

The logo for Lexington Township, featuring the word "Lexington" in a large, white, serif font, with the word "TOWNSHIP" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font directly below it. The logo is set against a dark blue rectangular background.

Lexington
T O W N S H I P

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

ADOPTED DECEMBER 19, 2024



Acknowledgments

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents and members of civic organizations in the preparation of this 2025-2029 Recreation Plan are greatly appreciated; we thank everyone who participated in its development.

The content in this Plan reflects the ongoing collaboration between residents, stakeholders, and Township Board and its appointed boards and commissions.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chad Partaka, Supervisor
Katherine Paradoski, Clerk
Davianna McAllister, Treasurer
Kristie Jahn, Trustee
Chip Milletics, Trustee
Art Schlichting, Assessor

Public Hearing:

December 19th, 2024

Adopted by Township Board:

December 19th, 2024

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Lexington

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**LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP
SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

Resolution to Approve the 5-Year, 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Plan

Resolution #24-08

At a regular meeting of the Lexington Township Board of Trustees, held at Township Hall (7227 Huron Avenue, Suite 200, Lexington, MI 48450) on December 19, 2024, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, Lexington Township has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2025 through 2029, and

WHEREAS, Lexington Township began the process of developing a community parks, recreation, and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Lexington Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 19, 2024, at Township Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, Lexington Township has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Lexington community, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Lexington Township Board of Trustees voted to adopt said 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lexington Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Plan.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Board Member: Paradoski

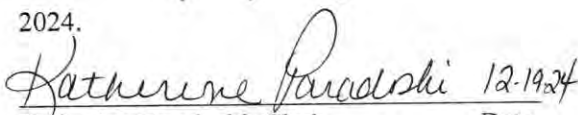
Second offered by Board Member: McAllister

Ayes: Paradoski, McAllister, Milletics, Partaka

Nays: None

Absent: Jahn

I, Katherine Paradoski, Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by Lexington Township at a regular meeting thereof held on the 19th day of December 2024.


Katherine Paradoski, Clerk 12-19-24
Date



Lexington

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01

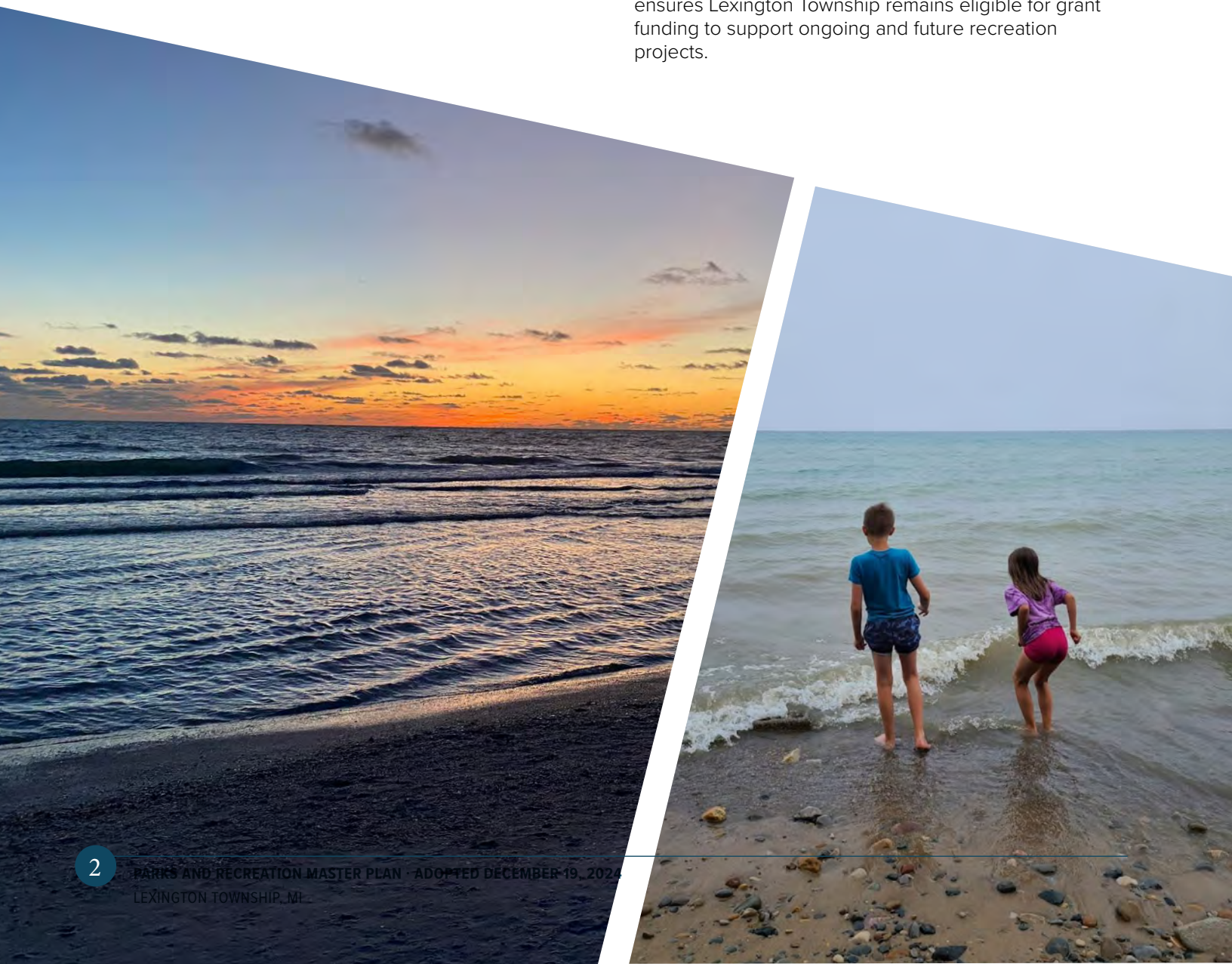
Community Description



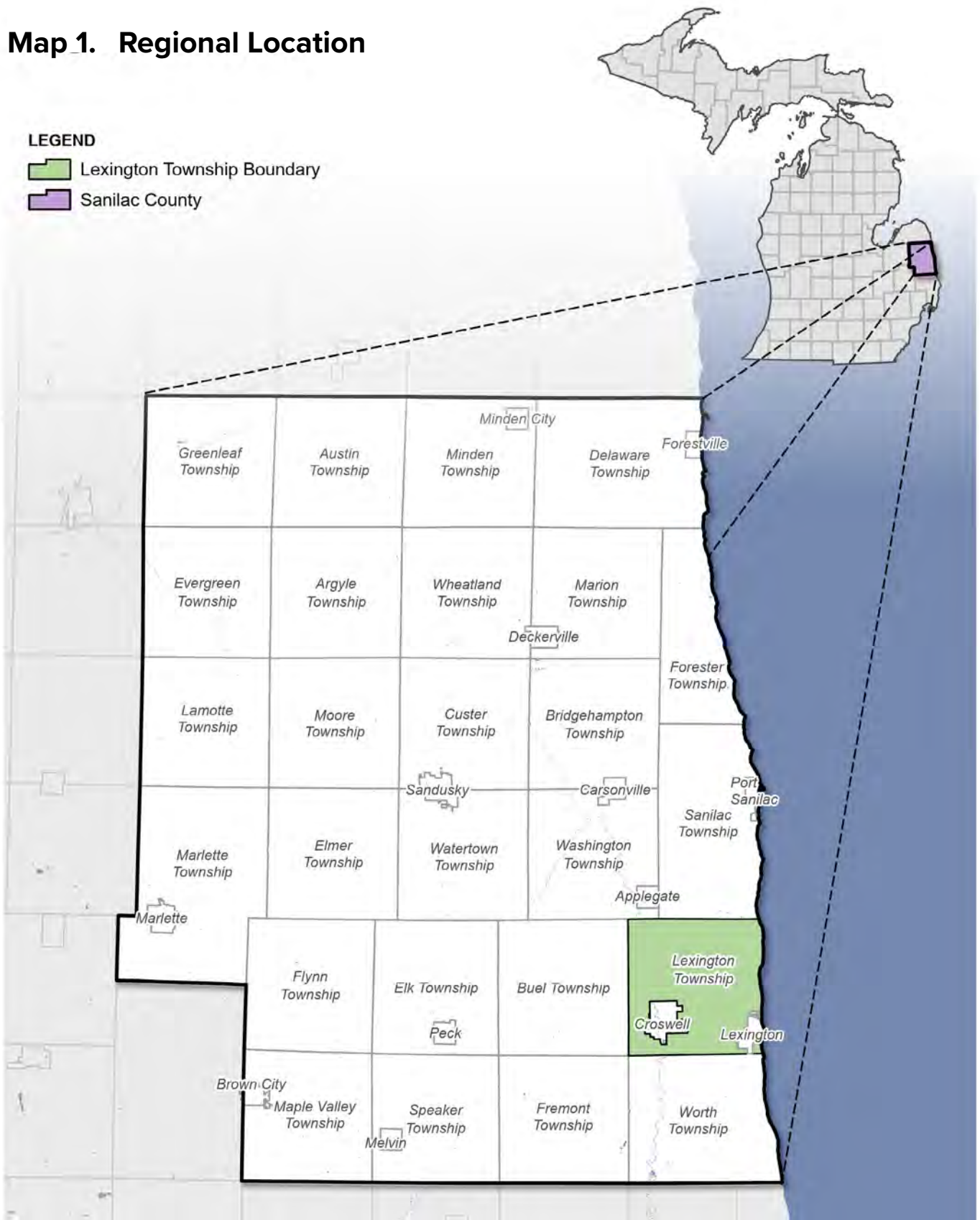
Lexington Township is located in the southeastern portion of Sanilac County and offers a mix of rural and residential character. Within the Township borders are the City of Croswell and the Village of Lexington. The Regional Location map can be found on the following page, which demonstrates the Township's position in relation to its neighbors and within the County. The City of Croswell is a historic small town that is approximately 2.41 square miles in area, while the Village of Lexington is a lakefront community that is 1.41 square miles in area. Lexington Township is 36.2 square miles in area and, according to the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates, contains 3,494 people. With proximity to Lake Huron, the Township provides various outdoor recreation opportunities and is well-positioned to meet the growing needs of its residents and visitors.

The 2025-2029 Lexington Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan serves as a strategic guide for the community's parks, recreation facilities, and programs over the next five years. This Plan is designed to assess current recreation resources, identify future needs, and set practical goals to enhance the quality of life for Township residents. By including all necessary components of a Parks and Recreation Plan, Lexington Township qualifies for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The jurisdiction of this Plan includes only Lexington Township.

The Plan is based on comprehensive public engagement and a detailed evaluation of existing recreation amenities, services, and environmentally significant open spaces in Lexington Township, as well as surrounding communities. It considers current trends and public input to outline goals, objectives, and an actionable five-year implementation strategy. In addition to serving as a roadmap for decision-making, the Plan ensures Lexington Township remains eligible for grant funding to support ongoing and future recreation projects.



Map 1. Regional Location



0 4 8
Miles



Community Demographics

The demographic characteristics of Lexington Township provide crucial insight into the community’s current and future parks and recreation needs. By examining data such as population, age distribution, household size, and other socioeconomic factors, the Township can better understand trends that influence future land use and recreation policy choices. This information is vital for shaping policies that promote access to recreational facilities and support the overall well-being of residents.

The data outlined in this plan is primarily sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau and American Community Survey (ACS).

POPULATION TRENDS AND FORECAST

Population trends serve as key indicators for effective parks and recreation planning , and they allow the Township to predict necessary policy change for parks and recreation infrastructure. Communities experiencing growth often have different needs compared to those with stable or declining populations. In Lexington Township and the surrounding areas, the combined population has decreased by less than 5% over the past decade, a minimal change that still warrants consideration in future planning efforts. The table below highlights the population trends in Lexington Township and nearby communities, providing context for regional shifts that may influence recreational needs and opportunities.

Table 1: Population Trends

Year	Lexington Township	Village of Lexington	City of Croswell	Combined
1980	2,191	765	2,073	5,029
1990	2,244	779	2,174	5,096
2000	2,584	1,104	2,467	6,155
2010	2,480	1,178	2,447	6,105
2020	2,542	943	2,322	5,807

MEDIAN AGE

Understanding the age distribution within Lexington Township is essential for effective planning of recreation facilities and programs. As of the 2020 Census, the median age in Lexington Township was reported to be 52.5 years, reflecting a very slight increase from the 2010 median age of 52 years. This trend suggests that the population is gradually aging, which has significant implications for the types of recreational amenities needed in the community. Projections indicate that by 2030, the number of households with residents aged 65 and older will increase, necessitating a focus on accessible facilities and programs tailored to meet the needs of older adults.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household size is a significant factor in planning recreation facilities and programs within Lexington Township. According to the 2020 Census, the Township had approximately 1,038 households, with an average household size of 2.49 individuals. This represents an increase from the 2010 average of 2.25 individuals per household, indicating a trend toward slightly larger household sizes in the community. Several national trends contribute to this phenomenon, including delayed formation of single-person households, and a growing preference for multi-generational family units. In Lexington Township, 33.5% of households consist of single individuals, while 9.34% are single-parent families, underscoring the need for recreational facilities and programs that cater to these diverse living arrangements.

The implications of growing household size are important for recreation planning. With an increasing average number of individuals per household, there is a shift in the demographic makeup of the community, suggesting that the demand for family-oriented recreation facilities may be growing. However, with median age increasing and 17.7% of the population being comprised of folks over 65 years old, this could also signal a trend toward multi-generational living arrangements. Additionally, as of 2020, 7.4% of the households in the Township have children under the age of 18, which highlights the necessity to strike a balance between offering youth-oriented activities and accommodating the needs of an increasingly diverse population.

INCOME

Current income levels indicate that residents may require quality and accessible public recreation options to promote their health and well-being, as lower-income households are more likely to utilize public facilities over private ones due to affordability concerns. The table below illustrates the trend in median household income in Lexington Township since 2010, highlighting changes that could inform future recreation planning and funding strategies.

Table 2: Median Household Income Trends

Year	Median Household Income
2010	\$39,200
2015	\$37,063
2020	\$44,688

As shown, the median household income has increased from \$39,200 in 2010 to \$44,688 in 2020. This upward trend suggests that while there may be a growing capacity for residents to invest in recreational activities, there remains a need for affordable options to ensure equitable access to facilities and programs for all community members.

ACCESSIBILITY

A critical component in planning for parks and recreation is to provide universal access to all facilities. Universal access includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that adequate universal access parking spaces, sidewalks, trails, picnic tables, and playground equipment are provided for renovated or new recreational facilities. Standards from The Accessibility Checklist, a guidebook founded upon the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) and the codes and standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) can be used to verify barrier-free compliance.

While it is encouraged that all park and play equipment in the Township is universally accessible, the number of residents with disabilities and the specific needs associated with those disabilities will impact the design and accommodations within the Township's Recreation Plan, and how improvements are prioritized in the future. The Census Bureau reports that approximately 18.8% of Township residents had a disability of some sort as of 2022. Of these residents, a majority (69%) had an ambulatory difficulty, which affects a person's ability to walk or move around.

Physical Characteristics

TOPOGRAPHY

Topography, or the physical features of an area, is affected by what is known as quaternary geology. The Quaternary, in terms of the geologic history of Earth, is a unit of time beginning nearly 2.5 million years ago and continuing to the present day. The Quaternary has been characterized by several periods of glaciation, when ice sheets many miles wide covered vast areas of North America, including Michigan.

Lexington Township is characterized by this topographic history. The accumulation of till deposited by a glacier has resulted in a nearly two-mile swath of end moraines between the City of Croswell in the west and Babcock Road in the east. On either side of these moraines (from Babcock Road to Lake Huron and from Croswell westward), the geology is generally comprised of Lacustrine clay and silt. These sediments, which range in texture from sand to clay, were deposited and exposed by the lowering of water levels throughout the Quaternary period.

The topography from the edge of Lake Huron inland toward Babcock Road is fairly level, rising slowly. Due to the glacial till, the topography west of Babcock Road rises, but levels off and begins to drop into the lakebed just west of Croswell Road.

An effective way to visualize the topography of Lexington Township is to follow a transect line down Roach Road toward the west:

1. **Beach/Lake Huron:** 590 ft. above sea level
2. **M-25:** 620 ft. above sea level
3. **Babcock Road:** 668 ft. above sea level
4. **Wixson Road:** 760 ft. above sea level
5. **Wildcat Road:** 775 ft. above sea level
6. **East of Arnold Field:** 780 ft. above sea level
7. **Croswell Road:** 760 ft. above sea level
8. **Old M-51/Graham Road:** 730 ft. above sea level
9. **Black River:** 720 ft. above sea level
10. **Wagner Road:** 740 ft. above sea level

SOILS

There are four general soil associations within the boundaries of Lexington Township:

- » **Guelph and London Soils (Association #4).** Best described as undulating to hilly and well to imperfectly drained, this soil association is used primarily for agricultural purposes.
- » **London, Iosco, Parkhill and Saverine Soils (Association #5).** Best described as nearly level and imperfectly to poorly drained soils, these soils are gray to black loamy sands and clay loams that are medium to acidic to mildly alkaline.
- » **Melita, Arenac, Croswell and Eastport Soils (Association #6).** Best described as level to undulating, these sandy soils are well to imperfectly drained that are very strongly acidic to neutral. The soils in this association are mainly used for pasture and secondary forest growth.
- » **Parkhill and Capac Soils (Association #9).** Best described as nearly level to undulating, these soils are poorly to imperfectly drained. The soils in this association are natural to mildly alkaline, and very productive when adequately drained.

Soil surveys, such as the Sanilac County Soil Survey, provide additional information in regard to soil suitability for agriculture, building sites, septic tanks and absorption fields, and dwelling units with basements, among others.

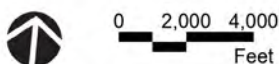
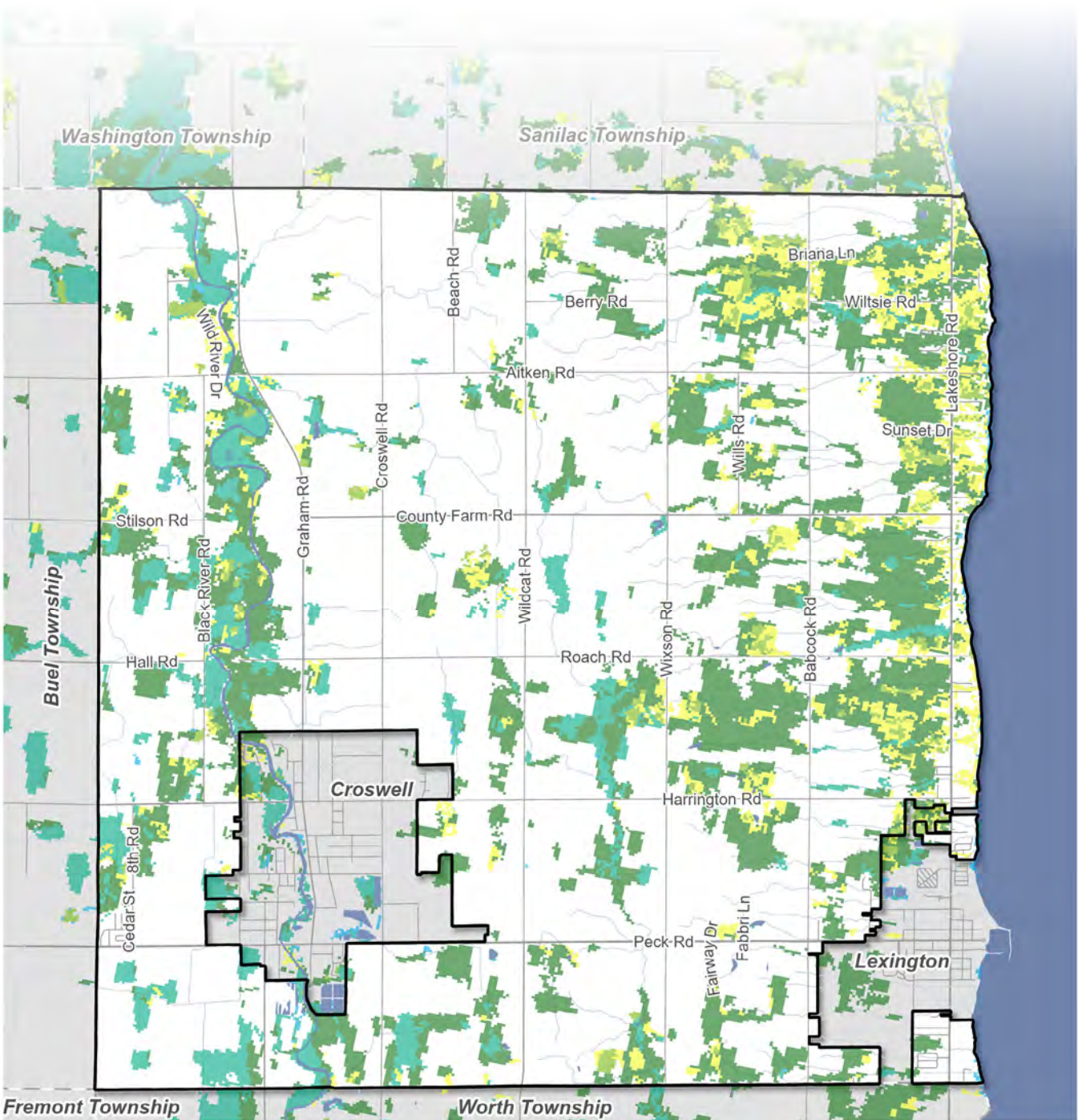
Map 2. Natural Features

LEGEND

Deciduous Forest
Evergreen Forest

Mixed Forest
Shrub/Scrub

Woody Wetlands
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands



NATURAL FEATURES MAP

Natural features within Lexington Township are depicted in the Natural Features Map on the previous page. The map indicates the location of the following natural features:

- » **Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands.** Emergent herbaceous wetlands, commonly called marshes and meadows, are dominated by herbaceous (non-woody) plants such as grasses, sedges, and forbs (broad-leaved plants) that “emerge” from the water. Shrub wetlands, commonly called shrub swamps or thickets, are dominated by low, woody plants such as willow, alder, buttonbush and meadowsweet. Forested wetlands, known as wooded swamps or bottomland forests, are dominated by large trees over 20 feet tall. These trees include species such as red and silver maple, willow, pin oak, black ash, slippery elm, eastern hemlock, spruce and tamarack.
- » **Woody Wetlands.** Forested or woody wetlands, known as wooded swamps or bottomland forests, are dominated by large trees over 20 feet tall. These trees include species such as red and silver maple, willow, pin oak, black ash, slippery elm, eastern hemlock, spruce and tamarack.
- » **Scrub and Shrub.** Scrub/shrub wetlands, commonly called shrub swamps or thickets, are dominated by low, woody plants such as willow, alder, buttonbush and meadowsweet.
- » **Woodlands and Forests.** In the mid-19th Century, Lexington Township was covered primarily by Beach-Sugar Maple Forests, predominantly east of the Black River. In addition to the Beach-Sugar Maple, Mixed Conifer Swamps occupied some areas east of the Black River. Hemlock and White Pine Forests occupied areas on the west side of the river.

Current woodlands are depicted in the Natural Features Map 2 on the previous page, and divided by Deciduous Forests, Evergreen Forests, and Mixed Forests. As depicted on the Map, the Township has generally been cleared for agricultural purposes or non-farm residential uses. The remaining woodlands and forested wetlands are primarily located along the Black River, Mill Creek and on either side of M-25.

- » **Water Bodies (Lakes, Rivers, Streams, and Drains).** The major water course in the Township is the Black River, which runs the entire length of Lexington Township, as well as the entire length of Sanilac County. The Black River starts near Minden and Palms, Michigan in northern Sanilac County and empties into Lake Huron in Port Huron.

Acreage figures for Natural Features are contained in Table 2, below:

Table 3: Natural Feature Acreage

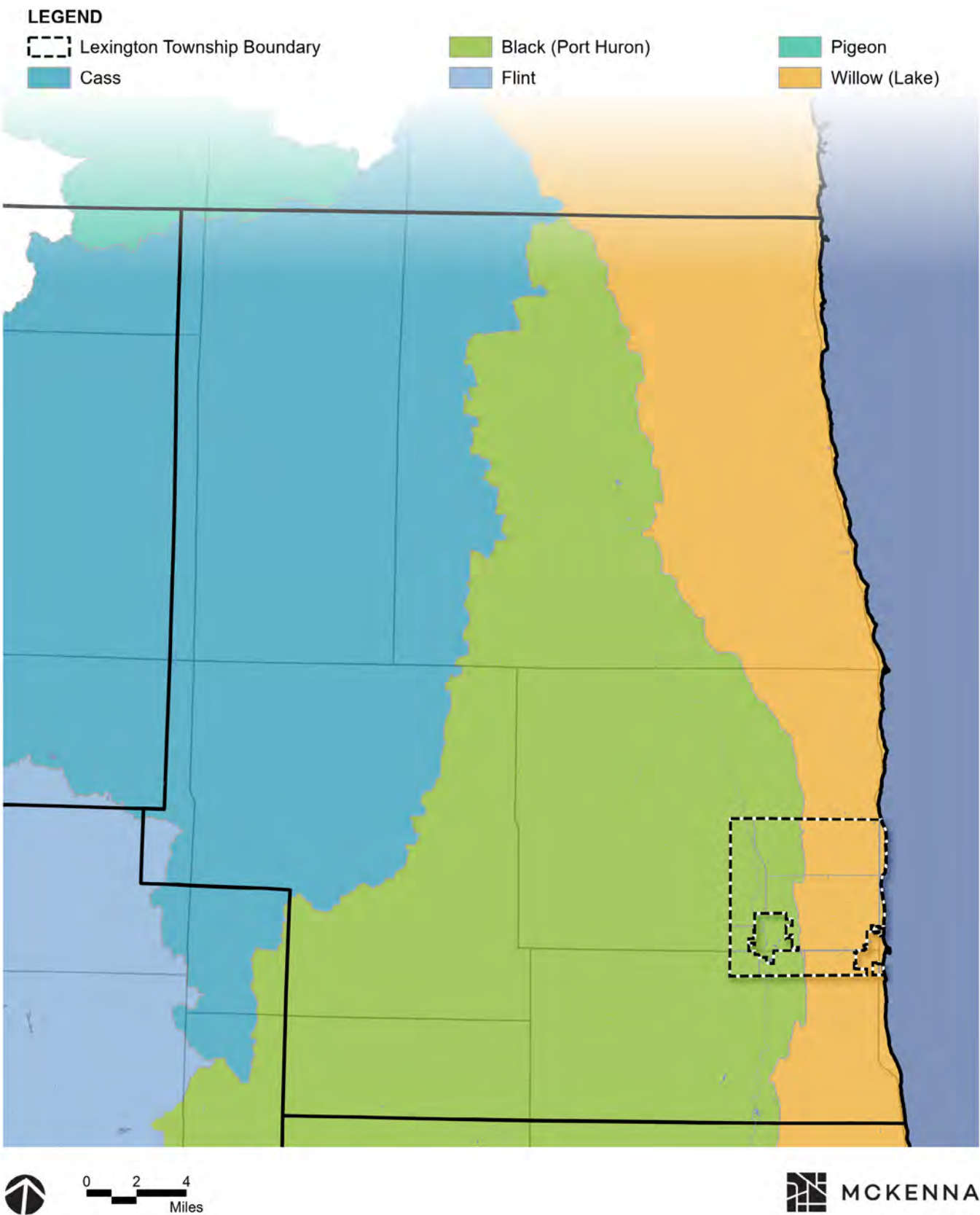
NATURAL FEATURES	ACREAGE
Emergent Wetlands	29.3
Forested Wetlands	1,240.5
Scrub/Shrub	175.9
Woodlands	3,161.4
Total	4,607.1

Source: State of Michigan

WATERSHEDS

A watershed is the area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. As depicted in the Sanilac County Water Basins Map on the following page, Lexington Township is located within the Black and Willow Watersheds. The Willow Watershed runs the full length of the Township along Lake Huron, while the western portion of the Township is located within the Black Watershed.

Map 3. Sanilac County Water Basins





Lexington

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02

Administrative Structure

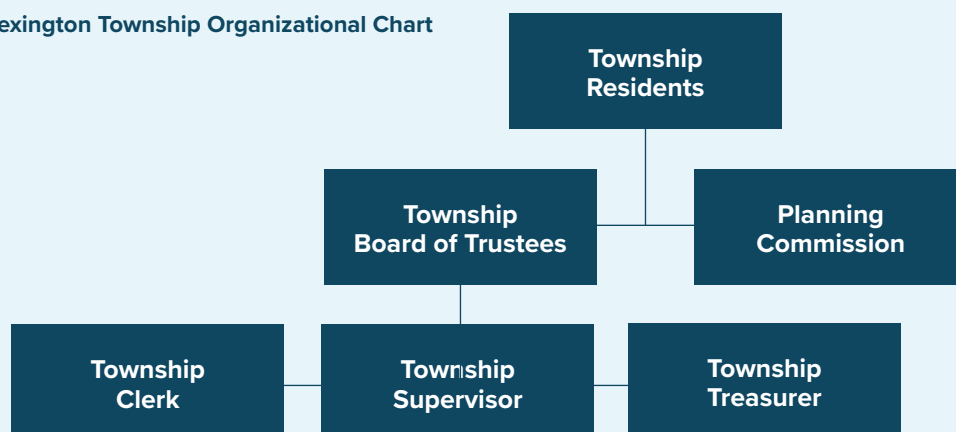


This section of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides an overview of the administrative structure that governs parks and recreation initiatives in Lexington Township. It explores the hierarchy involved in decision-making processes and examines the financial landscape, including revenue sources and expenditures. Additionally, it highlights the partnerships between the Township and local entities, such as schools and neighboring municipalities, which play a vital role in delivering recreation services.

In accordance with Michigan's Public Act 156 of 1917, Lexington Township is empowered to establish and maintain public recreational facilities. This legislation allows the Township to invest in and oversee recreational spaces that meet the needs of the community, ensuring accessibility and engagement for diverse residents of all ages and with all abilities.

Lexington Township follows a traditional governance model, featuring an elected Supervisor, supported by a Clerk and Treasurer, alongside a Board of Trustees. The Lexington Township Hall, built in 1981, is shared by Lexington Township and the Village of Lexington. The building houses both the Township and Village staff, including the Village Police and Fire Department.

Figure 1: Lexington Township Organizational Chart



Public Safety

Police. Police protection for the Township is provided by the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department as well as the Michigan State Police post. Both offices are located in Caro, Michigan. Police backup is provided by the City of Croswell and the Village of Lexington police departments.

Fire Protection. Fire protection for the Township is provided by volunteer firefighters. Three volunteer departments serve the Township: the City of Croswell, the Village of Lexington, the Village of Applegate, and other nearby townships.

School District

Lexington Township is part of the Croswell-Lexington Community School District, which serves the educational needs of students in the surrounding areas. The district encompasses several schools, including Croswell-Lexington High School, Croswell-Lexington Middle School, and multiple elementary schools, such as Meyer Elementary and Frostick Elementary. Croswell-Lexington High School and Croswell-Lexington Middle School are located in the City of Croswell, while Lexington Elementary School is situated within the Village of Lexington. This proximity to educational institutions enhances community connections and provides residents with access to various recreational and extracurricular activities that promote student engagement and community involvement.



Parks and Recreation Funding

Currently, Lexington Township has no dedicated funding allocated for broad parks and recreation initiatives, severely limiting the ability to maintain and enhance community facilities. The Township's general fund does not currently provide resources for operational costs, such as maintenance, personnel salaries, supplies, or capital improvements, except for minimal annual maintenance funding for the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway. This absence of broader funding has largely been due to the absence of Township-owned and operated facilities. However, there is an urgent need for the Township to explore alternative funding sources to support the initiation of its recreational services and ensure a vibrant community environment.

CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Lexington Township has access to various funding mechanisms to support the enhancement and maintenance of its parks and recreation facilities. This section outlines the existing funding streams as well as potential avenues for financial support that could be leveraged for future improvements.

General Fund. The General Fund serves as the primary operating budget for Lexington Township, including allocations for parks and recreation activities. Revenue sources for this fund are comprised of property taxes, state-shared revenue, federal grants, license fees, and charges for services. User fees generated from recreation programs also contribute to this fund, supporting ongoing operational costs.

Currently, the only dedicated funding for parks and recreation is related to the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway, which is co-owned and operated with the City of Croswell and Village of Lexington. Each year, Lexington Township allocates \$4,000 to the maintenance of the trail from the General Fund. However, these funds are sent directly to the City of Croswell, which maintains the account of funds used for the Pathway. These funds have been mostly used for minimal maintenance such as mowing and weed removal along the sides of the path.

The amount of funding currently allocated was originally half of what it is today. This allocation was doubled to the current \$4,000 per year to begin to raise funds for maintenance of the actual path surface, such as fillings cracks and potentially resurfacing the existing asphalt.

Dedicated Millage. A dedicated millage presents a viable option for financing specific parks and recreation initiatives. This property tax can be allocated for targeted projects, providing residents with clarity on funding usage. Approval from the electorate is required to establish a millage, which must be renewed periodically, ensuring continued community engagement and oversight.

User Fees. Implementing user fees for specific recreational facilities or programs can significantly enhance funding for parks and recreation. Fees charged for the use of amenities like sports fields, community centers, and event spaces can provide a steady revenue stream. Other municipalities in Michigan have successfully utilized this approach to fund maintenance and improvements.

Bond Financing. Several types of bonds may be considered to support the construction and renovation of parks and recreation facilities:

- » **General Obligation Bonds.** These bonds are issued for specific projects and are repaid through property tax revenues. They can fund significant capital improvements to enhance community recreational spaces.
- » **Revenue Bonds.** Issued to finance projects expected to generate income, these bonds are eventually repaid with project profits, such as concession stands or event venues.
- » **Special Assessment Bonds.** Targeted at specific neighborhoods or developments, these bonds can fund improvements that directly benefit particular segments of the community and are repaid with taxes assessed on the land that benefits from the improvements financed by the bonds.

State and Federal Grants. Various grant opportunities exist through state and federal programs, particularly for communities with up-to-date recreation plans. Notable funding sources include:

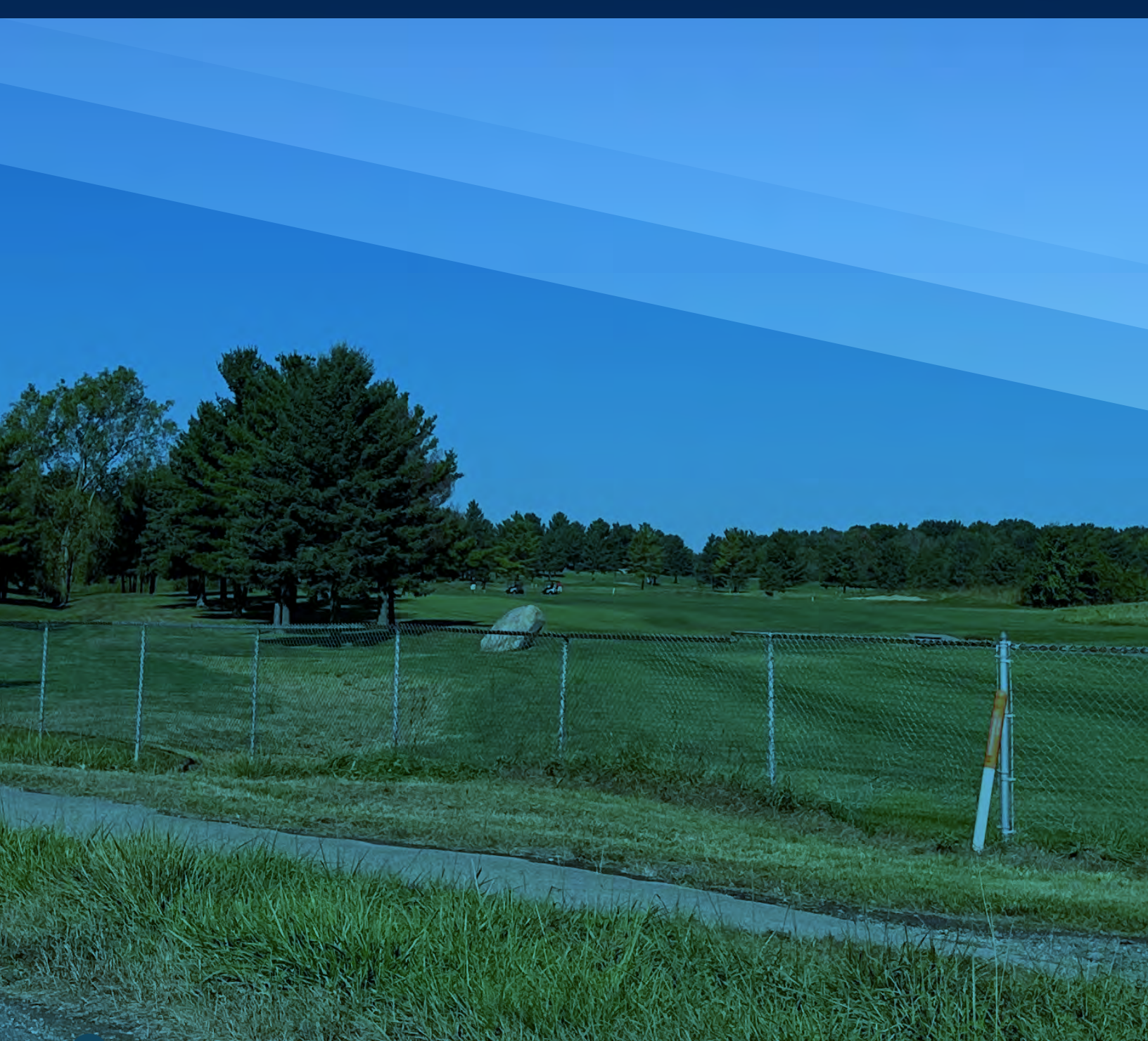
- » **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF).** This fund supports land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. Local contributions of at least 25% are required for project approval.
- » **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).** Grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$250,000 are available for community recreation and trailway improvements, requiring a 50% match from local sources.
- » **Recreation Passport Program.** This program offers grants between \$7,500 and \$75,000 for existing park improvements, funded through state park pass sales.

Community Contributions. Local businesses, non-profits, and community organizations often play a crucial role in supporting recreational initiatives through monetary donations, in-kind services, or volunteer efforts. Encouraging partnerships with these entities can enhance funding and resources for community projects.

Future Considerations. To ensure a sustainable funding model for parks and recreation, Lexington Township may also explore lease or contractual agreements with private entities for service provision or facility management. Additionally, public use conveyances through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources may offer opportunities for acquiring land for local parks.

Lexington

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03 Recreation Inventory



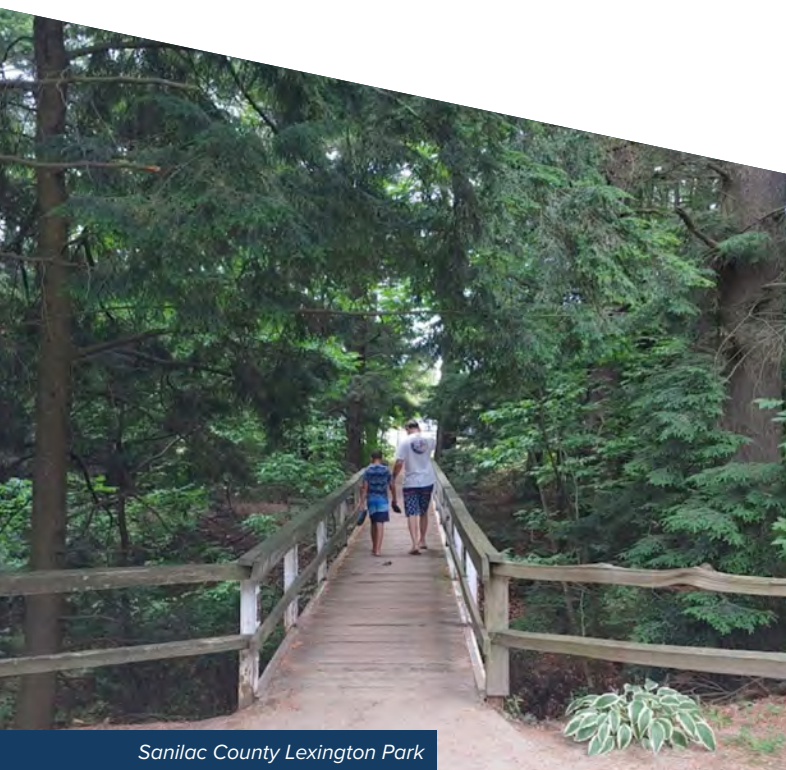
Lexington Township currently lacks its own dedicated recreation facilities, presenting a unique context for the recreational resources available to residents and visitors. Instead, local residents benefit from county-operated amenities within the Township, alongside additional recreational options located in the nearby Village of Lexington and the City of Croswell. These neighboring communities offer a range of facilities and programs that contribute to the overall recreational landscape of the area. Notably, the sole recreational amenity with Lexington Township jurisdiction is the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway, which serves as an important corridor for cyclists and pedestrians, promoting active transportation and outdoor recreation. This inventory aims to assess the existing recreational resources and identify potential opportunities for enhancing access to quality recreation for the residents of Lexington Township.



County Parks and Recreation Areas

SANILAC COUNTY LEXINGTON PARK

Lexington Park encompasses approximately 27 acres of scenic recreational space along the shores of Lake Huron. The park offers a wide range of amenities designed to accommodate visitors of all ages and interests. It features 43 grass and shaded camping sites, including 30 AMP and three 50 AMP hookups, along with water and sewer sites for convenience. Guests can enjoy clean restrooms and showers, as well as pavilions available for rent, ideal for gatherings and community events. The day-use area includes playground equipment, horseshoe pits, and a volleyball net. Additionally, Lexington Park provides swimming access and a sandy beach area. Recent enhancements include a new universally accessible bathroom and a pathway/boardwalk leading to a Lake Huron viewing pavilion.



Sanilac County Lexington Park

Village of Lexington Parks

LESTER STREET PARK

Lester Street Park is an 8-acre neighborhood park located off Lester Street. This neighborhood park consists of tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball courts, sports fields, playscapes and multiple other amenities that allow for plenty of recreation opportunities.

TIERNEY MEMORIAL PARK

Tierney Memorial Park is a 2-acre neighborhood park that is located on the waterfront of Lake Huron. This park provides active and passive recreation opportunities for a variety of age groups, including swimming areas, sand volleyball courts, a tennis court, disc golf, and playground equipment. It provides public beach access for both residents and visitors.

LEXINGTON NORTH SHORES PARK

Lexington North Shores Park is a mini park located in Village-owned Lexington North Shores Mobile Home Community on M-25 at the north end. While it is small in size, it does provide a playscape, picnic area, clubhouse, and public beach use.



Tierney Memorial Park

City of Croswell Parks

RIVERBEND (SWINGING BRIDGE) PARK

Riverbend Park in Croswell is a 16-acre park near downtown, featuring picnic areas, a pavilion, a playground, sports facilities, and a splash pad. A highlight of the park is the Croswell Swinging Bridge, Michigan's longest pedestrian suspension bridge, built in 1905 with an original span of 139 feet. The bridge has been maintained over the years, including a full replacement of its 128 planks in 2006. Every August, the park hosts a festival with cardboard boat races beneath the bridge, celebrating this unique local landmark.

P.L. GRAHAM MEMORIAL PARK

P.L. Graham Memorial Park is a 23-acre park originally established as Camp Chick-a-gami for the Boy Scouts in 1941. Today, the park offers rustic camping with sites for tents and RVs, as well as amenities like a pavilion, restrooms, picnic tables, and fire pits. Located along the Black River, it provides opportunities for fishing, kayaking, hiking, and wildlife observation.



Harbor / Marina Facilities

GINGER SNAP PARK

Ginger Snap Park is a 1-acre neighborhood park that includes a playground and pavilion.

HARRINGTON ROAD PARK

Harrington Road Park is a 5-acre neighborhood park that consists of a parking area and pavilion where visitors can enjoy the scenery.

TRUMAN PARK

Truman Park is a 1-acre neighborhood park that consists of a basketball court, playground, and has trail connections.

LEXINGTON STATE HARBOR

While Lexington Township does not own or operate any harbor or marina facilities, Lexington State Harbor has 108 boat slips on Lake Huron, and the harbor is within walking distance of the Village of Lexington. Within the Village of Lexington there is Lexington Boardwalk Marina, which is a privately-owned facility that includes 71 boat slips and offers boat rentals from private operators.

Non-Motorized Systems

Michigan has been making significant efforts to develop non-motorized trails and networks that connect communities and destinations across the state. This initiative is supported by partnerships among cities, villages, townships, county governments, regional organizations, and non-profit trail development groups, all of which have helped create an extensive and accessible network of trails throughout Michigan.

CROS-LEX BIKE PATHWAY

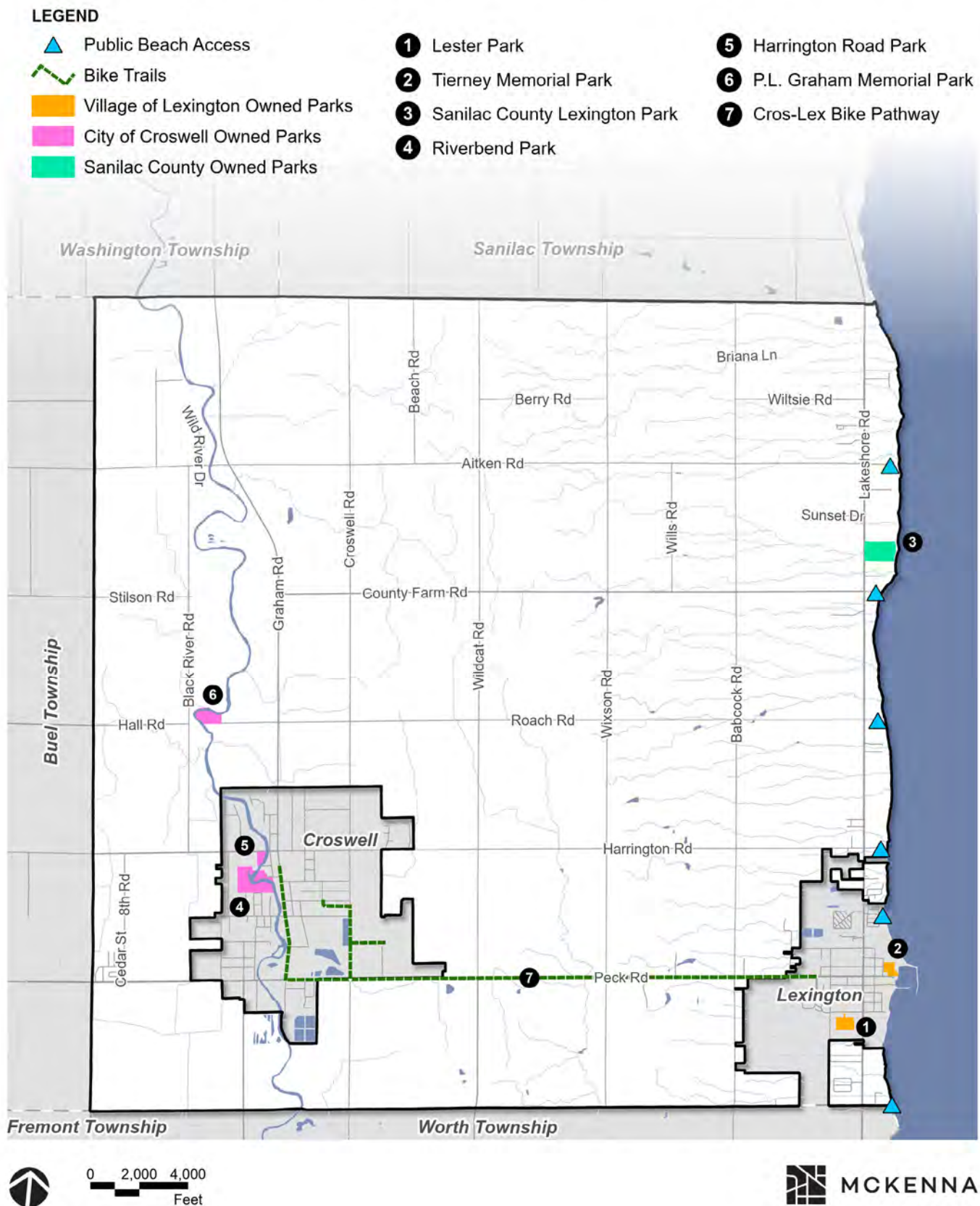
For the Lexington Township area, a key amenity is the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway that connects Croswell to the Village of Lexington through the Township. The initial development of the pathway occurred in the 1980s, and is an ongoing collaboration between Lexington Township, the Village of Lexington, and the City of Croswell. This is the only recreational facility with Township jurisdiction.

Although the path currently shows some wear and could benefit from improvements, it holds great potential as a non-motorized transportation route for residents and visitors. Enhancing the path could make it safer and more inviting, with potential upgrades including signage at crosswalks, ADA-compliant textured pads for people with visual impairments, an 8-foot-wide asphalt surface, trash containers, and dog waste bag stations.

On the following page is a map of Lexington's existing facilities, which only includes the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway.



Map 4. Lexington Area Parks and Recreation Facilities





Lexington

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04

Description of Planning Process

The planning process for parks and recreation in Lexington Township involves assessing multiple factors that influence the community's recreational needs and opportunities. This section examines the key elements that will shape recreation planning in the Township over the next five years. The goals, objectives, and prioritized improvements are developed based on these factors, which include current recreation trends, anticipated facility enhancements, and comparisons of existing facilities with established standards for acreage and amenities. This analysis also identifies service area gaps, incorporates participation data, and reflects community feedback. Together, these insights form the foundation of the Plan's goals, objectives, and actions, highlighting the facility needs and guiding recreation improvements in the Township for the years ahead.



Planning Context

National recreation trends provide key insights into popular activities and the diverse ways different age groups engage with recreational spaces. The 2023 Physical Activity Council's report shows continued growth in outdoor activities, with 55% of Americans participating in outdoor recreation. Activities such as hiking, camping, and cycling are increasingly popular across age groups, reflecting a strong preference for nature-based, accessible recreation options. Fitness activities like running, weightlifting, and yoga also draw high participation, especially among younger adults and urban residents. These trends underscore the importance of multi-functional and flexible outdoor spaces that can support various self-directed activities.

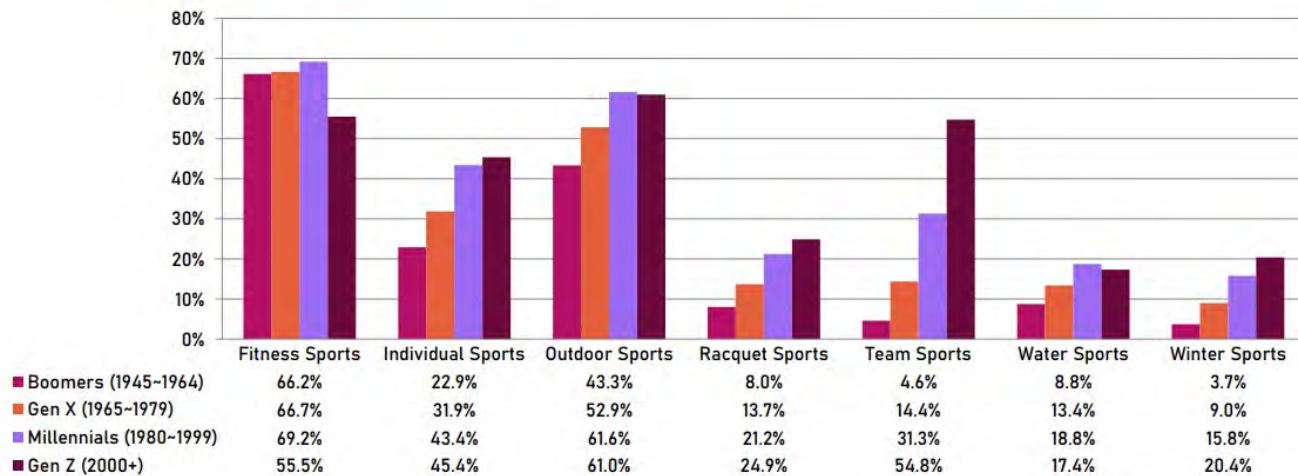
Age remains a significant factor in activity preferences. Team sports and high-energy activities like soccer and basketball are most popular with youth ages 6-17, while adults over 45 are more likely to engage in lower-impact fitness activities, such as walking, cycling, and water aerobics. The report highlights walking for exercise as a universally appealing activity, showing demand across age demographics for safe, accessible walking paths and trails. As such, communities are increasingly incorporating multi-use paths and bike lanes into their recreational planning to accommodate all age groups and fitness levels.

The report also reveals a slight decrease in inactivity rates, indicating more Americans are engaging in some form of physical activity. However, nearly 22% of the population remains inactive, often due to barriers like lack of nearby facilities or accessibility and affordability concerns. Communities that prioritize low-cost, accessible recreational amenities, such as trails, multi-use paths, and public fitness stations, are helping to reduce these barriers. Understanding these national trends informs the planning of Lexington Township's recreational spaces, ensuring facilities align with both local needs and broader trends in physical activity.



2022 Participation by Generation

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2022 Physical Activity Council Overview Report

U.S. Population Ages 6+

Inactive Intent to Participate in 12 Months

6-12	13-17	18-24	25-34
Fishing	Fishing	Working out with weights	Fishing
Camping	Swimming for Fitness	Running/Jogging	Camping
Soccer	Basketball	Working out using machines	Working out with weights
Running/Jogging	Running/Jogging	Cardio Fitness	Running/Jogging
Swimming for Fitness	Martial Arts	Yoga	Cardio Fitness
Hunting	Working out with weights	Basketball	Yoga
Sledding	Camping	Hiking	Hiking
Shooting	Cardio Fitness	Shooting	Working out using machines
Baseball	Soccer	Camping	Basketball
7-on-7 Football	Hunting	Volleyball	Shooting
35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Fishing	Fishing	Fishing	Fishing
Camping	Camping	Shooting	Camping
Working out with weights	Cardio Fitness	Camping	Cardio Fitness
Cardio Fitness	Working out using machines	Working out with weights	Swimming for Fitness
Working out using machines	Working out with weights	Swimming for Fitness	Working out using machines
Yoga	Hiking	Hunting	Working out with weights
Running/Jogging	Shooting	Working out using machines	Shooting
Swimming for Fitness	Swimming for Fitness	Hiking	Yoga
Shooting	Yoga	Cardio Fitness	Hunting
Hiking	Hunting	Running/Jogging	Hiking

National Planning Benchmarks

In determining and prioritizing recreational needs, comparing Lexington Township's facilities to national standards provides a benchmark for assessing adequacy and identifying gaps. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) offers widely recognized guidelines that classify parks by type, size, and intended function, such as mini parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and larger natural resource areas. Each classification includes recommendations on acreage per 1,000 residents and suggested amenities to support varying community needs. While these standards serve as valuable references, it is important to recognize that they may not entirely reflect today's recreational preferences or the unique needs of each community. Nonetheless, this framework allows Lexington Township to gauge its current recreation offerings, supporting informed decisions on future facility enhancements and helping align the community's resources with established benchmarks.

PARK TYPE	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	LOCATION CRITERIA	SIZE CRITERIA	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION
Mini Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique needs.	Less than 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2,500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.	0.25 to 0.5A
Neighborhood Park	Remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.	1.0 to 2.0A
Community Park	Serves a broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes an open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Between 30 and 50 acres.	5.0 to 8.0A
Large Urban Park / Regional Metropolitan Park / Natural Resource Area	Serves a broader purpose than community parks. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes an open spaces.	Determined by quality and suitability of site. Serves entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Minimum of 50 acres. 75 or more acres optimal for Urban Parks, over 200+ for Regional / Metro Parks.	5.0 to 10.0A

NRPA GUIDELINE ACRES/1,000 RESIDENTS	LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP RECOMMENDED ACREAGE	LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP PARK LAND	SURPLUS (DEFICIENCY)
13.0 acres	33.0 acres	0 acres	(33.0) acres

The table above compares the area's existing park acreage against the recommended NRPA standard. The table includes an analysis of acreage needed based on a population of 2,542. With the exception of maintaining the Cros-Lex Trail, the Township owns and controls no recreation properties. The Township relies primarily on the Village, City of Croswell, Sanilac County, and School District to provide residents with active recreation areas. This becomes problematic when dealing with access, maintenance, scheduling, etc.

Park Service Areas

See the Parks and Recreation Service Area Map on the following page.

Each type of recreation facility in Lexington Township (community parks, neighborhood parks, and mini parks) has distinct service areas influenced by their size and the amenities they offer. According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), community parks typically serve areas within a ½ to three-mile radius, neighborhood parks cater to a radius of ¼ to ½ mile, and mini parks are designed to serve populations within ¼ mile.

To illustrate the proximity of recreational facilities to residents, a service area map has been created. Shown is the 5-minute walking distance based on the existing road network, as well as a ½ mile radius for reference. Many Lexington residents do not access these parks by walking, but it's important to understand accessibility without needing to rely on a vehicle. The key parks considered in this analysis include Lester Park, Tierney Memorial Park, Sanilac County Lexington Park, Riverbend Park, Harrington Road Park, and the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway.

- » **Community Parks.** Facilities such as Sanilac County Lexington Park and Riverbend Park are classified as community parks. Most residents in the Township are within a three-mile radius of one of these parks, ensuring broad access to larger recreational areas with diverse amenities.
- » **Neighborhood Parks.** Parks like Lester Park and Tierney Memorial Park serve as neighborhood parks, providing more localized access. However, very few Township residents have these facilities within a ½ mile of their homes, particularly in the outer areas of the Township.
- » **Mini Parks.** There are currently no designated mini parks in Lexington Township. This absence may limit access for residents seeking smaller recreational options, such as a gathering area with picnic tables to relax on lunch breaks or meet friends.

Evaluating the service areas of recreational facilities in Lexington Township reveals that while there are sufficient community park offerings, significant portions of the Township lack access to neighborhood and mini parks. Additionally, it is noted again that there are no Township-owned park facilities that exist aside from the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway.

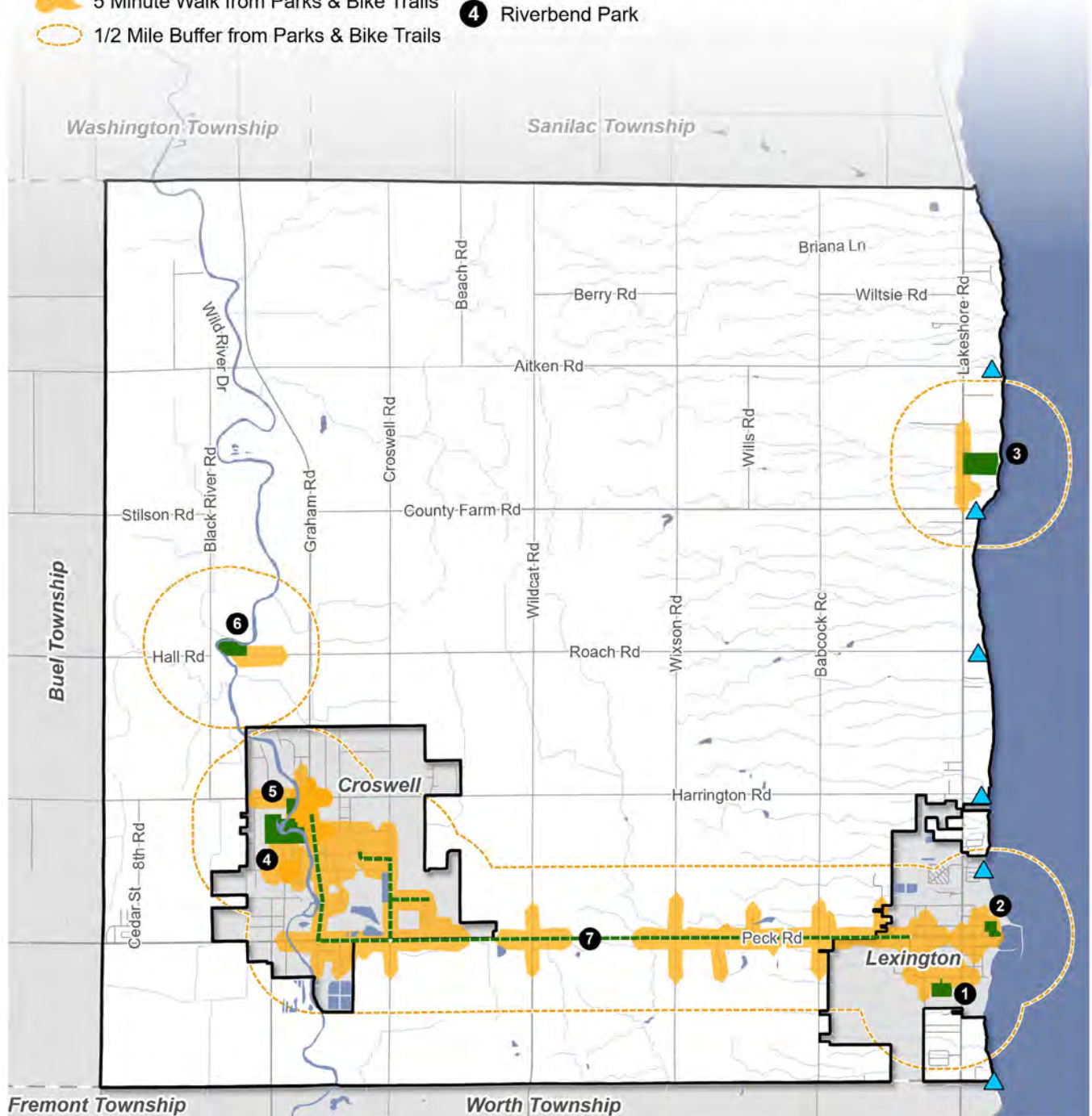


Sanilac County Lexington Park

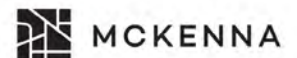
Map 5. Lexington Area Parks and Recreation Service Areas

LEGEND

-  Public Beach Access
 -  Bike Trails (Partially Township Owned)
 -  Parks (Not Township Owned)
 -  5 Minute Walk from Parks & Bike Trails
 -  1/2 Mile Buffer from Parks & Bike Trails
- 1** Lester Park
 - 2** Tierney Memorial Park
 - 3** Sanilac County Lexington Park
 - 4** Riverbend Park
 - 5** Harrington Road Park
 - 6** P.L. Graham Memorial Park
 - 7** Cros-Lex Bike Pathway



0 2,000 4,000
Feet



Lexington

T O W N S H I P



05

Public Input Process



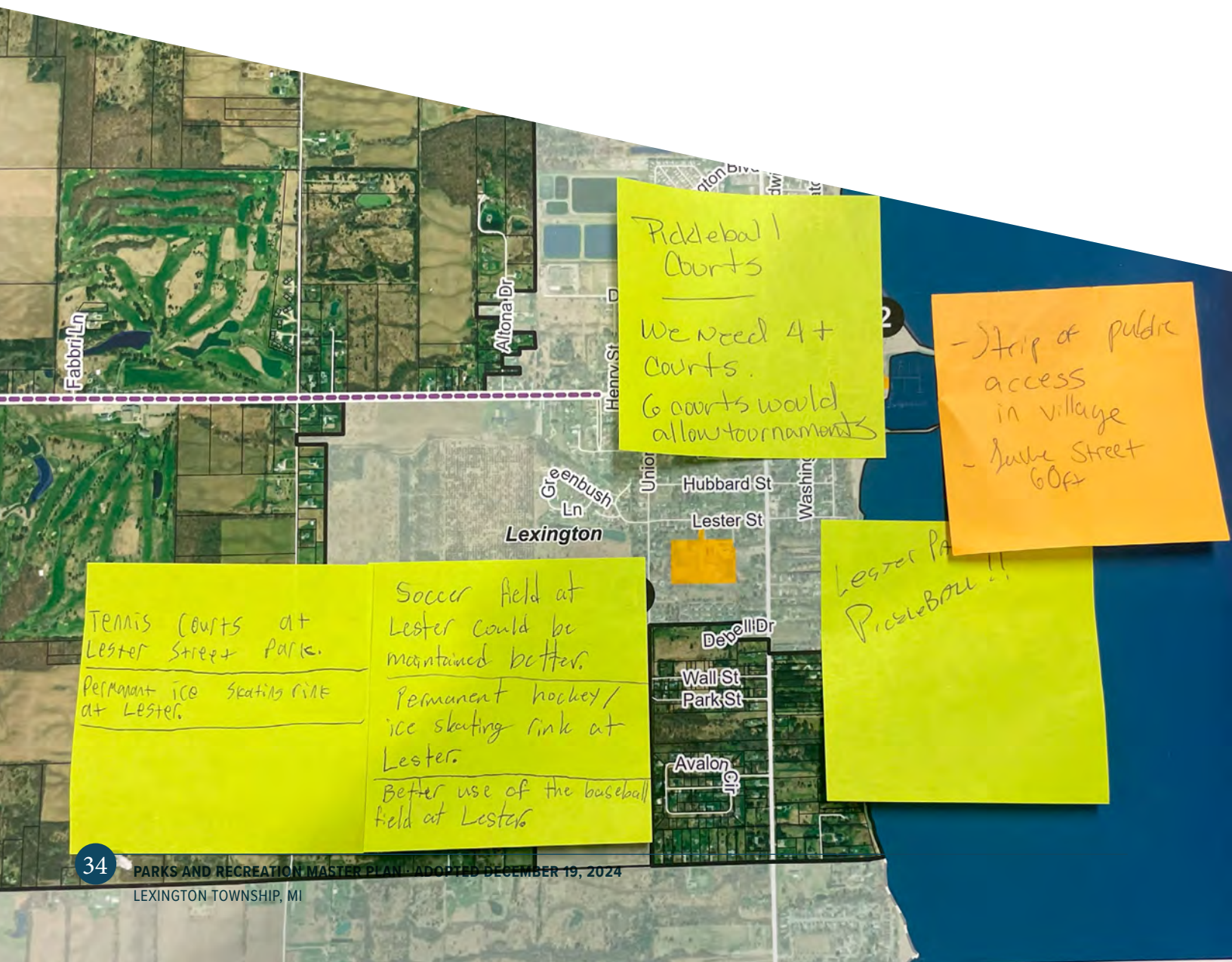
Public engagement is a key part of any community planning process to fully understand the assets and concerns in the Township and to obtain feedback on potential strategies to strengthen parks and recreation in Lexington in the future. The feedback summarized within has guided the development of goals and an action plan that meets specific needs and desires for recreation in the Township.

The primary aims of public engagement efforts were to:

1. **Identify Community Recreation Activities:** Understand the aspects of recreation in Lexington Township valued most by residents and stakeholders.
2. **Highlight Areas for Improvement:** Collect suggestions on how to enhance various facets of the community.
3. **Engage Diverse Voices:** Ensure a wide range of community perspectives and priorities are included in the planning process.
4. **Guide Future Development:** Gather data to inform strategic planning and policymaking.

Engagement opportunities included a survey available online, one in-person workshop, and a Township Board meeting. The community was notified of the survey and workshop in the following ways:

- » An announcement on the Township website directing folks to the parks and recreation survey
- » Printed flyers handed out at Township Hall
- » Posts on Township social media pages with links to the survey and details about the workshop
- » Public noticing (compliant with the Open Meetings Act)



Workshop

The Township hosted a workshop for the Parks and Recreation Plan to gain insight into the types of recreation facilities and amenities that residents enjoy as well as opportunities for growth within the Township. The workshop provided an opportunity for attendees to voice their aspirations for Lexington Township in the future. Below is an overview of the workshop as well as an outline of the main takeaways gathered.

OVERVIEW

In the evening of October 1st, 2024, a roundtable discussion was held at Township Hall to gather targeted information from local residents, recreation groups, and Township Officials. The group discussed current parks and recreation opportunities in and near Township borders and goals and desires for the future. About 35 attendees were at the meeting, who provided valuable information, summarized in the following section.

RESULTS AND FEEDBACK

The following “main points” from the roundtable discussion were drawn from facilitated discussions, a worksheet, and sticky notes left on an engagement map:

Sports Courts and Fields. Attendees of the workshop shared that they want to see investments in a variety of sports courts. Emphasis was placed on the demand for more pickleball courts and to see the current courts in the Village maintained. Other comments addressed the tennis courts at the Sanilac County Park and their need to be updated. Additionally, several attendees mentioned the desire for small improvements to soccer fields at Lester Park in the Village, such as the addition of nets to the goal frames and more frequent mowing.

Barriers and Challenges. Several barriers were discussed at the workshop, including concerns about maintenance of existing parks (outside of the Township’s jurisdiction) and therefore concerns about how any potential new future parks would be maintained. Additionally, access to Lake Huron was discussed, with lack of parking, poison ivy and other overgrowth preventing comfortable access cited. The Cros-Lex Bike Pathway was also mentioned, with concerns about the pavement condition and a lack of other connections and destinations along the route shared.

Trails and Pathways. Participants indicated that they enjoy the existing Cros-Lex Bike Pathway but would like to see improvements to the surface condition and addition of amenities along the route, such as benches or places to stop and relax. Desire for additional connections, such as a north-south route, were mentioned, with dialogue about what type of pathway would be suitable (such as paved versus gravel/rustic styles). It was mentioned that currently folks do not feel safe walking along certain stretches of M-25, but a connection in the area to the communities north and south of Lexington is desirable.

Lake Access. Multiple attendees expressed ideas of improving access to Lake Huron, including wayfinding to the lake along pathways and trails, a place to launch paddle boards and kayaks, and a designated area to park vehicles.

Final Thoughts for the Future. Attendees were asked what their final thoughts were on which types of recreational facilities they would like to see in the future in Lexington Township. These ideas included:

- » Nature preserve / conservancy
- » Play structures
- » Sports courts
- » Dog park
- » More trails and pathways
- » Cross country skiing
- » Ice rink, which could be used as a roller-skating rink in the summer
- » Adult exercise facilities
- » Township-operated golf course
- » Disc golf
- » Pop-up market at a park
- » Small facilities and games such as picnic tables, cornhole, outdoor ping pong tables, chalk boards, and outdoor musical instruments.

Survey

OVERVIEW

To provide a less time-intensive opportunity to share ideas and feedback, a survey was distributed online from September 19th through October 21st, 2024.. Residents, business owners, property owners, and other stakeholders provided feedback about their desires and priorities when planning for the future of parks and recreation in Lexington Township. 20 responses were submitted during the survey period. Respondents were comprised of mostly Township residents (35%) and Village residents (40%) and a majority identified as seniors aged 65 years or older (60%). The survey captured insights on what community members currently appreciate about recreational opportunities, as well as the improvements they envision for the Township's future.

The following major themes were drawn out of the comments and survey responses:

Popular Destinations. Half of the respondents noted that they visit parks weekly, and 25% visit almost daily, indicating strong demand for local parks and recreation. Of the parks in the surrounding area, Tierney Memorial Park is the most frequently visited, followed by Lester Park. Although neither of these parks are in Lexington Township, they help infer what types of park facilities are most desirable and suitable for those living in and visiting the Township. Tierney Park is a popular destination primarily due to the access that it provides visitors to Lake Huron. More accessible lake frontage is a priority among respondents. Lester Park has multiple amenities that are favorable to residents such as sports courts, walking paths, and a skate park. The survey results show that lake access and sports courts are among the top priorities for future developments in the Township.

Popular Recreation. When asked which types of recreational or leisure activities residents participate in, the top choice (30% of all responses) was cultural events or festivals. The next most popular choice was organized team or casual sports. These responses show a desire for programming options as the Township develops their parks and recreation. Creating a community gathering space for festivals would also support existing activities such as farmers markets and allow for additional events and gatherings in the future. Additionally, desire for sports courts and fields was notable, with pickleball specifically standing out as highly desired.

Infrastructure Priorities and Future Development.

While Township residents currently enjoy a variety of nearby facilities, outlined in the inventory in Chapter 3, there is still room for improvement, and an abundance of opportunities for the Township to develop their own facilities. Respondents were asked to identify their top five activities they would be most interested in seeing Lexington Township offer in the future, and the five most popular5 options selected by respondents are as follows:

- » Walking Trails (60%)
- » Adult Fitness and Wellness (50%)
- » Pickleball (35%)
- » Playgrounds (30%)
- » Outdoor Gyms/ Fitness Stations (30%)

Overall, there is a large demand for recreational opportunities that encourage fitness and health, including walking trails, dedicated fitness programs, or developed fitness infrastructure.

Respondents were also asked about the parks and/ or recreation facilities they most wanted to see developed in the future, ranking choices based on their importance. Improvements to the Cros-Lex Bike Path along Peck Road was ranked as the most important. The second most important facility respondents would like to see in the Township is an expanded trail network. As the development of parks occurs it should be noted that creating a path system to the parks would be beneficial for not only ease of access, but also for fitness.

Public Hearing Results

Trails and Pathways . Among the most common feedback were additional suggestions regarding pedestrian infrastructure that respondents would like to see improved. This includes adding new pathways along major roads such as M-25/Lakeshore Road, and improving the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway along Peck Road.

A public hearing was held at the Township Board meeting on December 19th, 2024 to allow the public to share thoughts and concerns about the Plan. No members of the public were present and no comments were provided.

KEY FINDINGS

- » **Desired Facilities.** Sports courts, lake access, and pedestrian infrastructure (trails and pathways) are among the most important facilities that residents want to see added to the Township.
- » **Desired Activities.** The top activities of interest included adult fitness and wellness (50%), walking trails (60%), and pickleball (35%). Other favored facilities included outdoor gyms, playgrounds, and additional restroom facilities at parks.
- » **Future Development Priorities.** Improvements to the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway along Peck Road were ranked the highest. Expanded trails for leisure and non-motorized transportation and increased public lakeshore access were also prioritized.

These findings suggest a preference for enhanced fitness facilities, accessible trails, and expanded lakeshore access.

Lexington

T O W N S H I P

06

Goals and Objectives



Communication and Collaboration

Goal 1: Continue to raise awareness of the availability, importance, and benefits of parks and recreation within Lexington Township.

Objectives:

- » Incorporate recreation goals, objectives, plans, maps, etc. onto the Township website.
- » Prepare informational brochures, flyers, announcements, social media messaging, etc. regarding existing and proposed recreational opportunities for distribution to the general public.
- » Actively seek public input on proposed projects and project details.
- » Maintain a high level of communication and awareness between Township staff, the Village of Lexington, the City of Croswell, and Township Boards and Commissions.
- » Continue to build an electronic distribution list of parks and recreation stakeholders and utilize to increase communication, awareness, and participation.

Goal 2: Coordinate and communicate with other agencies and entities to provide comprehensive, high-quality parks and recreation opportunities for the Lexington community.

Objectives:

- » Continue to work closely with various public and private entities to ensure effective, efficient and diverse recreation opportunities are available in the Lexington area. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Village of Lexington and DDA
 - City of Croswell
 - Sanilac County
 - Sanilac County Parks Department
 - Croswell-Lexington Community Schools
 - Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 - Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
 - Neighboring communities (Worth Township, Buel Township, Sanilac Township, Village of Applegate, Village of Port Sanilac, etc.)
 - Sanilac County Road Commission
 - East Michigan Council of Governments
 - Huron County Economic Consortium
 - United Way of Sanilac County
 - Region VII Area Agency on Aging
 - Girl Scouts / Boy Scouts
 - Moore Public Library
 - Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
 - League of Michigan Bicyclists
 - Hiking Michigan
 - Garden Clubs
 - Private recreational clubs / groups
 - Other groups/organizations
- » Engage the youth of the community in the development of recreation facilities and programs.
- » Coordinate efforts with staff, Boards and Commissions within the Township to ensure awareness of recreation issues and effective and efficient solutions to Township needs.
- » Encourage the involvement of private agencies and corporations in the provision of recreation within the community.

Facilities and Land Acquisition

Goal 3: Improve and enhance recreational offerings in Lexington Township by expanding high quality, diverse facilities and opportunities.

Objectives:

- » When the Township is able to acquire property and/or easements for the development of recreation facilities, ensure that these facilities are:
 - well-designed and of a high quality
 - designed with consideration of maintenance costs at the forefront
 - built to comply with existing barrier-free standards (minimum)
 - built to be universally accessible so as to serve residents and visitors of all ages and abilities
- » Seek opportunities to construct multi-use fields and courts (i.e. soccer and football, or roller-skating and ice skating rinks).
- » Improve the quality of year-round opportunities available to Township residents.
- » Aggressively seek and pursue alternative funding opportunities to assist in the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- » Evaluate the need to increase Township staffing for maintenance, operations, etc. on a year-to-year basis.
- » Continue to seek inter-agency opportunities to share financial, personnel, and equipment needs with various public and private entities, such as the Village of Lexington, City of Croswell, and Sanilac County.
- » Continue the planning process through periodic review of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and necessary updates every five years.
- » Engage various community groups such as private clubs, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, garden clubs, etc. to assist in maintenance and beautification projects.

Goal 4: Preserve and protect natural resources, environmentally sensitive lands, and wildlife corridors.

Objectives:

- » Work closely with the Planning Commission in the implementation of the Township Zoning Ordinance regarding the preservation of environmental quality and open space.
- » Assist in and encourage the maintenance of habitat along stream corridors and rivers.
- » Support and —when possible—design, fund and implement streambank restoration and coastal erosion control measures utilizing soft shoreline techniques.
- » Assist the Planning Commission to identify High-Quality Natural Areas and protect these areas and habitat linkages.
- » Consider establishing nature preserves where appropriate to ensure protection of High-Quality Natural Areas and to allow for public access to these lands for passive recreational opportunities.

Goal 5:
Pursue the acquisition of property that will provide recreational opportunities and/or the preservation of high-quality natural features in the community.

Detailed in the previous sections of this plan, the Township has a variety recreation lands and facilities within its boundaries. However, only the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway is under the direct control of the Township in terms of ownership, operation, maintenance and scheduling.

Objectives:

- » Explore opportunities for land acquisition. These will be assessed on parcel location and the development potential and/or natural resource protection
- » Acquire property that will assist in providing connections between existing and planned recreation areas.
- » Acquire property that may become available from other recreation providers within the community.

Goal 6:
Expand and improve access to Lake Huron within the Township borders.

Objectives:

- » Improve access at existing County road ends which currently provide public access to the Lake Huron shore.
- » Preserve and enhance the Lake Huron shoreline by providing appropriate access suitable to the Great Lakes waterfront area, taking coastal erosion and resiliency into consideration.
- » Increase public awareness of beach areas and lake access, increasing the utilization of beach access at municipal facilities.
- » Seek partnership opportunities to provide swimming, canoeing and kayaking opportunities, identified as desired by the public input process for this plan.

Programming:

Goal 7:

Provide, promote, and encourage the establishment and maintenance of non-motorized trails, paths and connections.

Objectives:

- » Develop a pedestrian pathway system throughout the Township where appropriate to provide safe pedestrian pathways for walking, hiking, and biking, encourage interaction among users, and provide linkages between the Township and Lake Huron.
- » Resurface the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway and install amenities such as benches and wayfinding signage along the route.
- » Explore potential north-south connections to the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway.
- » Work with and encourage the Road Commission for Sanilac County, Michigan Department of Transportation, City of Croswell, and Village of Lexington to improve intersections and crossings along the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway and future connections.
- » Encourage the school district to begin “Safe Routes to Schools” programs in order to ensure the ability to safely walk, ride, or skateboard to school and encourage use of the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway as a route.
- » Support community efforts to establish Lexington as a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly rural community.

Goal 8:

Collaborate with existing parks and recreation providers such as Sanilac County, the Village of Lexington, and City of Croswell to offer high quality, comprehensive, and diverse recreation programming to meet the needs of the community.

Objectives:

- » Work closely with other providers (see Goal 2) to offer a variety of recreation programs.
- » Consider offering, sponsoring, supporting, and/or coordinating community events such as the farmers markets, community strolls down the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway, etc.
- » Seek opportunities and gauge interest in additional events/activities such as charity bike rides, runs, adventure races, community kayaking, etc.

Lexington

T O W N S H I P

07

Action Program

Table 4 is a summary of actions that the Township and its partners should undertake during the planning period and beyond; these activities are discrete and consistent with the Goals and Objectives, the public input received, and the analysis of the Township's parks and recreation needs.

Table 4: Summary of Action Items, Lexington Township

ISSUE TOPIC	FINDINGS	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
Awareness and Community Engagement	Currently, there is limited communication from the Township to raise awareness of parks and recreation opportunities. As the Township expands efforts, it should continue to engage the community to understand resident needs and desires.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Create a dedicated webpage for parks and recreation on the Township's website. » Design and distribute brochures, social media posts, and flyers to promote existing and new recreational opportunities. » Organize public feedback sessions on proposed projects. » Engage the youth of the community in the development of recreation facilities and programs. » Continue to build electronic distribution list of parks and recreation stakeholders and utilize to increase communication, awareness, and participation.
Regional Planning and Collaboration	Currently, there are many parties in a small area across jurisdictions which are planning for parks and recreational opportunities. There is a lack of broader regional coordination and an existing partnership with the City of Croswell and Village of Lexington which could be expanded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » In addition to raising awareness about its own facilities, the Township should consider partnering with various public and private entities to co-promote existing parks and recreational opportunities in the greater Lexington area. » Explore formalizing collaboration with partner agencies by establishing joint committees or regular meetings. » Continue to seek inter-agency opportunities to share financial, personnel, and equipment needs with various public and private entities. » Implement a youth engagement program involving local schools.
Property Acquisition	There are currently limited Township-owned facilities. As such, the Township has no way to guarantee or provide access or improvements to existing parks and recreational opportunities provided by other jurisdictions to Township residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Evaluate properties based on connectivity to existing facilities such as the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway and other recreation areas and environmental value. » Explore properties that could serve as potential north-south connections to the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway. » Acquire property that will assist in providing connections between existing and planned recreation areas, including property that may become available from other recreation providers in the Township.
Natural Resource and Environmental Preservation	Lexington Township currently has a large amount of undeveloped or agricultural land. Through the pursuit of parks and recreation development, the Township has an opportunity to preserve high-quality natural resources, sensitive lands, and wildlife habitats for residents to enjoy while protecting them for longevity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Collaborate with the Planning Commission to identify and protect High-Quality natural areas. » Determine if properties being considered for acquisition are candidates for nature preserves. » Explore additional conservation efforts along water features, including Lake Huron, the Black River, and other streams and wetlands, such as streambank or shoreline clean up or restoration projects as needed. » Develop public educational materials on natural preservation efforts and future preserves that residents can use for passive recreation. » Assist in and encourage the maintenance of habitat along stream corridors.

ISSUE TOPIC	FINDINGS	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
Parks and Facilities Development	There is a general lack of recreational facilities in the Township, especially multi-use and universally accessible spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Assess land opportunities for multi-use recreational facilities and pursue grants to fund development. » Develop maintenance plans for new and existing facilities, emphasizing improvements to universal accessibility when upgrades are made. » Engage volunteers and local groups, such as the Boy Scouts, for collaboration on stewardship and beautification efforts. » Aggressively seek and pursue alternative funding opportunities to assist in the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Plan.
Lake Huron Access Improvement	Currently there are only several access points to Lake Huron which need to be improved to ensure high-quality public access to Lake Huron's shoreline for Township residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improve access points at County road ends by ensuring paths are clear of debris or vegetation. Consider installing signage at these access points to raise awareness. » Coordinate with neighboring property owners situated next to County road end easements to ensure transparency and collaboration about how these access points are used in a way so as not to disturb the use of their private property. » Include information about access points in Township communications and on the website. » Explore funding opportunities to develop a more robust access point in the future.
Trail and Pathway Development and Connectivity	The existing Cros-Lex Bike Pathway and various sidewalks across jurisdictions (between the Township, City of Croswell and Village of Lexington) are enjoyed by residents, but there is much opportunity and room to expand these networks and ensure better connectivity and safety between routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Work with co-owners (City of Croswell and Village of Lexington) to resurface the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway. Install amenities such as benches and wayfinding signage along the route. » Work with the City of Croswell, Village of Lexington, MDOT, the MDNR, Sanilac County, and other applicable partners to support the development of multi-use hike, bike, and pedestrian trails that connect to the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway and other existing parks and recreation areas. » Work with and encourage the Road Commission for Sanilac County, Michigan Department of Transportation, City of Croswell, and Village of Lexington to improve intersections and crossings along the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway and future connections. » Encourage the school district to begin "Safe Routes to Schools" programs in order to ensure the ability to safely walk, ride, or skateboard to school and encourage use of the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway as a route.
Recreation Programming	There are currently no Township-facilitated programs and only limited opportunities in the greater Lexington area. There is a need for a variety of recreational programming to meet diverse community needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Work closely with other providers (see Goal 2) to offer a variety of recreation programs. » Seek opportunities and gauge interest in additional events/activities such as charity bike rides, runs, adventure races, community kayaking, etc. » Consider offering, sponsoring, supporting, and/or coordinating community events such as the farmers markets, community strolls down the Cros-Lex Bike Pathway, etc.
Planning and Evaluation	As the inaugural Parks and Recreation Plan for Lexington Township, this effort is only the beginning in the pursuit of providing top notch parks and recreational facilities in the Lexington area. The Township should consider the success of their efforts as time goes on and make adjustments as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Review and Revise Parks and Recreation Plan as necessary and to ensure compliance with the MDNR to maintain eligibility for funding opportunities. » Conduct annual reviews of the progress toward each goal, assess any needed adjustments. » Communicate and celebrate milestones publicly to maintain community support and enthusiasm.

Lexington

T O W N S H I P

08 Appendices

- » Appendix A: Early Input - Full Community Survey
- » Appendix B: Resolution of Plan Adoption by Township Board of Trustees December 19, 2024
- » Appendix C: Notices for 30-Day Public Comment Period and Public Hearing
- » Appendix D: Minutes from Township Board Meeting - Public Hearing and Adoption
- » Appendix E: M-25 Lakeshore Trail Port Sanilac to Lexington Trail Feasibility Study

Open

Lexington Township Parks and Recreation Survey
Lexington Township Parks and Recreation Plan

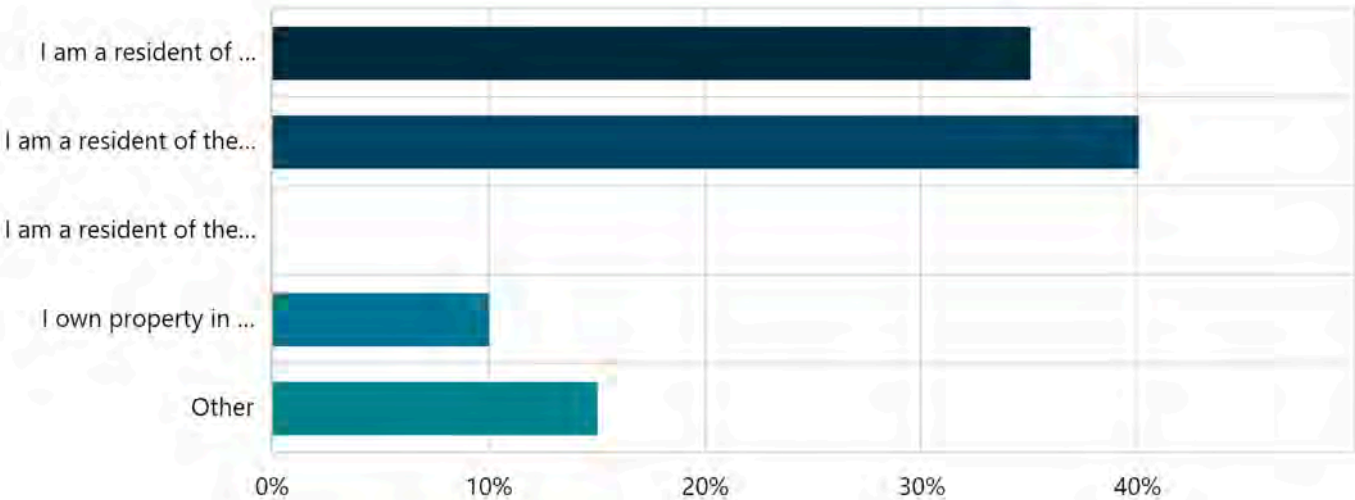
20Contributors

20Contributions

Contribution Summary

1. What best describes your residential status?

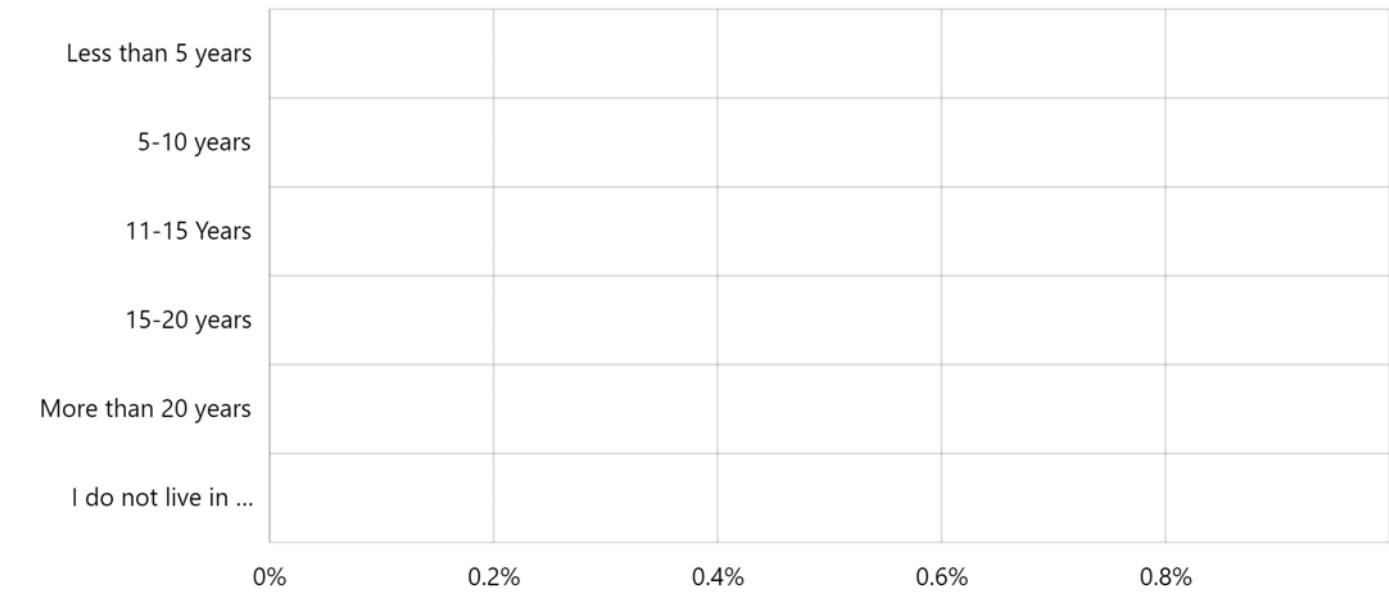
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 20 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
I am a resident of Lexington Township	35.00%	7
I am a resident of the Village of Lexington	40.00%	8
I am a resident of the City of Croswell	0%	0
I own property in Lexington Township, but I am not a resident	10.00%	2
Other	15.00%	3
Total	100.00%	20

2. How long have you lived in Lexington Township?

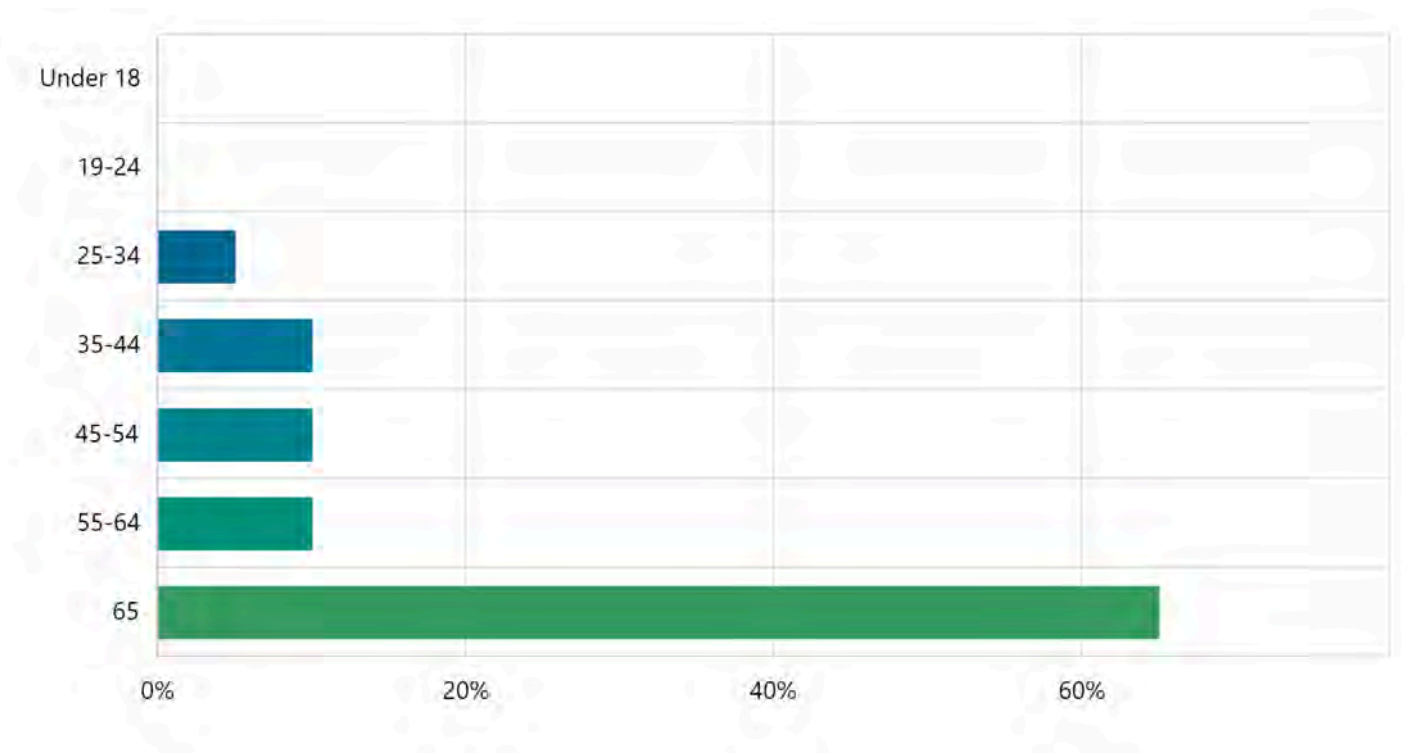
Multi Choice | Skipped: 20 | Answered: 0 (0%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Less than 5 years	0%	0
5-10 years	0%	0
11-15 Years	0%	0
15-20 years	0%	0
More than 20 years	0%	0
I do not live in Lexington Township	0%	0
Total	0%	0

3. What is your age?

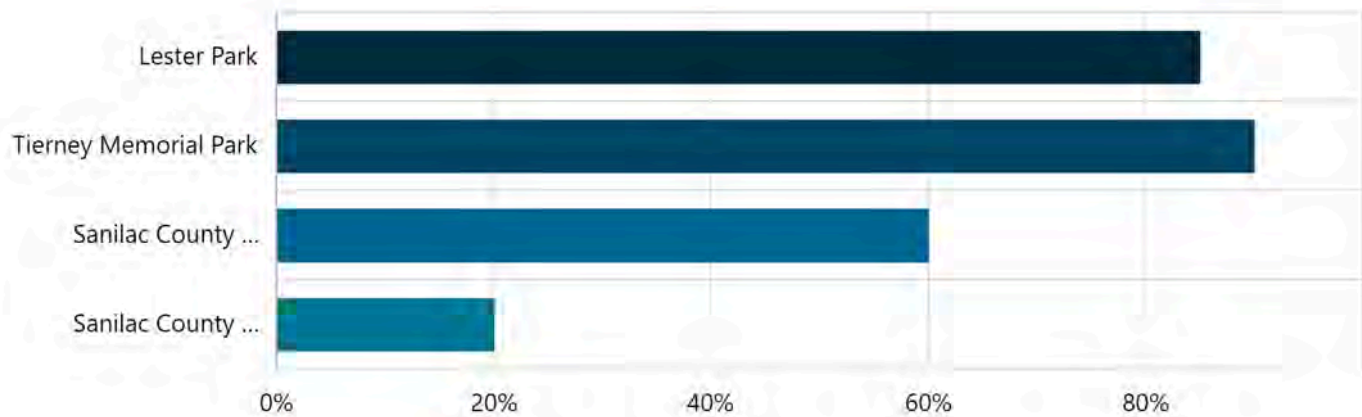
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 20 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Under 18	0%	0
19-24	0%	0
25-34	5.00%	1
35-44	10.00%	2
45-54	10.00%	2
55-64	10.00%	2
65	65.00%	13
Total	100.00%	20

4. Which parks and recreation facilities in or near Lexington Township are you familiar with or have visited in the past? Select all that apply.

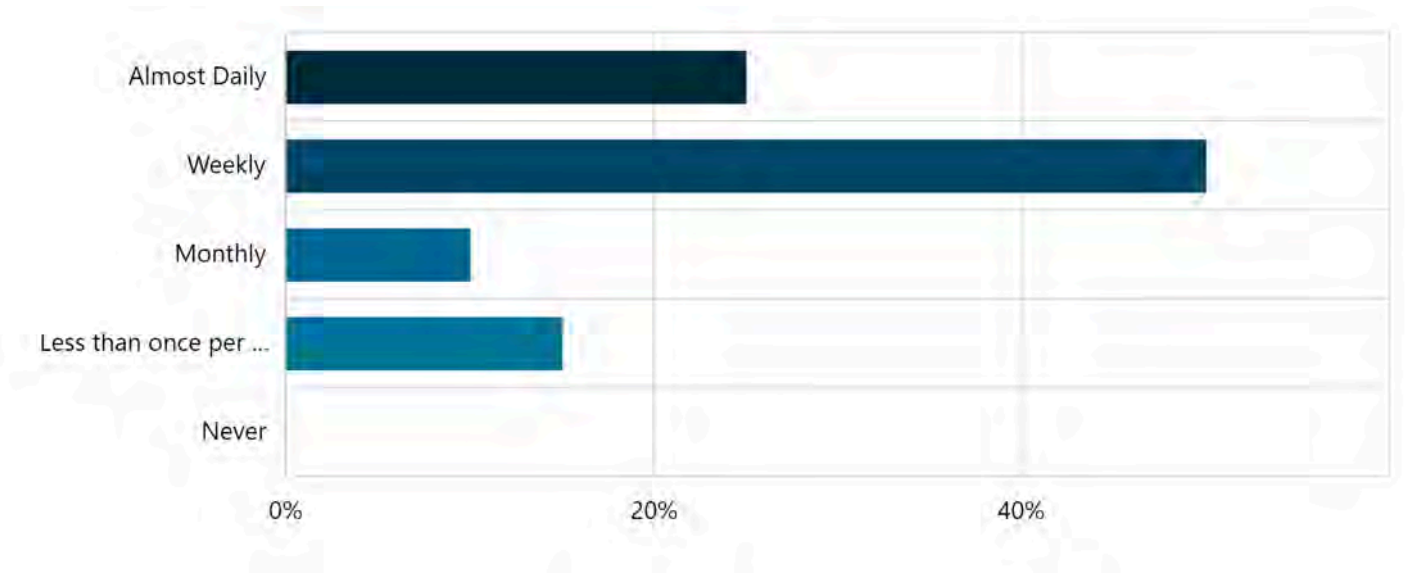
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 20 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Lester Park	85.00%	17
Tierney Memorial Park	90.00%	18
Sanilac County Lexington Park	60.00%	12
Sanilac County Forester Park	20.00%	4

5. How often do you or members of your household visit parks or recreational facilities?

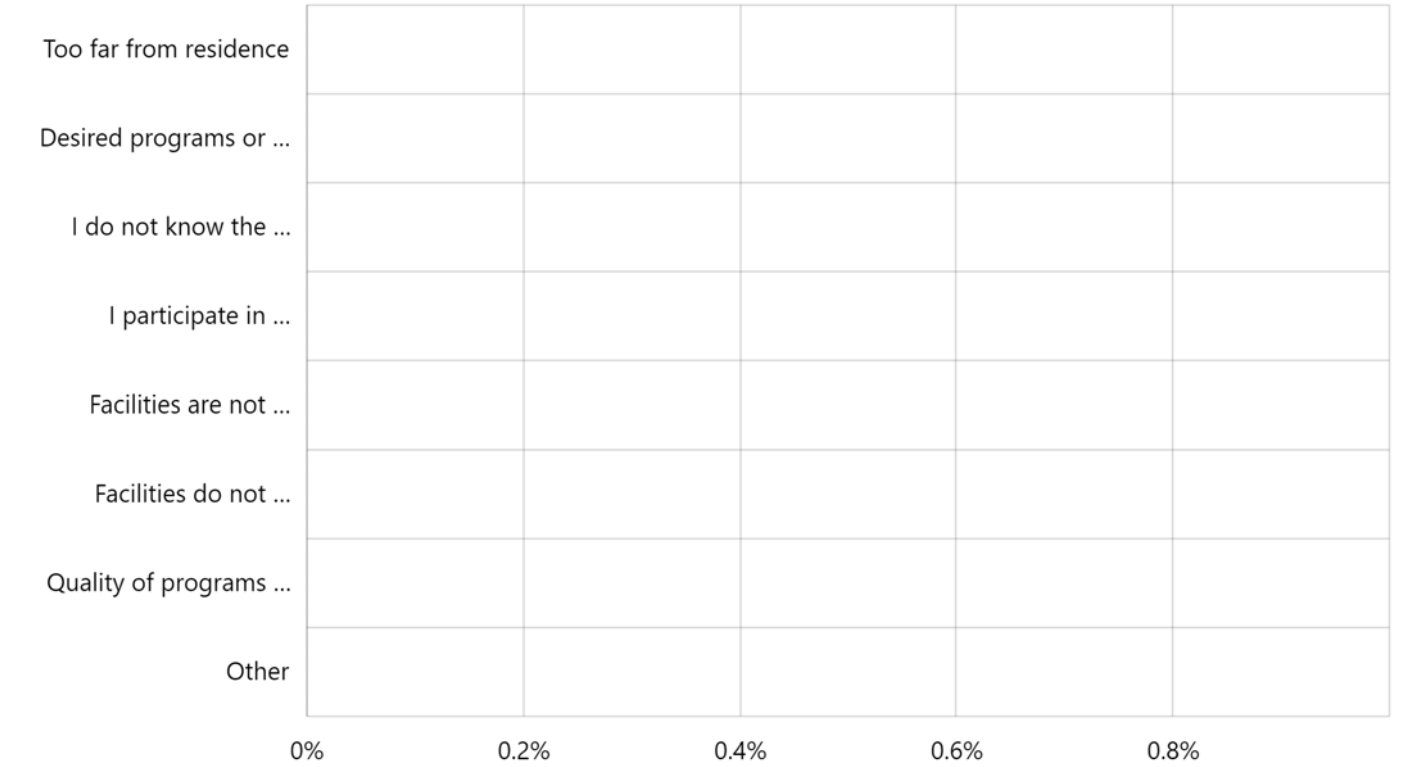
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 20 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Almost Daily	25.00%	5
Weekly	50.00%	10
Monthly	10.00%	2
Less than once per month	15.00%	3
Never	0%	0
Total	100.00%	20

6. If you do not visit local / regional parks, recreation facilities, and/or programs, why not? Select all that apply.

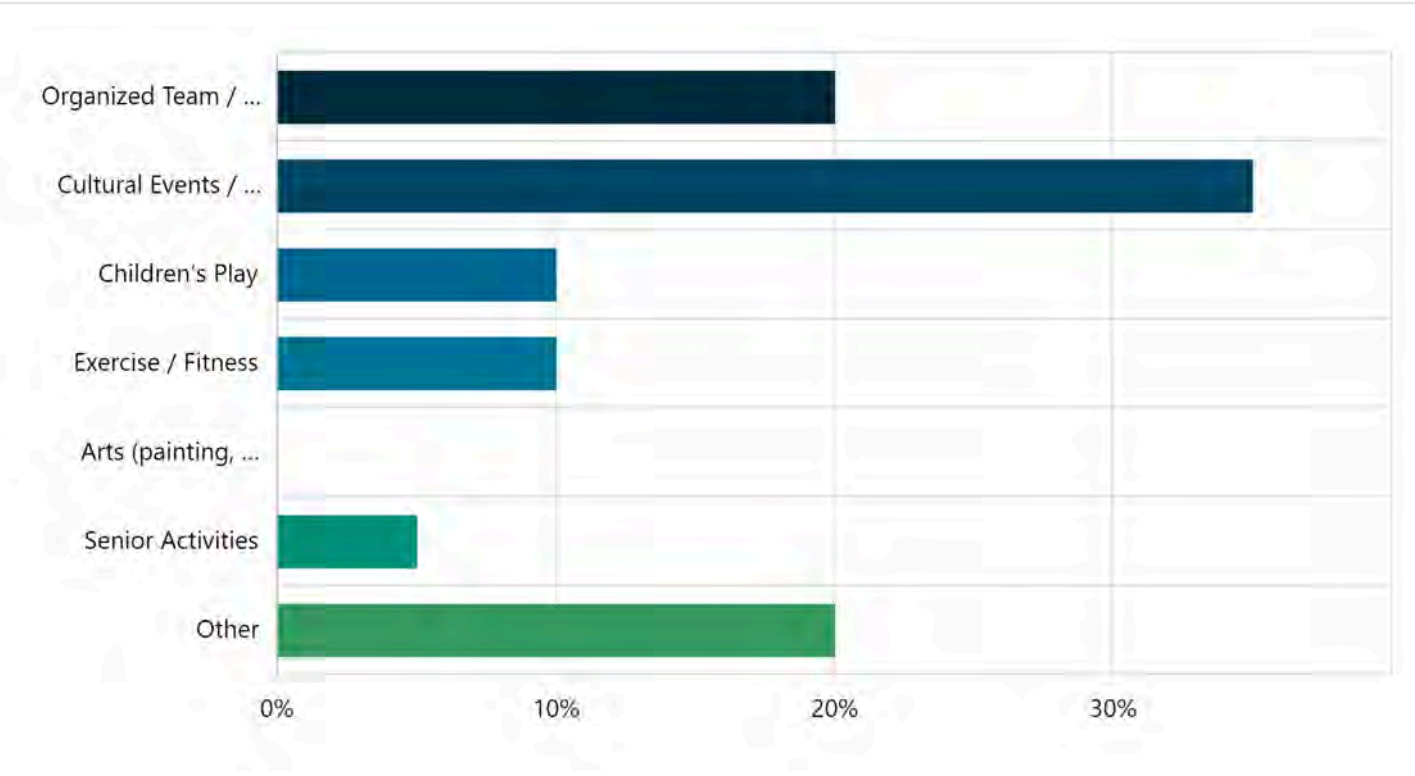
Multi Choice | Skipped: 20 | Answered: 0 (0%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Too far from residence	0%	0
Desired programs or facilities not offered	0%	0
I do not know the location of parks and facilities	0%	0
I participate in programs provided by other communities or organizations	0%	0
Facilities are not well maintained	0%	0
Facilities do not have the right equipment	0%	0
Quality of programs is poor	0%	0
Other	0%	0

7. In general, what kinds of recreational/leisure activities do you and your family members participate in (or would if they were available)? Select all that apply.

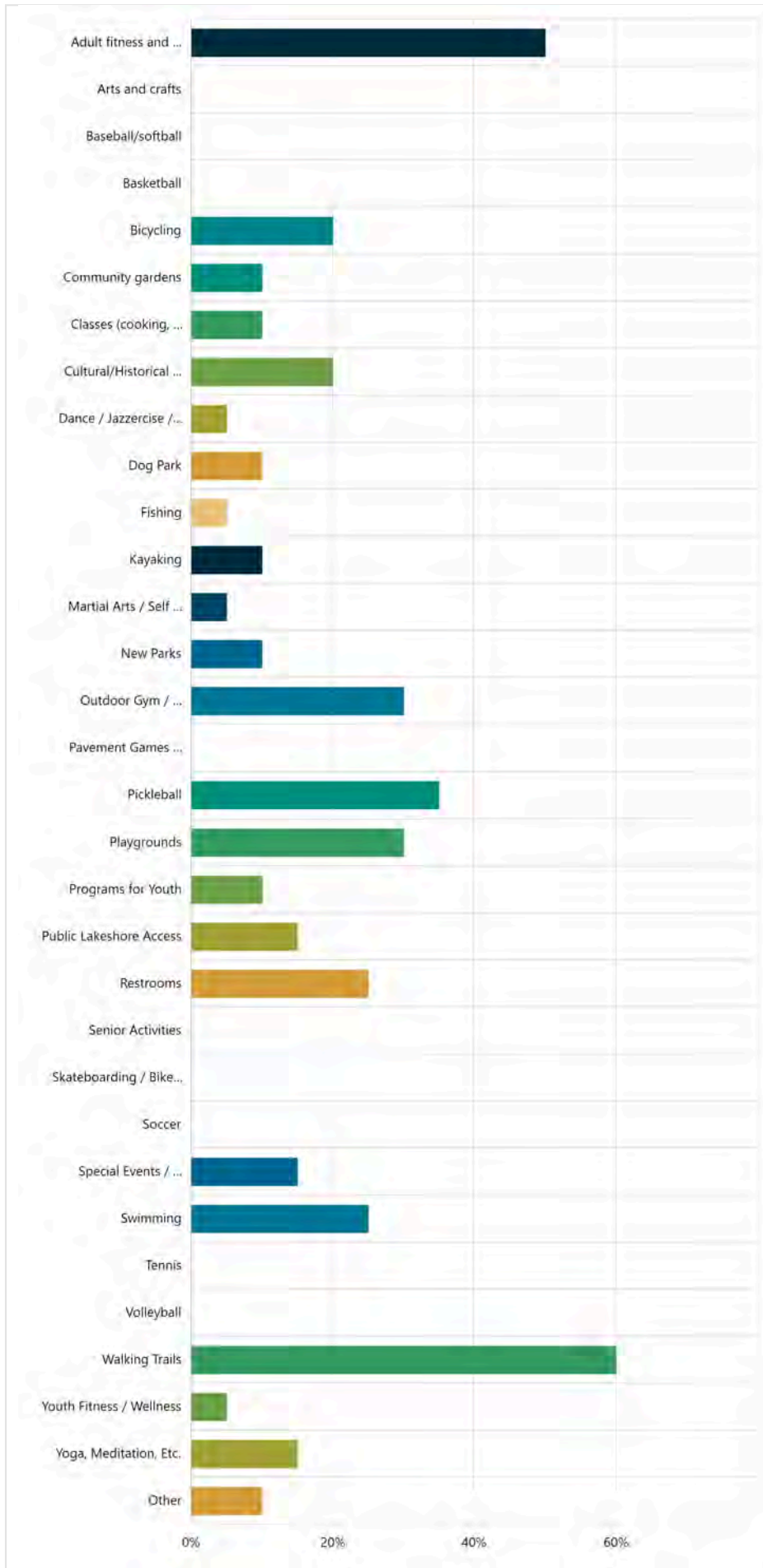
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 20 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Organized Team / Casual Sports	20.00%	4
Cultural Events / Festivals	35.00%	7
Children's Play	10.00%	2
Exercise / Fitness	10.00%	2
Arts (painting, sculpting, etc.)	0%	0
Senior Activities	5.00%	1
Other	20.00%	4

8. Which of the following specific activities or facilities that you would be most interested in seeing Lexington Township offer in the future? Please select your top 5 from the following options.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 20 (100%)

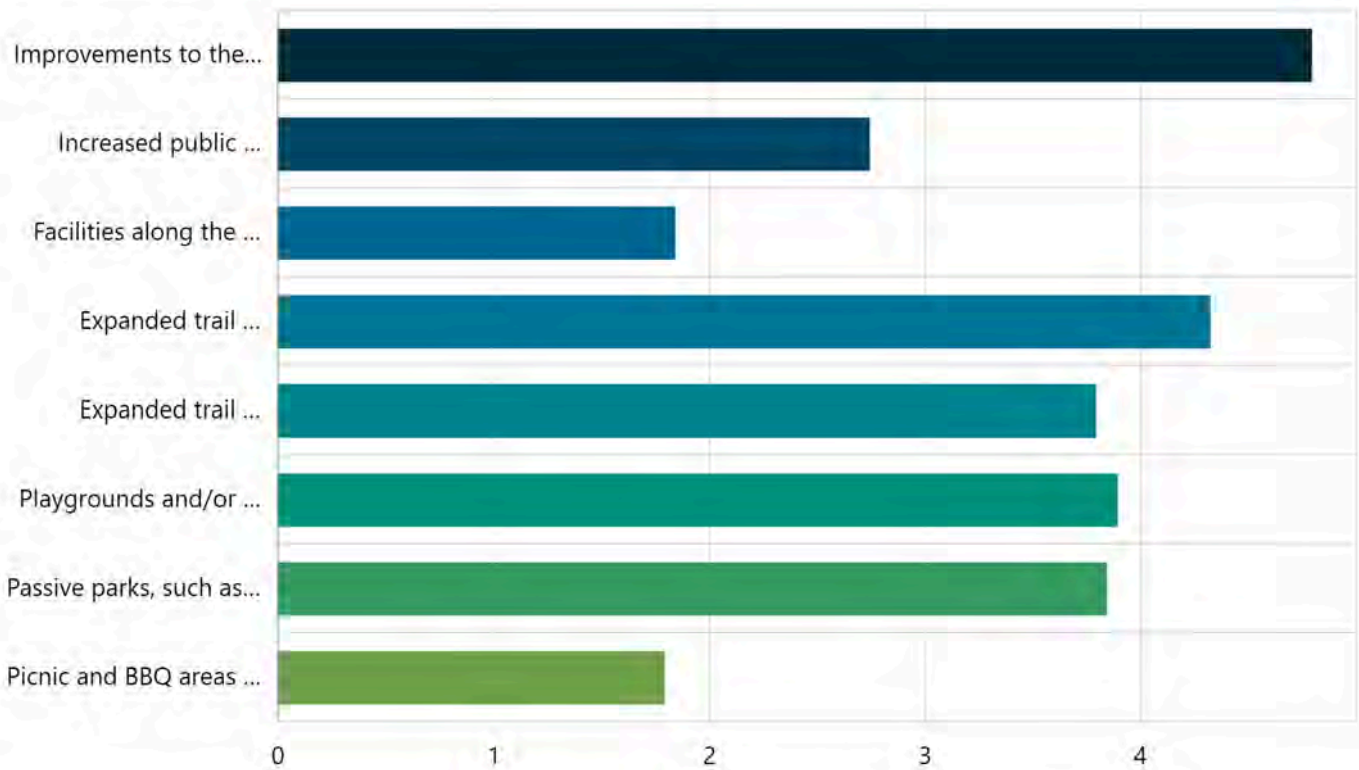


Answer choices	Percent	Count
Adult fitness and wellness	50.00%	10
Arts and crafts	0%	0
Baseball/softball	0%	0
Basketball	0%	0
Bicycling	20.00%	4
Community gardens	10.00%	2
Classes (cooking, ceramics, painting, etc.)	10.00%	2
Cultural/Historical programs	20.00%	4
Dance / Jazzercise / Zumba	5.00%	1
Dog Park	10.00%	2
Fishing	5.00%	1

Kayaking	10.00%	2
Martial Arts / Self Defense	5.00%	1
New Parks	10.00%	2
Outdoor Gym / Fitness Stations	30.00%	6
Pavement Games (hopscotch, four square, mazes, etc.)	0%	0
Pickleball	35.00%	7
Playgrounds	30.00%	6
Programs for Youth	10.00%	2
Public Lakeshore Access	15.00%	3
Restrooms	25.00%	5
Senior Activities	0%	0
Skateboarding / Bike Park	0%	0
Soccer	0%	0
Special Events / Festivals	15.00%	3
Swimming	25.00%	5
Tennis	0%	0
Volleyball	0%	0
Walking Trails	60.00%	12
Youth Fitness / Wellness	5.00%	1
Yoga, Meditation, Etc.	15.00%	3
Other	10.00%	2

9. What parks and/or recreational facilities would you MOST like to see developed in the Township in the future? Please rank the following options.

Ranking | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 19 (95%)



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Count	Score	Avg Rank
Improvements to the Cross-Lex bike path along Peck Road	61.54% 8	15.38% 2	15.38% 2	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	7.69% 1	13	4.79	2.00
Increased public access to the lakeshore within the Township	9.09% 1	18.18% 2	18.18% 2	0% 0	27.27% 3	9.09% 1	9.09% 1	9.09% 1	11	2.74	4.27
Facilities along the Black River	0% 0	22.22% 2	0% 0	11.11% 1	22.22% 2	11.11% 1	22.22% 2	11.11% 1	9	1.84	5.11

(e.g., formal kayak launch, rest areas, nature observation viewpoints)

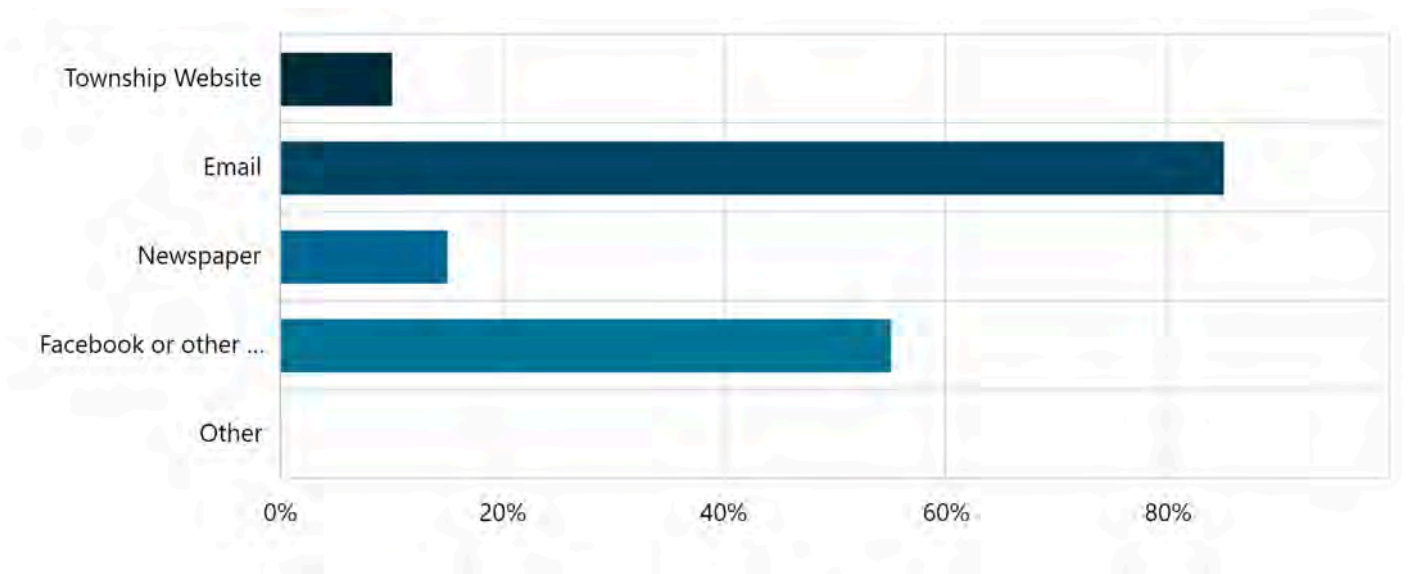
Expanded trail facilities for leisure	30.77% 4	15.38% 2	30.77% 4	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	0% 0	0% 0	13	4.32	2.69
Expanded trail facilities for non-motorized transportation (connecting specific destinations to one another)	7.69% 1	23.08% 3	30.77% 4	7.69% 1	15.38% 2	15.38% 2	0% 0	0% 0	13	3.79	3.46
Playgrounds and/or sports fields / courts	33.33% 5	6.67% 1	6.67% 1	6.67% 1	6.67% 1	20.00% 3	0% 0	20.00% 3	15	3.89	4.07
Passive parks, such as nature preserves with walking trails	0% 0	28.57% 4	14.29% 2	42.86% 6	0% 0	0% 0	7.14% 1	7.14% 1	14	3.84	3.79
Picnic and BBQ areas with grills, pavilions, etc.	0% 0	0% 0	10.00% 1	30.00% 3	10.00% 1	0% 0	40.00% 4	10.00% 1	10	1.79	5.60

Score - Sum of the weight of each ranked position, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total contributions. Weights are inverse to ranked positions.

Avg Rank - Sum of the ranked position of the choice, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total 'Count' of the choice.

10. What is the best way that Lexington Township can get information to you? Select all that apply.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 20 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Township Website	10.00%	2
Email	85.00%	17
Newspaper	15.00%	3
Facebook or other social media (Instagram, Twitter, etc.)	55.00%	11
Other	0%	0

11. Additional comments or ideas? Please share them here. Thank you for your participation!

Long Text | Skipped: 10 | Answered: 10 (50%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

**LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP
SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

Resolution to Approve the 5-Year, 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Plan

Resolution #24-08

At a regular meeting of the Lexington Township Board of Trustees, held at Township Hall (7227 Huron Avenue, Suite 200, Lexington, MI 48450) on December 19, 2024, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, Lexington Township has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2025 through 2029, and

WHEREAS, Lexington Township began the process of developing a community parks, recreation, and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Lexington Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 19, 2024, at Township Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, Lexington Township has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Lexington community, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Lexington Township Board of Trustees voted to adopt said 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lexington Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts the 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Plan.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Board Member: Paradoski

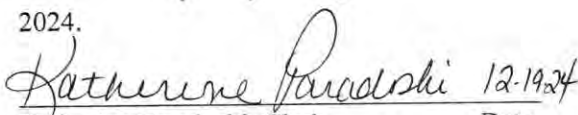
Second offered by Board Member: McAllister

Ayes: Paradoski, McAllister, Milletics, Partaka

Nays: None

Absent: Jahn

I, Katherine Paradoski, Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by Lexington Township at a regular meeting thereof held on the 19th day of December 2024.


Katherine Paradoski, Clerk Date

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN

In the Matter of: Lexington Township
5-Year Parks And Rec Plan
Review and Comment

County of Sanilac, ss:

Jody Woltman, being duly sworn, deposes
and says that she is the Publisher of the

Jeffersonian

a newspaper printed, published and circulated
in the County of Sanilac and State of Michigan,
and that the notice attached hereto is an exact
copy of a notice which was printed in the aforesaid
Newspaper, on the following dates, to wit:

Dates: November 15, 2024

Signed: _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary

Public in and for the State of Michigan, this

19th day of November 2024

Signature: _____

My commission expires: _____

**LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP,
SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND
COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE
5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN**

**Public Review Period:
November 15 – December 17, 2024**

Notice is hereby given to any and all interested parties
that Lexington Township is seeking public comment on
its 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The required 30-day public review and comment period
will begin on November 15 and will end on December
17, 2024. Lexington Township is preparing this 5-Year
Parks and Recreation Plan in accordance with the
Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
requirements. When completed, this Plan will serve as
a guide for the development of community recreation
facilities and programs over the next 5 years.

Beginning on November 15, 2024, the draft 5-Year
Parks and Recreation Plan will be accessible online
at <https://www.lexingtontownship.org/>. A physical copy
of the draft Plan will also be available at Township Hall
(7227 Huron Avenue, Suite 200, Lexington, MI, 48450)
during normal business hours.

Lexington residents and stakeholders are asked to
submit comments via email to info@mcka.com with
"Lexington Township Parks and Recreation Plan" in the
subject line, or in writing via mail to: McKenna, Attn:
Lexington Township Parks and Recreation Plan, 235
East Main Street, Suite 105, Northville, MI 48167.

Any and all input is greatly appreciated.

Publish by: November 15, 2024

EVON PFEILSTUCKER
Notary Public, State of Michigan
County of St. Clair
My Commission Expires March 16, 2029
Acting in the County of Sanilac

Online Posting to Township Website for 30-Day Comment Period Notice, Nov. 15, 2024:

NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN; posted

LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Public Review Period:

November 15 – December 17, 2024

Notice is hereby given to any and all interested parties that Lexington Township is seeking public comment on its 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The required 30-day public review and comment period will begin on November 15 and will end on December 17, 2024. Lexington Township is preparing this 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requirements.

When completed, this Plan will serve as a guide for the development of community recreation facilities and programs over the next 5 years.

Beginning on November 15, 2024, the draft 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan is accessible online at:
<https://www.mcka.com/wp-content/uploads/LexingtonTwp-ParksRec-Plan-DRAFT-2024-1114.pdf>

A physical copy of the draft Plan is also be available at Township Hall
(7227 Huron Avenue, Suite 200, Lexington, MI, 48450)
during normal business hours

Lexington residents and stakeholders are asked to submit comments via email to info@mcka.com
with "Lexington Township Parks and Recreation Plan" in the subject line,
or in writing via mail to: McKenna, Attn: Lexington Township Parks and Recreation Plan, 235 East Main Street, Suite 105, Northville, MI 48167.

Any and all input is greatly appreciated.

Physical Posting to Township Hall for 30-Day Comment Period Notice, Nov. 14, 2024:



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN

In the Matter of: Lexington Township
5-Year Parks And Rec Plan
Adoption

County of Sanilac, ss:

Jody Woltman, being duly sworn, deposes
and says that she is the Publisher of the

Jeffersonian

a newspaper printed, published and circulated
in the County of Sanilac and State of Michigan,
and that the notice attached hereto is an exact
copy of a notice which was printed in the aforesaid
Newspaper, on the following dates, to wit:

Dates: November 29, 2024

Signed: _____

Jody Woltman

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary

Public in and for the State of Michigan, this

29th day of November 2024

Signature: _____

Evon Pfeilstucker

My commission expires: _____

March 16, 2029

**LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP
SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR ADOPTION OF THE 5-YEAR PARKS AND
RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

**TOWNSHIP BOARD OF
TRUSTEES MEETING
December 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN to any and all interested parties that Lexington Township is seeking public comment on its 5-Year, 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A public hearing will take place at the Township Hall meeting on December 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Township Hall (7227 Huron Avenue, Suite 200, Lexington, MI 48450). After the public hearing, the Township Board of Trustees will consider adoption of the Plan.

Lexington Township is preparing this 5-Year Recreation Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements; this Plan will serve as a guide for the development of community recreation facilities and programs over the next five years.

The draft of the 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Plan can be viewed at Township Hall offices during normal business hours or online at <https://www.lexingtontownship.org/>

Lexington residents and stakeholders are asked to submit comments via email to info@mcka.com with "Lexington Township Parks and Recreation Plan" in the subject line, or in writing via mail to: McKenna, Attn: Lexington Township Parks and Recreation Plan, 235 East Main Street, Suite 105, Northville, MI 48167, up to 3:00 p.m. on the meeting date.

Any and all input is greatly appreciated.
Publish: November 29, 2024

EVON PFEILSTUCKER
Notary Public, State of Michigan
County of St. Clair
My Commission Expires March 16, 2029
Acting in the County of *Sanilac*

Online Posting to Township Website for Public Hearing, Dec. 19, 2024:

HOME

BOARD MEMBERS

MEETING MINUTES

CALENDAR

ZONING

FEES (PERMIT)

CONTACT

FORMS

TAXES & ASSESSING

LINKS

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August 2015

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NOTICE OF December 19, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF THE 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN; posted

Home / NOTICE OF December 19, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF THE 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN; posted

NOTICE OF December 19, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF THE 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN; posted

LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP

SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FOR ADOPTION OF THE 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

December 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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Lexington residents and stakeholders are asked to submit comments via email to info@mcka.com with "Lexington Township Parks and Recreation Plan" in the subject line, or in writing via mail to: McKenna, Attn: Lexington Township Parks and Recreation Plan, 235 East Main Street, Suite 105, Northville, MI 48167, up to 3:00pm on the meeting date.

Any and all input is greatly appreciated.

Published in the Jeffersonian 11/29/2024

LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP

7227 Huron Avenue, Suite 200
Lexington MI 48450
Phone: 810-359-5500
Fax: 810-359-5481
www.lexingtontownship.org

Chad Partaka, Supervisor
Katherine Paradoski, Clerk
Davianna McAllister, Treasurer
Kristie Jahn, Trustee
Chip Milletics, Trustee

Minutes of Board Meeting, December 19, 2024

The Lexington Township Board regular meeting is held on the second to last Thursday of every month in the Conference Room of the Lexington Township Hall, 7227 Huron Ave., Lexington, Michigan.

OPENING OF MEETING: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor Partaka.

SALUTE TO AMERICAN FLAG:

ROLL CALL: By Supervisor Partaka

PRESENT: Davianna McAllister, Katherine Paradoski, Chip Milletics, Chad Partaka

EXCUSED ABSENT: Kristie Jahn

CONSENT AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY: MILLETICS

SECONDED BY: McALLISTER

To approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 21, 2024 as presented
ALL AYES
MOTION CARRIED

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA: 1/11. Appoint PC members, 2/12. Appoint ZBA member, 3/13.

Open 2 new MI Class Accounts for road millage and public safety and Change Authorized signer
4/14. Land Split 150-023-300-030-00 Brown

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

MOVED BY: PARADOSKI

SECONDED BY: MILLETICS

To adopt the agenda with the above amendments.

ALL AYES
MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORTS:

MOVED BY: PARADOSKI

SECONDED BY: MILLETICS

To approve the Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2024 as presented

ROLL CALL: PARADOSKI MILLETICS McALLISTER PARTAKA
ALL AYES
MOTION CARRIED

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE FIRE & RESCUE ACCOUNTS – Report In agenda packet.

REVENUE & EXPENDITURES REPORT: As of November 30, 2024 report in agenda packet for review.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. MTA Weekly Insights and Monthly Voice

Michigan Township Insights –November 22 – December 13, 2024

2. Sanilac County New Website

SPECIAL BUSINESS: NONE

COUNTY COMMISSIONER EVANS EHARDT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

2. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

3. PLANNING COMMISSION: December 18 meeting cancelled

4. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

5. ASSESSOR: December BOR corrected the Ave Marie problem the issue has now been resolved

6. ROADS: Drain by Sheridan Line and Avalon Circle is becoming an issue and eventually will start to affect Lakeshore Road – Spoke with Ray at the Road Commission he is looking into if they are able to assist in this matter and/or give us some suggestions.

7. BIKE PATH: City of Croswell never sent over pricing for project

8. CABLE TV: December meeting cancelled

9. AMBULANCE SERVICE:

10. PARKS & RECREATION:

11. DRAINS:

12. SUPERVISOR:

13. BUILDING COMMITTEE:

14. ARPA FUNDS:

15. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. PARKS AND REC PLAN UPDATE

No action to be taken

2. PARKS AND REC PLAN - DRAFT RESOLUTION 24-08

MOVED BY: PARADOSKI

SECONDED BY: McALLISTER

To approved resolution 24-08 as presented.

ROLL CALL: PARADOSKI McALLISTER MILLETICS PARTAKA

ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DEPUTY CLERK/ASSESSING HOURS

MOVED BY: McALLISTER

SECONDED BY: MILLETICS

To approve 10 hours for Deputy Clerk and Assessing

ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED

2 DEPUTY TREASURER HOURS

MOVED BY: PARADOSKI

SECONDED BY: MILLETICS

To approve 60 hours Deputy Treasurer

ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED

3. BOR APPOINTMENTS

MOVED BY: PARTAKA

SECONED BY: PARADOSKI

To approve reappointing John Groustra, Mark Hertzfeld, Virginia McNabb and Sharon Plonka to BOR with their terms expiring December 31, 2026

ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED

4. DISCUSS FIRE AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

MOVED BY: PARTAKA

SECONDED BY: PARADOSKI

To approve asking 2 residents, supervisor and 1 trustee to committee. One resident to be asked Jeff Johnston and Trustee Milletics.

ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED

5. DISCUSS ROAD COMMITTEE

MOVED BY: McALLISTER

SECONDED BY: MILLETICS

To approve asking 1 resident, Township Clerk and Trustee Milletics

ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED

6. CREDIT BUREAU WRITE OFF 1314 WESNER

MOVED BY: PARADOSKI

SECONDED BY: McALLISTER

To approve writing off 1314 in the amount of \$298.70 per Credit Bureau statute of limitation

ROLL CALL: PARADOSKI McALLISTER JAHN MILLETICS PARTAKA

ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED

7. WILKINSON SOLUTION 2025 BRINE AGREEMENT

MOVED BY: MILLETICS

SECONED BY: McALLISTER

To approve the agreement at \$.195 for public roads and \$.45 for private roads

ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED

8. KCI PROPOSAL – 2025 ASSESSMENT MAILING

MOVED BY: PARADOSKI

SECONDED BY: McALLISTER

To approve the proposal as presented.

ALL AYES
MOTION CARRIED

9. MCKENNA – CREATE RFP FOR BIKE PATH

MOVED BY: PARADOSKI

SECONDED BY: MILLETICS

To approve getting a quote to have McKenna draft a RFP for redoing the bike path.

ALL AYES
MOTION CARRIED |

10. LAND SPLIT 150-024-200-010-11 FOLEY

MOVED BY: PARADOSKI

SECONDED BY: MILLETICS

To approve the land split as presented

ALL AYES
MOTION CARRIED

11. APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

MOVED BY: PARTAKA

SECONDED BY: PARADOSKI

To approve reappointing Mike Ziegler and Curt Soule to the Planning Commission terms expiring on December 31, 2027

ALL AYES
MOTION CARRIED

12. APPOINT ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBER

MOVED BY: McALLISTER

SECONDED BY: PARADOSKI

To approve reappointing John Groustra to the Zoning Board of Appeals terms expiring on December 31, 2027

ALL AYES
MOTION CARRIED

13. OPEN 2 NEW MI CLASS ACCOUNTS FOR MILLAGES AND CHANGE AUTHRIZE SIGNER

MOVED BY: McALLISTER

SECONDED BY: MILLETICS

To approve opening two new accounts for Road and Public Safety Millages in MI Class and changing authorize signer to the Clerk. Two step signing will be Treasurer and Clerk.

ROLL CALL: McALLISTER MILLETICS PARADOSKI PARTAKA

ALL AYES
MOTION CARRIED

14. LAND SPLIT 150-023-300-030-00 BROWN

MOVED BY: PARADOSKI

SECONDED BY: MILLETICS

To approve land split as presented

ALL AYES
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER INVOICES/PAYROLL:

MOVED BY: McALLISTER

SECONDED BY: MILLETICS

To approve invoices \$20,787.93 and payroll of \$11,189.46 TOTAL \$31,977.39

ROLL CALL: McALLISTER MILLETICS PARADOSKI PARTAKA

ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED BY: PARADOSKI

SECONDED BY: McALLISTER

To adjourn meeting at 6:46 PM

ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED



M-25 Lakeshore Trail

Port Sanilac to Lexington Trail Feasibility Study

summer 2007



Prepared by:



From Vision to Reality

ROWE INCORPORATED

6211 Taylor Drive - Flint, MI 48507

810.341.7500

www.ROWEINCORP.com

Analysis

Topographic surveys were obtained from the proposed watermain design as base plans for this project. An on-site investigation along the route was used to identify existing conditions, opportunities and constraints for trail development. A photo inventory is included in the appendix.

The trail analysis was conducted with trail development standards in mind including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the American Association of Safety Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO). These standards guide funding and permit approval by MDOT within the right of way. Key design criteria recommend a 10' wide trail with 2' clearance on each side. (Note: this study is for planning purposes only; additional detailed study and engineering is required for proper implementation.)

The corridor has a variety of typical conditions that were grouped into the following categories or descriptions and associated percentage of the total study area. A site map showing these conditions is included in the appendix. The existing road section is mostly 100' right of way with two 12' travel lanes and 5' gravel shoulders that have expanded to 6' over time in many areas. A "clear zone" of approximately 30' minimum beyond the white lane line is maintained by MDOT that does not permit the location of any permanent objects that would be a potential hazard to motorists.

Type A (Open Condition) 40%

This section will allow for a standard path on existing ground or with minimum earthwork.



Type B (Narrow Condition) 6%

This section has limited horizontal room and/or is more conducive to a trail along the shoulder. Obstructions include hydrants or other features that would be difficult to relocate.

Type C (Roadside Ditch Condition) 31%

This section has conditions for trail development due to storm drainage and/or side slopes that are within the majority of the right of way.

Enclosing ditches as a method to construct a trail has various permitting, maintenance and cost issues that may be prohibitive.



Type D (Minor Slopes) 6%

This section is fairly open, yet has a side slope condition that would require earthwork, retaining wall or low level boardwalk to build a trail. This section also needs to maintain road drainage as well.

Structures within the "Clear Zone" of the roadway, such as boardwalk, pose hazardous conditions which would not be permitted.

Type E (Ravines) 14%

Approximately 32 locations along the route include steep banks with fragile 1:1 to 1:2 slopes and drainage structures. These locations often are combined with barrier railing along the road.



Possible solutions include boardwalk toed into the bank immediately behind the guardrail, similar to one located at the rest area at the north end of the study area. This would limit disturbance and ramping for barrier free accessibility. Solutions are subject to MDEQ permitting and Corps of Engineers in some

locations along the great lake shoreline. Geotechnical evaluations of slope/soil conditions would also be needed. Due to design criteria, a 14' wide trail is required for structures to allow for 2' side clearance on each side of the 10' trail. This greatly increases the cost of such crossings.



Type F (Clear Spans) 3%

A few locations do not have a side slope, or is more conducive to a structure that spans a short distance without piles, etc. Solutions in these locations may use a pre-fabricated bridge which limits impact to drainage, etc.

Intersections (19)

Controlled intersections (not private drives) would be identified on the trail and roadway with standard advance signage and pavement marking. Bollards would be used to limit access by vehicles onto the trail. The bituminous path would be continuous access private drives for continuity. Additional clear visions requirements at these intersections require that the corner locations remain open except for low level landscaping, etc.



Costs

The following table is provided as a basis of reference. It assumes allowance of enclosing ditches and structures within the right of way to demonstrate conservative implementation costs.

	LFT	Unit Cost	Total
Type A Section: Open Condition	24,550	\$30	\$736,500
Type B Section: Narrow Condition	3,300	\$35	\$115,500
Type C Section: Roadside Ditch Condition	16,750	\$100	\$1,675,000
Type D Section: Minor Slopes	3,000	\$95	\$285,000
Type E Section: Ravines	7,650	\$400	\$3,060,000
Type F Section: Clear Spans	1,050	\$750	\$787,500
Intersections (19)		\$800	\$15,200
TOTAL			\$6,674,700

It should be noted that additional erosion control methods may be required to stabilize shoreline areas and ravines. Engineering and permitting costs will be required as well as match requirements to any grant funding. A summary of grant opportunities is included in the appendix as well as a breakdown of unit costs for each trail section type.

Permitting / Approval

Due to MDOT's ownership of the right of way, their support for trail development is critical. Any activity within the right of way requires a permit from MDOT regardless of funding source. A meeting was held with staff from Bay Region and Cass City Transportation Service Center in June to review trail options.

One of the major discussion items was that a high percentage of the study area included cross sections that would require an enclosed ditch to construct a trail. Current MDOT policy does not encourage enclosing open drains for key reasons including:

- Reduction in roadway storm drainage / rate of dispersion
- Acceleration of run-off concentration and velocity, resulting in increased potential for scour / erosion and negative environmental impacts at outlets
- Increased maintenance, especially due to flat conditions for proper flow in storm sewers.

Furthermore, the concept of maintaining open flow in ditches by using a low level boardwalk is not permitted since it is considered a 'structure' within the clear zone. If policy were to change to consider allowing enclosure of ditches, extensive calculations are required prior to approval (see requirements included in the appendix).

MDOT has a long history of study along this specific corridor, battling erosion issues and other conditions along the shoreline. It is also a major supporter of non-motorized trail facilities. They are a necessary and informed team player for the development of a sustainable route.



Recommendations

Pursue the project! Any great idea has equally great challenges.

#1 Start at the North end

The north end of the project has a higher amount of Type A trail section that is able to be placed without major challenges. It also has major connections to the rest areas that offer key linkages and carry the trail longer by using existing walks at these facilities without additional cost to the project. They provide access to the lake and other elements that are helpful in grant pursuits.

#2 Take the Detour

This north portion also has an option to detour off the current M-25 corridor and onto 'old' M-25 along a curve south of Walker Road, near Camp Ozanam. This provides a break from the heavy traffic and could support shared use along a low volume residential drive.

#3 Consider Phasing

The long-range plan from MDOT is to expand to 8' paved shoulders along each side of the road starting no earlier than 2013. Although this does not provide a separated path that is desired for family / young

riders, it does provide a plan that can be promoted until solutions or funding is secured for challenging portions of the route.

Maintenance of a paved shoulder would be funded by MDOT under its contract with the road commission. Based on costs compiled by the MGTA, this would be an annual savings of approximately \$32,000.

The trail committee should consider the cost/benefit of a bike lane option. The total project cost is estimated at \$4.2 million; half of a separated total excluding on-going maintenance costs. If the trail is completed in phases, logical transitions should be selected to provide well marked crossings from a 2-lane trail into a separated facility that is on only one side of the road.

#4 Pursue an east side trail location if a separated path is preferred

As considered originally, the west side has the advantage of less residential drives and conflicts with watermain and associated hydrants. It should be noted that location on the east side may be subject to repair of watermain at key locations, not unlike most roads and infrastructure.

Along with not providing access to key shoreline features, the west side continues to have many of the same conditions, ravines, ditches and an increased amount of road crossings and clearing that would be required.

Further Study

Various grants are available through MDEQ and others that can assist a private/public effort with MDOT that can provide additional study towards major concerns such as shoreline erosion.

M-25 Lakeside Trail

Lexington to Port Sanilac
Conceptual Engineer's Estimate
June, 2007



ROWE INCORPORATED
128 N Saginaw
Lapeer, MI 48446
810-341-7500
07c0059

	Linear Foot Totals Based on Site Inventory						Unit	Total
	sheet 1	sheet 2	sheet 3	sheet 4	sheet 5	Total		
Type A Section: Open Condition	6000	3500	6250	6800	2000	24550	\$30	\$736,500
Type B Section: Narrow Condition	750	2100	350	100	0	3300	\$35	\$115,500
Type C Section: Roadside Ditch Condition	7400	4750	2250	1700	650	16750	\$100	\$1,675,000
Type D Section: Minor Slopes	200	2050	750	0	0	3000	\$95	\$285,000
Type E Section: Ravines	1050	2950	1100	1750	800	7650	\$400	\$3,060,000
Type F Section: Clear Spans	350	0	600	0	100	1050	\$750	\$787,500
Intersections	8	5	2	3	1	19	\$800	\$15,200

TOTAL	\$6,674,700
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Mobilization	\$667,470
Contingency	\$1,001,205
Engineering	\$1,251,506

Grand Total	\$9,594,881
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Option:

MDOT (2) 8' shoulder routes	112600	\$26	\$2,927,600
Intersections	19	\$800	\$15,200

TOTAL	\$2,942,800
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Mobilization	\$294,280
Contingency	\$441,420
Engineering	\$551,775

Grand Total	\$4,230,275
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M-25 Lakeside Trail

Lexington to Port Sanilac
Conceptual Engineer's Estimate by linear foot
June, 2007



ROWE INCORPORATED
128 N Saginaw
Lapeer, MI 48446
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07c0059

Type A Section: Open Condition

(path on grade)	Unit Cost	Unit	Qty/Ft	Cost/Ft	Budget
Bicycle Path, HMA	\$70.00	Ton	0.183333	\$12.83	
Bicycle Path, Aggregate	\$15.00	Ton	0.28	\$4.20	
Bicycle Path, Grading	\$5.00	Ft	1	\$5.00	
Embankment / Excavation	\$5.00	Cyd	1	\$5.00	
Restoration	\$3.00	Syd	1	\$3.00	
				\$30.03	\$30

Type B Section: Narrow Condition

(path along shoulder)	Unit Cost	Unit	Qty/Ft	Cost/Ft	Budget
Bicycle Path, HMA	\$70.00	Ton	0.183333	\$12.83	
Bicycle Path, Aggregate	\$15.00	Ton	0.28	\$4.20	
Bicycle Path, Grading	\$5.00	Ft	1	\$5.00	
Lane marking / Signage	\$10.00	Ft	1	\$10.00	
Restoration	\$3.00	Syd	0.5	\$1.50	
				\$33.53	\$35

Type C Section: Roadside Ditch Condition

(path over storm sewer)	Unit Cost	Unit	Qty/Ft	Cost/Ft	Budget
Bicycle Path, HMA	\$70.00	Ton	0.183333	\$12.83	
Bicycle Path, Aggregate	\$15.00	Ton	0.28	\$4.20	
Bicycle Path, Grading	\$5.00	Ft	1	\$5.00	
Embankment	\$5.00	Cyd	1.5	\$7.50	
15" Storm Sewer	\$40.00	Ft	1	\$40.00	
Structures	\$1,500.00	Ea	0.003	\$4.50	
Erosion control / armoring at outlets	\$20.00	Ft	1	\$20.00	
Restoration	\$3.00	Syd	2	\$6.00	
				\$100.03	\$100

Type D Section: Minor Slopes

(path with retaining wall, etc)	Unit Cost	Unit	Qty/Ft	Cost/Ft	Budget
Bicycle Path, HMA	\$70.00	Ton	0.183333	\$12.83	
Bicycle Path, Aggregate	\$15.00	Ton	0.28	\$4.20	
Bicycle Path, Grading	\$5.00	Ft	1	\$5.00	
Embankment / Excavation	\$5.00	Cyd	2	\$10.00	
Retaining Wall	\$30.00	Sft	2	\$60.00	
Restoration	\$3.00	Syd	1	\$3.00	
				\$95.03	\$95

Type E Section: Ravines

(boardwalk into side slope)	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Ft	Budget
Deck	\$25.00	Sft	14	\$350.00	
Rail	\$20.00	Ft	2	\$40.00	
add \$3,000 for 2 abutments each				\$390.00	\$400

Type F Section: Clear Spans

(pre-mfg steel bridge)	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Ft	Budget
Deck	\$50.00	Sft	14	\$700.00	
Rail	\$20.00	Ft	1	\$20.00	
add \$3,000 for 2 abutments each				\$720.00	\$750

Intersection

(paved)	Unit Cost	Unit	Quantity	Cost/Intersection	Budget
Pavt Mrkg, 6" White	\$1.50	Ft	100	\$150.00	
Sign, Type IIIA	\$15.00	Sft	4.5	\$68.00	
Sign, Type IIIB	\$14.00	Sft	17	\$238.00	
Post, Steel, 3#	\$4.00	Ft	84	\$336.00	
				\$792.00	\$800

Path on Shoulder

8' Lane, remove and replace	Unit Cost	Unit	Qty/Ft	Cost/Ft	Budget
Bicycle Path, HMA	\$70.00	Ton	0.146667	\$10.27	
Bicycle Path, Aggregate	\$15.00	Ton	0.42	\$6.30	
Bicycle Path, Grading	\$5.00	Ft	1	\$5.00	
Pavt Mrkg, 6" White	\$1.50	Ft	100	\$1.50	
Restoration	\$3.00	Syd	1	\$3.00	
				\$26.07	\$26

Costs do not include mobilization, maintaining traffic, engineering, etc

Potential Grant Sources

Potential Grant Source	Maximum Request Amount	Minimum Local Match	Submission Deadline	Eligible Projects
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant	\$500,000 (Pending federal funding)	50%	April 1 MDNR	May be applicable to development of sports fields or trails that link or provide access to recreational resources.
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant – Acquisition Project	No Limit	25%	April 1 August 1 MDNR	Purchase of land intended to provide outdoor recreation or protection of Michigan significant natural resources
MNRTF Grant – Development Project	\$500,000	25%	April 1 MDNR	Development of lands to provide outdoor recreation or protection of Michigan significant natural resources
SAFETEA Program	No Limit	20%	No deadline MDOT	Purchase and development regarding non-motorized, storm water run-off, historical, aesthetic or wildlife mortality related to transportation. Program emphasis is more on providing connections than recreation opportunities.
Safe Routes to Schools	TBD	TBD	TBD MDOT	Criteria for grant is being established. Emphasis is promotion and development of safe connections to schools.
National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program	N/A	N/A	No deadline	Technical assistance to support locally based conservation efforts; requires multiple partners. May apply to image/awareness or educational/resource management programs
MDEQ Coastal Zone Management	\$50,000	50%	May 1	Planning and development for protecting coastal communities, historic structures and recreation

Federal and State Grants

There are a variety of funding sources available to local governments for park development - The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Division administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). Special initiatives are identified each year by the MDNR that receive special consideration for grants. These should be monitored. Current initiatives relate to acquisition of land for trailways, hunting or buffer areas for habitat and development of shooting ranges.

Other funding is also available through other divisions that can be used as match, supplemental or backup funding. For example, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grants through the MDEQ could be used as match to other funding for trail projects. Federal Transportation Enhancement grant program can be used for the construction of non-motorized facilities such as multi-use paths connecting parks. Other grants include the Forest Management Division MDNR Community Forestry grant program that could help fund a tree planting program for the parks.

Other local funds

Special assessments are often set up to finance sidewalks, sewer, or street projects. The same could be done for sections of the trail system, if needed.

Appropriations from the General Funds and DDAs are possible when a prompt commitment of funds is necessary and the funds are available. Special assessments are levied against the owners of the property and this income is pledged to the repayment of the bonds. Such bonds usually carry a higher rate of interest than general obligation bonds, but have the advantage of not being charged against the debt limit.

Other sources of funding

Additional sources of funding will be investigated. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund raising events are methods to raise funds for the development of recreational facilities. Specific trail funding opportunities are listed with the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance at www.michigantrails.org.

The track record for community involvement in the region for a variety of projects has been impressive. Community organizations, businesses, and individuals have stepped up time and time again to lend their time, talent and financial support to worthwhile community projects. While this kind of community support can not always be measured, it should never be overlooked.

Partnering/Advocates

A regional partnership can be explored to maximize limited public funds such as cooperation with County Parks and Recreation and other agencies.

The Great Lakes Commission is an environmental and tourism based group that also provides support and grant funding. Additional information can be found at www.great-lakes.net.



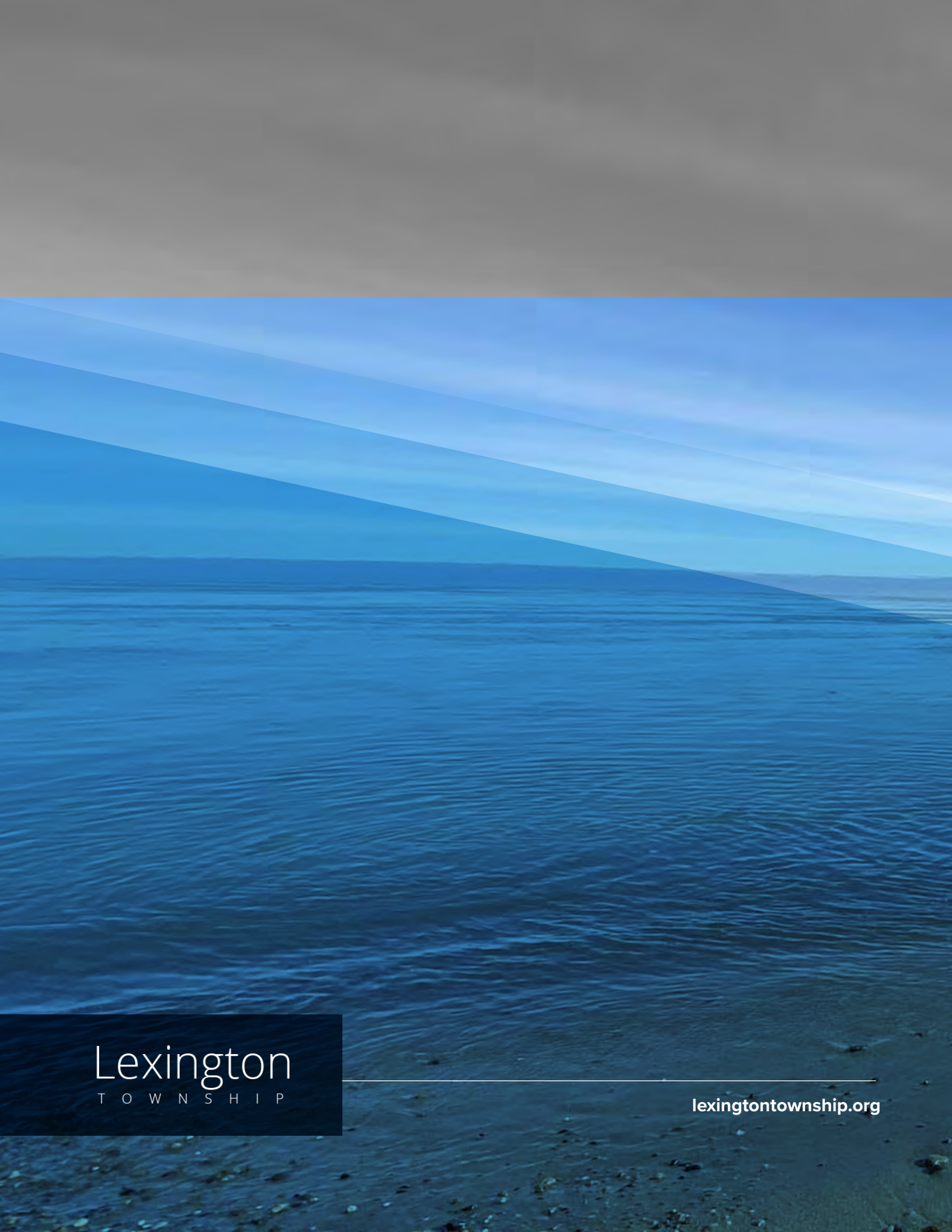
Acknowledgments



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Lexington
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