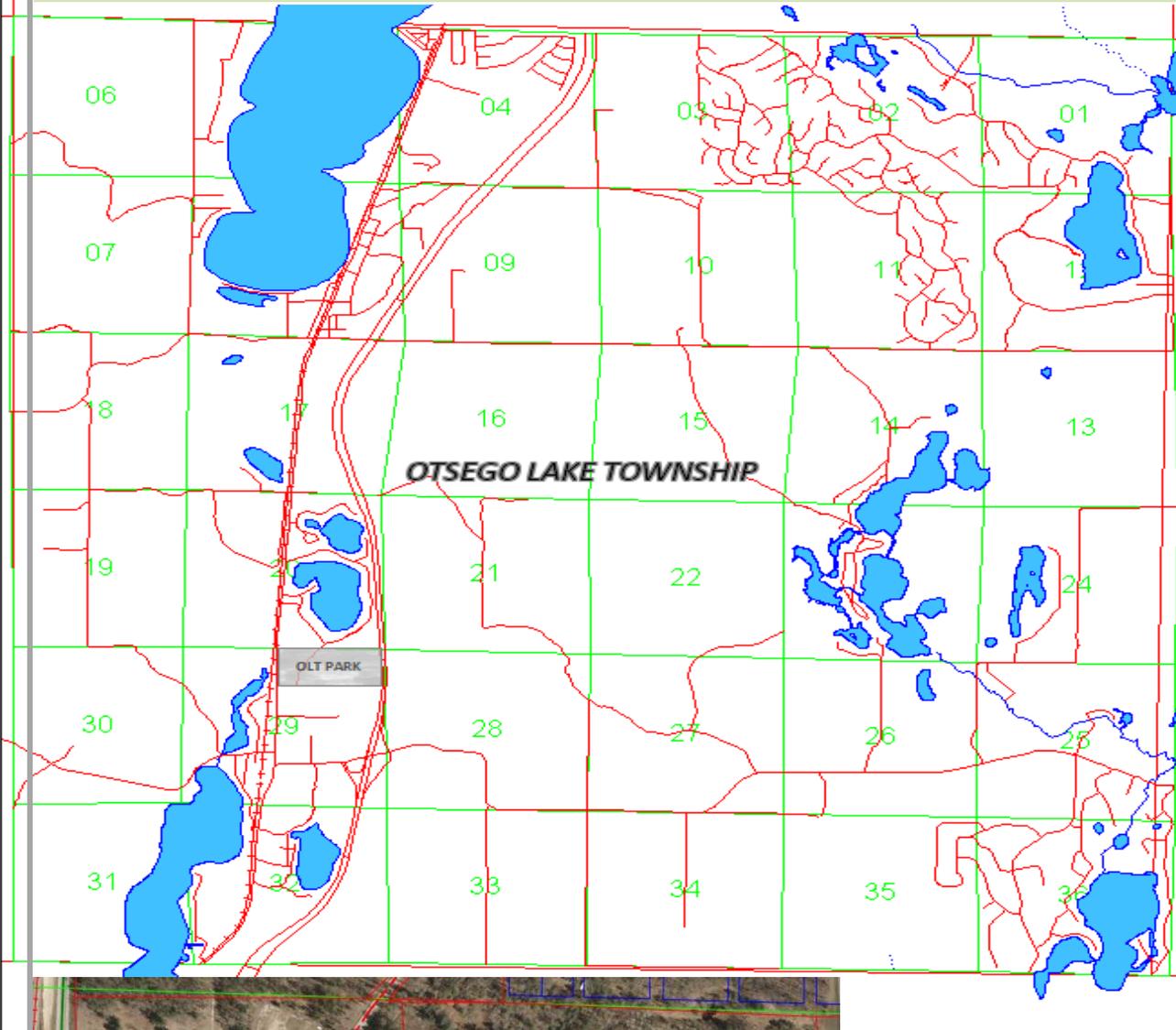


2017-2021

Otsego Lake Township Recreation Plan



Adopted: 2017

Otsego Lake Township Recreation Plan

Otsego County
Michigan

Prepared By:

Otsego Lake Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Christine Boyak-Wohlfeil, Chairperson

Members

Dani Coutant

Mike Coutant

Marcia Taylor

Don Tubbs

Lorraine Markovich/

Former OLT Board Representative

Adopted:

Otsego Lake Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: 2017

Otsego Lake Township Board: 2017

Table of Contents

Title

Table of Contents

Recreation Plan	4
Introduction	4
Grants and Capital Improvement Plan	5
Location and Regional Setting	5
Location Map/ <i>Figure 1</i>	6
Inventory of Recreation Facilities	7
• Facilities Owned and/or Operated by OLT - <i>Table 1</i>	7
Publicly Owned recreation Site Locations in Otsego Lake Township/ <i>Figure 2</i>	8
• Public Recreation Facilities in OLT - <i>Table 2</i>	9
• Privately Owned Recreation Facilities in OLT - <i>Table 3</i>	10
Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance	10
Transition Plan	10
Community Events	11
Other Otsego County Recreational Facilities	11
Trails	11
Fairgrounds	12
Regional Recreation Opportunities	12
Administrative Structure and Funding	12
• Township Budget and Recreation Expenditures – <i>Table 4</i>	13
Description of Recreation Planning Process	14
Recreation Goals	15
Township Park Improvements	16
Action Plan	16
Schedule for Capital Improvements	17
• Rationale for Planned Township Park and Hall Improvements	17
Schedule for Capital Improvements for Proposed New Trail Facility	18
• Rationale for New Trails	18
Plan Review and Adoption	19
Plan Adoption and Implementation	20
Public Hearing	20
Plan Adoption	20
Public Hearing Notices	21
Otsego Lake Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee	
Meeting Minutes	23
Otsego Lake Township Board Meeting Minutes	24
Otsego Lake Township Recreation Plan Resolution of Adoption	26
Transmittal to County Planning Agency	27
Transmittal to Regional Planning Agency	28
Appendices	
Appendix A – Survey Results	
Appendix B – Proposed Iron Belle Trail	
Appendix C – GPS of Nature Trail	
Appendix D—MDNR Recreation Certification Checklist	

Recreation Plan

Introduction

Because of the recreational opportunities in Otsego Lake Township, the abundance of natural resources and the desire to make recreation a key component, the Township created a Recreation Plan in 2006.

In past years, the Township has provided recreation services and facilities to residents and visitors. The mix of Township owned, along with publicly and privately owned facilities, offers a wide range of passive and active recreational opportunities. A description of these facilities is included in the recreation inventory, which begins on the page seven (7). Otsego Lake Township plans not only to continue providing recreation services to its residents and visitors, but to maintain the existing facilities, keeping them compliant and updating where necessary, with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which mandates accessibility standards for citizens who have mobility difficulty.

As a recreation service provider, the Township recognizes the importance of planning for future recreation services and facilities. A major factor in the provision of any service is the question of how projects will be funded. One possible source of funding for recreation projects is through grants available from Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

To become grant eligible for MDNR funding, a community must have an approved recreation plan. Components of a MDNR approved recreation plan include:

- Community Description
- Recreation Inventory
- Administrative Structure
- Description of the Planning Process
- Action Program
- Basis for the Action Program
- Plan Review and Adoption

Grants and Capital Improvement Plan

A Recreation Plan can be used as a guide for future public investment and service decisions, such as the local budget, grant applications and administration of utilities and services. Many communities find it beneficial to prioritize and budget for capital improvement projects, such as infrastructure improvements, park improvements, etc. A Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is one tool which is often used to establish a prioritized schedule for all anticipated capital improvement projects in the community. A CIP includes cost estimates and sources for financing for each project, therefore can serve as both a budgetary and policy document to aid in the implementation of a community's goals defined in the Recreation Plan.

Location and Regional Setting

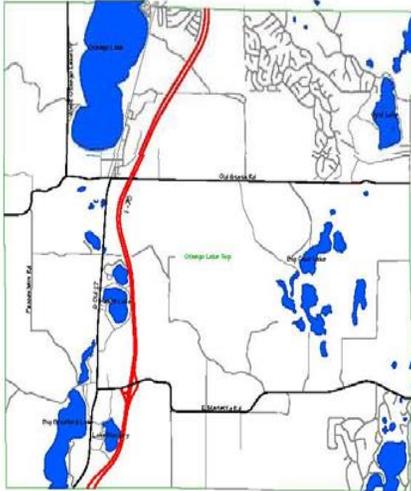
Otsego Lake Township is located along the southern border of Otsego County, which is situated in the north central part of northern Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Otsego Lake Township is a standard geographic township in area, (approximately 36 square miles), with 32.7 square miles of land area.

The Township is bounded on the north by Bagley Township, the west by Hayes Township, the east by Chester Township all in Otsego County, and on the south by Maple Forest Township in Crawford County. The City of Gaylord is approximately six (6) miles north of the Otsego Lake Township border. Figure one (1) illustrates the township's proximity to a number of other communities in Michigan.

A more detailed description of the Township along with socio-economic characteristics, natural environment data and existing land use patterns can be found in the Otsego Lake Township Master Plan.

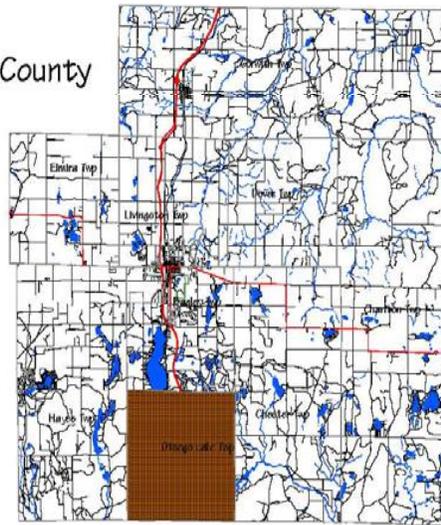
Figure 1: Location Map

Otsego Lake Township



Otsego Lake Township

Otsego County



State of Michigan

Inventory of Recreation Facilities in Otsego Lake Township

An inventory of existing recreation facilities located in Otsego Lake Township is provided below. Sites are grouped according to jurisdictional ownership. Township owned facilities are listed first, then other public sites, and finally privately owned recreation sites. Each listing is followed by a brief description of that location. Figure two (2) illustrates the location of the public sites.

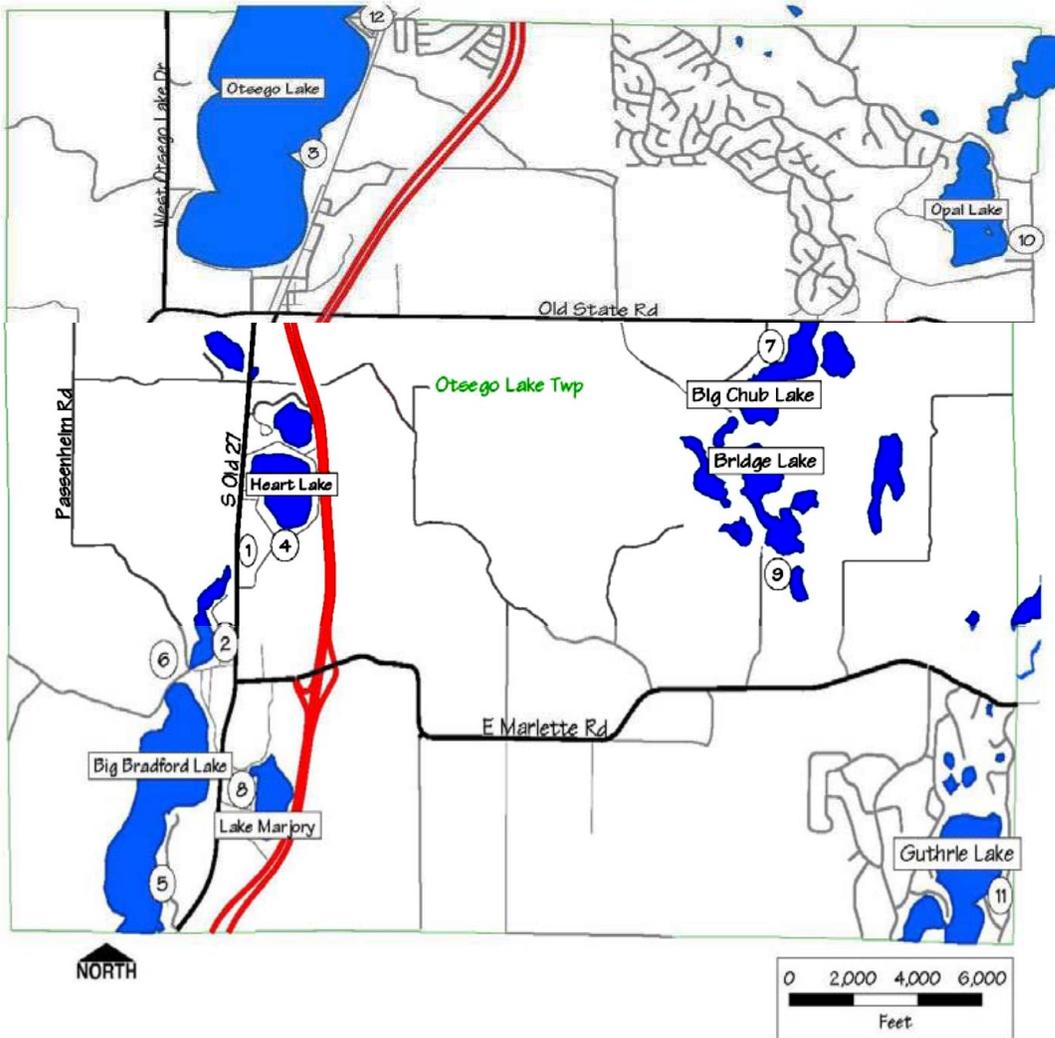
Otsego Lake Township owns property consisting of four contiguous parcels which is currently being used for recreational purposes. Table one (1) contains information on the facilities.

**Table 1
Facilities Owned and/or Operated By Otsego Lake Township**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>ADA Compliance</i>
Remi & Edna Schotte Memorial Park/	5.05 acres	Pavilion/Accessible Route from Parking Area	X
	9.01 acres	Parking Area/Designated Parking Spaces at the Pavilion	X
		Picnic Tables/Accessible	X
		Grills	X
		Drinking Fountain	X
		Benches	
		Waste Receptacles	
		Restroom/Accessible Facility	X
		Playground Equipment	
		Playground Equipment/Toddler through Pre-Teen	
		Splash Pad	
		Adult Fitness Equipment	
		Basketball Court	
		Horseshoe Pits	
		Gravity Rail	
	Baseball Diamond/Bleachers		
	Irrigation System		
	Park Lighting		
	Park Security Cameras		
Leonard Jensen	15.79 acres	Small 2 nd Pavilion	X
Nature Trail	37.40 acres	Hiking Trails/Benches	
Disabled Veteran Memorial	5.01 acres	Large 3 rd Pavilion/Accessible Route from Parking Area	X
TOTAL ACREAGE:	72.26 acres		

Additionally, the Township in cooperation with the Otsego County Road Commission, maintains a bike lane the full length of Memorial Drive.

Figure 2: Publicly Owned Recreation Site Locations, Otsego Lake Township



KEY for Figure 2 Recreation Site Locations, Otsego Lake Township:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Remi & Edna Schotte Memorial Township Park/Leonard Jensen Nature Trail | 8. Lake Marjory |
| 2. Otsego Lake Township Hall | 9. Bridge Lake |
| 3. Otsego Lake State Park | 10. Opal Lake |
| 4. Heart Lake | 11. Guthrie Lake |
| 5. Big Bradford Lake | 12. Arbutus Beach |
| 6. Little Bradford Lake | |
| 7. Big Chub Lake | |

Table two (2) contains information on other publicly owned land in Otsego Lake Township. There are seven (7) State owned facilities in the Township. All of these facilities are located adjacent to water and provide boat ramps and public access to the water bodies.

Table 2
Public Recreation Facilities in Otsego Lake Township

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location Key</i>	<i>Facilities</i>
Otsego Lake State Park	3	Park with 156 Campsites 1000 feet Sand Beach Fishing Dock Boat Launch
Heart Lake	4	Public Access Public Fishing Site
Big Bradford Lake	5	Public Access Public Fishing Site
Little Bradford Lake	6	Public Access Public Fishing Site
Big Chub Lake	7	Public Access Public Fishing Site
Lake Marjory	8	Camping-Lake Marjory State Forest Campground Public Access Public Fishing Site
Bridge Lake	9	Public Access Public Fishing Site
Opal Lake	10	Public Access Public Fishing Site
Guthrie Lake	11	Public Access Public Fishing Site
Lakeview Road end	12	Public Access on Otsego Lake

There is a range of privately owned recreational and cultural opportunities within the Township. Table three (3) is a listing of these facilities.

Table 3 Privately Owned Recreation Facilities in the Township	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Facilities</i>
Michaywe' Association	Golf Course Cross country Skiing Hiking Trails Tennis Courts Clubhouse—private members only Pool—private members only
Guthrie Lake Association	Clubhouse—private members only Pool—private members only Lake Access

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodations became subject to barrier free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. The ultimate goal is to provide recreation opportunities that include everyone regardless of physical or mental impairment. When evaluating the accessibility of parks and facilities, barriers should be recognized from the perspective of the participant. These perspectives aid in preparing the design and planning future improvements to both current and existing facilities. Therefore, we can determine whether a site, building, and/or facility comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

Transition Plan

Capital improvement expenditures are targeted for comprehensive accessibility projects. All new playground equipment, site furnishings, landscaping and facilities included in the capital improvements plan shall be designed and installed in compliance with the latest adopted U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board and U.S. Department of Justice standards.

Community Events

There is a number of community events held in the Otsego County area throughout the year. The following is a listing of some the community events:

Community Event	Month of Event
Alpenfrost	February
Otsego Lake Fly-In	June
Wings Over Northern Michigan Air Show	June
Farmers Market/Waters	June-September
Alpenfest	July
Michaywe' Art Festival	August
Otsego County Fair	August
Thunder Over Waters	September
Farmers Market/Gaylord	Year Round

Other Otsego County Recreational Facilities

Residents of Otsego Lake Township can also utilize recreational facilities outside the township bounds. Information on recreational opportunities outside of Otsego Lake Township was obtained from the Otsego County Recreation Plan by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments. There are a number of additional public and private recreational facilities in Otsego County. County/State parks and campgrounds offer a wide range of recreational activities from picnicking and baseball to hiking and swimming. The local public schools within the county also all have recreational facilities. Ten (10) other sites offer water recreational opportunities that are not classified as campgrounds or local government and private parks.

These public access sites have boat launches, parking areas, and toilets. All are maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In addition, there are many privately owned recreational facilities open to the public. The Otsego County Recreation Plan also indicates there are approximately twenty (20) resorts for anglers and hunters scattered throughout the county, some of which are located in Otsego Lake Township.

Trails

There are numerous recreational facilities classified as trails that are in or run through Otsego County. These trails include approximately one hundred forty-five (145) km of walking, hiking, biking and cross country skiing trails and approximately ninety-three (93) miles of signed and groomed snowmobile trails.

As shown in *Appendix B*, approximately five (5) miles of the future Iron Belle Trail will run through Otsego Lake Township connecting Bagley Township and the City of Gaylord with the North Central State Trail. The trail running through Bagley and Otsego Lake Townships will be known as 'Otsego County South Trail. With grant monies from the state and the remaining funds coming from Otsego Lake Township, Bagley Township and the County, the trail from Waters north to the Bagley Township line will begin construction in 2017. It will be continued as a ten (10) foot wide trail and consist of crushed limestone. Otsego Lake Township was asked to

share parking and facilities as a southern trailhead in Waters. The continuation of the trail south from Waters to the County line will coincide with Crawford County's participation.

Fairgrounds

The Otsego County Fairgrounds are located on Old 27 north of Gaylord. The fairground facilities consist of exhibit buildings, grandstand, track, and food booths. The fairground is used for an annual fair, a car show, snow-cross and a flea market.

Regional Recreational Opportunities

Several communities in the surrounding area have varied recreational opportunities. To the north, the City of Gaylord has a number of recreation facilities such as a golf course, a historical museum, athletic fields, elk viewing and many resorts. To the east, in the town of Johannesburg, the Groen Nature Preserve has been acquired by the County with plans for a museum and nature center to allow for further recreational activities.

Additionally, Gaylord has the Otsego Regional Airport, the Otsego County Fairgrounds and the Sportsplex, which has a community hockey rink, walking track, indoor pool and plans for future tennis courts and a multi-purpose facility. There are also ski clubs, State groomed cross country trails, and over twenty-five (25) golf courses in the region. Nearby Antrim and Crawford Counties offer a number of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities, similar to those found in Otsego County.

Administrative Structure and Funding

Otsego Lake Township established a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in August of 2007. Working with the Otsego Lake Township Board, it helps oversee the development of recreation facilities and programs within the Township. The Committee serves as a community sounding board on recreation matters and brings the concerns of the residents to the Township Board for consideration.

Recommendations for recreation planning are made by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to the Township Board, which has final authority for recreational policy, administration, and funding. The Committee is responsible for updating the recreation plan. The Township Board must adopt the recreation plan and approve any amendments to the plan.

The Otsego Lake Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee consists of six (6) members: chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, two (2) additional members with one (1) Board member representing the Township Board.

The Otsego Lake Township Board consists of five (5) members: supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and two trustees. The Township Supervisor is the chief executive officer of the township and chairs the board of trustees. The Township Clerk is responsible for keeping the Township records, paying bills, voter registration, and cemetery

records, while the Treasurer is charged with keeping the Township's financial records, including receipt of tax payments and management of investments. The Fire Chief is responsible for overseeing all activities of the Fire Department/First Responder Service.

Volunteers are an integral part of the recreational projects in Otsego Lake Township. On a project by project basis, volunteers are solicited to provide some of the labor for the Township "in-kind" match. The routine park maintenance is handled by the Township staff, contractors, and volunteers, all operating under the direct authority of the Township Board.

Other recreational facilities and activities utilized by local residents are administered both formally and informally by organizations serving multiple jurisdictions. Otsego Lake Township is located partially within the Gaylord Schools district and partially within the Crawford-AuSable School district, making recreational facilities and activities of both school districts available to Township residents. Township youth may also participate in non-school related recreation organizations. Since both school districts have facilities of their own, they are not directly part of this plan. This plan does include provisions to continue and enhance the working relationship with Michigan Department of Natural Resources as related to the state-owned recreation facilities located within Otsego Lake Township.

Otsego Lake Township's recreational activities and facilities are primarily funded through the Township's general fund. Table four (4) illustrates recreation spending for the past five (5) years, in comparison to the Township's total budget. For the 2012-2016 budgets, at least \$45,000 has been budgeted as a Park and Recreation line item, demonstrating that the Township Board consistently allots funding for recreational purposes.

Table 4					
Township Budget and Recreation Expenditures					
2012--2016 Budget					
Fiscal Year Ending March 31	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013
Total Township	\$971,609	\$928,643	\$893,852	\$805,166	\$707,487
Expenditures					
Recreation	\$75,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
Source: Otsego Lake Township Balance Sheet 2012-2016					

Description of the Recreation Planning Process

Revisions to the existing Recreation Plan, created in 2005 by the Otsego Lake Township Planning Commission, began in the spring of 2016. The Otsego Lake Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee updated the document to reflect the accomplishments of the past five (5) years.

To encourage public participation in the recreation planning process, all meetings with the Otsego Lake Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee were open to the public and posted at the Township Hall. Throughout the 2016 election year, surveys were available for voter input as well as accessible in the Township office.

A total of thirty-four (34) surveys were received from residents. Surveys results for public input can be found in *Appendix A*. A copy of the survey distributed is as follows:

OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE SURVEY

THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE IS UPDATING THE TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN AND WE ARE REQUESTING YOUR INPUT. PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BY CHECKING BELOW:

	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP PARK?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DO YOU USE THE PARK?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAVE YOU RESERVED THE PARK FOR A FUNCTION?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAVE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY USED THE:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BASEBALL DIAMOND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ADULT FITNESS EQUIPMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPLASH PAD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAVE YOU WALKED THE NATURE TRAIL?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAVE YOU VISITED OUR FARMER'S MARKET?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOW DO YOU THINK WE COULD IMPROVE THE PARK?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ADDED TO THE PARK?			
WOULD YOU OR YOUR FAMILY BE INTERESTED IN A TOWNSHIP SPONSORED ACTIVITY? (i.e. cards, bingo, dance, picnic, ice cream social...) PLEASE SPECIFY:			

COMMENTS: (Please add anything relevant pertaining to our park)

Notice of a thirty (30) day review of the Recreation Plan was published February 3, 2017 and finally, interested citizens were invited to attend a public hearing on _____. Notice was published in The Gaylord Herald Times on _____, on the Township website, as well as posted in local public places. ____ interested citizens attended the public hearing. After the public hearing, the complete document was finalized for initial submittal to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

Recreation Goals

Otsego Lake Township, because of its environmental attributes, expanses of state land, and low population density, currently enjoys a favorable reputation as an outdoor recreation area. To sustain and increase the current level of recreational activities for all age groups, the Township should continue to encourage the growth of open-space recreation.

- Develop multi-purpose pathway in the commercial area and throughout the Township.
- Provide additional active recreation facilities to meet the needs of residents and visitors of all ages.
- Encourage operation of public and private camping facilities at designated locations of the Township.
- Through zoning and review procedures, proposed subdivisions, site condominiums, planned unit developments, commercial and industrial developments should be encouraged to provide or participate in the development of neighborhood parks.
- Maintain open space and scenic vistas by encouraging PUD, clustering, and conservation easements.
- Maintain existing and establish new trails for horseback riding, bike, motorized recreational vehicle, cross-country ski, and walking use in the Township.
- Encourage a designated and regulated snowmobile route through Otsego Lake Township to connect the community to regional state designated snowmobile trails.

Otsego Lake Township has a system of parks, ball fields, and recreational facilities. To meet the needs of a growing population and the increased tourist activity, it is important to improve and expand these recreational facilities. Recreational facilities should continue to be developed to meet the needs of the whole community, all age groups, and income levels.

- Encourage the consideration of recreational facilities as an integral part of community development plans.
- Ensure ADA compliant playground equipment for Township parks.
- Provide more public beach and water access in a park and picnic area setting for residents, seasonal residents, and visitors.

Community-wide programs that provide opportunities for year-round recreation, personal enrichment, art, musical, and theatrical groups are contributors to the quality of life and attractiveness of the Township. It is important to ensure accessibility to adequate public recreation facilities and cultural activities for area residents and visitors. Coordinated programs and facilities that reflect the character and desires of the community can play a key role in attracting new commercial and industrial activities.

- Construct a senior center with a large seating capacity to accommodate a wide variety of educational, recreational, and social activities.
- Encourage community arts and crafts, musical and personal enrichment programs for all age groups and for seasonal and year round residents.
- Encourage cultural facilities and events that meet the needs of the entire community.

Township Park Improvements

Working with the current Recreation Plan, numerous improvements have been made at the Township Park and nature trail. Adult fitness equipment has been added to the park to encourage a healthier life style for our residents along with a splash pad inspiring water fun for all and the installation of a gravity rail is the first of its kind in Northern Michigan. A smaller pavilion has been constructed near the nature trail for additional picnicking and the hiking trails have been updated marking plant and tree species with an additional layer of wood chips spread for trail definition; the nature trail has also been navigated by GPS. [See *Appendix C*] New LED lighting along with the installation of security cameras have been added for public safety and protection of Township equipment. A larger pavilion with a barrier free accessible route has also been constructed behind the Veterans Memorial for the Farmers Market with a soccer field placed between as a buffer for the two.

Action Program

The action program is presented on the following pages in two (2) tables that describe the development of new facilities and the maintenance to existing facilities. Anticipated funding sources will be in the form of cash from the Township general fund, in-kind labor, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants. Sources of the grants are: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), and other appropriate grant programs.

Schedule for Capital Improvements			
<i>Existing Facilities</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Improvement</i>	<i>Cost and Anticipated Funding Source</i>
Remi and Enda Schotte Memorial Township Park	2018	Walking Track	\$20,000 LWCF, Local Grants, Township
	2018	Dog Park	\$5,000 LWCF, Township
	2018	Additional Parking Lot (Trailhead Parking/RV)	MNRTF, Local Grants, Township
	2019	Volleyball Court	\$8,000 MNRTF, LWCF, Township
	2020	Shuffleboard Court	\$9,000 MNRTF, Foundations, Township
Disabled Veterans Memorial Parcel	2017	Tables	\$8,000 Township
	2017	Landscape/Pavers/Bench	\$5,000 Township
	2019	Lighting	\$8,500 LWCF, Township
	2021	Restroom	\$18,000 MNRTF, LWCF, Township
Leonard Jensen Nature Trail	2017	Additional Wood Chips Spread	\$5,000 Township
Township Old 27 South Parcel	2020	Gazebo	\$18,000 MNRTF, Local Grants, Township

Rationale for Planned Township Park and Hall Improvements

With each new improvement to the Township Park, more residents are becoming aware and the facilities are being used more and more. A walking track, a shuffle board court and volleyball court are some of the facilities planned for the future. Maintenance of equipment and nature trail is an ongoing process and the addition of lighting and security cameras helps protect all.

With the senior population comprising a significant portion of the Township, there is the possibility of an increased demand for senior services and facilities. The Township is continuing to investigate incorporating some of the senior facility, programming and service needs within the existing Township Hall. A weekly yoga class is currently offered at the Township Hall for participation free of charge.

Schedule for Capital Improvements for Proposed New Trail Facility

<i>Existing Facilities</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Improvement</i>	<i>Cost and Anticipated Funding Source</i>
Multipurpose Non-motorized Pathways	2017	Along Old 27 from Waters north to connect with Otsego Lake State Park and continue to Township line (for continuation in Bagley Township)	\$203,000 Township Match MNRTF Grant, MDOT TAP Grant, Iron Belle Grant, Local County and Township Match
	2018	Along Old 27 from Waters south to connect with the State Forest Campground and continue to Township (for continuation in Crawford County)	Anticipated cost \$190,000 MDOT, MNRTF, Local Foundations/Grants, Township
	2019	Along Old State Road east of Old 27 to Township border	Anticipated cost: \$540,000 MDOT, MNRTF, Local Foundations/Grants, Township
	2020	Along Mancelona Road west to Township border	Anticipated cost: \$180,000 MDOT, MNRTF, Local Foundations/Grants, Township

Rationale for New Trails

There is a need and interest to provide non-motorized pathways that connect from the downtown area of Waters to the State Park, State Forest Campground and ultimately to connect into a regional trail system. The safest trails for pedestrians and bicyclists are trails which are separate from the vehicular routes. Trails throughout northern Michigan are used extensively both by local residents and tourists. [See *Appendix B*]

Plan Review and Adoption

The Recreation Plan was reviewed by the Otsego Lake Township Board; additional public comments were accepted as part of a Public Hearing held on _____.

The Recreation Plan was adopted by the Otsego Lake Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on _____ and by the Otsego Lake Township Board on _____. Copies of the minutes when the Plan was adopted are included at the end of the Recreation Plan.

Plan Adoption and Implementation

Public Hearing

A public hearing on the proposed Recreation Plan for Otsego Lake Township was held on _____. Notice of the review period was published in the Gaylord Herald Times on February 3, 2017. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Gaylord Herald Times, on _____. Copies of the notices are reproduced at the end of this section. During the review period, the proposed plan was available for review on the Township's web site, at the Otsego County Library or by contacting the Otsego Lake Township Clerk.

The purpose of the public hearing was to present the proposed Recreation Plan and accept comments from the public. In addition to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee members and Township Board members, ___ member of the public attended.

The public hearing began with a brief explanation of the planning process. Plan development included Park and Recreation meetings and surveys distributed for input.

Plan Adoption

The Otsego Lake Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee formally adopted the Otsego Lake Township Recreation Plan on _____. The Otsego Lake Township Board formally adopted the plan on _____ by official resolution. A copy of the resolution is on page ___ and minutes from the meetings on pages ___ and ___ are also attached.

A copy of the Recreation Plan Certification is provided in *Appendix D*

The adopted plan was transmitted to the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments on _____. [See copy of transmittal on page____.]

Published Public Hearing Notices

Transmittal to the Otsego County Planning Commission

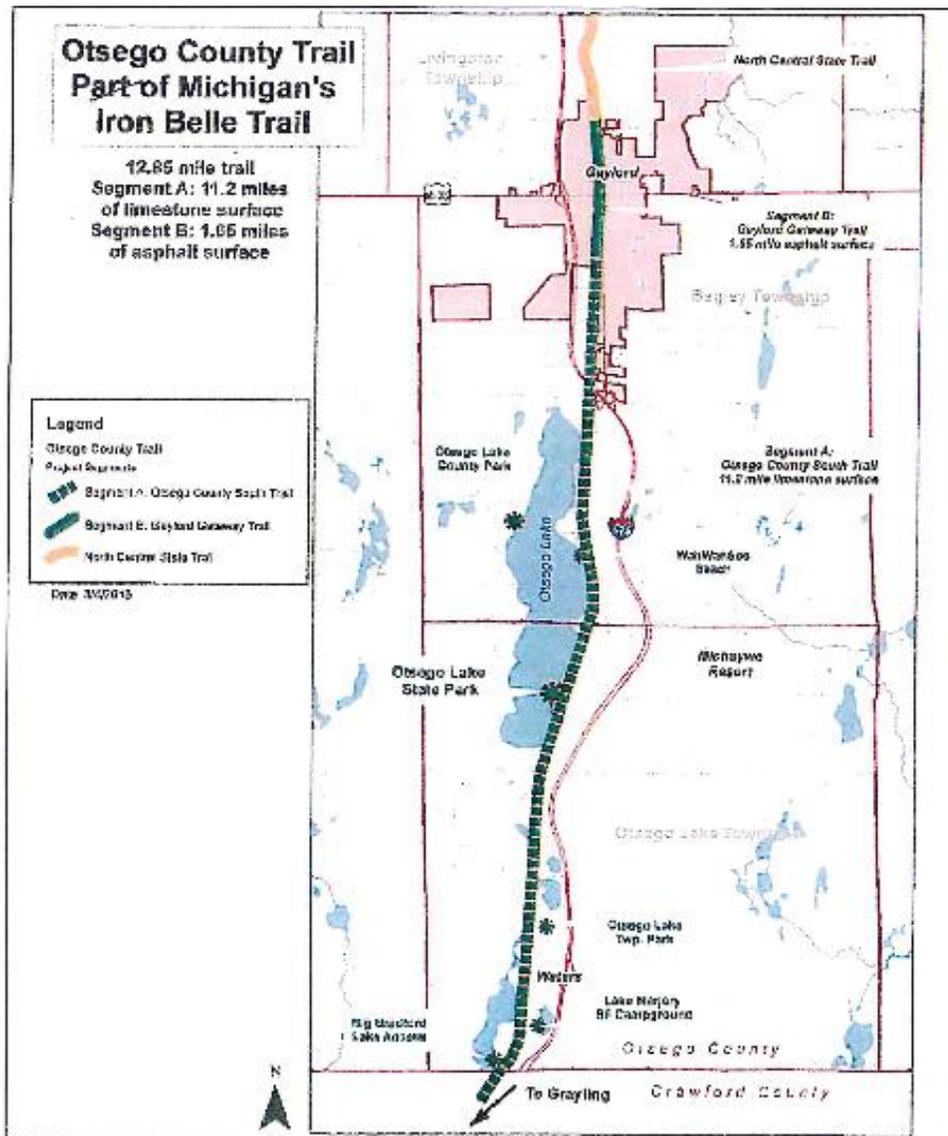
Transmittal to the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

APPENDIX A
Otsego Lake Township
Survey Results

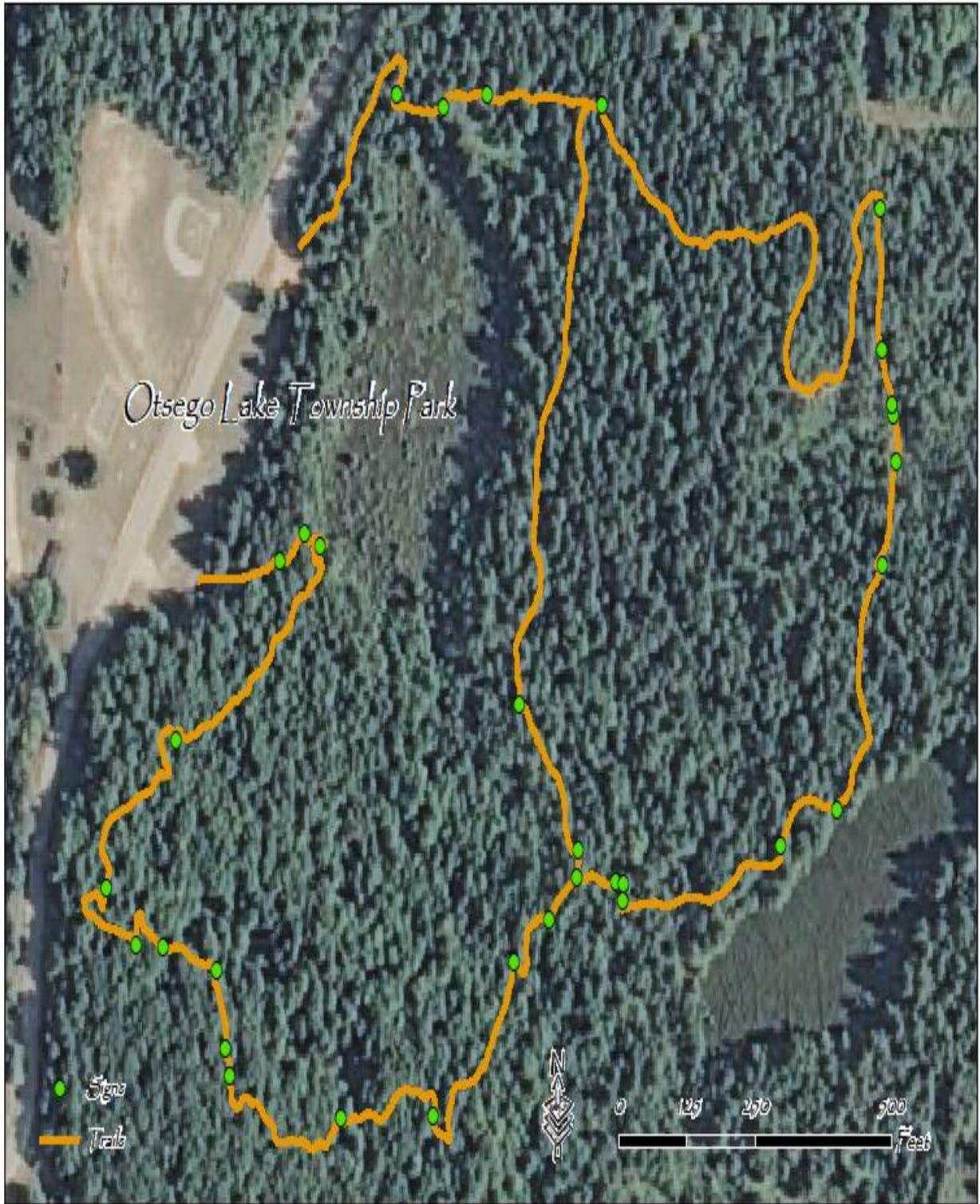
**OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE SURVEY**

	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP PARK? More people are becoming familiarized with the Township Park; we have even become an added attraction to the realtor's Multiple Listing Service (MLS).	31	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
DO YOU USE THE PARK? With the addition of activities, more residents and non-residents are using the Park.	24	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAVE YOU RESERVED THE PARK FOR A FUNCTION? Any of the Park pavilions are available for rent free of charge or a small fee if electricity is required.	2	24	1
HAVE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY USED THE:			
BASEBALL DIAMOND	7	24	1
ADULT FITNESS EQUIPMENT	7	20	1
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	13	18	1
SPLASH PAD	8	20	1
HAVE YOU WALKED THE NATURE TRAIL? The nature trail is an ongoing project with annual maintenance.	17	15	1
HAVE YOU VISITED OUR FARMERS MARKET? With the addition of the new pavilion, we are hoping to draw a larger number of visitors to the Farmers Market.	16	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOW DO YOU THINK WE COULD IMPROVE THE PARK? Comments on improvements to the Park consisted of a Farmers Market, additional signage, more trails with better signage and a trail map. ***A trail map has been placed at the entrance of the nature trail and as well as new markers on the trail; a GPS of the trail is included in the Plan*** ***A Farmers Market has been opened in Waters as of 2016***			
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ADDED TO THE PARK? Some suggestions for additions to the park included a dog park, a volleyball court and additional pavilion. ***A new pavilion has been added behind the Disabled Veterans Memorial for the Farmers Market and additional resident rental*** ***The Township is hoping to increase the number of attendees to the Farmers Market with the addition of the new pavilion***			
WOULD YOU OR YOUR FAMILY BE INTERESTED IN A TOWNSHIP SPONSORED ACTIVITY? (i.e. cards, bingo, dance, picnic, ice cream social...) PLEASE SPECIFY: There was interest shown in the Township sponsoring activities such as a Township picnic, an ice cream social, youth sports leagues, Bingo and cards.			
COMMENTS: (Please add anything relevant pertaining to our park) All comments received were in made in the positive. Township residents have repeatedly thanked the Board for the ongoing expansion of equipment and activities and maintenance of the park. It has been referred to as a hidden jewel and is loved by all who utilize it.			

APPENDIX B
Otsego Lake Township
Iron Belle Trail



APPENDIX C
GPS of Nature Trail



APPENDIX D
MDNR Recreation Plan Certification Checklist

MDNR Recreation Plan Certification Checklist

