrooms its hard bringing children to parks who wear diapers and having the change them in your car or in the porta pottys maybe even some nice comfortable benches for reading and writing and stuff and maybe even a drinking fountain or like a water pump so people don't have to go waste money on water at Hansens.

Public toilets, water, and picnic shelters (cooking)

**Biking**

This is more of a vilage issue, but better connection between the TART trail and places bikers frequent is needed. This seems an issue for the townships and vilage to work on together.

More walking/bike trails

Safe connections via walking or biking

Safe sidewalk or bike trail to Herman Park.

## Improving Parks Experience Page 2 of 3

### Dog Related

Dog park

Trees in the dog park for shade

### General

1. Please prioritize improvements to township parks for those of us who live here, not for those who visit.
2. For the safety of our residents, it is imperative that everyone know how to swim; please offer swim lessons to our youth.

Any parks can use upgrades or improvements

Better park websites

Complete work at Herman Park

Continue to put money into them, it's totally worth it for the community...

I am happy with our parks i don't know

I take that challenge on myself, because it is my sole responsibility

Keep improving, they will continue to be more used! :)

Love Herman park so much

Music in the park through the summer?!

Thank you for all your hard work!

The more the better

Would like to see a greater emphasis on activities for kids

Sutton park needs bike and walking trails.

All village funds go toward the waterwheel park this year and the village parks budget for 7 parks basically covers wages and salaries.

Way too many parks around here for the population!

### Maintenance

Clear out the brush and weeds and let people sit and view the waterfront at Graham Greene Park. I know preserving habitat important, but a small area could be cleared. Theres no sun or view in the park cutting grass

Growing the budget for maintenance.

I think the lack of garbage cans in most parks is a good thing and actually reduces the amount of garbage strewn about in township parks.

I would like to find less trash in the parks

Maintenance of fields and goals

OFFER RECYCLING OPTIONS AS WELL AS TRASH

Plow walk path in winter

## Improving Parks Experience Page 3 of 3

### Natural Areas and Trails

Add direct connection from Leelanau recreation trail to Herman and 45th parallel parks. Naturalize open space in Herman Park with trees for nature trails and remove disc golf. Use township owned land to expand nature trails at Herman Park. amending the above problem

create more nature trail parks with connectivity in and around the Leelanau Trail.

I'd like to see more twp public park lands by the Leelanau trail by Dumas. A park here could also protect the steep forested slopes in this area from development.

Interpretive Trails -would be great!

Leave Graham Greene park nature-focused undeveloped! There doesn't need to be paving, concrete and fencing in all parks. Do not need to "pave paradise and put up a parking lot"

More tree planting for shade and beauty.

More walking trails, nature focused, Non-sport related activities, native plant restoration/preservation, restroom availability

Perhaps some signage regarding the flora and fauna?

Please don't change Graham Greene. I love it as it is with its natural beauty.

### Pickleball & Tennis & Soccer

Drop in at Herman Park should be for all levels every day. It should not be controlled by certain people or groups who feel they donated more or are better players. We all started somewhere! They are PUBLIC parks!

Finish the 4 more PB courts

Greater access to pickleball courts and permanent bathrooms

Pickleball court reservation system is unfair, having one court always used by the same 4 people every day is wrong! Should have all courts available to everyone no matter their level everyday, every morning!

would like rack system for pickleball courts.

Shade adjacent to tennis and pickleball courts    Shade structure by pickleball courts

Though we also donated, the use of pickleball courts should not be based on amount donated

For the soccer field at Herman Park I think they should smooth the ground.

More soccer fields    Add more soccer fields

### Playgrounds

Add a playground to Herman park.

Herman park needs a large playground for kids and permanent restrooms.

more swings    Slides

Love the idea of expanding Herman Park. A community pool with option of swimming lessons would be invaluable.

Playground at Herman Park

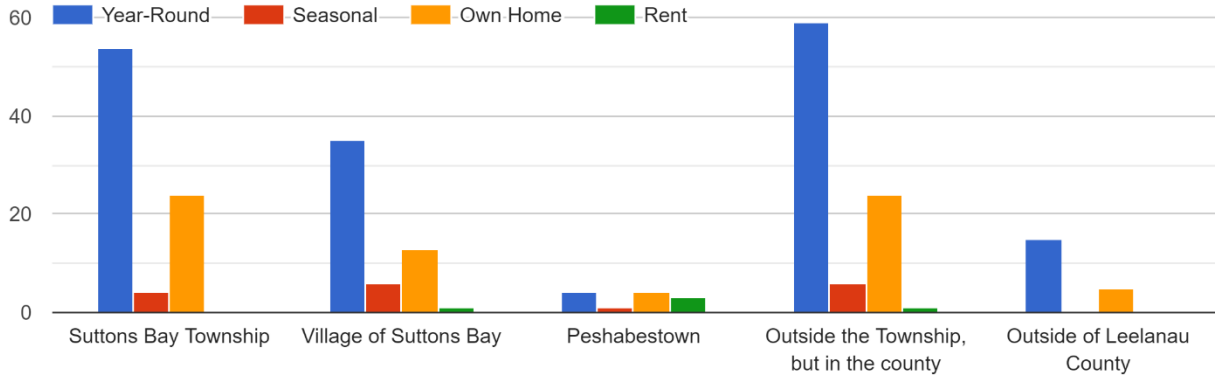
### Other

Sutton Park needs bike and walking trails.

All village funds go toward the waterwheel park this year and the village parks budget for 7 parks basically covers wages and salaries.

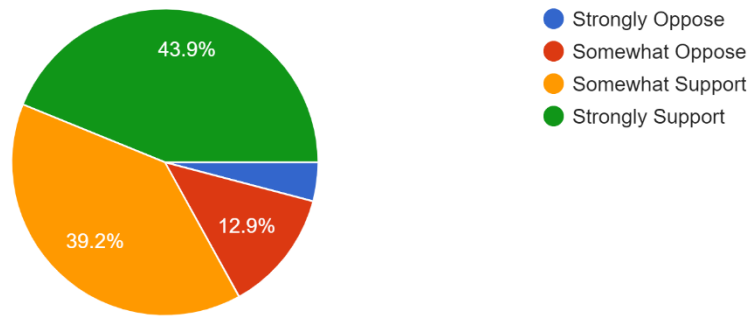
Way too many parks around here for the population!

Where in Leelanau County do you reside? Check all that apply.



Due to the limited township parks budget, do you support a dedicated millage which would be used solely to ensure ongoing programming and facility maintenance in the parks?

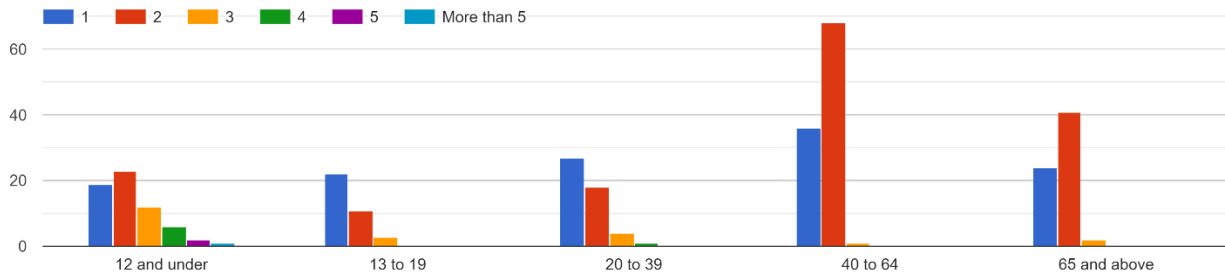
171 responses



Age (Optional)

11 to 16	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89
16	22	28	19	34	22	2

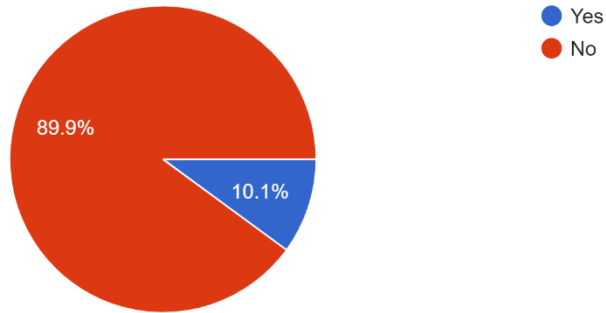
Please check the number of people in each age group living in your household.





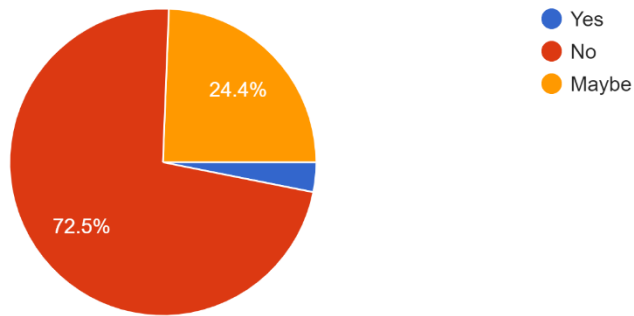
Would you like someone to contact you about the survey?

149 responses



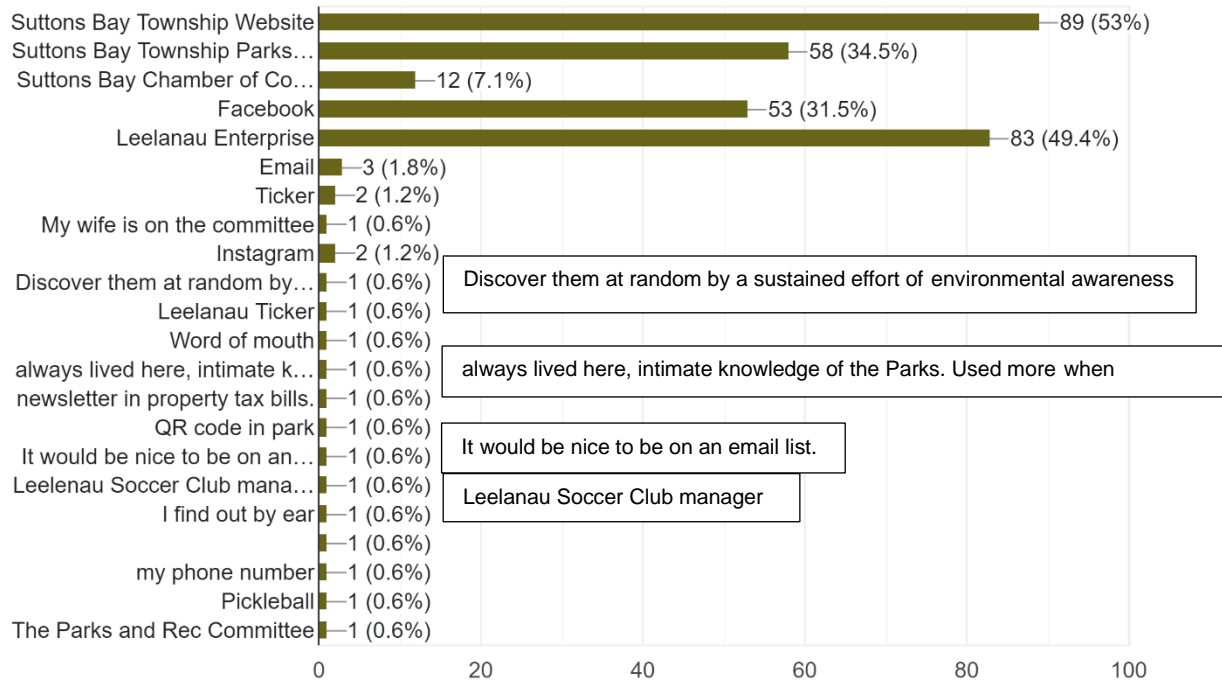
Do you have any interest in being part of the Suttons Bay Township Parks and Recreation Committee?

160 responses



How do you prefer to find out about Suttons Bay Township Parks? Please check all that apply.

168 responses



Discover them at random by a sustained effort of environmental awareness

always lived here, intimate knowledge of the Parks. Used more when

It would be nice to be on an email list.

Leelanau Soccer Club manager

