

An aerial photograph of Leland Township, Michigan, showing a mix of residential areas, agricultural fields, and a large lake. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title text. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background image shows a coastline on the left, a large lake in the center, and a grid of agricultural fields on the right.

**LELAND TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY
RECREATION PLAN**
2020-2024

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LELAND TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN
2020-2024

Leland Township Board

Adopted: December 9, 2019

Prepared by:

Leland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

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COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

In 2017, the estimated population in Leland Township was 1,818 (with a margin of error of +/-208) according to the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The number of registered voters as of November 2019 was 1,957. The population density for the township averages approximately 40 persons per square mile, compared to approximately 62.1 persons per square mile for Leelanau County. In 1940, Leland Township was the largest population center in the county, with more than 14% (1,212) of the people. As of 2017, Leland Township's population of 1,818 made up 8.4% of Leelanau County's total population (21,564).

When looking at population counts for Leland Township, it is important to note that the figure presented by the Census does not reflect the actual number of persons in the area during the summer months. This situation can be seen throughout much of northern Michigan. The summer population is largely inflated by seasonal second home owners and tourists, many of whom come to enjoy the beaches along Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau, and to visit Leland's shops and Historic Fishtown. A 2014 Northwest Michigan Seasonal Population Analysis found that Leelanau County's population grows by over 12,000 people during the summer months, and has one of the highest percentages of seasonal population in the 10-county region of Northwest Michigan.

Population & Housing Trends:

The age of a community's residents is an important factor in determining recreation needs: facilities should accommodate the varying abilities and interests of residents at different stages of life. According to the 2017 American Community Survey, the median age in Leland Township is 53.9, which is over 10 years more than the state's median age of 39.6 years. Due to Leland Township's desirability as a retirement destination, the population tends to be older than the state or national averages.

Population by Age, 2017	Leland Township	% of Township Total	Leelanau County	% of County Total
Total	1,818	100%	21,564	100%
Preschool (0 to 4)	45	2.5 %	885	4.1%
School Age (5 to 17)	279	15.3 %	2,804	13.0%
College Age (18 to 24)	121	6.7 %	1,422	6.6%
Young Adult (25 to 44)	284	15.6 %	3,683	17.1%
Adult (45 to 64)	583	32.1 %	6,747	31.3%
Older Adult (65 plus)	506	27.8 %	6,023	27.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-Year Estimates

Housing in the township is largely residential, with the majority of single family homes located in Leland and Lake Leelanau and along the shores of Lake Leelanau and Lake Michigan. High concentrations of seasonal homes are more often found in communities with significant amounts of shoreline or public land, and as of the 2010 U.S. Census, 45.1% of the total housing stock in Leland Township was made up of seasonal housing, one of the highest in the County. Leland Township also has one of the highest median home values in the County (2010 U.S. Census) as shoreline, along with a resort and seasonal economy, also contributes to higher housing values.

Since the early 1970s, an increasing number of retirees have settled in Leland Township. Some have built retirement homes, mainly along the lakeshores. Many seasonal residents have renovated and winterized their homes. These activities have stimulated the local economy and provided a steady source of construction-related jobs. New and renovated homes, however, are often expensive, impacting property values and the tax base, and making it difficult for some residents to afford their shoreline homes. Retired residents require services and have contributed to the creation of many service-related jobs. The township is attempting to accommodate the special needs of its increasing population of older citizens in areas such as housing and recreation activities.

Ensuring that the recreation needs of youth are addressed can make the community more attractive to families, helping to reverse the decline in younger populations, while also improving opportunities for physical activity and social development among the region's children and adolescents. The enrollment at Leland Public Schools, grades K-12, was around 520 students for 2018-2019. At St. Mary Catholic School in Lake Leelanau, enrollment for grades K-12 was around 213 students. The township has a relatively high level of educational attainment, with 96.1% of adults 25 years and older being high school graduates and 53.2% of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 28.1% statewide.



Leland Township has several distinct populations. Many local residents are from families that settled in the area in the 1850s. The current population makeup includes people working in agriculture, including migrant and other farmworkers, construction, and the service industry, as well as affluent seasonal residents, retirees, and many more. Consideration of these different population groups is important in planning for recreation programs and facilities. Maintaining the parks and improving and expanding facilities to accommodate young families, seniors, residents of all income levels, and year-round and seasonal residents is important.

Employment Trends:

In 2017, the median household income for Leland Township was \$65,517, with a per capita income of \$42,529 (ACS 2017). During this time, Leelanau County's median household income was \$66,372, and the per capita personal income was \$60,914, which was the second highest in the state. Leland Township's poverty rate is 2.2%, which is well below the state rate of 15.6%. Despite having a significantly high income population, Leland Township has all levels of income earning populations to account for in planning for recreation. When planning for recreation, it is important to ensure that activities and amenities in the community are within the financial means of the majority of residents.

Tourism and related industries provide the majority of occupations in the township. Educational services, and health care and social assistance are the largest industry group, representing 18.9% of total employment for the population 16 years and older. Construction is the next largest group, followed by the retail trade and arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services. Major employers in the township include construction companies, the schools, and local restaurants. However, not all of the residents that are employed work in the township, and many commute outside the County, largely to Traverse City. Leland Township accommodates a number of business establishments and various types of enterprise which contribute significantly to the tax base and local economy. Agricultural enterprise consists mainly of family-operated fruit-growing farms. And there are an increasing number of wineries and vineyards in the Township and surrounding area. In the villages of Lake Leelanau and Leland, there are restaurants, retail shops, cottage industries and professional offices that provide goods and services to local and summer residents. To accommodate tourists, there are a variety of overnight facilities within the township, including bed and breakfast establishments, lodges, rental homes and cottages.

DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION OF PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Land Use Patterns:

Leland Township is located in Leelanau County, which is bordered to the north and west by Lake Michigan and on the east by Grand Traverse Bay. Traverse City, adjacent to the southeastern corner of Leelanau County, is

the closest urban area, some 25 miles from Leland Township. The county is about three-fourths open land or woodland with agricultural and low-density rural residential areas. The residential areas are located mainly in the southeastern portions of the county and could be considered suburban Traverse City. More than 10% of the county is occupied by the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The Township also has approximately 12 miles of shoreline on Lake Michigan and another 17 miles of shoreline on Lake Leelanau. This water is a significant economic driver for the area and the Township has experienced an increasing number of seasonal visitors in recent years.

Leland Township has two unincorporated villages, Leland and Lake Leelanau. Leland is located along the Leland River on a narrow piece of land between Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau. It was settled in the 1850s when a dam was built on the Leland River for the logging industry (the dam remains in place today). Other industries were iron smelting and fishing. The commercial fishing industry remains today, and many charter boats are available during the summer months for salmon fishing.

Leland is the site of a harbor of refuge for recreational boaters. During the summer months, the marina is crowded with boats and boaters enjoying Leland. Manitou Island Transit, located in the marina, ferries visitors and backpackers to North and South Manitou islands wilderness areas located within Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore. Fishing is a popular sport along the marina breakwater and in the Leland River.

Lake Leelanau Village is located on the narrows between North and South Lake Leelanau, a popular fishing spot. This village has always been a rural center. It had a logging industry and was a railroad terminus in the 1800s. It is the primary entrance to Leland Township from the east on highway M-204. A center of activity in the village is St. Mary Catholic Church and School.

Topography:

Leland Township is a triangle-shaped area about five miles across its base (east to west) and nine miles across its length (north to south). The township contains 19,000 acres, of which one-fifth is water. The topography consists of rolling hills, orchards, wetlands, woodlands and high bluffs with spectacular views of Lake Michigan, the Manitou Islands and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Leelanau County is considered by many to be of world-class beauty with its high, sandy bluffs and vast fresh-water.

Water, Fish and Wildlife Resources:

Fishing has been and remains an important component of the economy, history and culture of Leelanau County and Leland Township. Fishtown, in the Village of Leland, represents an important historical treasure, and even today, commercial fishing continues. Numerous sport fishing services operate from Fishtown and offer the opportunity to enjoy deep water salmon and trout fishing at its best. It is not uncommon to catch salmon weighing over 30 pounds. Deer hunting is a popular activity in Leelanau County. Wooded and wetland areas of the township provide prime wildlife habitat and support populations of wild turkey, grouse, bald and golden eagles, black bears, deer, raccoons, opossum, porcupines, several varieties of squirrels, fox, coyote and skunks. Otters and beaver are observed in North Lake Leelanau and the Narrows. In recent years, there have been numerous reports of cougar sightings in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and surrounding areas. The lakes support a large summer population of ducks and swans and a spring and fall migratory waterfowl population, including loons, mergansers, buffleheads, common scalps, arctic terns and a spectacular variety of permanent and migratory song birds, woodpeckers and gulls, shorebirds and hummingbirds. Leelanau County is an important migratory route for raptors crossing Lake Michigan from the Upper Peninsula.

Soils and Vegetation:

The isthmus between Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau is largely residential and wooded. The area known as East Leland consists of fruit-growing farms and woodlands on well-drained, nearly level to fairly steep, loamy soils on glacial moraines and till plains. South of Highway M-204, woodlands and mixed farm use prevail on similar but sandier soils. There are about 2,000 acres of agricultural land in the East Leland area and another

2,000 in the South Leland area, there are 2,400 acres classified as orchard; 2,200 acres classified as cropland; and 2,000 acres classified as open land.

There are hundreds of acres of wetlands in the Township, including those at the northeast corner of Lake Leelanau, which are drained by Houdek Creek, and bordering the Narrows that connect North and South Lake Leelanau. Numerous smaller wetlands also dot the township. Several hundred acres of state-designated critical dune areas exist at the north end and the southwest corner of the Township along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Approximately three miles of bluff that stretch along Lake Michigan has been designated by the state as a high risk erosion area.

Over one-third of the township (6,000 acres) is covered with forest land, primarily the northern hardwoods association and white pine. Red oak, lowland hardwoods and conifers are also present. Some aspen are present north of Lake Leelanau, as are swamp conifers in the wetlands.

Transportation Systems:

The primary means of transportation in Leland Township is by private automobile. The Township is served by two state roads including M-22, which runs north-south along the west edge of the township through the village of Leland, and M-204, which runs east-west across the base of the township, through the village of Lake Leelanau, as well as several county roads. Improvements made to M-204 in 2019 included widening the paved shoulders between the village of Lake Leelanau and Suttons Bay, providing greater bike and pedestrian access and improving connectivity to Suttons Bay and the Leelanau Trail. Leland Township is served by the Bay Area Transit Authority (BATA), which is based in Traverse City and provides daily bus services to Leelanau County. BATA provides rural communities with predictable and affordable transportation options. Dial-a-ride, a demand response system, is also available to Township residents.

Climate:

The Leland Township climate is tempered by the surrounding waters of Lake Michigan, creating a unique marine environment. Leland village may be 10 degrees cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter than inland areas. Average precipitation is among the lowest in Michigan. It is not uncommon that little rain falls in July, which is appreciated by residents and tourists. Average summer temperatures are in the 80s, with winter temperatures in the 20s. Lake Leelanau generally remains frozen from late December to early April, providing many opportunities for winter sports. Ice fishing on the lake is popular. Snowmobiling, ice boating, ice skating, and cross-country skiing are also popular. There are many cross-country ski trails in the wooded hills and the Provemont Pond Natural Area. Lake-effect snows generally provide ample snowfall. Spring arrives in late April or May along with steelhead trout fishing and morel mushroom hunting. By early July, the lakes are warm enough for swimming and the seasonal residents return.

Lake Leelanau is the focus of summer sports activities such as fishing, boating, water skiing, wind surfing and sailing. There are several public access sites to Lake Leelanau and three public parks. East Leland, Schneider's Beach, and Bartholomew Park make North Lake Leelanau activities available to all. Several public access sites in the village of Leland provide access to spectacular beaches on Lake Michigan. Fall brings the tourists to admire the trees at peak colors and the much- anticipated deer hunting season. Spring brings the wild turkey hunting season.

Environmental Issues:

Leland Township is a unique area. Its spectacular landscape draws tourists, retirees and seasonal residents. However, sensitive areas could be lost due to careless development. Many permanent and seasonal residents are passionate about environmental and land use issues and demonstrate their passion through public meetings and involvement with environmental and land use organizations.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Parks & Recreation Commission works in an advisory capacity regarding the development and maintenance of parks and recreation activities in Leland Township. Parks and recreation activities are recommended to the Leland Township Board by the Leland Township Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission is made up of four members appointed by the Township Board and one Township Board representative. The Parks and Recreation Commission determines opportunities and projects to pursue, such as land acquisition, new recreation developments, facility upgrades and/or changes to existing activities, and makes recommendations to the Leland Township Board. Budgeted activities are approved by the commission, implemented, and then reported to the Township Board. Functions that differ from normal activities or that are substantially more expensive than past projects are presented to the Township Board for approval.

Leland Township's fiscal year runs April 1 to March 31. Parks and Recreation is a line item in the General Fund, and is approved annually by the Township Board. The Parks and Recreation budget for 2018-2019 is \$95,673. The projected budget for 2019-2020 is \$183,360. The increase in the annual budget is due to a planned capital improvement at Provemont Pond; that would draw from the fund balance to meet project costs.

Leland Township employs a year-round maintenance person. The township supervisor oversees this position. This is the only employee hired by the township to regularly carry out park and recreation maintenance. Additional services are employed on an "as needed" basis. This includes the hiring of three lifeguards during the summer months on Lake Leelanau.

There is no director of park operations. The Parks & Recreation Commission and the Township Board oversee all aspects of the facilities, and personnel report to the Township supervisor when the need arises. The Parks & Recreation Commission was appointed by the Township Board. It was not established under any public act. The commission meets at least four times per year. The Parks and Recreation Commission have a "Use Request" form for use of the township fields.

The Township also works alongside and relies on the contributions of the local schools. Under an agreement with the Township, Leland Public School assists with management of Hancock Field and contributes to capital improvements for its facilities, which it uses for its athletic programming. St. Mary School in Lake Leelanau manages Drow Field in partnership with the Township, and has also contributed substantial funding and manpower to improvements of the facilities, which are home to its varsity baseball team.

The Township has partnered with the Leelanau Conservancy on numerous acquisitions including Nedow's Bay Beach expansion, Hall Beach, and most recently, Clay Cliffs Natural Area, which is managed by the Conservancy. The Conservancy assisted with the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant applications and fundraising. The Leelanau Conservancy's work in conserving the land, water and scenic character in the County greatly benefits the natural resources and quality of life in Leland Township.

The Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLLA) maintains navigational buoys in the Leland River and the Lake Leelanau Narrows in cooperation with Leland Township. Future LLLA projects include a pilot project to eliminate swimmer's itch from selected swimming areas, including at parks owned by the Township. The Leland Dam Authority maintains lake level monitoring equipment at William Street and Suelzer Park.

The Township continues to explore and build relationships with the Leelanau County Road Commission, Bike Leelanau, TART Trails, Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association (NMMBA), Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan Department of Transportation to provide recreation, transportation, and safe access to community recreation facilities.

Many community volunteers support the parks and recreation activities of Leland Township. Examples include the coaching of youth leagues; maintenance of facilities, and providing financial and in-kind contributions to supplement the township parks and recreation budget.

RECREATION INVENTORY

The following recreation inventory is based on information acquired through site visits, input from recreation stakeholders, and a review of local and regional plans. For the township-owned facilities, information is provided on facility type, size, service area, amenities, and accessibility. Discussion from the public and stakeholder input is also reflected on the following pages. Maps of the Township, the Village of Lake Leelanau and the Village of Leland are at the end of the chapter and show the location of the township-owned facilities, as well as other public recreation facilities in the township.

Accessibility

The accessibility evaluations for the Leland Township parks and recreational facilities were informed by the Leland Township Parks and Recreation Commission and completed by the Leland Township staff and Networks Northwest. The evaluations were conducted using the criteria provided in the MDNR *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* (MDNR, 2018). These criteria are based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. To assist with the assessments, the planning committee referenced the New England ADA Center “Checklists.”

The following ADA Ranking system was used for the evaluations:

- 1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design.

Grant Inventory

Leland Township has received four recreation grants through the Michigan Natural Department of Natural Resources Grants Management. A copy of the DNR Grant History, which includes descriptions of each grant, is included at the end of this chapter. The required Post Completion Self Inspection Reports are included in the Appendices.

Township Facilities:

BARTHOLOMEW PARK AND NEDOW'S BAY

Park Type: Beach and Park Area

Size: 1.29 acres

Service Area: Village of Leland; Leland Township

Ownership/Management: Leland Township

Description: A park and swimming area located on Lake Leelanau in the Village of Leland. Facilities include a dock, boat launch, beach volley ball, picnic tables, grills, fire pit, bike rack, open grass area, and paved parking area.

Accessibility Assessment: 1

Current Issues, Comments, and Suggestions:

Comments focused on water safety concerns and issues with the proximity of boats to swimmers. Suggestions were made for managing swimmers itch; keeping the beach clean through debris removal or with new sand; and adding a playground and a permanent restroom.



CLAY CLIFFS

Park Type: Natural Area

Size: 104.5 acres

Service Area: Leland Township, Leelanau County

Ownership/Management: Owned by Leland Township and managed by the Leelanau Conservancy

Description: The natural area includes 1,700 feet of shoreline on Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau, 1.5 miles of hiking trail, and a viewing platform above the bluffs. The area was protected in partnership with the Leelanau Conservancy. It is located north of the Village of Leland.

Accessibility Assessment: 1

Current Issues, Comments, and Suggestions: Suggestions included exploring water access and development of biking trails that connect Clay Cliffs to Leland, Lake Leelanau, and Whaleback natural area.



DROW FIELD

Park Type: Athletic field

Size: 5.97 acres

Service Area: Leland Township

Ownership/Management: Owned by Leland Township and managed in partnership with St. Mary's School.

Description: A baseball field, dugouts, storage building, water, gravel drive and parking. The facilities serve as St. Mary's Varsity baseball field, and are located just south of Lake Leelanau.

Accessibility Assessment: 1

Current Issues, Comments, and Suggestions: Suggestions were made to maintain the baseball field here and to remove the fields at Hancock. The park had the lowest reported usage among respondents to the 2019 survey.



GROVE PARK

Size: 1.11 acres

Park Type: Community Park

Service Area: Village of Lake Leelanau; Leland Township

Ownership/Management: Leland Township

Description: Picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, tennis court, basketball court, storage shed, water, bike rack, and seasonal portable toilet. The park is the host location of Bike Leelanau's Bike Library. The park is located in Lake Leelanau.

Accessibility Assessment: 1

Current Issues, Comments, and Suggestions:

Comments focused on the need for improvements to the park overall as well as to the tennis and basketball facilities. Suggestions were made for a complete re-design, a skate park, bandstand, and a restroom.



HANCOCK FIELD

Size: 11.34 acres

Park Type: Athletic Field; Community Park

Service Area: Lake Leelanau neighborhoods; Leland Township

Ownership/Management: Owned by Leland Township (except tennis courts) and managed under an agreement with Leland Schools.

Description: Soccer fields, softball and baseball diamonds, beach volleyball, tennis courts, bleachers, skateboard ramps, grandstand, picnic pavilions, drinking water, parking, concession stands. The facilities serve as Leland Public School's athletic fields.

Accessibility Assessment: 4

Current Issues, Comments, and Suggestions: Comments focused largely on the baseball fields with suggestions for removing or repurposing the field(s), and the interest in expanding/adding a soccer field; other suggestions were for improving the playground equipment and picnic area; adding paddle tennis and pickleball courts; maintaining the park to higher standards; and for expanding use of the facilities during all seasons. There is interest in further exploring current and potential uses of the facilities and property.



PROVEMONT POND

Size: 90 acres

Park Type: Natural area

Service Area: Leland Township

Ownership/Management: Leland Township.

Description: Woodland area with a pond a hiking trail. The access drive and small parking area are unpaved.

Accessibility Assessment: 1

Current Issues, Comments, and Suggestions:

Suggestions were for developing mountain and fat bike trails, expanding uses of the property, enhancing access.



SCHNEIDER BEACH

Size: .99 acres

Park Type: Beach and Park Area

Service Area: Leland Township

Ownership/Management: Leland Township

Description: Beach and grass park area are located at the north end of Popp Road on Lake Leelanau. Facilities include a dock, picnic area, grills, fire pit, parking, and a seasonal portable toilet.

Accessibility Assessment: 1

Current Issues, Comments, and Suggestions:

Suggestions for the park have included managing swimmers itch, consideration of winter use needs (access for ice boating), and expanding the open picnic area.



JOHN SUELZER MEMORIAL PARK

Size: 3.72 acres

Park Type: Roadside Park and Beach

Service Area: Leland Township

Ownership/Management: Leland Township

Description: Picnic area, playground equipment, grills, fire pit, staircase to beach front, boat launch, dock, portable toilet, roadside parking.

Accessibility Assessment: 1

Current Issues, Comments, and Suggestions:

Suggestions were focused on improving the playground equipment, installing a swimming dock, and adding a dog park.



VANS BEACH

Size: .52 acres

Park Type: Beach

Service Area: Leland Township, Leelanau County, and surrounding counties

Ownership/Management: Leland Township

Description: A large beach with an unpaved parking area and seasonal portable toilets at the end of Cedar Street. The property also encompasses the Avenue A road end and Hall Beach, which abuts Fishtown.

Accessibility Assessment: 1

Current Issues, Comments, and Suggestions:

Suggestions were made for playground equipment such as a swing set and slide; improved bathroom facilities; a wash station and drinking fountain; bench seating; expanded parking; and trash and debris removal.



LELAND HARBOR



Size: 1.6 acres with over 4 acres of maintained Federal channel; more than 1,200 feet of breakwaters, and 470 feet of piers.

Park Type: Harbor

Service Area: Leland Township, Leelanau County, and Michigan

Accessibility Assessment: 4

Description: Leland Harbor is a full-service marina, owned and operated by Leland Township. Its facilities include 63 slips (including 45', 38' and 30'), nearly 500 linear feet of broadside space, fuel dock with gas and diesel, pumpout, WiFi, laundry, restrooms and showers (servicing boaters), restrooms (servicing the Harbor, Fishtown, and downtown Leland), grills and tables, 30 amp / 50 amp electric service, and an overlook/sunset viewing platform with seating.

The Harbor is located on Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Carp River in Leland. From the harbor you can view North and South Manitou Islands and walk to the shops in Historic Fishtown and the stores and restaurants in Leland. The Harbor is a member of the Leland Chamber of Commerce, and is a well-known and pre-eminent destination. The Harbor is the site of the annual Leland Wine and Food Festival, which is held in mid-June and features Leelanau Peninsula wines, local food vendors, and live music.

Dredging: Shoaling causes limited or zero entry access at Leland Township Harbor, and dredging is required almost annually – sometimes more than once a year. The Harbor was dredged in the spring of 2019 when 11,000 cubic yards were removed. The spoils are typically dumped on the beach to the south of the Harbor.

In 2017, a 28-ton dredge was purchased enabling Leland Harbor to conduct the annual dredging on a schedule that would assure the full channel depth of 12 feet at the start of the season. Additionally, it would allow periodic maintenance dredging during the year when storms have caused the channel to fill in to less than the desired depth.

Maintenance: The Township undertook a major harbor renovation in 2009. It was funded by a Waterways grant and matching local funds accumulated from user fees from the Harbor. A portion of the Harbor's user and dock fees are set aside for significant capital improvements such as this. Infrastructure is routinely inspected throughout the year to assess and anticipate upcoming replacement needs and to budget accordingly. Harbor personnel deal with annual and minor repairs and maintenance on a regular and consistent basis.

Current Issues, Comments, and Suggestions: Current issues include the high water (both the lake level and the water table) and the associated impacts on the Harbor's infrastructure; the Federal budgeting process, which have made it more difficult to obtain funding to conduct annual dredging; cross currents, which annually dump sand at the mouth of the Leland harbor and must be removed for the harbor to be navigable; and beach erosion, which has diminished the size of the beach. In addition to continuing to address dredging and infrastructure needs, and issues associated with high water, the Harbor continues to experience increasing use by the public. As a focal point of Leland and important economic driver, there is interest in acquiring neighboring property to expand park space, parking, and boat slips.

Lake Michigan Access Sites *(all in Leland):*

- Cedar Street, includes beach
- Reynolds Street, includes beach
- Thompson Street, includes beach
- Avenue A, includes beach
- North Street, includes beach
- Hall Beach

Lake Leelanau Access Sites *(including Leland River and Lake Leelanau Narrows):*

- Chandler Street (Leland)
- Grand Avenue (Leland): includes dock
- Fourth Street (Leland): includes dock
- River Street (Leland): includes DNR boat launch, dock, picnic tables
- South Street (Leland)
- Reynolds and First Streets (Leland)
- Horn Road (Lake Leelanau north of M204): includes dock
- Emelia's Landing (Lake Leelanau): includes parking, dock, boat launch, and porta-john
- East Meinrad Street/Narrows Park (Lake Leelanau): includes dock
- St. Joseph Street (Lake Leelanau)
- William Street (Lake Leelanau)

Other Township & Regional Recreation Facilities:**School Facilities:**

- Leland Public School Playground: Playground, basketball court, softball diamond.
- St. Mary School: Playground, softball diamond, basketball court, parking

Leelanau Conservancy Facilities

- Houdek Dunes Natural Area: Hiking, environmental education
- Narrows Natural Area: Wetland complex, boating
- Whaleback Nature Trail: Hiking, scenic overlook
- Village Green: Gardens, green space

Private Facilities:

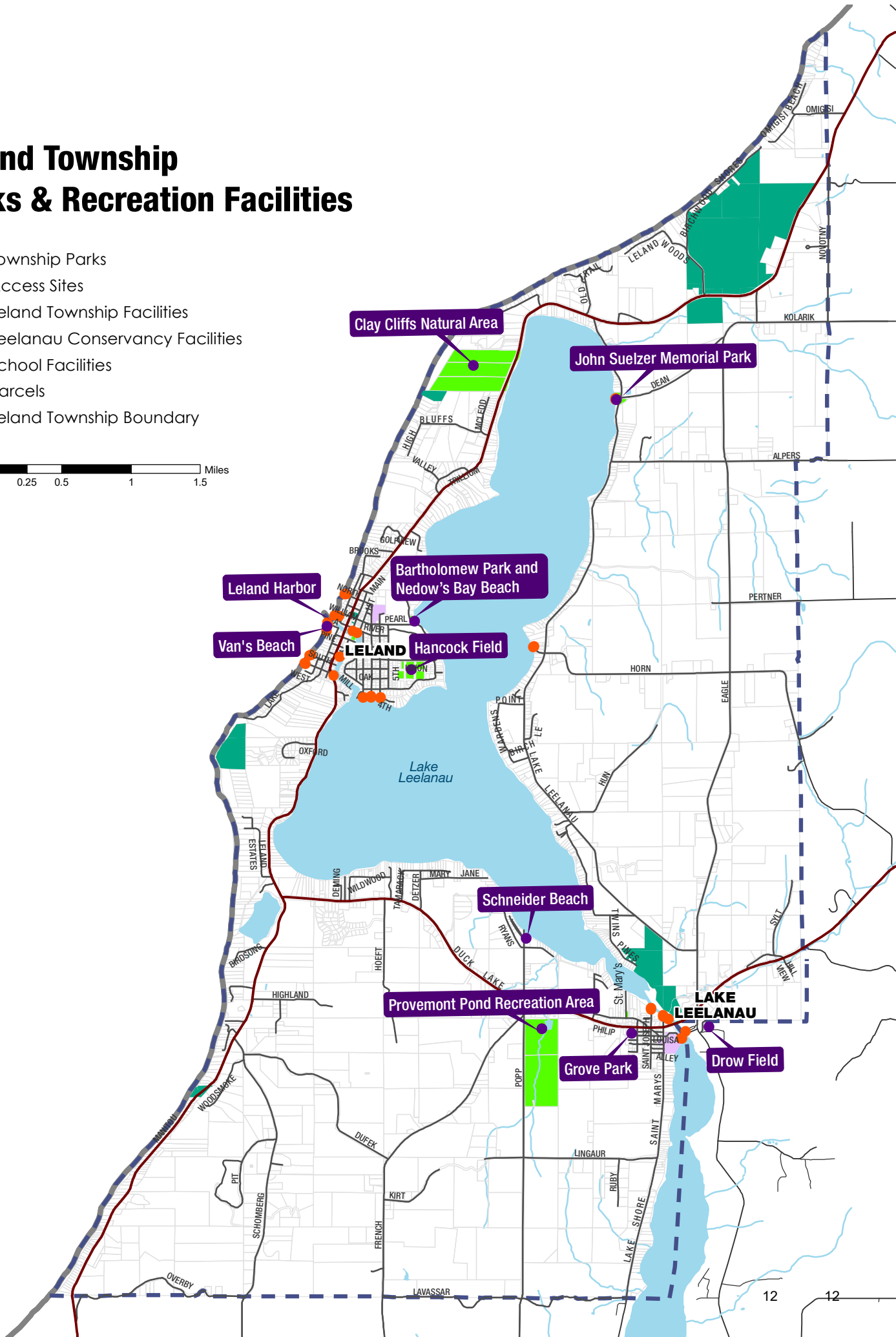
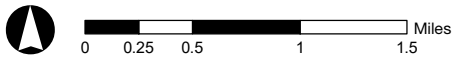
- Leland Country Club: Golf course, tennis courts, toilets, clubhouse, parking
- Stander Marina: Boat storage, launch
- Leland Yacht Club: Parking, mooring, toilets, running water
- Leelanau Community Cultural Center: Parking, community recreation center, toilets

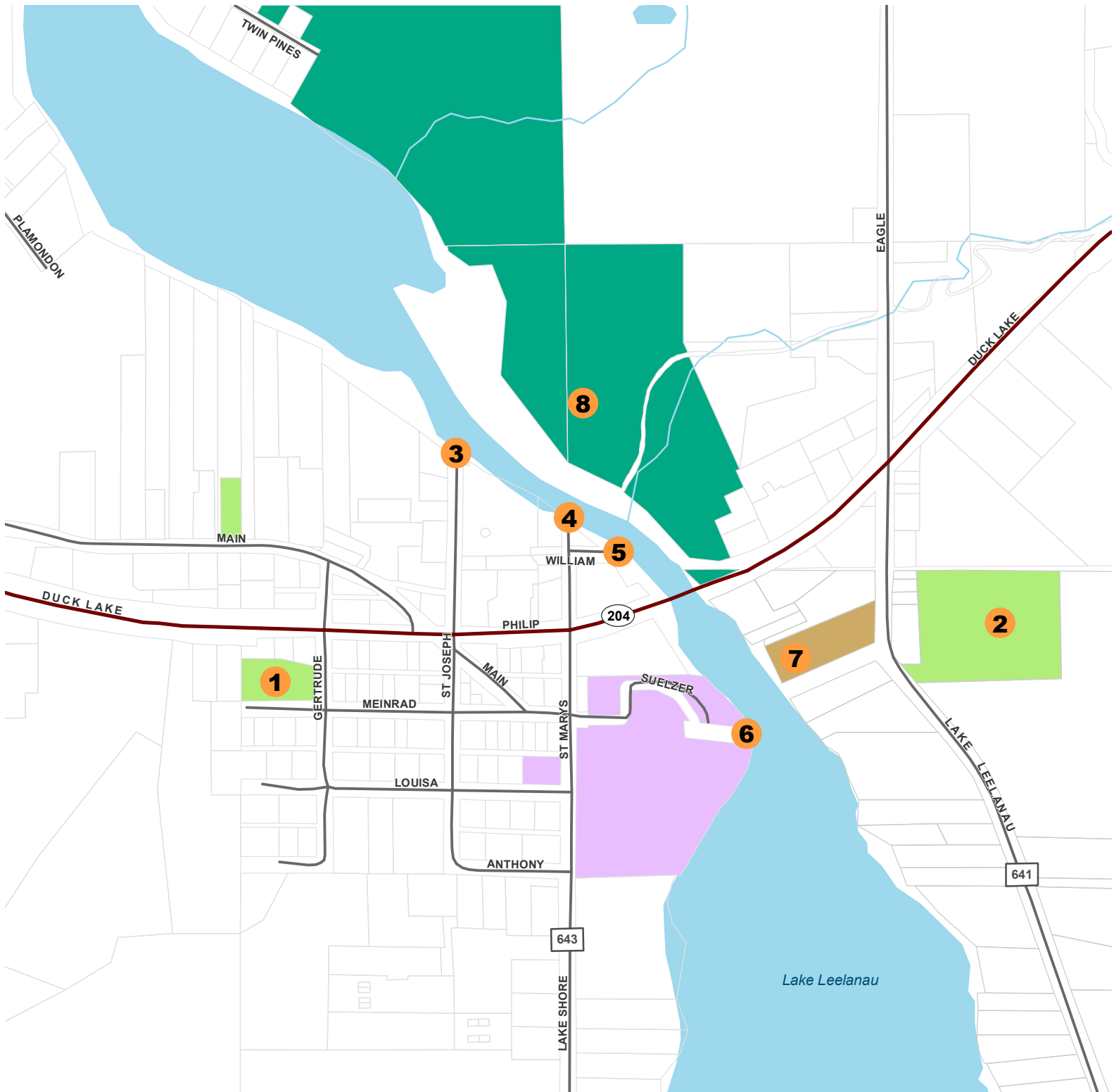
Recreation Opportunities in the Surrounding Area

- North Manitou Island: Lake Michigan wilderness area, hiking, backpacking, wilderness camping, hunting, accessible by ferry from Leland Harbor
- Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore Park, Empire Township: Dune climb, scenic drive, picnic areas, hiking, cross-country skiing, swimming, hunting, visitor center, maritime museum, ranger programs
- Peterson Park, Leelanau Township: Lake Michigan shore, swimming, parking, picnic tables, grills, playground, scenic lookout, toilets
- Leelanau State Park, Leelanau Township: Hiking, XC trails, swimming, toilets, parking, camping, playground, picnic area, lighthouse museum, hunting
- DNR Boat Launch, Village of Lake Leelanau
- Kehl Lake, Leelanau Township: Natural area, nature trails, environmental education
- Cedar River, Solon Township: Natural area, nature trails, environmental education
- Belanger Creek, Leelanau Township: Natural area, nature trails, environmental education
- Veronica Valley, Leelanau County Park: Natural area, nature trails, cross country skiing, fishing pond
- Herman Park, Suttons Bay: tennis, pickleball, disc golf, ½ mile paved trail, and kids fishing dock

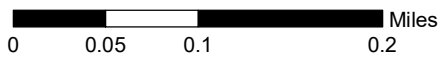
Leland Township Parks & Recreation Facilities

- Township Parks
- Access Sites
- Leland Township Facilities
- Leelanau Conservancy Facilities
- School Facilities
- Parcels
- Leland Township Boundary





Lake Leelanau Facilities



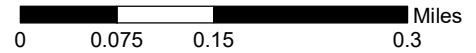
- Leland Township
- MDNR
- St. Mary's
- Leelanau Conservancy
- Parcels

- #** Public Facilities:
- 1. Grove Park
- 2. Drow Field
- 3. St. Joseph St.
- 4. Emelia's Landing
- 5. William St.
- 6. East Meinrad St./Narrows Park
- 7. Public Boat Launch (MDNR)
- 8. Narrows Natural Area (Leelanau Conservancy)

Data Source: Michigan Open Data; Leelanau County; Leland Township; Networks Northwest Date Produced: November 2019



Leland Facilities



- Leland Township
- MDNR
- Michigan State University
- Leland Public Schools
- Leelanau Conservancy
- Leland Country Club (Private)
- Parcels

- #** Public Facilities:
 1. Hancock Field
 2. Bartholomew Park & Nedow's Bay Beach
 3. Leland Harbor
 4. Vans Beach
 5. Avenue A Access Site
 6. Cedar St. Access Site
 7. Thompson St. Access Site
 8. Reynolds St. Access Site

9. North St. Access Site
10. South St. Access Site
11. Reynolds & First St. Access Site
12. Chandler St. Access Site
13. Grand Ave Access Site
14. Fourth St. Access Site
15. River St. Water Access Site (DNR)
16. Village Green (Leelanau Conservancy)
17. Leelanau Community Cultural Center/Old Art Building
18. Library Campus

PLANNING PROCESS & PUBLIC INPUT

The Recreation Plan was developed by the Leland Township Parks and Recreation Commission with assistance from Networks Northwest. The Plan was developed using the Systems Approach to Planning (MDNR, 2018), a three-part planning method that first examines the information already available; collects public input; and develops goals and objectives based on areas of need from public input and the existing information. This is one of the recommended planning methods by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Information and feedback were collected with assistance from the Parks and Recreation Commission members; public input received through questionnaires, committee discussions, and public hearings; and additional research and analysis conducted by Networks Northwest. Data and public input were used to develop goals and objectives to reflect the needs and interests of Township residents and visitors.

Public Input

As part of the 2020 Leland Township Recreation Plan update, the Parks and Recreation Commission released a Recreation Survey in May 2019. The survey was made available online and in hard copy format for three weeks. Two hundred twenty (220) surveys were received. A summary report of the results and the complete survey results are attached in Appendix A.

Public Comment Period

The Parks and Recreation Commission released a draft of the Leland Township Recreation Plan for a 30-day public review period on October 25, 2019. Notice was provided in the Leelanau Enterprise. Comments were accepted for consideration through November 25, 2019, as well as at the public meeting on November 26, 2019. Copies of the plan were available on the Leland Township and Networks Northwest websites, and hard copies were provided upon request.

Public Hearing and Adoption

A public hearing was held by the Parks and Recreation Commission on November 26, 2019. Following the public hearing, the draft plan and proposed changes were reviewed by the Commission at their regular meeting on December 3, 2019. The Parks and Recreation Commission approved a resolution recommending adoption by the Township Board. The Leland Township Board adopted the 2020-2024 Leland Township Recreation Plan at their regular meeting on December 9, 2019. See Appendix B for the approval documents

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The order in which these goals, objectives, and actions appear does not represent a ranking of their importance or priority.

GOAL 1: Encourage an adequate range of recreation opportunities for township residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- A. Reservation of sufficient recreation lands with both passive and active recreation potential.
- B. Develop programs and capital improvements at community parks throughout the township.
- C. Increased recreation opportunities that are accessible to all ages and abilities.
- D. Encourage the development of year-round recreation facilities
- E. Continue to work with partner organizations to facilitate and further recreational programs for all population groups
- F. Support orderly development of commercial recreation in locations selected as appropriate for such enterprises with minimum conflict with adjoining land use.

GOAL 2: Encourage the maintenance of quality and quantity of open areas, scenic, and natural areas throughout the township.

Objectives:

- A. Where possible, multi-functional use of recreational space, areas for open space, forestry, flood plain, or water resource, conservation and historic preservation.
- B. Protection of unique natural areas of wetlands, forests, and watercourses from urban development.

GOAL 3: Provide educational benefits from outdoor and environmental facilities by preserving the natural state and supporting academic development

Objectives:

- A. Develop nature trails with interpretive environmental signage
- B. Enhance community appreciation for the natural environment

GOAL 4: Create a maintenance and facilities improvement program for each township park

Objectives:

- A. Develop a vision for use of each Township park
- B. Develop a maintenance and improvement program based on use and the needs and interests of Township residents and visitors
- C. Review deed restrictions for each Township park
- D. Explore and pursue partnerships to assist in maintaining and improving Township facilities

GOAL 5: Support development of an interconnected system of non-motorized trails

Objectives:

- A. Develop relationships and partnerships with local and regional trail user groups and organizations to explore opportunities for trail development and connections
- B. Identify potential trail connectors to parks, schools, and other community assets
- C. Work with other public agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and user groups to develop, expand, and connect with existing trail networks and to create connections to recreation facilities and other community assets

GOAL 6: Support public access to public lakes and streams

Objectives:

- A.** Protect water access sites and public road ends
- B.** Maintain water access sites and public road ends

ACTION PROGRAM:

Drow Baseball Fields

- Address/solve drainage issues
- Add restrooms
- Add septic system or attach to the sewer system when possible

Grove Park

- Consider repurposing or improvements to tennis court, basketball court, and bandstand
- Update playground equipment

Hancock Park:

- Complete a use analysis and design schematic that takes into account the needs of different user groups and residents, the physical property and its infrastructure, and the interests and capacity of the Township and its partners
- Maintain a maintenance agreement with Leland Public School
- Perform maintenance on pavilion
- Explore potential development of table tennis or pickleball courts
- Pursue partnerships with school and other athletic/community orgs to develop and maintain facilities

John Suelzer Memorial Park:

- Consider addition of a pavilion and more picnic tables
- Additional shade trees
- Add a second dock adjacent to boat launch for swimming
- Improve playground equipment

Nedow's Bay Beach and Bartholomew Park:

- Install additional dock ("L" shape)
- Modernize lifeguard installation and equipment
- Provide emergency equipment on site, including a defibrillator
- Add sand each year as necessary
- Maintain boat ramp
- Work with Country Club to eliminate pipe in the swimming area
- Delineate no-wake zone (improve buoys)
- Add picnic tables
- Add possible waterfront gazebo (*Fisher Park*)

Provemont Pond Nature Area

- Install signage
- Continue to add wood chips where needed
- Improve access drive and parking area, and explore/pursue alternate access options
- Regular (every 3-4 years) removal of brush and saplings from reconstructed berm

- Develop additional non-motorized trails
- Build small bridge across stream to complete trail
- Explore/pursue trail between the pond and town
- Phragmites monitoring

Schneider's Beach

- Add picnic tables
- Repair rock work
- Add sand as needed
- Cut back brush to expand park area
- Move porta John

Leland Harbor:

- Explore opportunities for expansion
- Develop more park space, parking space, and additional boat slips
- Add playground equipment

Trails:

- Explore opportunities to connect with the region's trail networks, including the Leelanau Trail, Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail and others existing trails and routes
- Enhance non-motorized access and connections to parks and other community assets, including Suelzer Park and Provemont Pond

Water Access:

- Protect and enhance the public's access to Lake Michigan and Lake Leelanau
- Contract out services for dock and buoy removal
- Seek legal clarification of the public's right of access and defend, when appropriate and when warranted, the public's right of access